

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

2015 - 2016

**Department/Agency: Treasury**

**Question: AET 3686-3694**

**Topic: Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman**

**Reference: written - 29 February 2016**

**Senator: Wong, Penny**

**Question:**

3686. How many applications were there for the position of Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman?

3687. How many candidates were interviewed for this role?

3688. How many candidate names were forwarded to the Minister as a shortlist and were these names provided in rank order?

3689. Was the candidate ranked as number 1 by the selection panel ultimately appointed by the Minister?

3690. Did the current Small Business Commissioner – Mr. Mark Brennan – apply for the Ombudsman role? If yes, was he interviewed for the role?

3691. If yes, was he rated suitable for the position?

3692. How many staff positions are allocated to the Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman?

3693. Have these positions been filled?

3694. What are the salaries for these positions?

a. What agreement are they employed under?

b. Will any activities undertaken by the Small Business Commissioner and the office of the Commissioner cease as a result of their replacement by the Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman?

c. What was the budget allocation for the Small Business Commissioner?

d. What is the budget allocation for the Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman?

**Answer:**

3686: 32

3688: 4

3688: 4. No.

3689: The shortlisted candidates were grouped according to suitability not ranked.

3690: In accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles guidelines, the personal information of applicants for the Ombudsman position must remain confidential.

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3692: On the date of commencement, the office of the Ombudsman had 12 FTE.

3693. On the date of commencement, these positions were filled.

3694. The salaries for the staff positions are:

| <i>Level</i>     | <i>Salary Range</i>          |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Ombudsman</i> | <i>\$339,460</i>             |
| <i>SES 1</i>     | <i>\$195,474 - \$227,184</i> |
| <i>EL2</i>       | <i>\$130,935 - \$150,269</i> |
| <i>EL1</i>       | <i>\$107,195 - \$122,965</i> |
| <i>APS6</i>      | <i>\$82,180 - \$99,562</i>   |
| <i>APS5</i>      | <i>\$72,852 - \$77,517</i>   |
| <i>APS4</i>      | <i>\$64,797 - \$68,187</i>   |

a. Staff are employed as per sections 33 and 34 of the *Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman Act 2015*.

b. The Small Business Commissioner's Information Line has been replaced by the Ombudsman's Information Line.

c. The Small Business Commissioner's budget allocation was announced in the 2012-13 Budget.

d. The budget allocation in 2015-16 is \$3.7 million.