

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 141
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: Workplace assessments
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 23 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How much has been spent on workplace ergonomic assessments?
2. List each item of expenditure and cost
3. Have any assessments, not related to an existing disability, resulted in changes to workplace equipment or set up?
4. If so, list each item of expenditure and cost related to those changes

Answer:

The Department of the Environment

1. \$5230.50 was spent on 19 workplace ergonomic assessments.
2. Workstation assessments are handled directly by work areas and costs are not captured centrally.
3. All assessments, related or not related to an existing disability, resulted in changes to workplace set up to varying degrees from minor with no cost involved (eg. moving telephone from right to left side), to costs associated with sit-stand desks, specialised chairs and lights repositioned in ceilings.
4. We are unable to distinguish between costs associated with assessments for an existing disability and costs associated with assessments for other reasons.

Clean Energy Regulator

1. The amount spent on workplace ergonomic assessments was \$7,303.00
2. 30 workplace ergonomic assessments were conducted during the period ranging between \$175 and \$620.
3. Yes. On completion of the assessments, the Clean Energy Regulator is provided with recommendations for changes to the workstation setup, including any special equipment required. These recommendations are implemented where appropriate.
4. The Clean Energy Regulator does not record these expenses in a way that would readily allow more detailed answers to be provided.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

1. Nil.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.

Climate Change Authority

1. Nil.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.

Bureau of Meteorology

1. The amount spent on workplace ergonomic assessments was \$12,893.53.
2. The following table summarises expenditure on workplace ergonomic assessments:

Item of expenditure	Quantity	Total Cost
Workplace ergonomic assessments (conducted by Bureau Work Health & Safety Officer)	160 (including 12 home based work assessments)	\$4,852.00
Workplace ergonomic assessments by external provider, including additional tasks as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of Equipment & Set up• RTW Program after surgery & worksite assessment• Workstation assessment & Set up (by external provider)	12	\$8,041.53
	172	\$12,893.53

3. All internally conducted ergonomic assessments result in adjustments to either desk height, chair height, back rest or seat pan position and/or monitor height. Assessments by the external provider may result in additional adjustments, dependant on the recommendations.

4. Please see table summarising recommended expenditure on workplace equipment, noting that in some cases, expenditure comes from individual programme or section budgets rather than corporate expenses:

Item of expenditure	Cost
Chairs - 4	\$1,680
Gas strut - 2	\$240
Chair backrest - 1	\$80
Footrests – 8	\$640
Document holders – 4	\$480
Varidesk -1	\$560
Total	\$3,680

Clean Energy Finance Corporation

1. Nil.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

1. Nil expenditure since 14 September 2015.
2. Not applicable.
3. No assessments undertaken.
4. Not applicable.