

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

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

**Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Employment Question No. EM1583\_15**

**Senator Cameron asked on 23 October 2014 on proof Hansard page 14**

**Question**

**CPM Reviews**

Senator CAMERON: What were the qualifications of the individual? Ms Rundle: I would need to take that on notice. I can recall that he was well qualified for the job, but I cannot recall the qualifications in total. Senator CAMERON: Sure. I would like to see that. How long did the investigation take? Ms Rundle: If you are looking for an exact date, I would need to take that on notice. I might ask during the session break for you. .... Senator CAMERON: Was it hourly? Ms Rundle: I would need to check whether his fee was based on an hourly rate. I do have the total cost of the investigation. I would need to check that for you. .... Senator CAMERON: Everybody wants to tell me about what the total cost is, but just wait a minute: was it a fixed-price contract or was it an hourly rate? How was it established how the payment would be made? If you could advise me of that.

**Answer**

- 1 Qualifications/biography of Mr Chris Whyte – the following is an extract from the CPM Reviews internet site

***Chris Whyte – Senior Reviewer - Canberra***

*Mr Chris Whyte joined CPM Reviews as a Senior Reviewer in February 2013. He has over thirty years' experience in the Australian Public Service, including over twenty years at SES 1 and 2 level, and has also worked as a consultant.*

*He holds a law degree, and before joining the public sector worked as a solicitor and corporate lawyer. He has been successfully assessed for the issue of a Certificate IV in Investigations.*

*He has been a complaints investigation and policy officer in consumer affairs matters, and a principal investigation officer for the Commonwealth Ombudsman. Both roles involved obtaining and analysing relevant evidence, policy and law, interviewing parties and considering the relative merits of competing perspectives before furnishing detailed written conclusions. He later managed a promotion appeals board, providing advice to board members and appellants as requested on legal and other issues. He has also held industrial relations roles, including appearing before the relevant industrial tribunal when required.*

*He has worked in a number of departments and agencies including the (then) Department of the Capital territory, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the (then) Departments of Administrative Services*

*and Special Minister of State, the Attorney-General's Department, the (then) Commonwealth Law Enforcement Board and the Australian Federal Police (AFP).*

*His background has been principally in policy roles. His interests and areas of responsibility have included: Commonwealth and national law enforcement arrangements; fraud control; ethical frameworks; the development of legislation, notably that involving investigative powers and the handling of complaints/conduct issues; performance reporting and management information systems; the development of governance arrangements, including serving for nine years on an agency internal audit committee; and the compilation of environmental scans for planning purposes.*

*He was CIO at the AFP from 2002-2008, managing over 300 staff and contractors in maintaining a 24/7 international ICT network. From 2009-2012, he worked as a consultant, principally in relation to ICT.*

*Most recently, at CPM Reviews, he has been a principal involved in a substantial and successful review of code of conduct and performance management arrangements for APS employees in the Department of Defence. He has also undertaken several appeals from disciplinary decisions, and misconduct investigations, for various ACT Government Directorates, and has undertaken a review of options for an awards regime for a Commonwealth agency.*

## 2 Length of time for the investigation and cost per hour

The investigation was commissioned on 31 March 2014. The report was provided to the Department by Mr Whyte on 6 June 2014. Following further follow-up by the Department, the report was accepted by the Department on 31 July 2014 and relevant staff formally notified of the outcome on 14 August 2014. Mr Whyte was paid the equivalent of an hourly rate of \$289 per hour.