

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 01

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Infrastructure Publications Prior to Budget

Proof Hansard Page: 5 (27 May 2015)

Senator Sterle, Glenn asked:

Senator STERLE: So, Mr Mrdak, can we just clarify this? You have been around longer than me. So can you recall when a federal budget has come out without an accompanying glossy document to talk about the infrastructure spend?

Mr Mrdak: Yes.

Senator STERLE: Can you tell us what year that was?

Mr Mrdak: My recollection is that it would be around the 2007-08 budget.

Ms O'Connell: Certainly prior to the 2008 budget, my recollection is that there were not specifically publications on infrastructure. I would have to check whether on every budget year from 2008 there had been a publication like that.

Senator STERLE: Sure.

Ms O'Connell: I know that there had been quite a few during the previous government. I could not say that it was every single budget year, but I would have to check to see whether that is the case. Certainly prior to the 2008 budget I'm not aware that it was done.

Senator STERLE: You can come back to us. That is fine.

Answer:

The budget years 2010-2011 and 2012-13 did not have Treasury endorsed budget publications around Infrastructure Investment.

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Question no.: 02

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Pay and Conditions

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle, Glenn asked:

1. When is the last time your Departmental staff received a general pay increase?
2. On what date?
3. Are you aware of concerns in the Department about the lack of a pay increase?

Answer:

- 1 – 2. 1/7/2013
3. Yes

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Question no.: 03

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Non-Australian citizens employed by the Department/Agency

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

1. What is the Department/Agency's policy with regard to hiring non-Australian citizens?
2. Does the agency have a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) policy? If yes, please provide a summary.
3. How does the Department/Agency determine whether a person is a non-Australian citizen?
4. How many staff who were not Australian Citizens have been hired by the Department/Agency since the Federal Election in September, 2013? Please break the numbers down by:
 1. Levels at which they are employed
 2. Immigration Status (Visa)
 3. Cultural Background
 4. Linguistic Background
 5. How many were hired to satisfy CALD targets?

Answer:

1. The Department's Security policy is that all staff must obtain at minimum a Baseline security clearance which requires that they are an Australian citizen.
2. No. The Department has an Agency Multicultural Plan. The Plan outlines the Department's aim to appropriately reflect the needs of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.
3. Employees of the Department are required to provide evidence of their Australian citizenship to both the Department and the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency prior to commencement, as part of the policy.
4. Nil.

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Question no.: 04

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Corporate Services

Topic: Dispute Resolution

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

1. How are disputes between departmental and/or agency staff mediated?
2. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:
 1. The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).
 2. Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.
 3. When the contract with the firm commenced.
 4. When the contract with the firm will expire.
 5. Why the firm was selected to provide the service.
 6. Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.
3. How are code of conduct violations by departmental and/or agency staff mediated?
4. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:
 1. The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).
 2. Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.
 3. When the contract with the firm commenced.
 4. When the contract with the firm will expire.
 5. Why the firm was selected to provide the service.
 6. Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.

Answer:

1. Staff disputes are managed in accordance with the Department's Enterprise Agreement and supporting guidelines.
2. Yes, Team HR (Australia) Pty Ltd.
 1. Fees for each consultation.
 2. \$7,093.00 .
 3. 16 October 2014.
 4. 30 June 2015.
 5. Selected on ability to provide required services in a specific location (Sydney).
 6. Disagreement between two employees on workplace matters.
3. NA.
4. Nil.