

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Budget Estimates Hearing – February 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: Government Personal Staff Turnover

Question reference number: F44

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Senator Ronaldson asked:

Could you also provide the number and classification of full-time ongoing government personal staff that commenced employment before January 2008 but have since ceased employment and, in relation to these full-time ongoing government personal staff that commenced employment before January 2008 but have since ceased employment, what are the associated costs from the turnover, including the relocation costs, advertising of positions vacant, relocation costs for replacement staff, including travel and temporary accommodation, and, where applicable, the provision of training and security clearances for replacement staff.

Answer:

A total of 29 full-time ongoing government personal staff that commenced employment before January 2008 have since ceased employment as full-time ongoing government personal staff. A breakdown by classification is as follows:

Classification#	Number
Principal Adviser	1
Senior Adviser (Chief of Staff) (Cabinet)	1
Senior Adviser 2	1
Senior Adviser 1	4
Adviser	8
Assistant Adviser	5
Executive Assistant/Office Manager	7
Secretary/Administrative Assistant	2
Total	29

Note: The data reflects the classification at the time of ceasing employment.

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The breakdown of costs associated with the filling of those vacancies[^] is as follows:

Entitlement	Cost
Travel costs*	\$2,634.89
Removal costs	\$8,178.00
Temporary Accommodation Allowance	\$4,561.78
Advertising costs	\$40,823.37
Security Clearances•	\$13,747.05
Total	\$69,945.09

There is no entitlement to pay relocation costs when a person ceases employment. It is not possible to identify training costs.

[^]Note: A number of positions were filled by promotion/transfer of full-time ongoing government personal staff.

* Note: Does not include airfares that may have been arranged through the relevant office and paid as part of normal personal staff travel and can not therefore be specifically identified as part of the relocation costs.

•Note: Does not include costs for clearances yet to be finalised.