

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Finance

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Small Business Access to Commonwealth Contracts

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F274

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Can you explain the issues with procurement policy, and other issues, that this measure purports to deal with? The measure states that the funding would make it easier for small business to do business with government, so presumably there are issues around that?

I note that Finance is being provided \$0.6 million per year – are you able to provide the committee with information on how this funding has been allocated? For example, how much allocated for training and education programs, guidance material, funding for extra staff in Finance? What is the \$0.5 million in capital funding for?

Answer:

The budget measure ‘Improving small business access to Commonwealth contracts’ included \$2.8 million (including \$0.5 million capital funding) over four years to assist small business to access the Commonwealth procurement market. Finance will work with small businesses and their representatives to develop procurement policy, guidance material, training and education programmes that make it easier for small business to do business with government.

Finance is seeking feedback from small business on what barriers are being faced in accessing Commonwealth contracts and what types of tools could be developed to assist small business navigating the tender process. The mechanism for this public consultation is the Australian Government Procurement Coordinator’s blog which can be viewed here. Feedback from this consultation process will be used to determine the allocation of non-capital funding.

Capital funding of \$0.5 million will be used to develop a mobile-friendly application for AusTender for small businesses to use on portable devices.