

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES 24 MAY 2010

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Department/Agency: AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Outcome/Output Group: 1.1

Topic: Consultancies

Senator: Barnett

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday 9 July 2010

Type of question: Written

Question reference number: PM 69

- (a) How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007?
- (b) Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).
- (c) Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total *spending* on consultancies and also *value of contracts awarded*? Provide total figures since November 2007 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.
- (d) Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?
- (e) How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? *In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known. All answers should be current at the time the answer is submitted.*

Answers:

All answers are current as at 30 June 2010.

(a) (b) and (c) Since November 2007 the APSC entered into 31 new consultancies, with a contract value of \$1,419,171. Details of each consultancy with a contract valued at more than \$10,000 are published in the APSC's annual report and are also reported on AusTender (the Government's tender and procurement reporting system) at www.tenders.gov.au. It would be an unreasonable diversion of resources for the APSC to provide details of all consultancies valued at less than \$10,000. Consultancy contracts valued at less than \$10,000 entered into since 1 July 2009 are not included in the above figures. Neither is it possible to report on AusTender individual contracts valued at less than \$10,000.

(d) Details of reportable procurements are uploaded to AusTender fortnightly. The last such upload was undertaken on Wednesday 30 June 2010.

(e) The APP for 2010-2011 does not include any consultancies. Consultancy contracts are usually entered into as the need arises, rather than as a result of long range future planning. The duration and cost of any consultancy and the name of the consultant remains unknown until the completion of the procurement process. The Commission expects some consultancy assistance throughout 2010-11 to progress a number of aspects of the *Blueprint for Reform of Australian Government Information*. Contracts in excess of \$10,000 will be reported on AusTender.

Number of pages: Two