

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 61

Topic: Reviews

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Please provide the details of every departmental or ministerial review that has commenced or been ordered since 7 September 2013, including:

- a) the date the review was ordered;
- b) the date the review commenced;
- c) the minister responsible;
- d) the name of the organisation or individual commissioned to do that review;
- e) the nature of the review;
- f) any terms of reference or brief provided in relation to the review;
- g) details of the tender process involved in selection of the reviewer;
- h) the financial arrangements for the review;
- i) the date of commencement and completion for the review;
- j) any departmental staff or other resources that have been assigned to the review; and
- k) whether the review will be made public.

Answer:

For information on the Welfare Review, refer to Supplementary Estimates 2013-14, QoN 93.

In addition to the information provided in QoN 93:

- The document containing guiding principles for the review was tabled at the Additional Estimates on 27 February 2014.
- The selection process was by Ministerial appointment.
- The \$1.7 million budget for the review consists of:
 - Estimated costs for the Reference Group of \$267,846; and
 - Estimated DSS Taskforce staff costs of \$1,463,018.
- It is likely that an interim report will be provided to Minister Andrews in the first half of this calendar year and a final report midyear.

KPMG was engaged to assess and report on the adequacy of planning and strategies of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Board and the readiness of the trial sites to commence from 1 July 2014.

- The procurement plan was approved on 13 December 2013.
- The plan commenced on 22 January 2014.
- The Minister responsible was Assistant Minister Fifield.
- The name of the organisation commissioned to do the plan was KMPG.
- There were no terms of reference or brief provided.
- The Department's Consultancy and Business Panel was utilised for this process. Under the existing panel arrangements three contractors were approached to submit a tender.

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- KMPG was engaged under a Departmental Purchase Order arrangement that includes designated timeframes and milestones.
- The plan commenced on 22 January 2014 and the completion date is 30 April 2014.
- Department staff within the NDIS Group will oversee the management of the contract.
- It has not been decided whether the key findings will be made public.