

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

#### Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004025

Senator Cameron asked on 29 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 12

#### Question

##### Contractor costs for the last five years

Senator CAMERON: What specialist skills do you not have in the department that you need regularly to use?

Ms Leon: Specialist skills that we have or do not have in the department?

Senator CAMERON: That you do not have that you need contractors for.

Ms Leon: As has been the practice across many departments, quite often we need to get IT contractors in. That is a significant part of the contracting workforce in the Commonwealth. You need people either because of their specialist IT knowledge or because it is only a short-term project that you want them for. So IT makes up 78 of our contractors. Then, as I think Mr Clout went through, we use 23 in legal and accounting, 16 in audit, 14 in economic and evaluation, and four in data analytics. Then, across our call centres and general admin and support, we use contractors for surge capacity, and that is 77 in the call centres and 14 in general admin and support.

Senator CAMERON: What is the total expenditure on these contractors?

Ms Leon: The year to date on contractors up to the end of April was \$17.9 million. That includes \$7.4 million which is capitalised rather than out of the running costs budget. Because they are building some kind of IT infrastructure, it comes out of capital, and that is broadly consistent with our expenditure pattern over previous years.

Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details of your expenditure in the last five years?

Ms Leon: On notice, yes.

#### Answer

The Department was created on 18 September 2013.

The Department's expenditure on contractors from the date of creation of the Department until 30 April 2017 is provided in the table below.

Financial Year	2013-14 <sup>1</sup> (\$m)	2014-15 (\$m)	2015-16 (\$m)	2016-17 (\$m) YTD
Operating	1.8 <sup>2</sup>	9.0 <sup>3</sup>	12.4 <sup>4</sup>	10.5
Capitalised	8.1	16.1	13.2	7.4
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>17.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Note that these figures represent a part year due to the Machinery of Government changes in 2013

<sup>2</sup> Source annual report 2013-14 page 118

<sup>3</sup> Source annual report 2014-15 page 119

<sup>4</sup> Source annual report 2015-16 page 125