

## Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2016

### Answers to Questions on Notice

#### Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: PSS training and professional development

Question: 6

Hansard Reference p 14; 5 May 2016

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 June 2016**

**Senator McKENZIE:** I have not been following Senator Bernardi's particular interest in baton training until now, but I would be interested in the broader question of what training the security staff do receive around Parliament House in terms of apprehending safely any potential threats within Parliament House. I am not asking for that to be taken on notice; I am assuming someone knows the answer to that.

**Mr Barnes:** I do not have the specific information—

**Senator McKENZIE:** Do they do firearm training?

**Mr Barnes:** No, to my knowledge they—

**Senator McKENZIE:** And they do not do baton training. Do they do taekwondo? What do they do?

**Mr Barnes:** They are trained in various aspects of their roles, but I am not in a position to detail that level of training. I do not have it available to me at the present time. As you are aware, we have had a bit of turnover of staff in the security area, and so I would prefer to take that question and give you a fulsome response.

**Senator McKENZIE:** I would appreciate a fulsome response on the type of training that our security officers do to apprehend safely potential threats within Parliament House. Thanks.

**Senator LINDGREN:** I have one question as well. I would assume that, when a security officer is accepted to work in Parliament House, they would have some sort of formal training to apply for the job. There might be some criteria there that they need to have certain training or a certificate level. I would like to know what professional development occurs once they arrive in Parliament House to maintain whatever levels of expertise or skills they have.

**Senator McKENZIE:** Fitness.

**Senator LINDGREN:** Yes. If they come with baton experience, if they do do it, what type of training do they have? If they have plastic handcuff training and so on.

**CHAIR:** Which they do.

**Senator LINDGREN:** Yes, those sorts of things. Is there a criteria when they apply for the job that says they must have those things?

**Mr Barnes:** No, I do not believe there is. The officers are trained once they are recruited. Obviously, many people come to us with prior experience in other law enforcement organisations and bring with them whatever training they had in those, but I think that, again, would be best included in the response to Senator McKenzie.

#### Answer

Applicants recruited to Security Officer Positions do not require security training qualifications. Formal training is provided on engagement. Commencing with the PSS trainee group recruited from the 29 February 2016 process, on successful completion of the training course, participants will be awarded a Certificate II in Security Operations. All PSS Team Leaders have either obtained or are in the process of obtaining a Certificate III in Security Operations.

The Parliament House security officer training program has been designed specifically for security requirements within Parliament House and the Parliamentary Precinct. It includes a combination of classroom training and assessment and on-the-job assessment. Specialist Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)

deliver and assess specific aspects of training, such as First Aid and Defensive Tactics. Certification is issued by the lead RTO after the successful completion of all training.

Applicants are required to pass a pre-employment fitness assessment as part of the overall recruitment process. Initial security training includes an introductory session in relation to use of the Parliament House fitness centre. Trainees are encouraged to maintain their fitness in order to be able to perform their job effectively.

Further detail regarding the content of this training can be provided to the Committee on a confidential basis so as not to compromise security arrangements.