

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Group: 2

Program: Other Agency

Question No. AE15/032

Senator Macdonald asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2015:

CHAIR: Could you tell me the conditions? Do you just start at nine and go home when you finish whatever cases you have, whether it be two o'clock or 10 am or pm?

Mr Matthies: We would need to take that on notice to confirm what has been stated and if there is a statement around the number of ordinary hours that are expected. But certainly, in terms of full-time members, an ordinary Monday-to-Friday workday is expected.

CHAIR: Ordinary by whose standards? Not by politicians', because that is about six am till about midnight, particularly on estimates nights. You are saying nine till five?

Mr Matthies: We would need to check that.

CHAIR: Yes, although judicial appointments are, I would have thought, somewhat different. Judges, in my limited understanding—very ancient now—work relatively regular hours. Certainly they think about judgements on weekend and at night, but then I do not know any person who works anywhere who does not think about their work at night. I am just curious as to what is expected of AAT members by the organisation.

Mr Matthies: That is what I would like to take on notice to confirm in our documentation that is provided what the expectation is.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) has a Members' Handbook which sets out information about the terms and conditions under which members work.

In relation to the hours of work of full-time members, the Handbook sets out that the AAT's expectations are as follows:

A person who holds a full-time office is to devote all of their time, attention and skills to the performance of their duties:

- (a) during normal business hours;
- (b) at such other times as may reasonably be necessary to the performance of their duties.