

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: **SBT 86**

Topic: **Employees for data collection**

Hansard Page: **page 17, 21 November 2013**

Senator BUSHBY asked:

86. CHAIR: ... Does the ABS use employees or contractors for its data collection and survey activities or a mixture of both?

Mr I Ewing: Primarily the ABS uses its employees for data collection. We do not engage contractors to collect data.

CHAIR: Would you mind taking on notice, for the employees, how many staff and what classification those staff are at. Are you employed in data collection and survey activities?

Mr I Ewing: Yes.

CHAIR: Also, if you could provide an indication of the cost of any contractors that are used for the same purposes.

Mr I Ewing: Yes.

Answer:

86. As at 30 November 2013 the ABS employed 2,809 operative staff employed under the *Public Service Act 1999* (PSA), consisting of:

- 2,127 APS level staff
- 640 EL staff
- 42 SES staff

The majority of ABS staff are directly involved in statistical business (e.g. design, development, collection, processing, editing, analysing, quality assurance, dissemination).

The number of ABS APS staff whose primary role was the direct collection and capture of administrative or survey data was 144, and they were all at the APS1-5 levels.

Additionally, as at 30 November 2013 the ABS employed 482 Interviewers who undertook data collection for household surveys. These staff are employed under Subsection 16(2) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* in accordance with Regulation 3 of the *Statistics Regulations*, and as such are not employed under the PSA.

The ABS does not employ contractors for data collection and survey activities.