

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 18-22 November 2013**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Machinery of Government changes

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 118

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 17 January 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

What costs to PM&C are associated with the Machinery of Government changes outlined in the Administrative Arrangements Order of 18 September and the amended Administrative Arrangements Order of 3 October 2013?

**Answer:**

Since the Administrative Arrangement Order (AAO) was issued on 18 September 2013, PM&C has been working to transfer in over 1800 staff from 9 different agencies and in over 120 locations around Australia.

This includes the Deregulation functions from the Department of Finance, the Office for Women from the Department of Social Services (DSS) and Indigenous Affairs functions from 8 government agencies.

As at 31 October 2013, we have spent around \$536,000 on the transfer of these incoming functions.

The expenditure has primarily been in the areas of IT infrastructure to support our new staff and financial management expertise to assist in the transfer of the complex funding arrangements.

Our approach throughout the transfer has been to re-use existing APS capability to minimise the overall cost. For instance, to reduce our IT costs, we will use the existing DSS IT network to provide desktop services to our staff outside of Canberra.

We have also chosen to partner with government agencies that are best placed to deliver corporate and enabling services across Australia. By way of example, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has a footprint of some 600 locations across Australia and is in many of our new locations. We have reached an agreement with DHS to deliver property and facilities management as well as fleet management to meet our non-Canberra based requirements.