

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 142

Topic: Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

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 (i.e. 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. A listing of the Department's contracts (including consultancies) entered into between 4 June and 31 August 2014, valued at \$10,000 or more, is publicly available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au).

2. Planned consultancies and contracts are described in the Department's APP which is also published on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au).

3. Yes.

(a) Refer to part 1.

(b) During the period 4 June – 31 August 2014, a number of consultancy contracts were not undertaken via a new open tender process. The majority of the arrangements were undertaken using existing panel arrangements or were valued lower than the *Commonwealth Procurement Rules* (CPRs) thresholds for undertaking an open tender. Other arrangements met the conditions for limited tender or were exempt in accordance with Appendix A of the CPRs.