

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2016

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **New gradings for security officers**

Question: **162**

Hansard Reference **p 51; 8 February 2016**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 1 April 2016

CHAIR: Whilst we are on security, there was an issue about coming up with new gradings, I think, for security officers—is that correct—about taking them from level 2 to level 3 and things of that nature? That was scheduled to be done in January—is that right?

Mr Barnes: There is a proposal and it is active at the present time to introduce a new grade or extend the grade of PSL3 security officers, and that was advertised back in November. It has yet to be finalised through the selection process.

CHAIR: That was expected though to be presented to staff, I think, in January of this year—is that correct; or January of last year, wasn't it or this year, I beg your pardon?

Mr Barnes: I am not sure where you are going, Chair. I understand that this proposal was in development for some considerable period of time. It went through a consultation process with staff.

CHAIR: I understand that but I also understand the expectation was that it was going to be sent to staff for their views on 15 January of this year.

Mr Barnes: I am sorry, Chair, I would have to follow that up; I cannot answer that question.

Answer

The details of the PSL3, including duty statements, eligibility criteria and training guidelines have been available to staff since October 2015.

The new master roster was proposed to be circulated to PSS officers for comment on 15 January 2016. This timeframe was not able to be met; however a subsequent discussion was held between the PSS Workplace Consultative Committee (WCC) and the Director of Security Operations on 5 February 2016 to discuss the revised timeframe.

The PSS Workplace Consultative Committee agreed that a new master roster should only be disseminated for consultation when Security Branch had finalised recruitment and staff establishment arrangements.