

**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: Consultants employed in Ministerial Offices**

**Question reference number: F72(a-g)**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April 2009**

**Number of Pages: 5**

**Senator Ronaldson asked:**

- (a) How many [Part 2 of the MOP(S) Act] Consultants are employed in ministerial offices and the offices of parliamentary secretaries?
- (b) Are there any staff working in ministerial offices who are not employed under the MOP(S) Act or by a government department?
- (c) If so, can you please provide the committee with the number of these staff and details of what agreement they are employed under?
- (d) Can you provide the committee with a breakdown of the number and classification of full-time ongoing government personal staff that commenced employment in or after December 2007 but have since ceased employment?
- (e) In relation to these full-time ongoing government personal staff that commenced employment in or after December 2007 but have since ceased employment, what are the associated costs from the turnover including any relocation costs, advertising of positions vacant, relocation costs for replacement staff including travel and temporary accommodation and, where, applicable, the provision of security clearances for replacement staff?
- (f) Do any Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries currently have mobile phones provided by M&PS? If so, whom?
- (g) Do any Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries currently have Telecards? If so, whom?

**Answer:**

- (a) Nil
- (b) Finance is able to answer this question only insofar as it relates to Finance's Ministers. As at 24 February 2009, staff working in the Office of the Minister for Finance and Deregulation or the Special Minister of State were either MOP(S) Act employees or departmental staff.

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(c) Not applicable in relation to the Office of the Minister for Finance and Deregulation or the Office of the Special Minister of State.

(d) The following table provides a breakdown of the number and classification of full-time ongoing government personal staff of all Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries that commenced employment in or after December 2007 but have since ceased employment as full-time ongoing government personal staff:

<b>Classification#</b>	<b>Number</b>
Principal Adviser	1
Senior Adviser (Chief of Staff) (Cabinet)	2
Senior Adviser 2	2
Senior Adviser 1	5
Senior Adviser (Chief of Staff) (Non-Cabinet)	1
Media Adviser Senior	1
Media Adviser	3
Adviser	15
Assistant Adviser	18
Executive Assistant/Office Manager	16
Secretary/Administrative Assistant	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>

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

(e) The breakdown of associated costs for replacement staff filling those particular vacancies<sup>^</sup> is as follows:

<b>Entitlement</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Travel costs*	\$3,742.64
Removal costs	\$15,083.01
Temporary Accommodation Allowance	\$4,694.37
Advertising costs	\$65,516.14
Security Clearances•	\$25,259.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$114,295.25</b>

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

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^Note: A number of positions were filled by the promotion/transfer of 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.

(f) Yes. All Senators and Members are entitled to be provided with up to two mobile telephones or one mobile telephone and one combined mobile telephone/Personal Digital Assistant. As at 24 February 2009, the following Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries were provided with at least one of the above two services:

- The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- The Hon Chris Bowen MP, Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
- The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- The Hon Anthony Byrne MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Trade, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister
- Senator the Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
- The Hon Greg Combet AM MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Procurement
- Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy, Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate
- The Hon Simon Crean MP, Minister for Trade
- The Hon Justine Elliot MP, Minister for Ageing
- The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Youth, Minister for Sport
- The Hon Dr Craig Emerson MP, Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy, Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation
- Senator the Hon Chris Evans, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Leader of the Government in the Senate
- Senator the Hon John Faulkner, Special Minister of State, Cabinet Secretary
- The Hon Laurie Ferguson MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services
- The Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP, Minister for Resources and Energy, Minister for Tourism
- The Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Minister for Defence
- The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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- The Hon Julia Gillard MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for Education, Minister for Social Inclusion
- The Hon Gary Gray AO MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Northern Australia
- The Hon Alan Griffin MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- The Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support
- The Hon Duncan Kerr MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs
- Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig, Minister for Human Services
- The Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- The Hon Robert McClelland MP, Attorney-General
- The Hon Maxine McKew MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Early Childhood Education and Childcare
- Senator the Hon Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing
- The Hon Bob McMullan MP, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance
- The Hon Brendan O'Connor MP, Minister for Employment Participation
- The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for Housing, Minister for the Status of Women
- The Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health and Ageing
- The Hon Kevin Rudd MP, Prime Minister
- Senator the Hon Nick Sherry, Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law
- The Hon Bill Shorten MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services
- The Hon Stephen Smith MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs
- The Hon Warren Snowdon MP, Minister for Defence Science and Personnel
- Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion, Parliamentary Secretary for the Voluntary Sector
- The Hon Wayne Swan MP, Treasurer
- The Hon Lindsay Tanner MP, Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Climate Change and Water

(g) All Senators and Members may be issued, on request, with a Telephone Services Charge Card (Telecard) at Australian Government expense. The card is issued annually and may only be used by the Senator or Member personally to make telephone calls on Parliamentary or electorate business.

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There are currently four Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries who have been issued with Telecards:

- Senator the Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research;
- The Hon Simon Crean MP, Minister for Trade;
- The Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP, Minister for Resources and Energy, Minister for Tourism; and
- Senator the Hon Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing.