

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: PC

Question: SBT 1094-1101

Topic: Reviews

Reference: written - 30 October 2015

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question:

Since 1 January 2015:

1094. 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

1095. For any review commenced or ordered since Budget Estimates in June 2015, 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.

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- v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
1096. Which reviews are on-going?
a) Please list them.
b) What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?
1097. Have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
1098. Which reviews have concluded? Please list them.
1099. How many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
1100. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
1101. 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

Answer:

As at 30 October 2015:

1094. Since 1 January 2015, four new Government-commissioned reviews have commenced. (One current review, on the Workplace Relations Framework, was commissioned by Government prior to 1 January 2015 and is due to be completed in November 2015). Details on three main current supporting research projects is provided in the response to the question on self-initiated work at SBT 1139-1140.
- a) see (e) below.
- b) the reviews commenced on the dates they were commissioned - see (e) below.
- c) the Treasurer is the Minister responsible for the Productivity Commission.
- d) the Treasury.
- e) reviews commissioned by Government since 1 January 2015 are:
Australian Service Exports study commissioned on 4 March 2015 (completion expected December 2015)
Migrant Intake into Australia public inquiry commissioned on 20 March 2015 (completion expected March 2016)
Public Safety Mobile Broadband study commissioned on 25 March 2015 (completion expected December 2015)

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Australia's Intellectual Property Arrangements public inquiry commissioned on 18 August 2015 (completion expected August 2016)

- f) full details are available at <http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries>.
- g) as above.
- h) the Productivity Commission.
- i) see following table:

| | APS4 | APS5 | APS6 | EL1 | EL2 | SESBI |
|--|------|------|------|-----|-----|-------|
| Australian Service Exports | - | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Migrant Intake into Australia | - | - | 1 | 6 | 6 | 1 |
| Public Safety Mobile Broadband | 1 | - | 4 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Australia's Intellectual Property Arrangements | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 |

- j) see (e) above.
- k) costs of the reviews are yet to be finalised - they will be reported in the Commission's Annual Report when available.
- l) the reports will be tabled in parliament and made public.

1095. No.

1096. See response to SBT 1094.

1097. No.

1098. Since 1 January 2015, a Government commissioned review on Mutual Recognition Schemes, and a Government commissioned public inquiry on Business Set-up, Transfer and Closure, have been completed. The Trade and Assistance Review for 2013-14 has also been completed and published. In addition, Commission self-initiated reports have been published on: Tax and Transfer Incidence in Australia; Superannuation Policy for Post-Retirement; International Education Services; Efficiency in Health; Housing Assistance and Employment in Australia; Examining Barriers to More Efficient Gas Markets; and Australia's International Tourism Industry. Full details on recently completed reviews are available at <http://www.pc.gov.au>

1099. Each of the reports referred to in SBT 1098 have been published, apart from the report from the Government commissioned public inquiry on Business Set-up, Transfer and Closure, which was provided to the Government on 30 September 2015.

1100. The Commission does not have information on the timing of Government responses to its reports.

1101. The planning of reviews is a matter for Government. 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*.