

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 531**

**Program No. 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Page 73 (29/5/2014)**

**Topic: Equity funding**

**Senator Seselja asked:**

**Senator SESELJA:** I have some questions following on from the questions about consultants. How many consultants were employed by the department and/or NBN Co on NBN related activities under the previous government and were paid more than \$1,500 per day?

**Senator CONROY:** I think we have had the total answer already.

**Senator SESELJA:** Are you answering questions?

**Senator CONROY:** No. You are asking questions that have already been asked.

**Senator SESELJA:** I am just not sure what your role is here. I will put it to Mr Clarke.

**Senator CONROY:** You might want to take it on notice, given the detail.

**Mr Clarke:** Senator, I am certain I do not have the literal answer to your question in front of me, so, I am sorry, but I will have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Ascertaining daily rates paid for consultants engaged for NBN related advice requires manual checking of every contract entered into during the period of the last Government and is considered an unnecessary diversion of resources. The Department has undertaken a review of all NBN related expenditure above \$10,000 for the period as per the response to QON 532.