



ASIC
Australian Securities &
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Inquiry	Oversight of ASIC, the Takeover Panel and the Corporations Legislation
Question No.	049
Topic	Auditing
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Committee member	Senator Deborah O'Neill

Question

CHAIR: Thank you very much. We'll see where we are shortly. I'd like to check a couple of other numbers with you again. We were looking at the company auditors. This one might be for Mr Yanco. The company auditors for KPMG were 111 people, with a support staff of 1,491. For PwC, there were 146 registered company auditors, with a staff of 1,605. For BDO, it was 50 company auditors, with a support staff of four.

Mr Yanco: You're getting ahead of me there. KPMG had 111 partners and 1,491 staff.

CHAIR: So 'partners' is the designation, or are they company auditors?

Mr Yanco: No, they'll be the registered company auditors.

CHAIR: They're registered company auditors. By dint of that role, are you are saying they are also partners in the companies that they are—

Mr Yanco: They generally are partners, yes.

CHAIR: Generally or always? Do you want to check that?

Mr Yanco: I can check that.

CHAIR: Because that matters in our considerations about structural matters.

Mr Yanco: Sure, yes.

CHAIR: Because that was going to be my next question. We know that they're registered company auditors. Can you keep going? BDO was 50.

Mr Yanco: BDO was 50, and audit staff, 402; Grant Thornton, 54 and 546; and PwC, 146 and 1,605. And then the—

CHAIR: EY was the one we were waiting on.

Mr Yanco: I still haven't got that, but I've got the Deloitte numbers, which were 203 and 2,254.

CHAIR: If you do get an update, Mr Yanco, could you let me know what the EY numbers are, to fill out that set? That would be very helpful.

Mr Yanco: Yes.

Answer

Except for Grant Thornton, which is an authorised audit company, the largest six firms are partnerships providing many services in addition to audit including tax, advisory, consulting and legal. Each firm has many partners in each of their service lines.

The Corporations Act requires the engagement partner who signs an auditor's report for financial statements of companies required to report under the Act to be a registered company auditor. On this basis all audit partners of the larger six firms that sign auditor's reports must be registered company auditors.

The audit staff at the firms are generally not registered company auditors and not regulated by ASIC. The audit staff might be members of the professional accounting bodies (CAANZ, CPA or IPA). Each firm has its own policies about professional membership requirements for audit staff.

Number of audit partners and audit staff at the largest six accounting firms

Firm	Audit partners	Audit staff	Reference
PwC	149	1547	FY23-Audit-Transparency-Report.pdf (pwc.com.au)
EY	141	~1500	Submissions – Parliament of Australia (aph.gov.au) (submission 29)
KPMG	111	1491	Transparency Report 2023 (kpmg.com)
Deloitte	215	2204	deloitte-au-audit-transparency-report-2023.pdf
BDO	59	567	BDO 2023 Transparency Report.pdf
Grant Thornton	54	546	transparency_report_2023_final.pdf (grantthornton.com.au)