

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. SBE15/083

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2015:

It was widely reported in September last year that the Prime Minister ordered tighter security for parliament house. One such article can be found here:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-21/security-changes-restrict-access-to-areas-of-parliament-house/5759102>. The following questions relate to this decision.

1. How many AFP personnel operate out of parliament house on a daily basis?
2. Has there been an increase in AFP personnel that operate out of parliament house on a daily basis?
 - a. If yes, what is the increase in personnel numbers since the decision by the PM to increase security?
 - b. What duties are performed by these extra personnel?
3. Are non-AFP personnel used for security at parliament house? If yes, please detail where they are from.
4. How many years' experience are required in the AFP to be assigned as security for parliament house?
5. Were any studies or consultations done with regard to ergonomics for AFP personnel required to stand for long periods of time? If yes:
 - a. When was this consultation conducted?
 - b. Who was contracted to provide the service?
 - c. How much was spent on consultation?
 - d. What were the findings?
6. Are AFP personnel stationed at parliament house for protection offered individual ergonomic assessments for their duties?
 - a. How many individual assessments were conducted between the increased levels of security and now?
 - b. What was the cost of these assessments?
 - c. Please provide a list of any equipment that was purchased as a result of these assessments.
7. With regard to equipment provided to the AFP involved in protection and security at parliament house:
 - a. Are the AFP provided with hats or other protection against the sun? If yes, please detail and include the cost.
 - b. Are the AFP provided with jackets, scarfs or other protection against the cold? If yes, please detail and include the cost.
 - c. Are the AFP provided with cushioning mats (to stand on), shoes, boots or other protection from issues caused from standing for long periods of time? If yes, please detail and include the cost.
 - d. Are the AFP provided with water or food during these shifts? If yes, please detail.
 - e. Please provide a list of all other equipment supplied to AFP personnel assigned to security at parliament house.
 - f. For what periods/times throughout the day and night are the main entrances of parliament house unattended by AFP personnel?
 - g. How do these arrangements change during sitting vs non-sitting weeks?

8. With regard to breaks and shifts provided to the AFP involved in protection and security at parliament house:
 - a. How long are the shifts of these personnel?
 - b. What is the maximum amount of time AFP personnel are required to stand during a shift?
 - c. How often are they given a break during these shifts and how long do the breaks last for?
 - d. How many days in a row can AFP personnel be rostered on to these duties?
 - e. Are these break or shift arrangements altered or changed at all during the hot summer months or the cold winter months? If yes, please detail.
9. Have any AFP personnel involved in protection and security at parliament been injured or fallen ill as a result of their duties at parliament house? If yes, please detail.
10. What is the average amount of sick leave that has been taken by AFP involved in protection and security at parliament house since the increased security began?
 - a. How does this compare with the national average for AFP personnel?

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

1. For operational reasons we are not able to provide this information.
2.
 - a. For operational reasons we are not able to provide this information.
 - b. The AFP has integrated a range of capabilities including Protection Liaison, Protection Assessment, canine and bomb appraisal officers to provide for an enhanced security arrangement.
3. The Department of Parliamentary Services' Parliamentary Security Service (PSS) provides security inside APH in close consultation with the AFP.
4. AFP at APH are recruited into the AFP through standard AFP recruiting processes, and must meet the required standards for a Protective Service Officer, before being deployed into locations where they are needed.
5. No.
6. All AFP personnel are able to request an ergonomic assessment of workplaces. Specific issues raised by members are addressed as required.
 - a. Nil.
 - b. N/A
 - c. N/A
7. The AFP has a National Uniform Committee which is responsible for the provision of policy and guidelines regarding national uniform standards and issue including the determination of uniform entitlements.
 - a. AFP personnel have access to a uniform entitlement and are able to order from a National Uniform Committee approved list including baseball caps, uniform peak caps, wide brim hats and long sleeve shirts. AFP personnel also have access to sunscreen on a day to day basis.

- b. AFP personnel have access to a uniform entitlement and are able to order from a National Uniform Committee approved list that includes beanies, jumpers, jackets (including polartec and gortex), undershirts, summer and winter trousers, socks, boots and wet weather gear.
 - c. Soft cushion mats are provided, boots are standard issue, and member's shifts are alternated regularly to keep members refreshed and to avoid continual static duties.
 - d. Water facilities are available on site and members bring their own food.
 - e. For operational reasons we are not able to provide this information.
 - f. For operational reasons we are not able to provide this information.
 - g. For operational reasons we are not able to provide this information.
- 8.
- a. 12 hour shifts.
 - b. In accordance with the AFP Enterprise Agreement (EA), members are provided with two separate 24 minute rest breaks which are scheduled within at least two of the 1 hour response breaks in the daily 12 hour working roster. Members are rotated regularly into other roles and duties during the 12 hour shift (for example from static to vehicle patrol duties). This provides regular breaks of assignment when moving from one duty to another and avoids continual static duties.
 - c. Refer to question 8b.
 - d. No more than four 12 hour shifts in a row as per AFP EA provisions and station agreement.
 - e. No changes during summer or winter.
9. During the period 5 September 2014 – 21 November 2015, seven workplace incident reports have been submitted by Protection members working from Parliament House. A breakdown of these is as follow:
- Member fell upstairs whilst on patrol
 - Member twisted knee moving from footpath whilst on traffic control
 - Member strained right shoulder and neck
 - Pain in both feet from static duty at work
 - Injury to elbow when impacted a steel box next to locker
 - Member stood up and twisted right knee
 - Member hurt left foot whilst on patrol
- No claims for compensation were lodged by members as a result of Parliament House duties for this period.
10. The average amount of sick leave taken by AFP personnel involved in protection and security at Parliament House for the period 10 September 2014 to 21 October 2015 is 12.5 days.
- a. The national average for AFP personnel for the same period is 8.8 days. The average amount of sick leave taken by Protective Security Officers (PSOs) across the AFP over the same averaging period is 11.8 days. Therefore the average amount of sick leave days taken at APH is consistent with AFP operational areas staffed by PSOs. This is reflective of the role of a PSO in undertaking static duties, patrols and response on a 24/7 rotational roster basis in varied environmental conditions.