

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-18

Finance Portfolio
24-25 May 2017

Department/Agency: Finance

Outcome/Program: 2/2.1

Topic: Australian Hearing – scoping study cost and departmental resources

Senator: McAllister

Question reference number: F68

Type of question: Hansard Proof, 25 May 2017, F&PA Committee, page 60-61

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 7 July 2017

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator McALLISTER: I understand that the government has announced that it will retain ownership of Australian Hearing. However, over successive estimates hearings, we have been awaiting the outcomes of a prolonged process of deliberation about the ownership arrangements for Australian Hearing. Can I get the total cost of the scoping studies that were undertaken to review the ownership arrangements for Australian Hearing.

Senator Cormann: Again, in terms of the cost of the scoping study, that was something that, of course, was published before on AusTender and has previously been published. I will take that on notice in terms of providing that information again. . On what we have done over the past year—or a bit more than a year, I think it started in February—I am just going to go through my website. In February 2016 I announced that the government would be going through an evaluation process, because we had received an unsolicited approach from a consortium led by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children alongside Cochlear Ltd and Macquarie University with a proposal for the transfer for Australian Hearing into non-government ownership—to them. We have worked with them over an extended period, but in the end the consortium decided not to proceed.

...

Senator McALLISTER: ...Are you able to provide an estimate of what departmental resources have been allocated to this process?

Senator Cormann: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The total cost of the scoping study was published on the AusTender website, at:

<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.CN.view&CNUUID=8DBE223B-DA0B-DB4C-82D06D9E64F07D8A>

<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.CN.view&CNUUID=8DB328B1-CFD0-CE68-6ED089D0EC857610>

The total cost of the evaluation process was published on the AusTender website, at:

<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.cn.Amendment.view&CNUUID=7E9D80CA-A7BB-4342-AD8AB9CA69F66EA1>

<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.CN.view&CNUUID=7EE795D9-A359-6589-B1AFC30F54D18501>

<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.CN.view&CNUUID=BB4DB3B7-95A2-097A-8EB5D7D0DD445BE5>

<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.cn.Amendment.view&CNUUID=7EC5A3B2-C40A-78E0-53D68EE217BBEB0C>

<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.CN.view&CNUUID=BB6FAEAC-D38D-3F96-2C921038F1278366>