

2019–20 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING – FRIDAY 31 MAY 2019

PREMIER

Written Questions on Notice provided by Richard Riordan MP

1. Secretary, Mr Eccles, BP3 PG 299, in 2015–16 the Department paid \$122,507 to promote the Premier's Facebook page and in 2016–17 that jumped to more than \$162,000.

How much was spent in 2017–18 and how much has been spent so far in 2018–19?

RESPONSE

The costs associated with advertising on the Premier's Facebook page are charged directly to the Premier's Office and met from its annual appropriation.

In 2017–18 the Premier's Office incurred Facebook advertising expenditure of \$166,751.

For the period 1 July 2018 to 31 May 2019, the Premier's Office spent \$143,432 on advertising for the Premier's Facebook page.

ENERGY SUPPLY TO DEPARTMENTS (BP3 PG 295)

2. Departmental Secretary, the Victorian Government receives a significant discount on electricity from the purchasing contract with Red Energy. In a written response to PAEC from the February 2018 hearings, the former DEDJTR confirmed that for the 2016–17 financial year rates, that despite having a reduction in electricity usage, the Department's electricity bills increased 25%. Has your Department seen a similar rise in the Departments electricity bills?

RESPONSE

The Department's electricity expenditure has not seen a similar rise.

3. Can you provide the committee with your Department's:
 - a. Units of electricity usage (excluding green power) in megajoules
 - b. Units of electricity usage (excluding green power) converted to kilowatt hours
 - c. Total financial cost of electricity
 - d. And how that compares with the previous financial year.

RESPONSE

- a. Electricity usage in megajoules is provided within the Department's Annual Report.
- b. Kilowatt hours is not used as a reporting metric for electricity usage.
- c. Total electricity costs for the 2018-19 financial year are still being calculated.
- d. See above.

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DEPARTMENT OFFICE BASED BULLYING (BP3 PG 295)

4. Departmental Secretary, for 2017–18 and for 2018–19 so far, can you please provide the committee with the number of Departmental staff that reported incidents of bullying to your Department.

RESPONSE

The number of staff that reported incidents of bullying in 2017–18 was five and for 2018–19 to 31 May 2019 was four.

5. For the same timeframe, 2017–18 and for 2018–19 so far, can you please provide the committee with the number of Ministerial staffs that reported incidents of bullying to your Department?

RESPONSE

There have been no reported incidents of bullying made by Ministerial staff to the Department in 2017–18 or 2018–19.

6. Are you able to provide a breakdown of all bullying incidents by category identified, whether gender, sexuality, physical for those two previous questions as well.

RESPONSE

Details of individual matters are confidential and not publicly disclosed.

7. Secretary, are you able to please provide the committee with a copy of the latest People Matters Survey results for your Department and, in addition, the itemised results for each portfolio agency under your Department.

RESPONSE

The Victorian Public Sector Commissioner (VPSC) is currently releasing the data of the recent 2019 People Matter Survey to all participating public sector organisations.

VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE PACKAGES (BP2 PG 57)

8. Secretary, BP2 PG 57 identifies \$685 million in Reprioritisations and revenue offsets and \$251 million in savings. This follows on from reprioritisations and savings in last year's budget.

Can you please detail the reprioritisations which have occurred in your Department during 2018–19, for which unit of your Department they applied to and for which programs or policy areas?

RESPONSE

Table 4.5 in BP2 page 57 outlines the net impact of new output initiatives from 2019-20 to 2022-23. Page 54 from BP2 in the 2018-19 budget lists \$575 million in reprioritisations and revenue offsets for the 2018-19 year. The reprioritisation component was \$40.2 million across Government. Reprioritisations from 2018-19 did not impact adversely on the delivery of programs by the Department.

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9. One Department has set a target of reducing their workforce from 13,000 to around 7,000 in 2019–20. What is your Department’s headcount reduction target to achieve employee savings?

RESPONSE

The Department does not have a headcount reduction target to achieve employee savings in 2019-20.

10. Can you please provide the committee with a list of how many fixed term contracts are not going to be renewed in each unit of your Department?

RESPONSE

Renewal of fixed term contracts is considered on a case by case basis. The Department does not have a list of fixed term contracts that are not going to be renewed.

11. The budget forecasts \$2.5 billion in reprioritisations over the forward estimates. How much of the \$2.5 billion will impact your Department?

RESPONSE

The \$2.5 billion refers to reprioritisations and revenue offsets and is one component of the policy variations which account for the net impact of new budget initiatives. These variations also include adjustments and savings. The final allocation of policy variations to Departments across the forward estimates will not be known until the conclusion of the base review process.

12. The budget forecasts \$1.97 billion in savings over the forward estimates. How much of that \$1.97 billion will impact your Department?

RESPONSE

The allocation of savings across departments has not yet been finalised. This will be decided as part of the base review process.

13. Has the Department’s Base Review begun? If not, when will it begin?

RESPONSE

The Department has commenced its base review.

14. Has anyone been contracted to conduct the Base Review at your Department? If so who and at what cost?

RESPONSE

Management consultants were contracted centrally to conduct the base reviews. Consultancy expenditure details will be published in DPC’s 2018–19 Annual Report.