

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

31 May – 2 June 2011

Question No: BET 138

Topic: ATO - Consultancies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

1. How much has the Department spent on consultancy services this financial year? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).
2. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since February Estimates 2011? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).
3. Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?
4. Has there been any changes in the consultancies that are planned for this calendar year since February Estimates 2011? If yes, have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.
5. Could the Department provide a complete list of current consultancy services. For each consultancy, please indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use. For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.

Answer:

This response is limited to the ATO and does not include information relating to the broader Treasury portfolio.

For the purposes of this response, consultancies are classified in accordance with Financial Management Guidance (FMG) No.15. The figures shown in Attachments A and B are for arrangements greater than \$10,000, which are required to be gazetted on AusTender.

1. In the current financial year (01 July 2010 to 24 June 2011) the ATO spent \$8.834 million (GST inclusive) on consultancies services.

Attachment A sets out the following details for each consultancy valued at greater than \$10,000 entered into in the 2010-11 financial year:

- name of the consultant
- subject matter of the consultancy
- the duration and cost of the contract
- the method of procurement, and
- rationale to employ.

2. Since February Estimates 2011, the ATO has entered into 60 new consultancy arrangements totalling \$5.634 million (GST inclusive).

Attachment B sets out the following details for each consultancy valued at greater than \$10,000 entered into since February Estimates 2011:

- name of the consultant
- subject matter of the consultancy
- the duration and cost of the contract
- the method of procurement, and
- rationale to employ.

3. The ATO updates the AusTender website on a regular basis in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. The ATO 2011-12 Annual Procurement Plan was published on 1 July 2011 and all approaches to market are advertised on AusTender as they become known. When a preferred supplier has been determined, the contract arrangement is gazetted on AusTender. The figures on AusTender are correct as at 5 July 2011.
4. There were no changes in the planned consultancies published in the 2010-11 Annual Procurement Plan between February Estimates 2011 and the end of the financial year.
5. The intended use and rationale for employing the use of the consultants and why the ATO could not have undertaken the work itself has been included in Attachments A and B.

Attachments:

A: Consultancies commenced since July 2010

B: Consultancies commenced since February 2011