

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 20-24 October 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Seniority in regional centres

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 33

Type of question: FPA Friday 24 October 2014, pages 9 & 10

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 December 2014

Number of pages: 3

Question:

Senator McLUCAS: A map of seniority in the regional centres. Can you do that?

Mr Crowther: We have provided our staff with a map of the proposed regions, which is as I say a draft, because we are still talking to people about the whereabouts of the regional boundaries and those things. We could provide that you. That has gone out to staff.

Senator McLUCAS: You can provide that?

Mr Eccles: On the basis that it is a starting proposition.

Senator McLUCAS: Certainly, but it would be very helpful.

Mr Eccles: It could well change quite considerably.

Mr Crowther: I think the point that Mr Eccles made—which is to say that none of the dots on the map where they currently are in terms of office locations are proposed to change. In fact, we are looking at areas where we may well invest more and retain some flexibility, with the focus of ensuring that we have as many senior people as close to the—

Senator McLUCAS: What I am trying to get an understanding of is certainly the geographical location, but also the level of seniority changing in those locations. I do not know whether there is an easy way you can provide that to me, but if you can that would be very helpful.

Mr Eccles: We will see what we can do.

Answer:

On the map attached to the response to QoN number 32, each of the dots indicates a working presence in that location.

As at 31 January 2015, there were eleven officers working at the SES level in the Network in the following locations:

- Sydney;
- Dubbo
- Perth;
- Broome;
- Darwin (3 officers);
- Alice Springs;
- Brisbane/Cairns;
- Townsville; and
- Adelaide.

In the new regional model, there will be 12 Regional Managers (generally at Senior Executive Service Band 1 level) working in the Network, in the following regions:

- Eastern New South Wales;
- Western New South Wales;
- Central Australia;
- Northern Lands and Tiwi Islands;
- Arnhem Land and Groote Eylandt;
- Greater Western Australia;
- Kimberley;
- South Australia;
- Gulf and North Queensland;
- Far North Queensland;
- South Queensland; and
- Victoria and Tasmania.