

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee — Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2017

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: PSS - staffing numbers needed

Question: 24

Hansard Reference: p 113-114, 22 May 2017

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

Senator WONG: I will try and put some of these on notice. But can I just ask about rosters. What I was trying to get with my question on notice 63 was a sense of the change over the last four years. I am happy to take a point in time in each of those years. Do you understand what I am saying? You said it was too hard—'intensive and prolonged manual retrieval process'—but I am trying to get a sense of: how have the requirements on the security branch grown over the last four years? Do you understand what I am asking for?

Mr Cooper: Yes.

Senator WONG: I am not asking you to do every week. I am trying to get a sense of: over those four years identified—'13-14 to '16-17 to date—how many more people do you typically need?

Mr Cooper: You also had a question in relation to the average number of staff on duty on a sitting day, and that gives an indication—

Senator WONG: That is a slightly different proposition—

Mr Cooper: Yes, it is.

Senator WONG: because I think part of the proper question is: 'How many do you require—what are your rostering demands now, compared to what they were?' You did not want to answer 63 because it was too much information, so I am trying to get a sense of what you can give me, for the purpose that I am trying to understand, which is: how much more work is being asked of you?

Mr Cooper: If I can take that on notice, we will go away and see what information we can provide that might better answer your question.

Answer

The increase in numbers is due to the additional duties PSS have been required to undertake following the rise in the National Threat Level in September 2014. These duties include:

- Staffing of new positions at Points 5, 7, 12, and 13 (Ministerial corridors), and Point 9 (Ministerial Underground car park entry), commenced on 22 Sept 2014;
- Staffing of Ministerial Wing construction site, commenced on 13 July 2015;
- Staffing of car park patrols, commenced on 28 July 2015; and
- Staffing of Point 10 (Ministerial Ground), commenced on 1 April 2016

Additional staff were also rostered to:

- The Main Front Entrance, commenced on 4 May 2015
- Point 1 (staff entry from the public car park), commenced on 1 June 2015; and
- Reps and Senate entries, commenced on 1 June 2015.

The statistics below cover a non-sitting day and a sitting day, in the month of March, for the following financial years: 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017.

These numbers reflect PSS daily operational requirements for the nominated periods and do not include staffing required for functions, parliamentary events, public hearings, escort duties (projects etc.).

2013/2014: Non sitting - 75, sitting - 117

2014/2015: Non sitting - 94, sitting - 135

2015/2016: Non sitting - 103, sitting - 131

2016/2017: Non sitting - 112, sitting - 151