



THE SENATE  
SENATE FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
REFERENCES COMMITTEE

**Inquiry into access to the Outcomes of the 42nd meeting of the Council of  
Australian Governments held on 1 April 2016**

**Public Hearing – Monday 27 April 2016  
Question Taken on Notice – Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** COAG meeting outcomes, 1 April 2016

**Senator:** Gallagher, Katy

**Question reference number:** PMC 13

**Type of question:** FPA Wednesday 27 April 2016, Page 36

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 29 April 2016

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Just back on the Federation white paper process: could we get a figure of how much had been spent on that?

**Ms Larkins:** I will have to take it on notice. I do not have it off the top of my head; but, yes, we can do that.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** That would be good. I think it has been asked—

**Ms Larkins:** It has.

**Senator WONG:** I think you have been pretty good at providing that.

**Ms Larkins:** I will certainly have it for next week, but I have not got it with me today so I would like to take it on notice.

**Senator WONG:** Soon. It is just the update from the last estimates to date.

**Ms Larkins:** Yes. I do not think anyone will have it. We will have to go and work it out.

**Senator WONG:** What was the cost at the last estimates?

**Ms Larkins:** I do not remember it, Senator; I am sorry. And I do not think anyone here would have it.

**Senator WONG:** What was the original budget?

**Ms Larkins:** Again, Senator, I am sorry. I had not prepared for those questions so I do not have them off the top of my head.

**Senator WONG:** I am not having a go at you, but it is one of the last refuges of PM&C to tell me that this was not a thought-bubble, that this was all work done in terms of the Federation green and white papers.

**Ms Larkins:** I will take that on notice and get you the figure.

**Senator WONG:** What was the original budget and was it revised? What are the costs to date?

...

**Senator WONG:** Ms Larkins, my office has just advised me that in fact PM&C took the costs of the Federation white paper on notice in February and I still have not received them. Can I indicate this and ask the secretariat to follow this up: can we please have those today. That is not an unreasonable request. The department has been on notice for a couple of months about that.

**Answer:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Original Budget Allocation (\$m)</b>	<b>Revised Budget Allocation (\$)</b>	<b>Total Costs (\$)</b>
2013-14		0.200	383,840
2014-15		2.119	2,237,983
2015-16 (to 31 March)		2.719	1,827,864
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5.038</b>	<b>4,449,687</b>

Note: These are provisional figures to assist the Committee. PM&C will table final figures as soon as possible.

Further to this response, PM&C advises that there was no specific Budget measure to fund the Federation White Paper Taskforce. The taskforce was funded through an internal budget allocation from PM&C's existing departmental resources.

Total costs for the Reform of the Federation White Paper Taskforce, to 31 March 2016, are \$4,449,687. The breakdown of costs by component and by year is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Component</b>				<b>Total</b>
	<b>Staffing</b>	<b>Expert Advisory Panel Sitting Fees</b>	<b>Travel</b>	<b>Other costs</b>	
<b>2013/14</b>	\$349,555	n/a	\$21,383	\$12,902	<b>\$383,840</b>
<b>2014/15</b>	\$1,910,351	\$59,375.00	\$149,813	\$118,444	<b>\$2,237,983</b>
<b>2015/16 (to 31 March 2016)</b>	\$1,636,418	\$83,625	\$70,821	\$37,000	<b>\$1,827,864</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,896,324</b>	<b>\$143,000</b>	<b>\$242,017</b>	<b>\$169,419</b>	<b>\$4,449,687</b>