

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates 8-11 February 2010

Question: PM12

Topic: COAG - CRC recruitment costs

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Senator PAYNE-Okay. So could you advise the committee what was the total cost to PM&C within the constraints of the budget of the COAG Reform Council? I understand it was for advertisements, travel for applicants to attend interviews and so on. Were the employment opportunities advertised anywhere other than the Gazette? If so, where, how many occasions and to what cost?

Ms Beauchamp-Can I just confirm, Senator: that is specifically in relation to COAG Reform Council appointments?

Senator PAYNE-Yes. The advertisements concerned positions for senior advisers, advisers, analysts and so on, which I assume go to the expansion and staffing of the COAG Reform Council. The application, as I read the URL at least, was to PM&C.nga.net.au/fnt_jobs_list.cfm. I did not read that as being through the COAG Reform Council, but perhaps I misunderstood that.

Answer: Employment opportunities for various positions of Senior Advisor (Executive Level 2), Advisor (Executive Level 1) and Analyst (APS 5/6) were advertised in the APS Gazette (APSJobs Online), Seek, The Australian, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Canberra Times, The Australian Financial Review and The Age in October 2009. The total cost of advertising was \$25,232.95.

Total costs for this recruitment process including advertising, travel to attend interviews and scribing was \$30,353.29. The cost to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on behalf of the Commonwealth Government was 50 per cent of this figure: \$15,176.64 (the COAG Reform Council is funded 50 per cent by the Commonwealth and 50 per cent by the States and Territories).