

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 387

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Building Lease Costs

Senator Ludwig asked:

What has been the total cost of building leases for the Agency / Department since 7 September 2013?

1. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is currently leased. Please detail by:
 - a. Date the lease agreement is active from.
 - b. Date the lease agreement ends.
 - c. Is the lease expected to be renewed? If not, why not?
 - d. Location of the building (City and state).
 - e. Cost of the lease.
 - f. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the Agency / Department.
2. Please provide a detailed list of each building that had a lease that was not renewed since 7 September 2013. Please detail by:
 - a. Date from which the lease agreement was active.
 - b. Date the lease agreement ended.
 - c. Why was the lease not renewed?
 - d. Location of the building (City and state).
 - e. Cost of the lease.
 - f. Why the building was necessary for the operations of the Agency / Department.
3. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is expected to be leased in the next 12 months. Please detail by:
 - a. Date the lease agreement is expected to become active.
 - b. Date the lease agreement is expected to end.
 - c. Expected location of the building (City and state).
 - d. Expected cost of the lease.
 - e. Has this cost been allocated into the budget?
 - f. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the Agency / Department.
4. For each building owned or leased by the Department:
 - a. What is the current occupancy rate for the building?
 - b. If the rate is less than 100%, detail what the remaining being used for.

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Answer:

The Department's financial expenses are recorded on accrual accounting basis, with these items reconciled at the end of every month. To provide expense data at any date other than month-end would risk misstatement of the Department's position and require an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources.

1. Total building lease expenses for the period 1 September 2013 to 31 January 2014 was \$2,438,664.35 (GST excl).

Lease Address (d)	Lease Start (a)	Lease End (b)	Renewal (c)	Lease expenses 1/9/2013 to 31/1/2014 (e)	Use (f)
38 Sydney Avenue Forrest ACT 2603	22-Nov-12	21-Nov-17	Yes	\$1,969,942.79	Office accommodation
44 Sydney Avenue Suite 2 Level 1 Forrest ACT 2603	1-Aug-03	31-Jul-14	Yes	\$398,645.54	Office accommodation
44 Sydney Avenue Suite 3 Level 1 Forrest ACT 2603	1-Oct-10	31-Jul-14	Yes		Office accommodation
Level 18, St Martins Tower 31 Market Street Sydney NSW 2000	1-Sep-09	30-Jun-14	Yes	\$139,314.15	Office accommodation
122-124 Gladstone St Fyshwick ACT	1-May-11	30-Apr-14	Yes	\$28,540.70	Warehouse/storage facility

- 2.

Address (d)	Lease Start (a)	Lease End (b)	Reason for termination (c)	Lease expenses 1/9/2013 to 31/1/2014 (e)	Use (f)
Level 11, St Martins Tower 31 Market Street Sydney NSW 2000	1-Sep-09	31-Dec-2013	Consolidation of staff on completion of Digital Switchover program	\$80,312.52	Office accommodation

- 3.

Address (c)	Lease Start (a)	Lease End (b)	Expected Lease cost (d)	Within agency budget (e)	Use (f)
Level 18, St Martins Tower 31 Market Street Sydney NSW 2000	1-Jul-2014	30-Jun-2016	\$1,194,000	Yes	Office accommodation
122-124 Gladstone St Fyshwick ACT	1-May-2014	30-Apr-2017	\$200,100	Yes	Warehouse/storage facility

4. The Department does not record this data in a way that would readily allow for this information to be identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources.