

SENATE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE  
ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION  
INDUSTRY  
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Senator Carr asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:**

What was the weekly rental for the accommodation for legal counsel in Melbourne?

**I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

The weekly rental paid for residential accommodation for legal counsel in Melbourne is set out below.

<b>Counsel Assisting</b>	<b>Weekly Rental</b>
James Renwick	\$850
Ian Neil	\$862

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**Senator Carr asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:**

Could you give me the dates that all these papers were due under their contractual arrangements, the dates that they were released and, in there is any significant gap between those two dates, an explanation why. It has been put to me that some of these reports may well have been held in the commission for a while. Is that true?

**I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

The following table provides details requested in respect of papers prepared under contract for the Royal Commission into the Building and Construction Industry. All other papers were prepared by officers of the Commission. No papers were held in the Commission after they were approved by the Commissioner.

<b>Name of Paper</b>	<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Date due under contract</b>	<b>Date released</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<i>Paper 5: Key Features and Trends in Building and Construction Industry Enterprise Agreements</i>	Accirt, University of Sydney	08 May 2002	14 May 2002	No significant delay
<i>Paper 6: Workplace Health and Safety in the Building and Construction Industry</i>	peopled Pty Ltd (Barry Durham author, assisted by Dr John Culvenor and Peter Rozen)	1 July 2002	23 July 2002	Editorial changes requested
<i>Paper 7: A History of Recent Industrial Relations Events in the Australian Building and Construction Industry</i>	CSIRO Building Construction and Engineering (Michael Thompson author, engaged by CSIRO)	12 July 2002	5 August 2002	Editorial changes requested

Paper 15: <i>Workplace Regulation, Reform and Productivity in the International Building and Construction Industry</i>	Unisearch Limited, University of New South Wales	4 November 2002	11 November 2002	No significant delay
Paper 17: <i>Productivity and the Building and Construction Industry</i>	Tasman Economics  Refereed by Peter Crowley, ACIL Consulting Pty Ltd	30 October 2002	15 November 2002	Time for referee to consider report.
Paper 18: <i>The Law Relating to Industrial Action in the Building and Construction Industry</i>	Faculty of Law, Monash University	9 September 2002 Received 8 November 2002	18 November 2002	Contractor needed additional time because of copyright issues regarding a major section of the paper. Editorial changes requested.

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**Senator Carr asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:**

Can you assure this committee that no-one in the royal commission media unit advised the press (of the extension of the commission's reporting time)?

**I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

Yes.

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**Senator Carr asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:**

Did Mr Willis ever write to the media organisation to complain about what journalists were writing in regard to the royal commission?

**I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

No.

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**Senator Carr asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:**

Was the alleged bias of Mr Ashley Crossland ever the subject of communication between the commission and the editor of the *Financial Review*?

**I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

No. On 16 September 2002 the Media Director for the Royal Commission in to the Building and Construction Industry telephoned the Bureau Chief of the *Australian Financial Review*, Mr Mark Sculley, to raise a matter of inaccurate reporting by Mr Ashley Crossland. He was subsequently referred to the News Editor, National Pages, Mr Sean Alymer. The issue arose because the journalist had sought information from the Royal Commission at a time when the Media Director was on leave. He was given some initial advice by the media assistant and asked to contact the Media Director to get the correct information he required. This did not occur and as a consequence the Royal Commission was misrepresented. That was the substance of the communication with the newspaper.

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**Senator Carr asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:**

- a. Can you confirm that your media adviser approached two journalists – Mr David Potter of the *Courier-Mail* and another journalist from Channel 9 – concerning the evidence to be presented to the Brisbane hearings and said ‘Coming up, there will be some pretty damning evidence of Tim Nesbit on the picket line’?
- b. I also seek clarification of whether it was put to these journalists that a video would be provided in evidence before the commission at these hearings – when in fact, at the time this advice was given, no video had been tendered to the commission.

**I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

- a. No. The Media Director for the Royal Commission into the Building and Construction Industry routinely provided general advice to journalists covering Commission proceedings on material available to them on CourtBook, including witnesses listed to appear or matters to be heard on the day. Representatives of the *Courier-Mail* and Channel 9 were included in briefings in respect of the Brisbane hearings. However, the Royal Commission has advised that the statement as quoted in the question is denied.
- b. On 16 January 2002 two videos concerning Nambour Hospital were tendered in evidence at the Royal Commission. Prior to that time, legal representatives for relevant parties and a number of union representatives attended Commission premises for the purpose of viewing the videos. On the morning of the hearing the Media Director informed journalists attending the Commission that they were required to leave the media room and sit in the hearing room in order to see the material.

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**Senator Carr asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:**

How many people tendered (for the printing of the report)?

**I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

There were numerous enquiries in response to the Request for Quote advertised on 27 July 2002 in the press, the Commonwealth Government Tender website and the Commission's website. One written tender was received.



