

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2004-2005, 24 and 25 May 2004

Question: PM 12

Hansard Page: F&PA 81

Senator RAY asked—if in terms of this list you have employed anyone else and paid them for advice – and this is payment for advice rather than printing or whatever – could you let me know who they are and how much you paid? The other is if you have recontracted or renegotiated any extension to the contract of any people on this list, could you let me know who and how much?

Answer: The department has varied contracts with the following consultants on the list:

Elliott and Shanahan Research	\$195,371.14 (ex GST) – additional to original contract amount
Cultural Partners Australia	\$6,650 (ex GST) – additional to original contract amount
Gavin Jones Communication	\$51,500 (ex GST) – additional to original contract amount
Haystac Public Affairs	\$100,000 (ex GST) – reduction to original contract amount
Smartlove Pty Ltd	\$1,357,866 (ex GST) – reduction to original contract amount
Grey Worldwide (Melbourne)	Nil variation to contract amount

Advice was also sought from the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) about contract variations and legal terminology being used in the campaign (this included checking some campaign content). The total cost paid to AGS in 2003-04 is \$30,735.00.

Question: PM 13

Hansard Page: F&PA 97-98

Senator RAY asked— And how did you come by them? By way of tender or recommendation? [Vibe Australia]

Answer: It is common practice for communications consultants, media outlets and event organisers to submit sponsorship proposals to government communication sections. It is normal practice for all proposals to be assessed in accordance with Chapter 5 of the Chief Executive Instructions and against a range of criteria such as; appropriateness in relation to the communication objectives of a particular government programme. If the department considers the sponsorship positively, the proposal is submitted to the Minister for consideration/ approval, as was the case with the Vibe Australia's proposal. Vibe Australia's proposal was one of two accepted by the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women.