

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 6

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 18/10/2016

Topic: Sydney Ave lease costs

Senator Chisholm, Anthony asked:

Senator CHISHOLM: Do you anticipate that the new lease will result in savings for the government?

Ms Talbot: Obviously, the reason we are moving is part of Operation Tetrus, which is whole-of-government. Because we are unable to continue the lease of our current building, because there is another lease that is currently occupied, we move into that arrangement. So, overall it is ensuring that there is a smaller property footprint across the whole of government.

Senator CHISHOLM: But there is nothing definitive in terms of savings?

Dr Smith: That is probably a question for Finance.

Senator CHISHOLM: Do you think any new lease arrangements are going to constrain the department's ability to do its functions?

Ms Talbot: No.

Ms O'Loughlin: We will come back on notice on the cost of the lease. We do not have that figure with us at the table but will come back on that later today.

Answer:

The lease expense for 38 Sydney Avenue for 2015-16 was \$4,496,916 (GST Excl).