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**Senator Carr asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:**

How have you calculated the pricing of the publication and the printing? What other factors were involved?

**I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

Quotations were required for a price per volume of 300 B5 pages with a minimum of 1000 copies to be printed on 80gsm paper. An hourly rate for desktopping was also required. The cost of delivery was also a factor.

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**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:**

Does the cost of publication and printing include artwork?

**I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

Desktopping rates include graphic design for the cover of the report.

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**Senator Marshall asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:**

The building and construction industry royal commission in the last hearings provided details of all the contracts that it has let over its period of operation. Can you provide an update of that information?

**I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

The details of contracts let by the Royal Commission into the Building and Construction Industry are set out in the following table.

<b>Contract</b>	<b>Original Value of Contract</b> \$	<b>Amount spent to 12 Nov 2002</b> \$	<b>Comments</b>
AMP Henderson Global Investors (Lease of Collins St Offices)	7,755,290	1,410,053	Cost includes cleaning and outgoings. Actual rental cost is \$1.2m per year
Kay & Burton Real Estate (C Thatcher accommodation to 31 Jan)	7,734	14,061	3 month lease - extended a further 3 months.
LJ Hooker Cheltenham (J Reeves - accommodation)	30,160	27,537	Contract extended
Living Edge (Commissioner's furniture)	32,300	17,992	
Cayzer Real Estate (Commissioner - accommodation)	78,000	35,455	
Biggin & Scott (A Harper to 31 Jan/from 1 Feb 2002 C Thatcher - accommodation)	28,608	21,755	
Bennison Mackinnon & Assoc ( James Renwick - accommodation)	44,208	36,840	Terminating on 14 Dec 2002
Campbell Moore Real Estate ( Ian Neil - accommodation)	33,618	30,562	
Gray Pucksand (Architect)	94,386	102,056	
Hindmarsh (Construction Project Management and Superintendency)	233,564	337,162	

Schiavello (Partitions, Painting)	168,566	608,584	
Connell Mott MacDonald (Engineering Services)	28,500	30,738	
Kilpatrick (Building Repairs)	2,380	2,830	
Haworth (Office Fittings)	172,374	301,242	
Camatic Seating (Seating)	106,466	135,874	
Harris Office Environments (Demolition)	43,506	40,661	
TYCO International (Multi Services- construction)	514,869	921,834	
Dynamo (Building Repairs)	2,100	2,595	
Philip Chun (Building Permit)	1,600	1,930	
KFPW (Facilities Managers)	Hourly Rate	82,024	
e-Law(IT, Communications, DMS)	13,942,000	11,975,946	
Network Four (Media Advisor)	760,668	446,889	Contract renegotiated to provide reduced services from Oct 2002.
Media Monitors	8,760	20,539	\$8760 was the base commitment (retainer) only. Extra charges relate to requests for information
AGS (Legal Services)	11,300,000	9,459,962	Estimated value - no set price in contract.
Synercon Management Consulting (RDMS Customer Representative)	80,000	172,342	Contract was extended
Pirac Economics (Research Director)	171,600	175,500	Contract extended
Grosvenor Management Consulting (E.law Contract negotiations)		145,984	
CB Richard Ellis (Perth Offices)		168,980	
ACCIRT- University of Sydney (Research)	10,636	9,636	
AGSEI Limited (Research)	15,000	15,000	

CSIRO Building Construction and Engineering (Research)	163,300	147,557	
Shoreday Proprietary Limited (Research)	5,018	5,227	
Tasman Economics (Research)	152,955	79,545	
Unisearch Limited (UNSW) (Research)	88,697	70,896	
Monash University Faculty of Law (Research)	34,200	0	
peopleD Pty Ltd (Research)	62,500	61,165	
Polsearch Pty Ltd (Research)	2,500	2,500	
ACIL Consulting Pty Ltd (Research)	3,750	0	
Cut and Polish (Editors)	1,575	1,575	
Spencers Corporate (Accountants)		20,000	
Edwards Marshall (Accountants)		23,912	
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,181,388</b>	<b>27,164,940</b>	

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**Senator Carr asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:**

Please confirm that the information derived from telephone intercepts is handled in accordance with the handling criteria contained in the Minister's Press Release of 9 July 2002.

**I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

The Royal Commission into the Building and Construction Industry has advised that it handled the information it received from telephone intercepts in accordance with the requirements of the *Telecommunications (Interception) Act 1979*.

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**Senator Carr asked the following question at the hearing of 20 November 2002:**

Please advise whether any of the information derived from telephone intercepts relates to non-criminal industrial matters?

**I am advised that the answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

On the assumption that 'non criminal industrial matters' means discussion of industrial issues which do not evidence a criminal offence, none of the information derived from telephone intercepts, which was received by the Royal Commission into the Building and Construction Industry, related to non-criminal industrial matters.