Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programmes   **Question No: SQ16-000157**

Topic: Volunteer Grants

Hansard page: Written

Senator Carol Brown asked:

1. How many applications were received for the volunteers grants round that closed on 9 December?
2. Was this in line with the number of applications that the Department had expected to receive?
3. I recall that the large number of applications received through the 2014 DSS grants processed resulted in a few IT problems. How did the system handle this number of applications? Did the system experience any problems?
4. And just to confirm, these grants are to be paid in this financial year, so by 30 June 2016?
5. How many staff does the Department have working on this tender process? What level are these staff?
a. Are these DSS staff seconded from elsewhere in the Department or are they staff bought in on contracts to work on the assessment process?
b. Where are all these staff located?

Answer:
1. In consideration of probity issues, the Department does not release the numbers of applications received for funding rounds until the selection process has been finalised.
2. In line with the above response, this information can be provided once the selection process has been finalised.
3. The Department's IT systems performed well with no significant issues arising with the applications being submitted for the Volunteer Grants funding round.
4. Yes.
5. 12 Staff are engaged on the Volunteer Grants round.

6 X APS3	–	Assessors
4 X APS5	–	Assessors
1 X EL1	–	Project Support
1 X EL2	–	Project Manager

Staff levels dedicated to the Volunteer Grants round increases and decreases depending on the requirements of each phase of the assessment process.

The staffing profile is a mix of 3 permanent and 9 contractor staff.

a) The Department has utilised both existing employees and contractors.
b) Tuggeranong Office Park.