

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 71

Program No. Corporate

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Consultancies

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
2. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.
3. Have any consultancies not gone out for tender?
 1. List each, including name, cost and purpose
 2. If so, why?

Answers:

1. Details of the Department's consultancies valued in excess of \$10,000 are available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au). While AusTender contains details of contracts valued at \$10,000 or more, it is considered to be an unreasonable diversion of resources for the Department to provide details of consultancies valued at less than \$10,000.
2. Please see response for question 1. In accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules, the Department's Annual Procurement Plan is published on the AusTender website and consists of a short strategic procurement outlook supported by details of planned strategic and major procurements.
3. The procurement method for consultancies valued in excess of \$10,000 are available on the AusTender website (www.tenders.gov.au). As can be seen from a review of that website, the method of procurements was in compliance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. It is considered to be an unreasonable diversion of resources for the Department to provide details of consultancies valued at less than \$10,000.