

**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:** 119

**Topic:** Consultancies

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Ludwig** asked:

Have any consultancies not gone out for tender? If so, which ones and why?

**Answer:**

**Department of Social Services**

Yes. During the period 21 November 2013 and 27 February 2014, a number of consultancy contracts were not undertaken via a new Open Tender process. These arrangements were undertaken using existing panel arrangements or were valued lower than the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs) thresholds for undertaking an Open Tender.

A listing of the Department's contracts (including consultancies), valued at \$10,000 or more, is publicly available on the AusTender website. It includes the name of the consultant, the duration and cost of the arrangement, the nature of the duties to be performed, and the method of procurement.

**Australian Institute of Family Studies**

Yes. During the period 21 November 2013 and 27 February 2014, one consultancy contract was entered into that was not established via an Open Tender process. This contract was undertaken via a Limited Tender process in accordance with the Conditions for Limited Tender as detailed at Division 2 of the CPRs.

A listing of the Institute's contracts (including consultancies), valued at \$10,000 or more is publicly available on the AusTender website. It includes the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement.

**National Disability Insurance Agency**

Yes. Refer to Additional Estimates QoN 117 for a list of consultancies undertaken. Individual procurement processes are undertaken after consideration of Agency policy.

**Australian Aged Care Quality Agency**

Yes. Since Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, four consultancy contracts have been entered into that were not established via an Open Tender process. These contracts are valued lower than the CPRs thresholds for undertaking an Open Tender.

**Aged Care Pricing Commissioner**

The Office of the Aged Care Pricing Commissioner has undertaken one consultancy. The consultancy did not go out for tender because it was below relevant thresholds.