

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**
Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 11
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Program: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: Labour hire
Hansard Page: 70
Question Date: 23 May 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: Thank you. Can you tell me how many staff are employed under these arrangements? I am aware that it probably fluctuates, but perhaps you can give me some details around that.

Ms Goodwin: For the whole of the department, I would have to take that on notice.

Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me how many staff are employed by the department as contractors as opposed to labour hire?

Ms Goodwin: Again, I would have to take that on notice.

Dr de Brouwer: Senator, as you know, that fluctuates an awful lot because of the Antarctic and the parks—

Senator URQUHART: Yes, I am fully aware of that. My previous life was involved in industries that use labour hire, so I am aware of how it operates.

Dr de Brouwer: We will try to give you a sense of what the peaks and troughs are like and the average.

Senator URQUHART: Thank you.

Answer:

As at 31 May 2017 the Department engaged 54 labour hire/contractors.

The Department uses the terms 'labour hire' and 'contractor' interchangeably and does not differentiate. The Department enters into labour hire and contractor agreements to undertake specialised tasks and to provide additional assistance at times of peak workload.

Until recently, the Department has not maintained a centralised record system for labour hire workforce levels and therefore it is not possible to provide an average.