

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 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: Purchase of “strategic planning consultation services”

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 146

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

With reference to contract notice CN1879611 published on AusTender:

- What “strategic planning consultation services” were purchased at a cost of \$58,346.40 for the period 4 November to 24 December 2013?
- Why could strategic planning services not be sourced from within the department or the Australian Public Service?

Answer:

- The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) engages consultants where it lacks specialist expertise or where an independent assessment is required.
- PM&C engaged Ernst & Young (E&Y) to provide strategic planning consultation services subsequent to the Administrative Arrangements Order (AAO) issued on 18 September 2013.
- The services provided by E&Y included independent advice in relation to the PM&C’s approach to the implementation of complex Machinery of Government changes. The independent advice was specialist in nature and was unable to be sourced internally.