**National Office**

GPO Box 9879 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Ms Bev Forbes  
 Committee Secretary  
 Standing Committee on Ageing  
 House of Representatives  
 Parliament House  
 CANBERRA ACT 2600  
 AUSTRALIA

Dear Ms Forbes

I am writing regarding the Question on Notice put to me during the hearing of the Standing Committee on Ageing attended by officials from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) on 7 March 2003. The information requested was on the level of mature-aged persons employed in DEWR.

Attachment A shows the number of male and female DEWR employees by age group and compares them to the level employed in the Australian Public Service (APS). To assist with the analysis of the data the results are also presented graphically.

Table 1 in Attachment A shows a total of 413 males and 331 females aged 46 years and over were employed in DEWR (this is the combination of persons employed between the ages 46-55 and 56 and over) as at 10 March 2003. This represents 34.5 per cent of the total employed persons in DEWR. Graph 1 depicts the number of male and female persons by age group employed in DEWR as shown in Table 1.

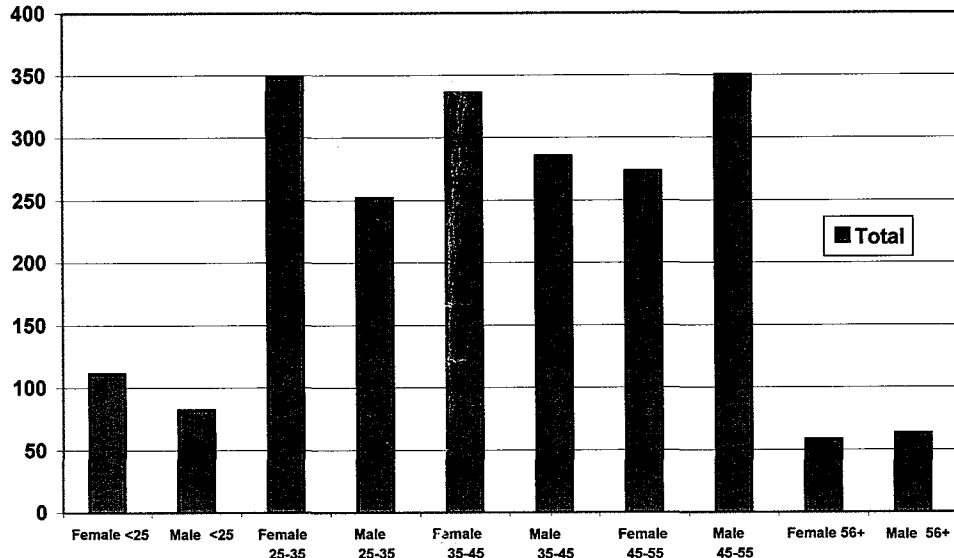
The proportion of persons aged 45 years and over in DEWR is broadly similar to the APS. For example, Table 2 shows that persons aged 45-54 years represent 31 per cent of the total employed staff in DEWR, which is marginally higher than the APS level of 29.6 per cent, while the proportion of those aged 55 and over is slightly higher in the APS than in DEWR (see Table 2 and Graph 2 for more details).

I trust that this information meets the requirements of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Ken Douglas  
 Group Manager  
 Employment Analysis and Evaluation  
 18 March 2003

Graph 1: DEWR Employee Age Profile at 10 March 2003



Graph 2: Age Comparison - DEWR vs APS

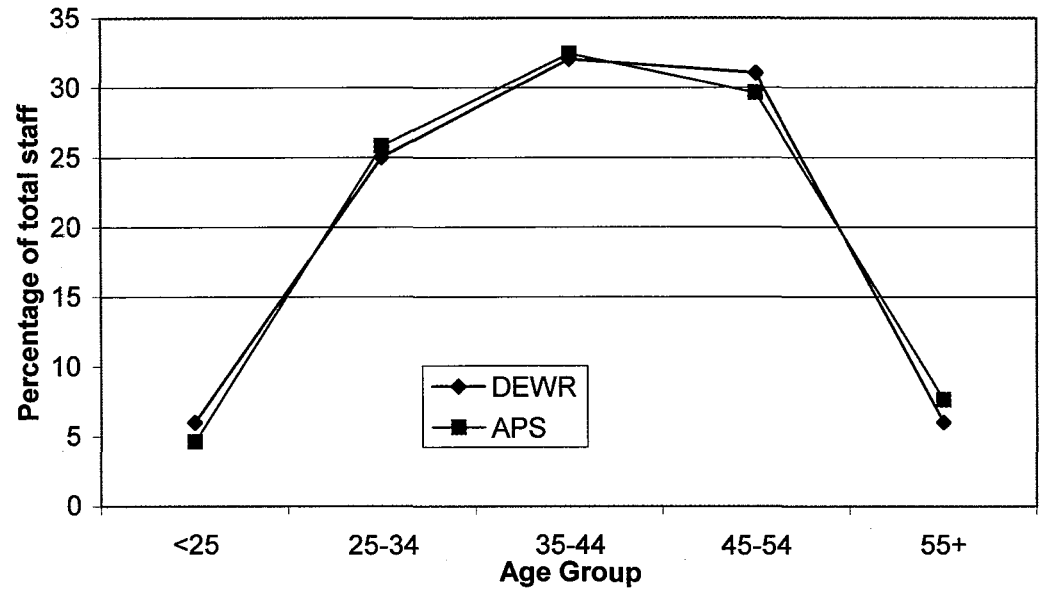


Table 1: DEWR Employee Age Profile

Gender by Age	Total	Persons in group
Female <25	111	193
Male <25	82	
Female 25-35	348	600
Male 25-35	252	
Female 35-45	336	621
Male 35-45	285	
Female 45-55	273	623
Male 45-55	350	
Female 56+	58	121
Male 56+	63	
<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>2158</b>	

Table 2: Expressed as a percentage of total staff

Age Group	DEWR	APS
<25	6	4.6
25-34	25	25.8
35-44	32	32.4
45-54	31	29.6
55+	6	7.6