

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programmes Question No: SQ16-000041

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard page: Written

Senator Joe Ludwig asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
2. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.
3. Have any consultancies not gone out for tender?
 - a. List each, including name, cost and purpose
 - b. If so, why?

Answer:

1. Since 14 September 2015 the Department of Social Services has entered into 27 contracts for consultancy services.

Details of consultancies undertaken by the Department valued at \$10,000 or more since 14 September 2015 are publicly available on the AusTender website www.tenders.gov.au.

2. Planned consultancies for the 2015 – 2016 financial year are described in the Department's Annual Procurement Plan which is published on AusTender. The Annual Procurement Plan provides a forecast of planned contract activity and includes a brief description of the consultancy topic and the expected date of approach to market.
3. Yes, during the period 15 September 2015 and 31 December 2015 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) A list of these consultancy contracts can be found on the AusTender website www.tenders.gov.au.
 - b) N/A