

# Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

## BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Consultancies

**Question reference number:** HS 169

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 25 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

#### Question:

- a) How many consultancies have been undertaken from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
- b) 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.
- c) Have any consultancies not gone out for tender?
  - i) If so, which ones and why?

#### Answer:

- a) The Department of Human Services initiated two consultancy contracts between Additional Estimates in February 2014 and 31 May 2014 as follows:

Consultant Name	Subject Matter	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date	Contract Price	Method
Bendelta Pty Ltd	Comprehensive review of Social Work Services Operating Model	20/05/14	30/06/14	\$148,500.00	Open Tender
Norman Disney and Young	Information Technology Consultant services for the authentication strategy project	26/03/14	10/05/14	\$20,130.00	Open Tender
<b>2 contracts</b>			<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$168,630.00</b>	

- b) The following consultancy is planned for this calendar year:

Consultant Name	Subject Matter	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date	Contract Price	Method
Access Testing	Usability Evaluation of MyGov website	TBA	TBA	\$53,845.00	Limited Tender
<b>1 contract</b>			<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$53,845.00</b>	

No, this consultancy was not published on the department's Annual Procurement Plan. Consultancies are not generally published in the department's Annual Procurement Plan as the need for specialist services does not become apparent until specific issues or business needs are identified.

The details of all consultancy contracts entered into and valued at \$10,000 and over are reported on the Government's AusTender website. The total expenditure of the department's consultancy contracts is reported in the Annual Report at the conclusion of each financial year.

- c) The consultancy detailed in the response to part (b) did not go out to tender.
  - i) The department conducted a value for money process by obtaining quotes from a number of suppliers. As the consultancy is under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules \$80,000 threshold, an Open Tender process was not mandatory.