

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 11-14 February 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Reviews

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 57

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

Number of pages: 3

Question:

For this financial year to date:

- How many Reviews are being undertaken?
- What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?
- Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
- When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- Has the Government responded to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?
- What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
- What reviews are planned?
- When will each of these reviews be concluded?

Answer:

A 'review' is considered to be a formal examination of an area of government policy undertaken by an agency and to which a government response is expected.

Answers to the questions are provided in the attached table.

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Question on Notice: Question 57 – REVIEWS

1 July 2012 to 11 February 2013

No.	Title	Concluded / Current	Expected/ Actual Completion Date	Expected / Actual Date Provided to Govt	When will Govt respond to Review?	Cost of Review (in addition to PM&C staff salaries)
1	COAG Construction Industry Costs & Productivity Panel	Paused – PM&C remains ready to support a review if jurisdictions reach agreement on the Panel membership; pending this agreement, the taskforce supporting the Inquiry was stood down in December 2012.	In accordance with the Terms of Reference provided in the 25 July 2012 COAG Communique, the expected date of completion/ submission to COAG was 31 July 2013. Timeframes will need to be revised, pending agreement by jurisdictions.	TBD	Anticipated response by Government: to be determined by COAG following receipt of the final report. Original timeframes will need to be revised, due to disputation from some states and territories on the composition of the panel. This impasse would need to be resolved for the inquiry to proceed.	Approximately \$635,000 (cost to the Commonwealth). At the time it was stood down, expenses for the taskforce came to \$57,862.34.

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2	Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers	Concluded	13/08/2012	13/08/2012	The Government responded to the review on 13 August 2012, endorsing in principle, all of the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers report.	The cost of the review included stakeholder and public consultations, preparing and printing the reports, service fees, travel and general expenses and came to \$184,432.
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