

Finance and Public Administration Legislative Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Australian Public Service Commission

Estimates 2004-05 – Additional Estimates, February 2005

Question: PM 39

Topic: Indigenous employment

Senator Crossin asked: Do you have any record of how many Indigenous officers left after the closing of ATSIIS and transfer of staff to mainstream departments?

Answer: The APS Employment Database (APSED) contains information on all people employed under the Public Service Act. The provision of Indigenous status by APS employees to their agency is voluntary, and as a consequence APSED data most likely under-represents the number of Indigenous Australians employed in the APS. In addition, this data includes ongoing employees only, as data is not routinely collected for all non-ongoing employees.

A full audit of APSED data is conducted each year, for end of financial year reporting. Interim data indicates that between 1 July 2004 and 31 December 2004, 10 ongoing ex-ATSIIS Indigenous employees separated from the APS. For the same period, 19 ongoing ex-ATSIIS non-Indigenous employees separated.

This information should be seen as preliminary, and subject to variation. It is based on interim data provided by agencies, and has not been verified. The verification process will not be completed until June 2005 data is received from all agencies.