

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additonal Estimates Hearings 2005-2006, 13 February 2006

Question: PM54

Outcome 1, Output 4.4

Topic: Government Communications Unit – Staffing and Budgetary

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Senator Evans asked:

1. Has there been any change in the last six months to the staffing or budgetary profile of the GCU?

Answer: No.

2. If so, what changes have occurred?

Answer: N/A.

3. What was the budget for the GCU for the year 2004-05?

Answer: The budget for 2004-05 was \$1,379,045 (excluding corporate overheads).

4. What is the budget for the GCU for the year 05-06?

Answer: The budget for 2005-06 is \$1,485,206 (excluding corporate overheads).

5. How many staff members does GCU currently have?

Answer: 11.4 (FTE)

6. At what APS levels are they employed?

Answer: SES B1 x 1; Executive Level 2 x 1; Executive Level 1 x 7.9; APS 5 x 1 and APS 3 x .5.

7. Are they employed on AWAs and do their salary packages contain performance pay or bonus provisions?

Answer: Ten staff are employed on AWAs. Access to a performance bonus is subject to a performance appraisal.

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8. On what basis are these performance pay or bonus provisions paid?

Answer: A performance bonus will be paid to an employee rated as:

- Fully Effective (3) - 5% (SES) and 4% (Non SES) of salary
- Superior (4) - 10% (SES) and 8% (Non SES) of salary
- Outstanding (5) - 15% (SES) and 12% (Non SES) of salary

9. What are the travel, mobile phone, IT and computer costs associated with the GCU for the last 3 financial years and the six months to 31 December 2006?

Answer: The travel costs were for:

- 2002-03 - \$38,152
- 2003-04 - \$57,927
- 2004-05 - \$55,320
- 2005-06 - \$49,788 (six months to 31 December 2005)

The mobile phone costs were for:

- 2002-03 - \$2,185
- 2003-04 - \$1,918
- 2004-05 - \$2,015
- 2005-06 - \$1,088 (six months to 31 December 2005)

IT and computer related costs are treated as corporate overheads. The costs cannot be broken down for the period requested because the department does not allocate to specific areas.

10. Have there been any permanent public servants from other Departments seconded to the GCU during this period? If so, provide details.

Answer: No.