

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: All
Output Group: All

DEST Question No. E353_05

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question:

- a) How many Ministerial staff does the department provide?
- b) To what Minister or Parliamentary Secretary are they assigned?
- c) What is the total cost of these staff?
- d) Can the Department provide data on how many staff are in each salary band?

Answer:

- a) The department provides a total of five departmental officers.
- b) Two Departmental Liaison Officers are located in the office of the Minister for Education, Science and Training, Dr Brendan Nelson MP. One Departmental Liaison Officer is located in the office of the Minister for Vocational and Technical Education, the Hon. Gary Hardgrave MP. One Departmental Liaison Officer is located in the office of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon. Pat Farmer MP. In addition, there is a Schools Liaison Officer in the Office of the Parliamentary Secretary.¹
- c) The total cost of the four Departmental Liaison Officers participating in the work of the office is \$437,649 per annum. This cost includes all salaries, allowances and employer superannuation contributions.
- d) Two Departmental Liaison Officers are located in the Executive level 2 salary band, and two Departmental Liaison Officers are located in the Executive level 1 salary band. The Schools Liaison Officer is located in the DEST level 2 (APS 5) salary band.

¹ The Schools Liaison Officer has existed under successive governments. The Schools Liaison Officer reports directly to the Department and does not participate in the work of the office. Like Defence Escort Officers, they are not considered to be Departmental Liaison Officers.