

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Commissioned Reports – 2011-12

Question reference number: HS 97

Senator: Boyce

Type of question: Written question

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) How many reports were commissioned by the Government in your department/agency in 2011-12? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- b) How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- c) What is the current status of each report? Did the Government report within the required timeframe? If not, when is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

- a) One – the Department of Human Services Capability Review Report.
This review commenced on 6 February 2012, and the review report is expected to be published by the Australian Public Service Commission on 26 November 2012. The report will be made public in conjunction with the Australian Public Service Commissioner's annual State of the Service report.

Terms of Reference

The capability review process will:

- Include within its scope all areas of the department's responsibility.
- Examine and report on the department's capabilities to provide for current and future service delivery demands, and to meet the Government's priorities.
- Validate existing capability development strategies and practices.
- Provide an impartial assessment against the model of capability of the department's capability strengths and weaknesses, including with respect to having become an integrated Department of State.
- Work with the department to prioritise actions to be taken by the department to address identified issues, taking into account the most effective use of resources to deliver the greatest improvements. The department will develop an action plan detailing the agreement.

- Regularly monitor progress of the department against the agreed actions.
- Conduct a health check review 12 to 18 months after the review, which will assess the progress of the department in addressing issues identified by the review.

Review Panel

The Department's Capability Review was conducted by a panel of three independent senior reviewers, engaged by the Australian Public Service Commission. The panel was chaired by Peter Hughes, Professor and Head of the School of Government at Victoria University of Wellington. The other two members were Ewen McDonald, Deputy Director General for AusAID, and Christine McLoughlin, a financial services and corporate legal executive

- b) Cost of the review for the 2011-12 financial year: \$462,000.00.

The Department's liaison team was led by a SES Band 1 officer with oversight and approval by the General Manager, People Capability and the Deputy Secretary, Enabling Services. The liaison team consisted of an Executive Level 2 and an Executive Level 1 officer, supported during periods of increased activity by an APS 5 officer.

- c) The report is expected to be published by the Australian Public Service Commission on 26 November 2012.