

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015

Australian Communications and Media Authority

Question No: 138(e)

Program No. Australian Communications and Media Authority

Hansard Ref: Written, 17/6/2015

Topic: Departmental Dispute Resolution

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

1. How are disputes between departmental and/or agency staff mediated?
2. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:
 - a) The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).
 - b) Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.
 - c) When the contract with the firm commenced.
 - d) When the contract with the firm will expire.
 - e) Why the firm was selected to provide the service.
 - f) Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.
3. How are code of conduct violations by departmental and/or agency staff mediated?
4. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:
 - a. The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).

Answer:

1. Staff are encouraged to undertake informal action to settle disputes. If mediation is identified as the appropriate course our employee assistance provider, Davidson Trahaire Corpsych, could facilitate mediation.
2. Davidson Trahaire Corpsych
 - a. The contract with Davidson Trahaire Corpsych provides for mediation if required; to date there has been no request for these services.
 - b. Nil for mediation services.
 - c. Current contract commenced 28 March 2015.
 - d. Current contract will expire 27 March 2018.
 - e. Davidson Trahaire Corpsych was selected as a single supplier from the Department of Communications' Panel Arrangement.
 - f. Nil.
3. If a code of conduct investigation determined mediation was appropriate, Davidson Trahaire Corpsych would be engaged to undertake this process.
4. Davidson Trahaire Corpsych.
 - a. The contract with Davidson Trahaire Corpsych provides for mediation if required: to date there has been no request for these services.