

## Senate Standing Committee on Economics

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 – 20 October 2011

Question No: 114

Topic: Increase in MCD staffing numbers

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Senator Cormann asked:

Senator CORMANN: So the increase in staffing numbers in the Ministerial and Communications Division from 43 to 49 has not been caused by the increased level of interaction with the Independents and the Greens, then?

Dr Parkinson: No.

Senator CORMANN: So what are the additional six positions for?

Dr Parkinson: A fair chunk of them are FOI-related.

Senator CORMANN: Six additional positions for FOI?

Dr Parkinson: Not six, but a reasonable number.

Senator CORMANN: Maybe you could break down the additional six positions for us and what they do.

Ms Balzary: Yes, I can do that. It is probably easier to work that through on notice—

Senator CORMANN: Can you do that for us now?

Ms Balzary: Yes, it is complicated because there have been some positions that have moved into the division from elsewhere in the department, so some staff—

Senator CORMANN: So overall there would be an increase of more than six.

Ms Balzary: No, of the six.

Senator Wong: Senator, we have taken on notice the structure, the classifications, salary levels, et cetera, associated with this unit. I am happy for you to add to that, Senator.

Answer:

The resources for the Ministerial and Communications Division (MCD) in Treasury have increased from 41.3 ASL in the 2010/11 financial year to 49.3 as at 30 September 2011.

The increase includes 6 additional staff to support an expanded FOI function (3 of these transferred from elsewhere in Treasury to MCD) and 5 additional staff to support the Bank on a Better Deal advertising campaign. Funding for the campaign staff ceases on 30 June 2012.

MCD's budget was reduced by 3 ASL from 1 July 2011 as a contribution to corporate efficiencies.