

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

**Department/Agency: PC**

**Question: SBT 3429-3436**

**Topic: Reviews**

**Reference: Written - 30 October 2014**

**Senator: Ludwig, Joe**

**Question:**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

3429. How many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:

- a) the date they were ordered
- b) the date they commenced
- c) the minister responsible
- d) the department responsible
- e) the nature of the review
- f) their terms of reference
- g) the scope of the review
- h) Who is conducting the review
- i) the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
- j) the expected report date
- k) the budgeted, projected or expected costs
- l) If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public

3430. For any review commenced or ordered since Budget Estimates in June, 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?

- a) If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
- b) If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
- c) If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
- d) If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
- e) If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
- f) If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
- g) If yes, for each, who selected them
- h) If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
  - i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
  - ii. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
  - iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
  - iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
  - v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

3431. Which reviews are on-going?

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- a) Please list them.
- b) What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?
- 3432. Have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
- 3433. Which reviews have concluded? Please list them.
- 3434. How many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
- 3435. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- 3436. What reviews are planned?
  - a) When will each planned review be commenced?
  - b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
  - c) When will government respond to each review?
  - d) Will the government release each review?
    - i. If so, when? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

As at 30 October 2014:

- 3429. Four supporting research projects have commenced, and detail on these projects is provided in the response to the question on self-initiated work below.
- 3430. Not applicable.
- 3431. Details on ongoing reviews are available at <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects>
- 3432. No.
- 3433. Since June, the Commission has completed reviews on: Access to Justice, Dairy Product Manufacturing, the Retail Trade Industry and Childcare and Early Childhood Learning. Full details on recently completed reviews are available at <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects>
- 3434. As above.
- 3435. The Commission does not have information on the timing of Government responses to its reports.
- 3436. The Commission does not have information on planned reviews. All Commission reports are released publicly. For commissioned studies, release occurs at the end of the review. For public inquiries, final reports must be tabled within 25 sitting days in both houses of Parliament, as required by the *Productivity Commission Act 1998*.