

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Disability Access

Question reference number: HS 109

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 December 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) Please provide a list of all premises owned, leased or otherwise operated by the department / agency which do not yet comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (through The Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010). For each, please provide:
- 1) The year in which it was purchased / leased / rented (and if lease / rental agreement, when it expires).
 - 2) What plans are in place to make the premises compliant with the Act?
 - 3) When these plans will commence and when they are expected to be complete.
 - 4) Has the minister or the minister's office been informed of these plans? Please provide a copy of any communication (including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, notes etc) between the minister's office and the department regarding this issue.
 - 5) What is the expected cost of making the premises compliant? Please break down the costs.
 - 6) Have any plans to make any premises compliant been cancelled, put on hold or delayed since September 7, 2013? If yes, please detail, including the reasons for which they were cancelled, put on hold or delayed and how the decision was reached.
 - 7) Have any complaints been lodged with regard to the premises not being compliant? If yes, please detail.

Answer:

- a) 1) – 6) The department has an extensive and geographically diverse property portfolio. The department's Performance Specification defines the minimum requirements that must be met by the Lessor, Lessor's Consultants, Fitout Managers and Property and Facilities Manager's in the building of new and the refurbishment of existing buildings.

In addition to the requirements detailed in the department's Performance Specifications, the following Standards, Codes, Acts and Regulations must be complied with:

- Disability Discrimination Act 1992.
- Australian Standards (using the version applicable at the time a Construction Certificate is applied for).
- The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) advisory notes.
- The Building Code of Australia: National Construction Code (NCC, formerly the BCA) (applicable at the time a Construction Certificate is applied for).
- The National Code of Practice for the Construction Industry and the Australian Government Implementation Guidelines for the Code.
- The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act; and the requirements of State and Territory Departments and Authorities responsible for planning and environmental matters.
- The National Standard For Construction Work document, National Occupational Health and Safety Commission - NOHSC :1016
- The Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF) document promulgated by the Australian Government Security Construction and Equipment Committee (SCEC)
- Work Health and Safety Acts (WHS)

To provide a more detailed answer to address all of the issues raised in these questions would require extensive research and be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

- 7) Yes, the department receives complaints about accessibility issues, most related to accessible parking.