

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: Consultancies

Question reference number: HS 116

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Since Budget Estimates in June 2014:

- a) 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.
- b) How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published on 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?
 - 1) List each, including name, cost and purpose.
 - 2) If so, why?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Human Services entered into two consultancy contracts between Budget Estimates in June 2014 and 31 October 2014 as follows:

Consultant Name	Subject Matter	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date	Contract Price	Method
Access Testing Pty Ltd	Usability Evaluation MyGov Inbox	19/06/14	30/09/14	\$53,845	Limited Tender
Deloitte Actuaries and Consultants Ltd	Independent actuary review of Comcare premium	02/10/14	30/10/14	\$28,875	Limited Tender
2 contracts	Total:			\$82,720	

b) The following consultancy is in the process of being entered into:

Consultant Name	Subject Matter	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date	Contract Price	Method
Information Integrity Solutions Pty Ltd	Expert Privacy Advisory and Assurance Services	Nov 2014	30/06/15	\$61,600	Limited Tender
1 contracts	Total:			\$61,600	

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. In addition, Annual Procurement Plans are only used to publish planned procurements of a significant nature to allow the market to prepare for them.

The details of all consultancy contracts entered into 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) All consultancies established by the department were sourced through Tender processes as noted above. As the consultancies were all under the \$80,000 Commonwealth Procurement Rules threshold, Open Tender processes were not mandatory.