

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

**Question: AET 1809-1810**

**Topic: Property Costs (ACCC)**

**Written: 7 March 2014**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

1809. What efforts has your department made to shift towards best practice in property leasing to achieve best value for money?
1810. Are you making any efforts yet to reconfigure existing office space to achieve a staff occupancy of 14 sqm or less, and exploring opportunities to sub-let the liberated floor space? If not, why not? What market experts have you engaged on these issues and have they advised you that efficiencies are unable to be achieved?

**Answer:**

1809. In 2013 the ACCC reviewed its accommodation requirements and looked at what is the best utilisation of current footprint with the view of consolidation where possible. This approach would provide opportunities to sublease excess space, in line with lease expiry dates.
- The ACCC also entered into a colocation arrangement under memorandum of understanding agreements with similar agencies.
1810. In 2013 the ACCC commenced reviewing its accommodation footprint in each office with the view to reconfiguring space to achieve the 14sqm occupancy benchmark. The agency has already undertaken various works to increase the number of workstations in offices, however, any major refits to meet the 14spm requirement will require significant capital funding.