

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

**Program: Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions**

**Question No. AE17/056**

**Senator Pratt asked the following question at the hearing on 28 February 2017:**

1. What is the current staffing level for the CDPP's foreign bribery team?
  - a) How does 2015-16 compare with staffing in 2016-17?
  - b) What is the projected staffing for this team in 2017-18 and 2018-19?
2. What training and expertise is provided to your lawyers working on complex financial economic crimes?

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

1. Lawyers in the Commercial, Financial and Corruption (CFC) practice group conduct Foreign bribery prosecutions as well as other complex commercial crime and in some locations, Revenue and Benefits Fraud.
  - a. In each of the Sydney and Melbourne CFC practice group branches there is a workgroup comprising one Workgroup Coordinator and five other prosecutors that specialise in foreign bribery matters as well as prosecuting other complex commercial crime. The specialised focus of those two workgroups was established in 2016. Overall staffing levels were similar in 2015- 2016 and 2016-2017.
  - b. Projected staffing for 2017/18 and 2018/19 is similar to the current staffing level, but will be monitored and adjusted in accordance with the level of referrals to the branches. Additional prosecutors are available in the CFC practice group to conduct this work and prosecutors are also available in other jurisdictions to prosecute foreign bribery matters.
2. In addition to the CDPP's Legal Learning and Professional Development Program, lawyers in the Commercial, Financial and Corruption (CFC) practice group have an annual CFC conference, access to specialised portal resources, and participate in external legal conferences. National Focus Groups have been established, including in relation to foreign bribery that facilitate the sharing of expertise. Lawyers are trained and developed by senior lawyers within their Practice Group and through mechanisms such as being paired with experienced lawyers on major matters. Training and expertise is also provided by partner agencies to CDPP lawyers, including through secondments.