

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Sub Program All

Question No. 83

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:

Regarding consultancies:

- a) How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since Budget Estimates 2010? For each of these consultancies and current consultancies, please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the rationale and its intended use, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie open tender, direct source, etc).
- b) How can the Department justify this expenditure, that is, why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken this work themselves?
- c) How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since Budget Estimates 2010? 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).
- d) Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figure for total spending on consultancies and also value of contracts awarded. Provide total figures since Budget Estimates 2010 and a breakdown on these figures for Financial Year 2008/09 and 2009/10.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) Consultancy expenses are maintained on a Financial Year basis in each agency's Financial Management Information System and are reported in each agency's Annual Report. **Attachment A** provides information as to how much the Department and its agencies have paid against consultancy services undertaken or underway from 1 July 2010 to 18 October 2010. Information on agencies' consultancies is published on AusTender, www.tenders.gov.au.
- b) **Attachment A** also provides reasons for the use of consultants.
- c) In the period 1 July 2010 to 18 October 2010, 186 consultancies were undertaken or underway. Each agency publishes information on the number of consultancies underway or undertaken from Budget Estimates 2010 to 30 June 2010 on AusTender, www.tenders.gov.au.
- d) The total value for all consultancies undertaken or underway for the period 1 July 2010 to 18 October 2010 is \$20,476,087. The total of payments made for the period was \$8,281,227. The values for consultancies and expenditures for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are reported in each agency's annual reports for those years.