

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
21 November 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

TOPIC: Staff on short term contracts

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 21 November 2013, page 29)

QUESTION No.: SI-3

Senator KIM CARR: What is the total percentage of staff at the CSIRO who are on short-term contracts?

Dr Steele: The total number of people who are on fixed-term or casual appointments, in aggregate, is 1,363.

To put that into context, there are a total of 6,299 staff who are either on indefinite appointments or term or casual appointments. In addition to that, the organisation has 2,633 affiliates—that is, students, contractors or fellows.

Senator KIM CARR: In terms of employees, what is the percentage?

Dr Steele: Just to be clear: those were headcount numbers. To be perfectly honest, I have not done the percentages.

Senator KIM CARR: As I understand it, in headcount terms there is one number, but what is the percentage of effective full-time staff who are on short-term contracts?

Dr Steele: Effective full-time staff on short-term contracts—I do not have that number with me. We have only got headcount numbers.

Senator KIM CARR: Could you come back to me today on that.

Dr Steele: We should be able to come back to you on that today.

ANSWER

Some CSIRO term appointments may be for up to five years. The FTE figures in relation to term contracts are as follows:

At 6 Nov	HC	HC%	FTE	FTE%
Indefinite	4909	84.03%	4682.66	84.18%
Term	933	15.97%	880.2	15.82%
Total	5842	100.00%	5562.86	100.00%

Due to the inherent nature of casual employment arrangements, there are no “standard hours” worked recorded on the CSIRO system. For this reason it is not feasible to give a reliable FTE

figure for the casual contracts and these are not included in the figures above. As at 6 November 2013 there were 430 casual employees in CSIRO.