

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: Treasury

Question: AET 29

Topic: IGR report

Reference: Hansard page no. 78 - 79 - 25 February 2015

Senator: Dastyari, Sam

Question: 29

Mr Hickey: Yes, that is right.

Senator DASTYARI: So, they contacted you and started the tender process. What is the approval process you have to go through? What are your internal mechanisms before something like this has been ticked off on? Does it go right up to the Treasury secretary?

Mr Hickey: In terms of a tender process?

Senator DASTYARI: For something like advertising or market research.

Mr Ray: I think Mr Hickey can walk you through the approval process for this particular tender.

Senator DASTYARI: Can you walk me through the approval process for this particular tender?

Mr Hickey: Yes, I will do my best. In terms of the approval process for a tender like this, it is part of the normal process that we would be engaged. We sought to set up an evaluation panel prior to issuing the tender. Then we obviously set out the tender, selected the groups that we are tendering for and issued the tender along with an evaluation criteria before tender results came back. The people on that tender evaluation group are people generally within my area. Occasionally we will get people from outside. I think in the instance of the IGR one we also had a representative from the Department of Finance to assist us, just to make sure that we were going through the right steps and processes. Those processes and the evaluation report are then put before myself to sign off on before entering into contract negotiations with the successful tenderer.

Senator DASTYARI: I have got two questions. Firstly, has an evaluation panel been created for tenders related to the tax white paper?

Mr Ray: Mr Hickey was answering the question in relation to the intergenerational report research.

Senator DASTYARI: With relation to the tax white paper, was the same process followed?

Mr Hickey: The exact same process. I was not involved in signing off on the evaluation report itself, though. I would need to take on notice the details of who knows.

Senator DASTYARI: Who was?

Mr Hickey: I would need to take that on notice.

Senator DASTYARI: Mr Ray, do you know if Mr Heferen was the one that signed off on it? I can just ask him tomorrow.

Mr Ray: I think you can ask Mr Heferen tomorrow.

Answer:

29. This answer was provided the following morning at the commencement of the Revenue Group session.