

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

**Question No:** 193  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Corporate  
**Programme:** Corporate Strategies Division  
**Topic:** Portfolio wide – workplace assessments  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 26 May 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

How much has been spent on workplace ergonomic assessments since 7 September 2013?

- a) List each item of expenditure and cost
- b) Have any assessments, not related to an existing disability, resulted in changes to workplace equipment or set up?
- c) If so, list each item of expenditure and cost related to those changes

**Answer:**

***Department of the Environment***

- a) For the period 7 September 2013 to 30 April 2014, \$17,755.33 was spent on external consultants for 43 workplace ergonomic assessments at an average of \$412.09 per assessment.

In addition 36 assessments were completed by Departmental staff.

- b) All assessments result in changes to workplace set up and an estimated 95 per cent result in equipment purchases.
- c)

Equipment	Cost
Chair – 2	\$ 1,006.00
Sit/stand ergonomic desk – 12	\$ 17,238.00
Total	\$ 18,244.00

Other items purchased as a result of workstation assessments are handled directly in work areas and we do not have a mechanism to fully capture and record these details, nor the total expenditure.

## Bureau of Meteorology

\$30,616 was spent on ergonomic assessments.

a)

256 workplace ergonomic assessments, including 18 home based work assessments, conducted by a Bureau Work Health and Safety Officer as part of routine duties	Performed as part of the routine duties no additional cost.
21 workplace ergonomic assessments by external provider	\$7,581
Circumstances of existing injury an external provider was used to undertake workplace ergonomic assessments, over this period 47 were conducted.	\$23,035

b) Yes.

c) Equipment (proactive – non-injury)

Chairs – 57	\$24,264
Chair mats – 2	\$184
Footrests – 24	\$839
Monitor risers – 30	\$2,749
Specialist mouse – 13	\$1,382
Specialist Keyboard – 11	\$1,374
Document holders – 14	\$820
Headset – 6	\$658
Low range desk legs / risers – 5	\$3,163
Ergotron adjustable arm – 1	\$850
Corner lozenge – 3	\$165
Sit/stand desk – 1	\$1,181
Wrist rest – 5	\$162
Leg raiser – 1	\$180
Lumbar roll – 1	\$90
Total	\$38,061

## Clean Energy Regulator

a) The Clean Energy Regulator has spent \$13,940 (GST inclusive) on workplace ergonomic assessments from 7 September 2013 to 30 April 2014.

82 workplace ergonomic assessments were conducted at an average of \$170 each.

b) On the completion of the assessments, the Clean Energy Regulator is provided with recommendations for changes to the workstation, including any special equipment required.

- c) The Clean Energy Regulator does not record these expenses in a way that would readily allow more detailed answers to be provided. To attempt to provide the requested level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

***Climate Change Authority***

None.

- a) Not applicable.
- b) Not applicable.
- c) Not applicable.

***Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority***

None.

- a) Not applicable.
- b) Not applicable.
- c) Not applicable.

***Murray-Darling Basin Authority***

- a) The amount spent on workplace ergonomic assessments between 7 September 2013 and 30 April 2014 was \$7,087 (GST inclusive).
- b) Yes.
- c)

Office Chairs	\$5,328.68
Keyboards	\$2,481.63
Mouse	\$843.10
Headsets	\$825.00
Wrist Rests	\$66.00
Keyboard Rests	\$36.03
Document Holders	\$1,710.15
Footrests	\$369.30
Sit-to-Stand Desks	\$9,227.00
TOTAL (INCLUDING GST)	\$20,886.89

***National Water Commission***

The National Water Commission has spent \$1,540 (inc GST) on workplace ergonomic assessments from 7 September 2013 to 30 April 2014.

- a) Eleven workstation assessments by contractor \$1,540 (inc GST).
- b) Changes included desk and computer height adjustment, provision of footrests and ergonomic chair.
- c) The only expenditure incurred following the changes was the purchase of one ergonomic chair at a cost of \$582 (inc GST).

***Sydney Harbour Federation Trust***

None.

- a) Not applicable.
- b) Not applicable.
- c) Not applicable.