

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EM0414_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Comcare - Temporary staff contracts

1. How much did the department/agency spend on temporary or contract staff since September 7th 2013? 2. How many temporary or contract staff were employed since September 7th 2013? 3. How many temporary or contract staff are currently employed? 4. How much was paid for agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff? 5. How much is budgeted in the 2014/15 year for contract staff? 6. What policies/criteria govern the appointment of Contract staff? 7. How is the use of contract staff consistent with a professional, independent public service?

Answer

1. *How much did the department/agency spend on temporary or contract staff since September 7th 2013?*

Comcare spent \$2,795,466 (GST excl.) on temporary and contract staff since 7 September 2013.

2. *How many temporary or contract staff were employed since September 7th 2013?*

Seventy labour hire contract staff have been employed by Comcare since 7 September 2013

3. *How many temporary or contract staff are currently employed?*

As at 19 June 2014, 85 contractors were employed by Comcare.

4. *How much was paid for agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff?*

Comcare spent \$5,274 (GST excl.) on temporary agency commissions to find temporary and contract staff.

5. *How much is budgeted in the 2014/15 year for contract staff?*

The 2014-15 budget for temporary and contract staff is yet to be finalised. The 2013-14 budget was \$3,630,749.

6. *What policies/criteria govern the appointment of Contract staff?*

There is no specific policy governing the appointment of contract staff. The use of labour hire contractors is regulated by budget considerations and approved by the relevant financial and recruitment delegate.

7. *How is the use of contract staff consistent with a professional, independent public service?*

Contract staff are bound by their contracts to the same ethical and professional standards as APS employees. The use of contractors can in some circumstances be more efficient to meet short term skill requirements.