

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(406) Program: Internal Product

Senator Barnett asked:

(1) How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since Budget Estimates 2010?

(2) 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).

(3) How can the department justify this expenditure?

Answer:

(1) The department records details of all consultancy contracts on AusTender, the Australian Government's procurement information system. Information recorded on AusTender includes the value of contracts commissioned by the department. Details of all consultancy contracts entered into by the department for the 2009-10 financial year have been published on AusTender.

(2) Australian Government agencies are required to publish on AusTender details of all contracts. These details include the name of the supplier, a description of the contract, the start and end date of the contract, the estimated cost and the procurement method used by the department to source each supplier.

(3) Information published on AusTender includes justification for each consultancy contract entered into. These justification reasons are aligned with the reasons specified by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in their Requirement for Annual Reports guidance material. These reasons include:

- A – skills currently unavailable within the agency
- B – need for specialised skills
- C – need for independent research or assessment

The justification reasons have been agreed by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit.