

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EM0417_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

FWO - 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. The Fair Work Ombudsman spent \$308,084.71 on contract staff between 7 September 2013 and 30 April 2014.
2. Since 7 September 2013 to 30 April 2014, the Fair Work Ombudsman has employed 24 contract staff.
3. As at 30 April 2014, the Fair Work Ombudsman employed 14 contract staff.
4. No additional fees were paid and all payments are included in the hourly rates.
5. The Fair Work Ombudsman accommodates the payment of contract staff to meet operational business needs and priorities within our existing budget.
6. The Fair Work Ombudsman uses the services of contractors where the skillset required of the employee cannot be sourced from within the APS or recruited to the APS. Where required the agency seeks contract staff by contacting at least three recruitment agencies registered with the Panel of Recruitment providers to source suitable candidates and consideration is given to availability and price of contract staff.
7. Contractors are used to fill temporary short term vacancies linked to major projects or specialised roles where the agency has been unable to recruit suitable applicants. These vacancies are filled with contract staff when the skills are not readily available within the agency. Contractors employed to agency are required to adhere to all values and behaviours expected of APS staff.