

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance
Outcome/Program: 3/3.1
Topic: Total costs of Government MOP(S) staff

Senator: Dastyari

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Question:

Senator DASTYARI: I have the personnel positions document that you have given us, Ms Moy, updated for February 2015, and going through the files I found the exact same document from 31 October last year, which I assume is something you provide every estimates.

...

Senator DASTYARI: This may be a question you would normally answer or may be a question you do not answer and you take on notice. I am just not sure what is normal protocol. Do you provide a total figure of what all the staff costs? Have you in the past?

Ms Moy: No.

Senator DASTYARI: Is that a question you take on notice? I am not asking for individual people's pay; I am asking for the totality of this document.

Ms Moy: The total staff costs for MOPS employees?

Senator DASTYARI: Yes, the 420. If you can break it up into several parts—the grand total for government, the grand total for opposition and the grand totals for other parliamentary roles. Again, take it on notice. I am not asking for people's individual pay. I am asking for headline figures.

Senator SMITH: I think the headline figures, comparatively, would be very, very valuable, so perhaps if we could have the comparative figures for the last seven years. Are you thinking calendar years, Senator Dastyari, or financial years?

Senator DASTYARI: I think financial years would make more sense, wouldn't they?

Senator SMITH: So perhaps by financial year for the last seven, if that is possible.

Senator DASTYARI: I think five is a nice round figure. But, yes.

Senator SMITH: I will meet you at six.

Answer:

The Department of Finance does not hold this data in this format and to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.