

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: ALL
Output Group: ALL

DEST Question No. E569_07

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question:

With regard to the preparation of Possible Parliament Questions briefs or other such documents intended to brief Ministers on an issue specifically for Question Time, could the department/agency provide:

1. The number of such briefs prepared in each of the last three financial years (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06).
2. The number of staff who are responsible for coordinating such briefs and the salary level they are engaged at.
3. The name of internal unit/team that those staff belong to and a description of its other responsibilities.
4. The total budget associated with the unit/team referred to in response to part 3.

Answer:

Possible Parliament Questions briefs

1. It is estimated that 222 briefs were prepared in 2003-04, 284 in 2004-05 and 326 in 2005-06.
2. One officer at the APS6 level is responsible, among other duties, for coordinating briefs across the portfolio, including for Question Time.
3. The officer is a member of the Coordination Team, which is also responsible for coordinating the Senate Estimates process, parliamentary questions for the Department and portfolio agencies and general coordination activities of the Department's Corporate groups.
4. All Coordination Team activities, including coordination of briefs across the portfolio, cost approximately \$210,000 per annum.