

Department/ Agency: Australian Taxation Office

Question: BET 2055-2061

Topic: Contracts for temporary staff

Reference: Written - 12 June 2014

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

2055. How much did the department/agency spend on temporary or contract staff since September 7th 2013?
2056. How many temporary or contract staff were employed since September 7th 2013?
2057. How many temporary or contract staff are currently employed?
2058. How much was paid for agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff?
2059. How much is budgeted in the 2014/15 year for contract staff?
2060. What policies/criteria govern the appointment of Contract staff?
2061. How is the use of contract staff consistent with a professional, independent public service?

Answer:

2055. From 7 September 2013 to 31 May 2014, the ATO spent \$22,297,593.31 (GST inclusive) on temporary or contract staff. Temporary or contract staff are contractors provided by third party service providers/labour hire firms.
2056. From 7 September 2013 to 31 May 2014, the ATO has engaged 300 contractors.
2057. As at 31 May 2014, the ATO's total labour hire workforce comprises 347 contractors.
2058. No payments are made to agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff. The labour hire framework is based on a pay as you go system, therefore placement fees are not paid.
2059. There is no pre-determined budget amount designated for contractors. Business areas within the ATO source contractors when the need arises and if they have the budget within their cost centres to engage them.
2060. All contract staff undergo a pre-engagement and integrity check prior to commencement. They are also subject to security clearance if required. All contract staff are accessed via a procurement contract with third party service provider and comply with the relevant contractual requirements.
2061. The use of contract staff addresses service delivery priorities regarding the provision of specialised services and provides flexibility for peak processing periods. Australian Public Service procurement principles and competitive tender processes enable the provision of professional and independent services which assist the ATO deliver on corporate outcomes.