

Finance and Public Administration Legislative Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Australian Public Service Commission

Estimates 2005-06 – Additional Estimates, February 2006

Question: PM 50 - Australian Public Service Commission

Topic: Consultancies

Senator Evans asked: What services were provided for the following consultancies and for what purposes were these contracts let?

- **Palm consulting at a cost of \$22,467 to assist with national workshops**

The Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) engaged Palm Consulting to assist with National Workshops for the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA). This was part of a broader arrangement under which the APSC engages consultants from a panel of providers to assist APS agencies achieve a range of leadership, learning and development outcomes. On selection of an appropriate consultant, the agency liaises with the consultant to ensure that the required solution is delivered appropriately and within the project timeframe. The APSC invoices the agency to recoup the cost of sourcing the consultant and managing the panel. 243 DIMA employees participated in the workshops.

The purpose of the national workshop conducted for DIMA was to:

- determine the opportunities for improvements across state and territory operations;
- agree how best to work effectively across the network; and,
- define values and relationships.

- **Austrategies Consulting at a cost of \$11,200 to provide emotional intelligence training**

The Australian Public Service Commission engaged AuStrategies Consulting network at a cost of \$11,200 (including GST) to conduct a training programme in Brisbane for APS employees entitled, "Improving Leadership- with Emotional Intelligence", on 10 and 11 November 2005. Fourteen participants from a number of agencies attended the 2 day training programme that used a combination of presentation and experiential learning approaches. Well developed emotional intelligence is recognised as a significant component of effective leadership. The training programme provided opportunities for participants to understand emotional intelligence and its relevance to managerial and leadership effectiveness.

- **DHC Operations at a cost of \$25,468 to provide the venue for a Ministerial conversation? What was this Ministerial conversation?**

The Australian Public Service Commission engaged the Hyatt Hotel Canberra, who have the contract for the catering at Parliament House, to provide the venue and catering for a ministerial conversation. The value of that engagement was \$26,668.80, which included a \$1,200 deposit plus the balance of \$25,468.80. Catering included a two course meal, orange juice, water and coffee/tea.

Ministerial Conversations is a series of presentations by Ministers that will give agency heads and senior executives across the Australian Public Service the opportunity to hear directly from Ministers on their current policy perspectives, and their expectations of the public service in implementing Government policy in a whole-of-government context. The event in question was a lunch presentation by the Treasurer, the Honourable Peter Costello.

- **Rob Brennan and Associates at a cost of \$18,590 to provide facilitation for "Leadership at the Bay"**

The Australian Public Service Commission engaged Rob Brennan and Associates to assist with "Leadership at the Bay". This was part of a broader arrangement under which the APSC engages consultants from a panel of providers to assist APS agencies achieve a range of leadership, learning and development outcomes. On selection of an appropriate consultant, the agency liaises with the consultant to ensure that the required solution is delivered appropriately and within the project timeframe. The APSC invoices the agency to recoup the cost of sourcing the consultant and managing the panel.

'Leadership at the Bay' was part of the Department of Finance and Administration's 2005 Graduate Development Program. The Graduate Offsite was held in Batemans Bay at the Coachhouse Marina Resort from 5-7 October 2005. The offsite focussed on helping the participants move beyond their graduate role, as well as preparing them for future management and leadership roles within the department. 49 graduates attended along with two staff from the programme area and the three facilitators

- **Mental Nutrition at a cost of \$14,828 for program delivery.**

The Australian Public Service engaged Mental Nutrition to deliver programmes at a cost of \$14,828. The following programmes delivered were on the Commission's calendar of programmes and included:

- 12/8/05 Interview Tips & Techniques
- 19/10/05 Interview Tips & Techniques
- 24/11/05 Interview Tips & Techniques
- 30/06/05 Presentation Skills
- 28/10/05 Presentation Skills

In addition, 6 sessions of executive coaching were provided for an SES officer in the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare between October and December 05.