

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings June 2014

Communications Portfolio

Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 421

Program No. SBS

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: Contracts for Temporary Staff

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. How much did the Department/Agency spend on temporary or contract staff since 7 September 2013?
2. How many temporary or contract staff were employed since 7 September 2013?
3. How many temporary or contract staff are currently employed?
4. How much was paid for agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff?
5. How much is budgeted in the 2014/15 year for contract staff?
6. What policies/criteria govern the appointment of Contract staff?
7. How is the use of contract staff consistent with a professional, independent public service?

Answer:

1. Total reported spend against the finance contractor code is \$8,594,000 (1 Sep 2013 – 30 Apr 2014)
2. 1,207 since End of Month 30 September 2013
3. 266 as at 30 April 2014 (last contractor quarterly cut off)
4. The spend on contractors is costed to a central code, breakdown of salary and ongoing cost vs. one off payments is not distinguished.
5. \$12,000,000 – this includes all costings coded to contractor codes.
6. SBS has preferred supplier panels in place for providing contractors across the organisation. Terms & Conditions are agreed upfront. Criteria is assessed against these panels and the role description. In addition SBS also runs quarterly contractor engagement training for the business managers ensuring consistency is applied across contractor engagements.
7. Panel arrangements. Ongoing contract staff not on initial contracts greater than 12 months.