

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

## ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 9 FEBRUARY 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Staff recruitment

**Question reference number:** HS39

**Senator:** BARNETT

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 26 March 2010

**Number of pages:** 3

#### **Question:**

- a) How many permanent staff recruited since the supplementary budget estimates?
- b) What level are these staff?
- c) How many temporary positions exist or have been created since budget estimates?
- d) Since supplementary budget estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

#### **Answer:**

##### **Department of Human Services**

- a) The total number of permanent (ongoing) APS staff that has been recruited to fill vacancies created by natural attrition since supplementary budget estimates (20 October 2009) is 136.
- b) The breakdown of permanent (ongoing) APS staff that have been recruited since supplementary budget estimates (20 October 2009) is:

| Level | Number of Employees |
|-------|---------------------|
| APS2  | 1                   |
| APS3  | 8                   |
| APS4  | 61                  |
| APS5  | 13                  |
| APS6  | 17                  |
| EL1   | 27                  |
| EL2   | 5                   |
| SES1  | 3                   |
| SES2  | 1                   |

- c) The Departmental Human Resource Information System does not record details of 'temporary' positions as such short term or contingent arrangements are classified as 'non-ongoing'. The Department can advise that a total of 49 staff have been engaged on an 'non-ongoing' basis since supplementary budget estimates.

- d) Since supplementary budget estimates, 62 contractors have commenced. The average length of employment period for the 62 newly commenced contractors is 196 days or six and a half months.

### Centrelink

- a) Data from Centrelink's Human Resource Information System (Infolink), shows Centrelink has recruited 316 permanent (ongoing APS) employees in the period 20 October 2009 – 17 March 2010. The majority of these staff have been recruited to fill existing positions within Centrelink and are not new positions.
- b) These newly recruited employees were at the following levels:

| Level                                              | Number of Employees |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| APS 1                                              | 16                  |
| APS 2                                              | 23                  |
| APS 2/3 (Australian Passport Information Services) | 1                   |
| APS 3                                              | 67                  |
| APS 4                                              | 37                  |
| APS 5                                              | 17                  |
| APS 6                                              | 25                  |
| Cadet APS                                          | 4                   |
| Cadet Full Time Study                              | 1                   |
| Customer Service Apprentice                        | 5                   |
| Executive Level 1 (EL1)                            | 16                  |
| Executive Level 2 (EL2)                            | 6                   |
| Graduate                                           | 7                   |
| IT EL1                                             | 10                  |
| IT EL2                                             | 4                   |
| IT Graduate                                        | 37                  |
| IT Practitioner                                    | 2                   |
| Public Affairs Officer 3                           | 3                   |
| Public Affairs Officer 4                           | 2                   |
| Professional 1                                     | 26                  |
| Professional 2                                     | 4                   |
| SES Band 1                                         | 3                   |

- c) Centrelink employs temporary (non-ongoing APS) employees as required to meet demand at the National or Local level.

During the period 20 October 2009 – 17 March 2010 Centrelink's Infolink records show that 312 temporary (non-ongoing APS) employees were engaged.

- d) Centrelink procures contract services through Centrelink's normal procurement practices. Contractors are not included on Centrelink's HR system for payment as payment is made to the company engaged.

Centrelink is unable to provide details of average length of employment period for contractors as contracts may be accessed for multiple but differing periods over the term of the contract.

## Medicare Australia

Figures represent headcount.

- a) Since supplementary budget estimates (20 October 2009) there have been 45 permanent staff recruited. This includes staff new to the APS or those transferring from other agencies. The majority of these staff have been recruited to fill existing positions within Medicare and are not new positions.

b)

| Level      | Number of Employees | Comment                                             |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| APS 1      | 1                   | Indigenous Cadet – APS1 equivalent                  |
| APS 3      | 7                   |                                                     |
| MAB        | 2                   | Medicare Australia Broadband – Equivalent to APS1-4 |
| APS 4      | 8                   |                                                     |
| APS 5      | 5                   |                                                     |
| APS 6      | 5                   |                                                     |
| EL 1       | 10                  |                                                     |
| EL 2       | 5                   |                                                     |
| MO3        | 1                   | Medical Officer – EL2 equivalent                    |
| SES Band 3 | 1                   |                                                     |
| Total      | 45                  |                                                     |

- c) Medicare Australia currently employs 278 temporary employees nationally. Since supplementary budget estimates, 119 temporary employees have commenced.
- d) Since supplementary budget estimates, 203 contractors have commenced at Medicare Australia. The average contract length for these contractors is six months.