

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES (ADDITIONAL HEARINGS) 2013-2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Outcome/Program:

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government agencies by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and inspecting statutory compliance by law enforcement agencies.

Topic: Reviews

Senator: Senator Ludwig

Question reference number: 161

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 April 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- (1) Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
 - a. the date they were ordered
 - b. the date they commenced
 - c. the minister responsible
 - d. the department responsible
 - e. the nature of the review
 - f. their terms of reference
 - g. the scope of the review
 - h. whom is conducting the review
 - i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
 - j. the expected report date
 - k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs
 - l. if the report will be tabled in parliament or made public?

- (2) For any review commenced or ordered since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
 - a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
 - b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent

- c. If yes, for each what are the costs associated with their involvement, broken down to each cost item
 - d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
 - e. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
 - f. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
 - g. If yes, for each, who selected them
 - h. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
 - i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
 - ii. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
 - iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
 - iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
 - v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
- (3) Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews are on-going? Please list them.
- (4) Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
- (5) Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.
- (6) Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
- (7) When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- (8) What reviews are planned?
- a. When will each planned review be commenced?
 - b. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
 - c. When will government respond to each review?
 - d. Will the government release each review?
 - e. If so, when?
 - f. If not, why not?

Answer:

- (1) Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, the Office has not conducted any new Reviews.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Not applicable.

(6) Nil.

(7) Not applicable.

(8) Nil.