

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EM0418_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

SWA - 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. Since 7 September 2013 to 31 May 2014, Safe Work Australia has not engaged any new contract or temporary staff.
2. Nil.
3. Nil.
4. Since 7 September 2013, Safe Work Australia paid \$28,737 to find temporary and contract staff.
5. Safe Work Australia is not planning any expenditure on contract staff for 2014/2015.
6. Safe Work Australia would only engage contract staff in exceptional circumstances to fill an essential non-ongoing position where no suitable Australian Public Service employee could be found.
7. The use of contract staff in exceptional circumstances is consistent with a professional, independent public service as it would ensure the delivery of essential work to agreed standards in a timely manner.