

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: 2010 Counter Terrorism White Paper

Senator: Senator Matthew Canavan

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Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

Regarding the 2010 Counter Terrorism White Paper prepared and launched by the former Government, please outline:

- a. How long was the taskforce in operation?
- b. What was the average staffing level, total number and classification of staff involved in the White Paper?
- c. What was the total budget or amount spent on the White Paper broken down by staff costs, travel costs, meeting costs, other administrative costs?
- d. How many copies of the White Paper were printed, at what cost (including printing and design costs)?

Answer:

- a. The Counter-Terrorism White Paper was coordinated by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), and involved input from a range of Commonwealth agencies and officials from state and territory governments. The White Paper was informed by a steering group chaired by the relevant PM&C Deputy Secretary and comprised senior Commonwealth officials from 14 agencies. No taskforce was established.
- b. An EL2 officer was devoted to coordinating the White Paper between January 2009 and its release in February 2010. The effort was supplemented by other departmental resources as necessary, and a wide range of officers from contributing agencies provided input to the drafting process.

- c. The cost of the PM&C EL2 officer at the time is estimated at approximately \$195,519. This estimate includes approximate on-costs (such as superannuation and other administrative allowances) but does not take into account the specific pay point of the EL2 involved, the actual on-costs for PM&C staff, or any travel, meeting or other administrative costs. The Department does not maintain records in a way that would readily allow breakdown of the total budget of the White Paper. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- d. In 2010, the Department spent \$8690 (GST exclusive) on printing 200 copies of the White Paper.