

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14  
2-3 June 2014

---

**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

**TOPIC:** Tender for Synopsis and Policy Implications Report

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 June 2014, page 69-70)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-34

**Senator KIM CARR:** All right. Then who can help me with the other contract for \$17,000?

**Ms Beauchamp:** We are still looking into that, Senator.

**Ms Weston:** I think the first one you mentioned, the 0031, was for part of our higher education area.

**Senator KIM CARR:** So that is an old one? Was that before the administrative changes?

**Ms Weston:** Before the machinery of government change, yes.

**Senator KIM CARR:** I see. It was listed for November. That was after the administrative changes.

**Ms Weston:** We did not have the people transferring out for a while after that. So there was a period of time where the work was still being undertaken before final section 31 transfers and so forth.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Ms Weston, is that still your responsibility? It is listed under your accounts.

**Ms Graham:** We do not have responsibility anymore Senator, no.

**Senator KIM CARR:** So you do not have to answer any questions on it. Is that what you are telling me?

**Ms Graham:** We do not have responsibility for higher education anymore.

**Senator KIM CARR:** No. I want to know about this contract.

**Senator Ronaldson:** The officer just said they no longer have responsibility for it, so of course they cannot answer the question.

**Ms Graham:** Certainly the people that would have the background in relation to that contract no longer work for the department, Senator.

**CHAIR:** Senator, could I suggest that maybe you put the questions you have on notice to this department.

**Senator KIM CARR:** It may well be that this is not complete information you are providing the committee. As I say, it was issued in November and it was to provide a synopsis and policy implications report; I am wondering on what matter—what was the project?

**Ms Beauchamp:** There does not seem to be enough information. We will have to take that on notice and get back to you.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Thank you. Could you advise me as to why it was a limited tender?

**Ms Graham:** Again, we would have to take that on notice.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Thank you. I see that Mr Ryan is at the table here. Was legal advice sought concerning how to get around the ATS?

**Mr Ryan:** Senator, we are trying to get the specifics on this particular contract. But the summary of the contract, as we have got in our documents just at the moment, just says its legal advice to the ATS.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Because it is true, isn't it, Mr Ryan, that you can only alter the amounts of money in the ATS by regulation, which is a disallowable instrument, or by legislative amendment?

**Mr Ryan:** Yes, Senator.

**Senator KIM CARR:** So you would not need to spend a lot of legal money on that, would you?

**Senator Ronaldson:** Well, you are assuming that is what it was done for. The officer has taken it on notice and you will get an answer in due course.

## **ANSWER**

Contract: CN1870031, agency reference No. ID007183O for \$17,600.

The contract was for the engagement of Origin Consulting for the preparation of advice on findings and implications of three commissioned research reports on behalf of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Advisory Council (ATSIHEAC).

The functions to which this tender relates are now the responsibility of the Department of Education following the Machinery of Government changes announced in September 2013.

For responses relating to the legal advice on the Automotive Transformation Scheme refer to BI-33.