

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EM0096_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

FWO - New non-ongoing contracts

"1. How many new employees have been engaged by your department on non-ongoing contracts since the 2013 federal election? 2. How many new non-ongoing engagements were submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval since the 2014 federal election? 3. How many of these new non-ongoing engagements were approved by the Public Service Commission? a. For every approved new engagement of a non-ongoing employee please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, the length of their non-ongoing contract, whether this position was advertised externally, the reason for engaging this new employee and the reason given by the Public Service Commission for approving this engagement, as well as all relevant dates relating to this application. "

Answer

1. The Fair Work Ombudsman has engaged 57 new non-ongoing employees since 7 September 2013.
2. Since the interim recruitment arrangements commenced on 31 October to 30 April 2014, 30 new APS 3 non-ongoing engagements were sent to the APS Commissioner for approval.
3. All 30 non-ongoing contracts were approved. The Fair Work Ombudsman made offers to 28 suitable people.
 - a. The APS level 3 positions were advertised externally and 28 staff were engaged to work on the Fair Work Infoline for a period of 12 months.

The positions were necessary to ensure our staffing levels met the priorities of the agency.

All staff commenced on 7 February 2014 and were paid in accordance with the Fair Work Ombudsman's Enterprise Agreement.

The request was sent to the APS Commissioner on 14 November 2013 and approval was received 29 November 2013.

The APS Commissioner's reason for approving the engagements was that they were "the most practical and effective means to meet the agency's business requirements in the circumstances".