

## Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2010

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

**Outcome - General**

**Program - General**

**Topic: Reports Commissioned by the Government since November 2007**

**Question reference number: F56**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010**

**Number of Pages: 6**

**Senator Ryan asked:**

- a) How many reports have been commissioned by the Government in the Finance and Deregulation portfolio since November 2007?
- b) Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- c) How much did each report cost?
- d) How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- e) What is the current status of each report?
- f) When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

### **Answer:**

For the purposes of this response 'a report commissioned by the Government' is considered to be a report formally commissioned from an external source by the current Government, with established terms of reference or objectives. Only costs identified as being above and beyond those absorbed by the Department have been included.

The response to Question F86: *Reviews undertaken by the Finance Portfolio* - includes reviews which either have, or will, result in reports that are recorded in this response.

All information contained in this response was current as at 9 February 2010.

- a) Thirteen reports have been commissioned by the Government in the Finance and Deregulation portfolio since November 2007. Details are below.

### Review of Parliamentary Entitlements

- b)
  - (i) The review was commissioned on 8 September 2009;
  - (ii) Not applicable;
  - (iii) This a matter for the Government;
  - (iv) The Terms of Reference are at Attachment A.1; and
  - (v) Committee members are at Attachment B.1.
- c) The review is estimated to cost \$155,000.
- d) Four full-time departmental staff members provided secretariat support to the review.

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- 1 x SES Band 1;
- 1 x EL2;
- 1 x EL1;
- 1 x EL1 (for two months); and
- 1 x APS4.

The Secretariat was also supported by two full-time EL2 departmental staffers from other agencies:

- 1 from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and
- 1 from the Attorney General's Department.

- e) The report is still being prepared.
- f) This a matter for the Government.

#### Review of Australian Government Superannuation Administration Arrangements

- b)
  - (i) The review was commissioned on 31 October 2008;
  - (ii) The report was handed to the Government in November 2009;
  - (iii) The report has not been publically released;
  - (iv) There were no written Terms of Reference. The purpose of the review was to identify the most efficient and effective approach to the future administration of the Civilian and Military Superannuation Schemes; and
  - (v) Finance engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers to conduct the review. No committee was established.
- c) The review cost \$875,158.
- d) Six full-time departmental staff supported the review:
  - 1 x SES Band 1;
  - 1 x EL 2;
  - 2 x EL 1;
  - 1 x APS5; and
  - 1 x APS4.
- e) The report is complete.
- f) The Government responded to the report in November 2009.

#### Review of Pension Indexation Arrangements in Australian Government Civilian and Military Superannuation Schemes (Matthews Review)

- b)
  - (i) The review was announced in a media release by (then) Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law on 26 June 2008;
  - (ii) The report was handed to the Government on 24 December 2008;
  - (iii) The report was released to the public on 21 August 2009;
  - (iv) The Terms of Reference are at Attachment A.2; and
  - (v) The review was conducted by Mr Trevor Matthews. No committee was established.
- c) The review cost \$77,053.

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- d) Three full-time departmental staff provided Secretariat support to the review:
  - 1 x SES Band 1; and
  - 2 x EL 1.
- e) The report is complete.
- f) The Government responded to the report on 21 August 2009.

#### OECD Report – *Towards a Seamless National Economy, 2009 Review of Regulatory Reform: Australia*

- b)
  - (i) On 30 October 2008, the Australian Government announced that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) would undertake a regulatory review of Australia;
  - (ii) The Government received an embargoed copy of the report on 3 February 2010;
  - (iii) The report was released to the public on 15 February 2010, together with the Australian Government's response;
  - (iv) The Terms of Reference are at Attachment A.3; and
  - (v) The review was conducted by the OECD. No committee was established.
- c) Australia made a voluntary payment of Euro 298,000 to the OECD to support the cost of undertaking the review and producing the report.
- d) From time to time, various staff, from within Finance and across other agencies, at a range of levels, were involved in the review.
- e) & f) The OECD report was released to the public on 15 February 2010 together with the Government's response.

