

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0284_15

Senator Carr asked on 4 June 2014 , Hansard page 14

Question

Establishment and running costs of shared services centre

Ms Paul: Probably, yes. Senator KIM CARR: 650 public servants is quite a substantial number of people. It is quite a substantial budget to fund 650 people. What would the total cost of running this be? Ms Paul: They have a capital budget, too, for IT. I can take it on notice, if you like. Senator KIM CARR: So a substantial sum of money for 650? Ms Paul: Yes. Senator KIM CARR: We are talking multi millions of dollars to run this program. But there is no announcement and no budget line. Ms Paul: We could have, and perhaps we should have, because we are quite proud of it and it is certainly innovative. But in the technicals of the PBS it won't show because it is not a separate agency. I am very happy to spruik its wares. Senator KIM CARR: I am sure you are. If you could provide me with the annual cost to run the centre and the cost breakdown of— Ms Paul: Yes. Senator KIM CARR: which department is paying what and is there a formula? Are there savings to be found to fund this measure? Could you provide information on that? Ms Paul: We did not need to find savings for this measure, because it is an efficiency measure in itself, in a way, because we are keeping people and teams together that in the traditional machinery of government splits would have been split. Partly our desire to create this new shared services centre was simply to keep teams together that would otherwise have to be split. Senator KIM CARR: So there is a saving involved. What is the level of savings? Ms Paul: It is not a savings. The former department split five ways, basically. So this keeps teams together in a more efficient way. Senator KIM CARR: Is there going to be a CEO for the centre? Ms Paul: Yes. Senator KIM CARR: Will it be advertised? Ms Paul: It has been. Senator KIM CARR: Where is it being advertised? Ms Paul: I could get the details. It was advertised publicly. It was a public advertisement. We got the commissioner's agreement to advertise publicly.

Answer

The annual cost of the Shared Services Centre (SSC) is expected to be around \$80 million. Annual revenue is initially expected to be around \$20 million.

The costs and revenues will be split between the Department of Education and the Department of Employment. The approach for the apportionment has not yet been finalised.

The SSC CEO position was advertised on:

- 20 March 2014 online on APS Jobs, Seek and CareerOne, and
- 29 March 2014 in "The Australian" (print media).