

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Communications Expenses

Senator: Wong

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator WONG: In calendar year 2016, in the narrower category of market research, you said you spent \$34,000. What did you spend in 2016-17 within that category?

Ms Kelly: I will have to make that inquiry. I am not sure that I am going to be able to definitively get all of the areas in the department to come back for this evening, but we can take it on notice.

Senator WONG: Okay. Can you tell me the quantum, and on what issues or subjects the department commissioned such research?

Ms Kelly: We can.

...

Senator WONG: Okay. I do want to know who you are getting to do stakeholder research, then. What else did she—I just want to get the lexicon agreed so we can then just get onto the detail.

Ms Kelly: Perhaps we can ask the expert and see whether or not we can get her to provide something.

Senator WONG: That would be great. Excellent.

Senator WONG: What is the cost centre called?

Ms Tressler: I can come back to you on that particular—

....

Senator WONG: So they might record it under another code, which is why you did it manually. Okay, so the figure you gave me for the 2016-17 costs to date, is that only associated with the code or has that been done manually to verify that people have inputted it where they need to report it.

Ms Tressler: I do not believe we went out and asked for input, but we had a look at AusTender and we had a look through the cost centre, so we could use the approach that Elizabeth talked about, which is writing to division heads and asking if there is anything that has been missed—that part of the process was not done.

Senator WONG: What was the 2016-17 figure?

Ms Kelly: It was \$34,760.

Senator WONG: I seem to have written it down somewhere else. No, that is a 2016 figure—that is a calendar year.

Ms Kelly: I do not know that we have—

Senator WONG: Did you give me the 2016-17—

Ms Kelly: I do not think we did.

Senator WONG: I have a thing here where I have 2016-17 and an arrow, then a blank bit. But that is because you have not given it to me?

Ms Kelly: We took it on notice. To be consistent with 140, we will go and interrogate the cost code, and then, in addition to that, as I have also now learnt from Ms Tressler, we will then go out to all parts of the department, which we have not, apparently, done for 140.

Answer:

For the period 1 July 2016 to 23 May 2017 the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet found three arrangements for the provision of market research; two contractual and one a Memorandum of Understanding.

The total amount expensed against these arrangements during the period of 1 July 2016 to 23 May 2017 is \$110,950 (excl. GST).