#### Review of the Australian Government's use of ICT

- b)
  - (i) The review was commissioned on 25 March 2008;
  - (ii) The report was handed to the Government on 28 August 2008;
  - (iii) Report released to the public on 16 October 2008;
  - (iv) The Terms of Reference are at Attachment A.4; and
  - (v) The review was conducted by Sir Peter Gershon. No committee was established.
- c) The review cost \$625,000.
- d) Six departmental staff were involved in the review:
  - 2 x SES Band 1 (full-time); and
  - 4 x EL1 (3 full-time and 1 part-time).
- e) The report is complete.
- f) The Government responded to the report on 24 November 2008.

#### Engage: Getting on with Government 2.0

- b)
  - (i) The report was commissioned on 22 May 2009;
  - (ii) The report was handed to Government on 22 December 2009;
  - (iii) The report was released to the public on 22 December 2009;
  - (iv) The Terms of Reference are at Attachment A.5; and

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- (v) Committee members are at Attachment B.2.
- c) The review cost \$560,000.
- d) While staffing numbers fluctuated throughout the life of the Taskforce, the Secretariat was staffed by eight departmental staff members:
- 1 x SES Band 1;
  - 1 x EL2;
  - 4 x EL1;
  - 1 x APS5; and
  - 1 x APS4.
- NOTE: Some staff were part-time on the Taskforce or involved in the Secretariat for a short period of time.
- e) The report is complete.
- f) The Government responded to the report on 3 May 2010.

#### Strategic Review of Administration of Australian Government Grant Programs

- b) (i) The review was commissioned 6 December 2007;  
(ii) The first element of the review was handed to the Government on 4 August 2008 and second element on 19 September 2008;  
(iii) The report was released to the public on 24 August 2009;  
(iv) The Terms of Reference at Attachment A.6; and  
(v) The first element of the review was conducted by Mr Peter Grant PSM, and the second element was conducted by Dr Joanne Kelly. No committee was established.
- c) The review cost \$184,677.
- d) Two full-time EL2 departmental staff were involved in the review.
- e) The report is complete.
- f) The Government responded to the report on 24 August 2009.

#### Strategic Review of Australian Government Climate Change Programs

- b) (i) The review was commissioned 27 February 2008;  
(ii) The report was handed to the Government on 31 July 2008;  
(iii) The report was released to the public on 12 May 2009;  
(iv) The Terms of Reference at Attachment A.7; and  
(v) The review was undertaken by Mr Roger Wilkins. No committee was established.
- c) The review cost \$90,128.
- d) One full-time EL2 departmental staff member was involved in the review.
- e) The report is complete.
- f) The Government responded to the report on 12 May 2009.

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##### Strategic Review of Future Directions for Shared Services

- b) The review was commissioned and considered by Government in the 2010-11 Budget context.
- c) The review cost \$44,022.
- d) Two full-time departmental staff were involved in the review.  
1 x EL2; and  
1 x EL1.
- e) The report was considered in the 2010-11 Budget context.
- f) This is a matter for the Government.

##### Strategic Review of Future Directions for Australian Government Service Delivery

- b) The review was commissioned and considered by Government in the 2010-11 Budget context.
- c) The review cost \$185,308.
- d) Three full-time departmental staff were involved in the review.  
2 x EL2; and  
1 x EL1.
- e) The report was considered in the 2010-11 Budget context.
- f) This is a matter for the Government.

##### Strategic Review of the Job Capacity Assessments Program

- b) The review was commissioned and considered by Government in the 2010-11 Budget context.
- c) The review cost \$108,900.
- d) Two full-time departmental staff were involved in the review.  
1 x EL2; and  
1 x APS5.
- e) The report was considered in the 2010-11 Budget context.
- f) This is a matter for the Government

##### Strategic Review of Indexation of Commonwealth Programs

- b) The review was commissioned and considered by Government in the 2010-11 Budget context.
- c) The review cost \$29,990.
- d) Two full-time departmental staff were involved in the review.  
1 x EL2; and  
1 x EL1.
- e) The report was considered in the 2010-11 Budget context.
- f) This is a matter for the Government.

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Strategic Review of Indigenous Expenditure

- b) The review was commissioned and considered by Government in the 2010-11 Budget context.
- c) The review cost \$281,700.
- d) Three departmental staff were involved in the review.
  - 1 x SES Band 1;
  - 1 x EL2 (part time 0.67 FTE); and
  - 1 x EL1.
- e) The report was considered in the 2010-11 Budget context.
- f) This is a matter for the Government.