

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDITS

Reference: Auditor-General's reports Nos 3 to 17 (2008-09)

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
16 MARCH 2009

Human Services Portfolio

Senator: BARNETT

Question reference number: PA20 and PA23

Type of question: Hansard

Question: PA20

Senator BARNETT—Yes, but do you have the terms of reference for the current review?

Ms Andruska—What we are doing is progressing towards that position. It is under consideration and, at the moment, being circulated amongst the departments to get agreement to move forward. There are no key issues behind it. It is largely just the time that it has taken—because of other people's commitments and so forth. There is nothing else behind it.

CHAIR—It sounds a little bit loose, doesn't it?

Senator BARNETT—It sounds a bit loose.

CHAIR—It sounds like there is a continuing review, but without anyone quite knowing.

Senator BARNETT—So it is a little hard for us to know where to go with that, and if you wanted to take on notice—

Ms Andruska—We will take it on notice and come back to you.

Answer:

As part of the preparation work for the new Service Delivery Agreement being developed for 1 July 2009 an informal review of the current agreement was undertaken. There were no formal Terms of Reference for this review.

Question: PA23

Senator BARNETT—Where are those 1,000 staff based?

Ms Andruska—They are around the country.

Senator BARNETT—Are there any in Tasmania?

Ms Andruska—In Tasmania—I would say there would be. I do not have the numbers in front of me but they are across the country.

Senator BARNETT—Can you take that on notice?

Ms Andruska—As to how many in Tasmania?

Senator BARNETT—Yes. And where?

Ms Andruska—Yes, I will take that on notice.

Answer:

From the 1,000 non-ongoing employees recruited by Centrelink, 74 staff were allocated as non-ongoing staff to the Hobart Call. In addition, 31 of the non-ongoing staff were allocated to Customer Service Centres in Tasmania, ten in Launceston, ten in Hobart and the remaining eleven across Sorell, Bridgeport, Devonport and Glenorchy.

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