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1 May 2025

Committee Secretary
Senate Committee for Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

eec.sen@aph.gov.au

Correction to evidence – Question on Notice AEQ 25-006

Dear Committee Secretary

I am writing in relation to corrections required to a Question on Notice submitted to the Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee following the Additional Budget Estimates hearing of 27 February 2025.

Please find the corrected version attached.

Yours Sincerely,

 Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell AO FAHA FTSE FASSA
Vice-Chancellor and President



Additional Budget Estimates	27 February 2025
QoN	AEQ 25-006
Evidence correction	On the topic of Renew ANU Consultancies

The QoN states:

Question No. AEQ 25-006

Question

1. What are the total costs charged by NOUS Consulting Group for their contributions, across all contracts with NOUS, to the Renew ANU initiative or related projects?
2. How many written quotes did ANU receive as part of the tender process?
3. Was this project subjected to an open market tender process?
4. Given the ANU's Procurement Procedure states "a procurement is not divided or split into separate parts to avoid a procurement threshold," did the initial costs charged by NOUS Consulting Group to the ANU reach the procurement threshold, and if not, do the costs charged NOUS Consulting Group to the ANU exceed that threshold currently?
5. Beyond NOUS Consulting Group, have other consulting firms been engaged for tasks related to the Renew ANU initiative?
6. If other consulting firms have been engaged for tasks related to Renew ANU, what firms and what is the cost of their services?

Answer

1. In September 2024, an exemption to an open market tender process was sought and granted in accordance with the University's Procurement guidelines and Nous Group Pty Ltd were engaged by the ANU to provide professional services relating to strategic change support. The original agreement was for a 12-week period, commencing on 12 September 2024 to a maximum value of \$837,000.00 (excluding GST) plus travel expenses.

In December 2024, Nous and the ANU extended the terms of the original agreement to 15-weeks at a cost of \$30,000 (excluding GST) to account for an amended scope and an additional milestone.

In January 2025, Nous and ANU agreed a further extension to the original agreement scope at a cost of \$260,000 (excluding GST) plus travel and expenses.

Four other consulting companies have been involved in work related to Renew ANU with details as follows:

- **Workwell Consulting Pty Ltd**
In December 2024, Workwell Consulting was engaged to provide services to support the reconfiguration of the College of Law, Governance & Policy and the College of Systems and Society at a total cost of \$42,900.
- **PunkPD Pty Ltd**
PunkPD was engaged to conduct a career development workshop at a cost of \$4,290.
- **89 Degrees East**
ANU engaged 89 Degrees East to provide media and communications advice in January 2025. This engagement required an awareness of Renew ANU but was not the subject of the engagement.
- **CMAX Advisory**
ANU retains CMAX Advisory to provide strategic communications advisory services. This has included communications advice in relation to Renew ANU at a cost to the University of \$19,200 (excluding GST) from November 2024 to March 2025.

2. One.
3. No. An exemption to an open market tender process was sought and granted in accordance with the University's Procurement Guidelines.
4. The procurement procedures followed were based on an assessment that the total cost of the procurement would exceed the procurement threshold.
5. Refer to question 1
6. Refer to question 1

The corrected QoN answer is:

1. In September 2024, an exemption to an open market tender process was sought and granted in accordance with the University's Procurement guidelines and Nous Group Pty Ltd were engaged by ANU to understand best practice around service infrastructure and support services to help ANU achieve long term financial sustainability.

The original agreement was for a 12-week period, commencing on 12 September 2024 to a maximum value of \$837,000 (excluding GST) plus travel expenses.

In December 2024, Nous and the ANU extended the terms of the original agreement to 15-weeks at a cost of \$30,000 (excluding GST) to account for an amended scope and an additional milestone.

In January 2025, Nous and ANU agreed a further extension to the original agreement scope at a cost of \$260,000 (excluding GST) plus travel and expenses.

Renew ANU was announced in October 2024. To date 5 change plans have been implemented. Other consulting firms involved in work related to these Renew ANU plans up to 1 March 2025 include:

- **Workwell Consulting Pty Ltd**
Workwell Consulting was engaged to provide services to support the reconfiguration of the College of Law, Governance & Policy and the College of Systems and Society at a total cost of \$39,000 (excluding GST).
- **PunkPD Pty Ltd**
PunkPD was engaged to conduct career development workshops at a cost of \$7,800 (excluding GST).
- **89 Degrees East**
89 Degrees East was engaged to provide media and communications advice in January 2025 at a maximum cost of \$65,000 (excluding GST).
- **CMAX Advisory**
ANU retains CMAX Advisory to provide government relations, strategic communications and business advisory services. From November 2024 to March 2025 this has included communications advice in relation to Renew ANU at a cost to the University of \$19,200 (excluding GST).
- **Procurement Professionals Pty Ltd**
Procurement Professionals have worked with ANU since 2019 and provide consultancy services and support related to facilities management. As part of an existing broader scope of work, they provided incidental advice related to Renew ANU activities from September 2024 to March 2025 this would have cost approximately \$43,496 (excluding GST).
- **Bastion Reputation Management Pty Ltd**
Bastion Reputation Management Pty Ltd was engaged in December 2024 to provide advice in relation to managing the increased media interest associated with Renew ANU at a cost of \$6,108 (excluding GST).

2. One.
3. No. An exemption to an open market tender process was sought and granted in accordance with the University's Procurement Guidelines.
4. The procurement procedures followed were based on an assessment that the total cost of the procurement would exceed the procurement threshold.

5. Refer to question 1

6. Refer to question 1