

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(13) Output: Internal Product

Senator Patterson asked:

- (a) If TPI were engaged to assist in the shortlisting process how was TPI chosen?
- (b) What is TPI's view about global support capability?
- (c) Is it correct to say that TPI is very focussed on global support capability?
- (d) How did DIMA ensure this bias did not disadvantage Australian companies in the shortlist process?

Answer:

- (a) TPI was engaged as a sourcing advisor to the IT Sourcing Program.

TPI was selected using a select RFT process.

The IT Sourcing Program sought proposals from five organisations on the Endorsed Supplier Multi-Use List. The IT Sourcing Program used market research and consultation with agencies who had sought similar services to narrow the select RFT to the five organisations.

- (b) DIMA is unaware of TPI's specific views about global support capability and this was not a consideration for DIMA's process. DIMA conducted the process to meet its business needs and in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.
- (c) As noted in response 13(b) DIMA is unaware of TPI's views about global support capability and this was not a consideration for DIMA's process.
- (d) DIMA conducted the process in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines. Additionally, the IT Sourcing Program engaged an independent probity auditor (Walter Turnbull) to review the process. The auditor concluded that "The process undertaken by DIMA was open, defensible, fair, transparent, is capable of withstanding external scrutiny and one that proceeded on a sound and professional basis in a manner consistent with procedural fairness and the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines."