

Thursday, 20 June 2002

(General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1)

Portfolio

Premier, Arts and Citizenship

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING HEARING

1. Mr Samios asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

In relation to 'Media Monitoring'

As at 1 July 2002 what is the value of the contracts of all media monitoring services drawn on by the Government?

RESPONSE

Prior to 1 July 2002, Government agencies engaged media monitoring organisations under a variety of contract arrangements, terms and prices. There was no centralised monitoring of the value of these contracts. From 1 July the Government commenced a sector wide contract with Rehame Australia Monitoring Services for the provision of broadcast (radio & television) monitoring services. As the contract has only commenced on 1 July there are no figures currently available concerning the value of this contract. At this stage Government agencies continue to receive press monitoring from media monitoring organisations under a variety of contract arrangements, terms and prices. The value of these arrangements is not centrally monitored.

(Hansard, page 2, top)

2. Mr Samios asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

In relation to 'Media Monitoring'

1. What is the gross cost of the Premier's Department Media Monitoring Unit for 2001-2002, and
2. the estimate of costs for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004?

RESPONSE:

The gross cost, 2001-02 was \$755,789.

The base estimate cost for 2002-2003 is the 2001-2002 gross cost plus the appropriate CPI for each year as applied by Treasury.

(Hansard, page 2, middle)

3. Mr Samios asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

In relation to 'Media Monitoring'

1. What is the total amount of fees charged by the Media Monitoring Unit?

RESPONSE

The annual fee for Ministers' offices for 2002/03 is \$4,000. Agencies are charged a six monthly fee of between \$450 and \$1000, based on their usage of the service.

2. At what grades are the various staff employed in the Media Monitoring Unit?

RESPONSE

The staff employed in the Media Monitoring Unit are employed as Senior Media Monitors or Media Monitors.

3. What is the total salary expense for the Media Monitoring Unit?

RESPONSE

For 2001-2002 the total employee related costs including overtime meal monies and oncosts was \$684,554.

(Hansard, page 2, bottom)

4. Mr Lynn asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

In relation to 'Media Monitoring'

What was the total amount spent by the Media Monitoring Unit in the Premier's Department for

(a) 1998-1999

(b) 1999-2000

(c) 2000-2001

(d) 2001-2002?

RESPONSE

For 1998-1999 the total expenses were \$571,777

For 1999-2000 the total expenses were \$637,173

For 2000-2001 the total expenses were \$637,046

For 2001-2002 the total expenses were \$755,789

(Hansard, page 3, top)

5. Mr Lynn asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

In relation to 'Media Monitoring'

From which budgets are staff salaries of staff seconded from departments to your office paid?

RESPONSE

As was the case in the Greiner/Fahey Governments, the remuneration paid to Departmental Liaison Officers is met by the agencies from which the officers are seconded.

(Hansard, page 3, middle)

6. Mr Samios asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

In relation to 'Media Monitoring'

How much is the annual cost of producing the following documents from the Media Monitoring Unit:

(a) the newspaper summary and

(b) the breakfast summary?

RESPONSE

These are non-identifiable components of gross cost as shown in the answer to question 2.

(Hansard, page 3, bottom)

7. Mr Samios asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

In relation to 'Media Monitoring'

For each of your portfolio agencies what was the total cost of Media Monitoring Services in 2001-2002?

RESPONSE

Any media monitoring apart from the Media Monitoring Unit of Premier's Department was undertaken in a cost-effective manner.

(Hansard, page 4, top)

8. Mr Lynn asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

In relation to 'Media Monitoring'

Please provide a statement of all revenues received from the Media Monitoring Unit from any agency in the New South Wales state sector for each year since 1994.

RESPONSE

An annual fee of \$3,000 was introduced for Ministers' Offices in 1998/99 and a \$1,000 fee was introduced for agencies in 1999/00.

(Hansard, page 8, middle)

9. Rev Nile asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

In relation to 'Redfern/Waterloo'

Did the Premier's Department make any assessment of the impact, negative or positive, of the closure of the Redfern Primary School?

RESPONSE

The Premier's Department had no administrative or policy input into the closure of Redfern Primary School.

(Hansard, page 7, bottom)

10. Mr Lynn asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

In relation to 'a transitional driver arrangement for the former Minister for Police, Hon Paul Whelan MP'

In deciding on the transitional arrangement for the Hon Paul Whelan MP from Minister to Leader of the House to Parliamentary Secretary for the use of a car and a driver did you seek any briefing or advice from your department in making that arrangement?

RESPONSE

The Director General of Premier's Department determined the transitional arrangements to apply to Mr Whelan.

(Hansard, page 14, middle)

11. Mr Samios asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

In relation to the 'Major Events Board'

Please list the members of the Major Events Board.

RESPONSE

The Major Events Board is presently being restructured and an announcement will be made in the near future.

(Hansard, page 14, bottom)

12. Mr Lynn asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

In relation to the 'Major Events Board'

Regarding the cost of staging the Sydney Marathon in the next three years (ie 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005), what is:

1. the cost of its staging
2. the difference between the Government's contribution to the marathon and the actual staging cost and
3. the Government's commitment to ensuring or underwriting any shortfall between sponsor income and the cost?

RESPONSE

The Sydney Marathon is not organised by the New South Wales Government.

Some assistance has been provided by the waiver of user pays charges normally levied by government agencies.

(Hansard, page 16, top)

13. Mr Samios asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

In relation to the 'Parliamentary Library'

How much remains of the Parliamentary Library's collection acquisition budget after the purchase of a February 1800 letter from Matthew Flinders to George Bass?

RESPONSE

The Parliamentary Library did not purchase the February 1800 letter from Matthew Flinders to George Bass.

The State Library purchased the letter for \$0.35m. The total acquisitions budget for 2001/02 was \$4.538m. The remaining \$4.188m was expended during the financial year.

(Hansard, page 16, middle)

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

14. Mr Samios asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

- (1) (a) Does your Ministerial Office receive media monitoring services?

RESPONSE

Yes.

- (b) If so, what was the annual cost in 2001-02?

RESPONSE

All costs incurred were appropriate to the needs identified.

- (c) If the media monitoring services are sourced from other cost centres, which budgets are they allocated to and what is the annual cost?

RESPONSE

All expenditure is from the appropriate cost centres.

- (d) How many different suppliers do you have contracts with, either directly, or indirectly through media monitoring services sourced from other cost centres?

RESPONSE

As above.

- (e) Please list all suppliers.

RESPONSE

As above.

- (2) (a) Does any agency in your portfolio receive media monitoring services?

RESPONSE

Any decision to access media monitoring is determined by the agencies concerned and the need for monitoring of issues.

- (b) If so, what was the annual cost in 2001-02, by agency?

RESPONSE

All costs were in accordance with identified needs.

- (c) If the media monitoring services are sourced from other cost centres, which budgets are they allocated to and what is the annual cost?

RESPONSE

All expenditure is from the appropriate cost centres.

- (d) How many different suppliers do agencies in your portfolio have contracts with, either directly, or indirectly through media monitoring services sourced from other cost centres?

(e) Please list all suppliers.

RESPONSE (d) and (e)

The appropriate cost centres are utilised.

- (3) (a) In 2001-02, how much was spent on your Ministerial Office? Please provide a breakdown by expense.

RESPONSE

The Government has released the costs of Ministerial expenditure to the Opposition under an FOI application.

- (b) What is the forecast amount to be spent in 2002-03 and what is the forecast number of staff?

RESPONSE

It is too early in the financial year to predict expenditure. Staff numbers will approximate those released under the FOI application.

- (4) (a) What is the total cost of your overseas trips in 2001-02?

RESPONSE

All costs of overseas visits have been provided to the Leader of the Opposition under FOI requests.

- (b) Can you please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?

RESPONSE

As above.

- (c) For each trip, please provide a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials.

RESPONSE

As above.

- (5) (a) What is the estimate of money to be spent on your overseas trips in 2002-03?

- (b) Can you please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?

- (c) For each trip, please provide a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials.

RESPONSE

It is not realistic to provide an estimate of any official visits at such an early stage of the financial year.

- (6) (a) What is the total cost of your interstate trips in 2001-02?
- (b) Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost and for each trip a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials.

RESPONSE

All official travel was undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidelines.

All expenditure was reviewed by departmental finance staff and open for review by staff of the Audit Office.

- (7) (a) What is the estimate of money to be spent on your interstate trips in 2002-03?
- (b) Can you provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?
- (c) For each trip, can you provide a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials?

RESPONSE

It is not realistic to provide an estimate of any official interstate travel at such an early stage of the financial year.

- (8) (a) How many staff were employed as at 30 May 1999, 30 May 2000, 30 May 2001 in your Ministerial Office?

RESPONSE

- (a) Determination of numbers and remuneration of Ministerial staff in each office is undertaken by the Director-General of the Premier's Department in accordance with the role that office is given under the Public Sector Management Act 1988.
- (b) What was the annual salary cost of those staff in each of those years?

RESPONSE

As above.

- (9) (a) Does your office contract consultants?
- (b) If so, what consultancies have been commissioned in 2001/2002, and at what cost?
- (c) What consultancy services will be commissioned from July 1 2002 - March 2003 and at what estimated cost?

RESPONSE (a), (b) & (c)

Any consultants engaged were contracted in accordance with the appropriate guidelines. Consultancies are reported in each organisation's Annual Report.

- (10) (a) Were any legal costs incurred by your office in 2001-02.
(b) If so, what was the cost and nature of each instance of legal advice?

RESPONSE

All legal costs were incurred after an assessment of the need to obtain external legal assistance. Legal professional privilege will be maintained in relation to advice and costs.

15. Mr Samios asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (1) (a) What was the total cost of public relations activities?
(b) What is the forecast cost for 2002-03?

RESPONSE

Public authorities conduct a range of extension activities aimed at communicating to the public a range of regulatory, advisory, research and general information.

The question posed is too broad to identify an actual cost.

- (2) How much was spent on public opinion surveys?

RESPONSE

The Premier issued Memorandum 2000-28 which specifically directed government agencies not to use surveys of government clients or NSW citizens to elicit questions on political issues.

- (3) (a) How much money was spent on advertising? *Please provide a list of each campaign and cost.*
(b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on advertising in 2002-03? *Please provide a list of each campaign and cost.*

RESPONSE

Details of total government advertising were published in the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper on Monday 29 July 2002 in an article by Paola Totaro, State Political Editor.

All requests relating to advertising must be approved by a Cabinet Sub-Committee on Government Advertising.

- (4) (a) How much was spent on consultants? *Please provide a list of each agency and cost.*
(b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on consultants in 2002-03? *Please provide a list of each agency and cost.*

RESPONSE

Expenditure on consultancies is reported in Annual Reports. All expenditure is on accordance with the appropriate guidelines.

It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on consultants in 2002-03.

- (5) How much was spent on legal expenses?

RESPONSE

All legal costs were incurred after an assessment of the need to obtain external legal assistance. Legal professional privilege will be maintained in relation to advice and costs.

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (6) (a) How much was spent on overseas trips in 2001-02 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost.*

RESPONSE

Travel on official overseas business is reported in Annual Reports in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.

- (b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on overseas trips in 2002-03 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost.*

RESPONSE

See (a) above.

- (7) (a) How much was spent on inter-state trips in 2001-02 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?*

- (b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on interstate trips in 2002-03 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?*

RESPONSE

All interstate travel was undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines and Public Finance and Audit Act requirements.

It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on interstate travel in 2002-03.

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (8) (a) How much was spent on office fitouts and refurbishments?

- (b) What is the estimated cost for 2002-03?

RESPONSE

All office accommodation fit-outs and refurbishments were undertaken in accordance with OH&S requirements and appropriate guidelines.

It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on accommodation and fit-outs in 2002-03.

- (9) (a) How much was spent on the cost of leases in the Sydney CBD?
(b) What is the estimated cost for 2002-03?

RESPONSE

The Government Asset Management Committee (GAMC) monitors the leasing of the majority of government office space. Costs are kept to a minimum by virtue of the whole of government approach taken to leasing.

- (10) (a) Was there any vacant or under-utilised office space?
(b) What is the cost of such unused office space?

RESPONSE

The Government Asset Management Committee (GAMC) oversees the leasing of the majority of government office space. It monitors lease negotiations to maximise occupancy and avoid vacancies.

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (11) (a) How much money was spent on performance pay for public servants in:
(i) 2000-01?
(ii) 2001-02?
(b) Did you personally approve these bonus payments?

RESPONSE

On 28 August 2000, Cabinet determined that in future performance pay would not be available to members of the SES. Premier's Memorandum 2000-21, issued on 29 August 2000 advised of Cabinet's decision.

- (12) (a) How much was spent on the salary packages for the Senior Executive Service?
(b) What is the estimated cost for 2002-03?

RESPONSE

Upon election, the Government inherited a Chief and Senior Executive Service of 1,434 positions. The Government reduced the number of Senior Executive Service positions in accordance with a commitment to do so. As at April 2002 there were 1,003. This is a reduction of 431.

Remuneration for the Senior Executive Service (SES) is determined by the independent Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal (SOORT). It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on SES remuneration. However, expenditure will be in accordance with any determinations by SOORT.

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (13) (a) Have any Departments or agencies been fined by a court or statutory or regulatory authority between July 1 2001 and June 30, 2002?
- (b) If so, detail each fine and amount, and the reason for each fine?

RESPONSE

Any penalties imposed by a court or statutory authority are on the record of that court or statutory authority.

- (14) (a) How many times were matters referred for independent investigation to ICAC? *Please provide a breakdown of these referrals?*

RESPONSE

Section 11 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 requires the principal officer of an agency to report any matter the officer suspects on reasonable grounds concerns or may concern corruption.

Disclosure of information may identify issues under investigation and therefore impede these investigations.

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (15) (a) What fees were increased, and by how much?
- (b) What fees are expected to be increased in 2002-03?

RESPONSE

As was the case in the former Greiner/Fahey Government's any increases in fees are measured and take into account the specific fee, movements in the CPI and other related factors.

16. Mr Samios asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

- (1) (a) In 2001-02, how many board appointments were made you, or by your portfolio agencies?

RESPONSE

The Government made a total of 1754 appointments to boards and committees in 2001/02.

(b) Of these appointments:

(i) How many were women?

RESPONSE

Approximately 694 were female.

(ii) How many were of people from a non-English speaking background?

RESPONSE

Due to the self-identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for people from a non-English speaking background.

(iii) How many were of people with a disability?

RESPONSE

Due to the self identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for people with a disability.

(iv) How many were Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders?

RESPONSE

Due to the self identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders.

(v) How many were young people?

RESPONSE

Due to the self identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for young people.

17. Mr Samios asked the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr, MP—

- (1) Across the whole of Government, what is the total value of productivity savings the Government is seeking to achieve by 30 June 2004? (*refer to Premier's Department Circular No. 2001-67*)
- (2) In its initial report to Cabinet ahead of the Budget, how much of this target did the Christie Task Force state had been identified by Departments/agencies?
- (3) (a) In relation to savings achieved to date, how much will have been realised (that is actually put in place as opposed to identified or 'able to be achieved') as at 30 June 2002?

(f) How much do you anticipate will have been realised at 30 June 2003?

RESPONSE

Agencies are continuing to identify savings across their budgets to achieve savings while at the same time maintaining services.