



Australian Government

Department of Finance

2016-2017 Annual Report

Ministerial Consultants Engaged under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*

Introduction

The *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (the MOP(S) Act) provides a legislative basis for, *inter alia*, the engagement of ministerial consultants.

This report has been prepared to comply with section 31 of the MOP(S) Act, which requires that a report setting out certain details of ministerial consultants engaged under the MOP(S) Act be tabled each year in both Houses of the Parliament.

Ministerial consultants

There were no ministerial consultants engaged under the MOP(S) Act in the year ending 30 June 2017, or before the commencement of the year ending 30 June 2017, who performed tasks during the year ending 30 June 2017.

Relevant extracts from the MOP(S) Act

Section 31 of the MOP(S) Act provides:

As soon as practicable after 30 June in each year, the Prime Minister shall cause to be prepared a report:

- (a) setting out, in respect of each Minister who held office at any time during the year ending on that 30 June, the name of each consultant engaged by the Minister under section 4 during that year and the name of each consultant engaged by the Minister under section 4 before the commencement of that year who performed tasks during that year pursuant to the engagement; and
- (b) specifying, in respect of each consultant named pursuant to paragraph (a):
 - (i) the period of engagement of the consultant;
 - (ii) which of the provisions referred to in subsection 4(2) is or are included in the agreement under which the consultant was engaged;
 - (iii) where the agreement under which the consultant was engaged contained a provision of the kind referred to in paragraph 4(2)(a) or (c)—the tasks specified in the agreement for the purposes of that provision; and
 - (iv) where the agreement under which the consultant was engaged contained a provision of the kind referred to in paragraph 4(2)(b) or (d)—the general nature of the tasks that the consultant was engaged to perform;

and shall cause a copy of the report to be laid before each House of the Parliament.

Sub-section 4(2) of the MOP(S) Act states:

An agreement for the engagement by a Minister of a consultant under subsection (1) shall contain one or more of the following provisions:

- (a) a provision to the effect that the consultant is engaged to perform, under the supervision of the Minister, such tasks as are specified in the agreement;
- (b) a provision to the effect that the consultant is engaged to perform, under the supervision of the Minister, such tasks as are from time to time specified by the Minister;
- (c) a provision to the effect that the consultant is engaged to perform, under the supervision of the relevant Secretary, such tasks as are specified in the agreement;
- (d) a provision to the effect that the consultant is engaged to perform, under the supervision of the relevant Secretary, such tasks as are from time to time specified by the Secretary with the Minister's consent.