

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Estimates Hearings 14-18 February 2005

Question: F17

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: Decline in salaries of MOP(S) staff since 1996

Hansard Page: F&PA 66

Senator Faulkner asked:

Does MAPS have any statistics about how many MOPS staff have dropped in salary since 1996?

Answer:

No. Statistics are not readily available. To compile the statistics of those MOP(S) employees who have dropped in salary since 1996, the Department would have to manually consider the pay for each MOP(S) employee on every working day since 1996.

This is because a reduction in salary can occur on a regular basis within the MOP(S) employment framework and the Human Resource reporting system does not record data on the reasons for the reduction.

For example, reductions in salary can occur in a number of circumstances, including:

- When a MOP(S) employee has a break in service and is re-employed at a lower level in one office (i.e. previously employed at an EOB level and now employed at an EOA level);
- When a MOP(S) employee has a break in service and is re-employed at a lower level in another office;
- When changing employment status (e.g. transferring from ongoing to non-ongoing status or non-ongoing to ongoing) there may be changes in salary;
- When a casual employee is paid from the Relief Staff Budget and their employing Senator or Member decides to reduce their salary to provide a greater period of employment within the capped entitlement;
- When a previous Minister, Parliamentary Secretary or Opposition Office Holder no longer has an entitlement to personal staff and such employees are offered electorate office employment.