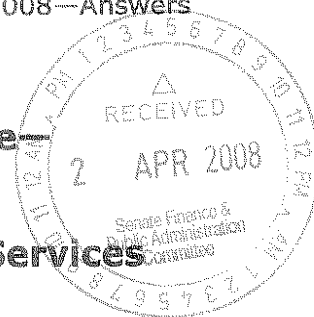


**Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee—
Additional Estimates Feb 2008**

Parliament Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services



Answers to Questions on Notice

Topic: Qualifications of Parliamentary Library Staff

Question P10, F&PA 29

ACTING CHAIR—Ms Missingham, I am not sure if this is correct but it has been put to me that in the various divisions of the Parliamentary Library—the economics, foreign affairs, trade and defence divisions—the balance between staff with postgraduate qualifications and staff with undergraduate qualifications is changing. One of the great things about the library is that we have seriously smart people who are experts in their fields, with terrific postgraduate qualifications, there to provide advice and assistance to us. I was just wondering if it is true that that balance is changing with the number of people with PhDs and masters degrees that you have as opposed to graduates...

Dr Romeyn—We are actually undertaking an audit at the moment, through our sections, of the qualifications that people had in the branch prior to our continuous improvement review and restructure, so we will be able to give you more accurate information in relation to that question subsequently, but we have not gathered it all yet.

Answer

Tertiary qualifications—Research Branch of the Parliamentary Library

1 The following table provides information on the **tertiary** qualifications of Research Branch staff as at January 2007 and January 2008. Staff numbers are derived from the DPS personnel system. Information on tertiary qualifications has been collected by the Directors of each Section in consultation with staff and compiled by the Statistics and Mapping Section.

2 January 2007 has been chosen for comparative purposes as it provides a snapshot of the balance of qualifications in the Branch immediately **prior to** implementation of the revised structure recommended by the Continuous Improvement Review. The Final Report of that Review was released in February 2007 and implementation of the recommendations of the Review took place over the following months.

3 The table **excludes** administrative support staff that assist research staff with filing and other clerical duties. Tertiary qualifications are not required for these administrative support positions. All research positions are included—from the Research Assistant classification level upwards.

4 As the table shows, there has been a change in the proportion of Research Branch staff with postgraduate and undergraduate tertiary qualifications. At January 2007, **46%** of all research staff held a postgraduate tertiary

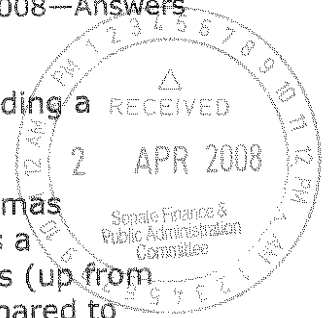
qualification. At January 2008, the proportion of all research staff holding a postgraduate tertiary qualification had increased to **50%**.

5 While the number of staff with Masters and postgraduate diplomas remained stable between January 2007 and January 2008, there was a **significant increase** in the number of research staff with Doctorates (up from 10 to 15). By January 2008, **18%** of research staff held a PhD (compared to **13%** for January 2007).

6 The table also shows that the average number of tertiary qualifications held by Research Branch staff has remained stable (at 2.6 qualifications per staff member) for January 2007 and January 2008. As at January 2008, 84% of research staff held two or more tertiary qualifications.

7 As the table shows, there was a slight decrease in the number and percentage of Research Branch staff with library qualifications between 2007 and 2008. However, well over a third (37%) of research staff held library qualifications as at January 2008.

8 The table records information in relation to tertiary qualifications which have been **awarded** to Research Branch staff. However, the Branch not only seeks to recruit staff with relevant tertiary qualifications, but also provides support to staff to gain qualifications that are relevant to their duties or that would assist their career development. Seven staff have been granted Studies Assistance to undertake postgraduate qualifications during 2007-08.



Tertiary qualifications of Research Branch staff, January 2007 and January 2008

	January 2007		January 2008	
	number	%	number	%
Research staff (a)	78	100	82	100
Highest tertiary qualification				
Doctorate	10	13	15	18
Masters	19	24	19	23
Postgraduate diploma	7	9	7	9
Bachelor degree (honours)	13	17	14	17
Bachelor degree	26	33	24	29
Undergraduate diploma	2	3	2	2
Associate diploma	0	0	0	0
None	1	1	1	1
	number	avg. no. of quals. per staff	number	avg. no. of quals. per staff
Total degrees	132	1.7	145	1.8
Other tertiary qualifications	67	0.9	65	0.8
Total tertiary qualifications	199	2.6	210	2.6
	number	%	number	%
Library qualifications	33	42	30	37

Notes: (a) Based on DPS personnel system Monthly Staff Reports for Research Branch. Includes ongoing (permanent) and non-ongoing (temporary) staff. Administrative support staff at the Parliamentary Service Levels 2 and 3 are excluded. Positions at Parliamentary Service Level 4 (Research Assistant) and above are included.

