

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0139_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & all agencies: Consultancies

1) How many consultancies have been undertaken from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies. 2) How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known. 3) Have any consultancies not gone out for tender? a. If so, which ones and why?

Answer

1. Information on consultancies is available on the AusTender website at www.tenders.gov.au.
2. All planned consultancy engagements are published in the Department's Annual Procurement Plan on AusTender.
3. Two consultancies did not go out for open tender. One for staff training and the other for business improvement and change management services . Both were below the relevant procurement threshold.

Agency

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

ACARA does not fall under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. As such, it does not classify contracts in this manner, or track this information.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership

Not applicable

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

1. One consultancy from 1 March – 31 May 2014

Consultant	Subject matter	Cost (GST inc)	Start Date	Duration	End Date	Procurement method?
Gilimbaa	Cultural design services	\$94,946 plus travel costs	3/3/2014	10 months	31/12/2014	Select tender

2. Three planned consultancies from 1 June 2014. Under the CAC Act, AIATSIS has not been required to use AusTender.

Consultant	Subject matter	Cost (GST incl)	Start Date	Duration	Procurement method?
Ernst and Young	Consultancy services to advise on a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Infrastructure	\$130,000	1/7/2014	3 months	Select tender – request for quote
Significance International	Collection significance assessments	\$71,940	30/6/2014	3 months	Select tender – request for quote
Significance International	Collection management assessment	\$44,440	2/7/2014	3 months	Select tender – request for quote

3. Consultancies have been procured through select requests for quotation from suitably qualified experts, as required by AIATSIS' procurement policy.

Australian Research Council

1. Two consultancies were undertaken, listed below:

Consultant Name	Nature of Consultancy	Duration	Cost	Procurement Method
Stay Tuned Consulting Pty Ltd	Development of the ARC Strategic Plan 2014–15 to 2016–17	13/02/14 - 25/03/14	\$3,887.50	Competitive request for quote
One Umbrella Consulting	Digital Transition for Records Management	5 months	\$42,857	Competitive request for quote
Total value for both consultancies			\$46,744.50	

2. Three consultancies are planned. No, as the cost in each case is under \$80,000.

Consultant Name	Nature of Consultancy	Duration	Cost	Procurement Method
Digital Science	Statistical advice and analysis	15/07/2014 – 31/08/2014	\$35,939.00	Direct Source
Science-Matrix Inc	Provision of data testing	4/07/2014 – 9/07/2014	\$16,000	Direct Source
Aegies Consulting Group	Advice on cost-benefit analysis	3/06/2014 – 13/06/2014	\$10,890.00	Competitive request for quote

3. Yes. The cost for each case listed above is under \$80,000

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

1. No new consultancy has been undertaken during the period 1 March 2014 to 31 May 2014.
2. Only one consultancy has been planned for this calendar year

Consultant Name	Nature of Consultancy	Duration	Cost	Procurement Method
Robyn Adams	Regulatory process and reform	10 February 2014 – 30 June 2014	\$37,406.38	Direct Source

The above consultancy was not published in the agency's Annual Procurement Plan (APP) as it is below the \$80,000 procurement threshold.

3. Refer to (2) above.