

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

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Contracts for Temporary Staff**

Question: **200**

Written: **Senator Ludwig**

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

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How much did the department/agency spend on temporary or contract staff?
2. How many temporary or contract staff have been employed?
3. What is the total number of temporary or contract staff currently employed?
4. How much was paid for agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff?
5. Have there been any changes to the policies/criteria that govern the appointment of contract staff?

Answer

1. In the period 14 September 2015 to 29 February 2016, the Department has:
 - a. Recorded expenditure of \$3,486,449.38 on Temporary Staff. This figure includes base salary, allowances and overtime of all non-ongoing DPS employees that are engaged on a non-ongoing or irregular/ intermittent basis (i.e casuals / sessional employees). Irregular and intermittent employees are used to supplement the high service demand areas of DPS during the parliamentary sitting periods, in particularly in Parliamentary Security, Visitor Services and Hansard.
 - b. Recorded expenditure of \$2,728,270.71 on Contract Staff.
2. In the period 14 September 2015 to 29 February 2016, the Department has employed:
 - a. 149 Temporary Staff. This total includes 79 irregular/intermittent (casual); 6 sessional employees full/part-time, 67 full-time / part-time non-ongoing employees
 - b. 23 Contractors.
3. As at 29 February 2016 the Department had:
 - a. 155 Temporary Staff. This total includes 91 irregular/intermittent (casual); 5 sessional employees full / part-time, 59 full-time / part-time non-ongoing employees. This includes irregular (casual) and intermittent (sessional) employees that have been engaged under section 22 of the Parliamentary Service Act 1999. Irregular and intermittent employees are used to supplement the high service demand areas of DPS during the parliamentary sitting periods.
 - b. 38 Contractors.
4. Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September 2015 the Department has recorded expenditure of \$16,149.11 for agencies / companies to find temporary or contract staff.
5. There have been no changes to the policies / criteria that govern the appointment of contract staff. All procurement in the Department is conducted as per the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.