

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2009

Question: PM22

Topic: Increase in part-time workers

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

Senator Boyce asked: -My questions relate to the increase in part-time workers between your report of 2006- 07 and 2007-08. You had an increase of part-time workers from 3.9 per cent to 8.2 per cent.

Mr Mrdak-In the department?

Senator BOYCE-In the department. That is a fairly big increase. Why was that?

Mr Mrdak-I would have to have a look at that issue. I could not give you an answer immediately. But I am happy to go away and have a look to see if there is a rationale for why that took place. There may have been some change in the way that we work. Often, people returning from maternity leave and the like choose to move to part-time work, and we try and facilitate that as much as possible. But I will come back to you with some more detail.

Answer: The majority of part-time employees in the Department are females with parental or carer responsibilities. Many have either returned from maternity leave on a part-time arrangement or were full time employees who have converted to part-time arrangements to align with school hours.