

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2017**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Parliamentary security**

Question: **64**

Written **Senator Wong**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017

For each sitting day of 2017 to date, how many shifts were designated as “open shifts” at the time the roster (Daily Staffing Sheet High Level Multi Summary) was published?

Answer

The matter of “open shifts” must be provided with context to enable its full understanding. The roster represents what is the standard maximum staffing that may be required at any given security point. The level of activity within Parliament House varies every single day of the year, most of which is anticipated but many are not. Various security points may not require maximum staffing depending on the level of activity in different parts of the building on any given day. As a result there can be spare capacity at various points.

Rosters are actively managed each day by operational supervisors to redirect staff to areas of greatest need, for example, when an incident occurs or there is a particular surge in activity. Each “open shift” is assessed, by supervisors, as involving limited risk or considered shifts of the least importance on that day. Depending on the activities, such shifts include car park patrols beyond the security perimeter, cloak rooms and concierge duties, which are not core security roles. As is noted in the table below, of the 39 shifts in January 2017 identified as “open shifts” for 8 hours, 35 of those shifts were attributed to car park patrols. All core security points are always effectively resourced.

PSS Daily Staffing Summary - Open Shifts		
<i>January 2017 - Open Shifts</i>		
8 Hours (or longer)	4 - 8 Hours	0 - 4 Hours
39 (including 35 car park patrols beyond the security perimeter of APH)	14	75
<i>February 2017 - Open Shifts</i>		
41 (including 36 car park patrols beyond the security perimeter of APH)	19	19
<i>March 2017 - Open Shifts</i>		
83 (of these 40 were car park patrols)	42	180

Note:

Over the 3-month period, approximately 50% of the shifts in the ‘0-4 hours’ tables were of between 30-60 minutes in duration.