

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000749

Senator Ludwig provided in writing

ACARA: Building Lease Costs

Question

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. What has been the total cost of building leases for the agency / department?
2. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is currently leased. Please detail by:
 - (a) Date the lease agreement is active from.
 - (b) Date the lease agreement ends.
 - (c) Is the lease expected to be renewed? If not, why not?
 - (d) Location of the building (City and state).
 - (e) Cost of the lease.
 - (f) Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.
3. Please provide a detailed list of each building that had a lease that was not renewed during the specified period. Please detail by:
 - (a) Date from which the lease agreement was active.
 - (b) Date the lease agreement ended.
 - (c) Why was the lease not renewed?
 - (d) Location of the building (City and state).
 - (e) Cost of the lease.
 - (f) Why the building was necessary for the operations of the agency / department.
4. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is expected to be leased in the next 12 months. Please detail by:
 - (a) Date the lease agreement is expected to become active.
 - (b) Date the lease agreement is expected to end.
 - (c) Expected location of the building (City and state).
 - (d) Expected cost of the lease.
 - i. Has this cost been allocated into the budget?
 - (e) Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.
5. For each building owned or leased by the department:
 - (a) What is the current occupancy rate for the building?
 - (b) If the rate is less than 100%, detail what the remaining being used for.

Answer

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has provided the following response.

All amounts in this table do not include GST

1. What has been the total cost of building leases for the agency / department?	\$323,660 (ex GST)
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2. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is currently leased:	Note: ACARA does not own or lease any buildings. It leases office space within buildings.
Sydney Office	
2a.Date the lease agreement is active from	1 November 2009
2b.Date the lease agreement ends.	31 July 2016
Is the lease expected to be renewed? If not, why not?	ACARA is not renewing the lease as the cost is prohibitive
2d. Location of the building (City and state).	Level 10, 255 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW
2e.Cost of the lease	\$70,876.48 ex GST per month \$354,382.40 ex GST since 14 th Sept 2015
2f. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department	This floor is ACARA's main office, and houses staff responsible for curriculum, assessment, reporting and corporate functions.
Melbourne Level 8 440 Collins St	
2a.Date the lease agreement is active from	14 July 2014
2b.Date the lease agreement ends.	Ongoing until terminated by either party
2c.Is the lease expected to be renewed? If not, why not?	NA
2d.Location of the building (City and state).	Level 8 440 Collins St Melbourne
2e.Cost of the lease	\$1820 ex GST per month \$9100 ex GST from 14 th Sept 2015
2f.Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department	This office is used to house Melbourne based ACARA staff.
Perth Office	
2a.Date the lease agreement is active from	17 June 2013
2b.Date the lease agreement ends.	31 July 2016
2c.Is the lease expected to be renewed? If not, why not?	ACARA is currently in negotiations with the landlord to achieve a more competitive rate. If successful ACARA will remain at this site.
2d.Location of the building (City and state).	Level 12 68 St Georges Terrace Perth
2e.Cost of the lease	\$11,164.98 ex GST per month \$55,824.90 ex GST from Sept 2015
2f.Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department	This office houses a number of ACARA Assessment and Reporting staff, primarily involved in test development.
3. Please provide a detailed list of each building that had a lease that was not renewed during the specified period.	Nil
4. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is expected to be leased in the next 12 months.	Nil
5. For each building owned or leased by the department:	
5a. What is the current occupancy rate for the building?	Note: ACARA does not own or lease any buildings. It leases office space within buildings.
Sydney Office	100% of ACARA's floor
Melbourne office	100% of ACARA's office space
Perth Office	100% of ACARA's office space
5b. If the rate is less than 100%, detail what the remaining is being used for	Nil