

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 3 / 3.1

Topic: Prime Minister's office staffing and turnover

Senator: Kroger

Question reference number: F28

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) Please provide details of the staff turnover rate within the Prime Minister's office since the last Senate Estimate session in October 2011. Please include in the response the number of staff departures from the Prime Minister's office, how many of these departures were voluntary and involuntary, and the number of staff hired in this period.
- b) How many positions are currently unfilled within the Prime Minister's office and what are these positions? Please specify the occupation role and level of these unfilled positions within the Prime Minister's staff.
- c) In 2011, how many people resigned from employment within the Prime Minister's office? Did these staff members receive any redundancy packages? If so, please provide the details of these redundancy packages including the financial benefits of these packages. Did these packages include extra months or weeks salary? If so, how many months or weeks? If packages were offered, how many were offered and how many were accepted?
- d) In 2011, did any of the Prime Minister's staff leave employment in her office only to be shortly employed, within three months, later by another Government office, department or agency? If so, did any of these staff members receive any redundancy payments and/or packages for their previous employment in the Prime Minister's office?
- e) Is Amanda Lampe, former Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister, still listed as employed by the Prime Minister's office? If not, please outline when the termination of her employment was finalised.
- f) Please provide a full breakdown of staff numbers in the Prime Minister's office for all levels and bands over the last four years.

Answer:

- a) (i) The number of personal staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act) who left the office of the Hon Julia Gillard MP in the period 18 October 2011 to 14 February 2012 inclusive and the nature of their cessation is as follows:

Resignation from employment under the MOP(S)	1
Termination under the MOP(S) Act	0
Return to public sector employment	2

- (ii) The number of personal staff who commenced employment in the office of the Hon Julia Gillard MP in the period 18 October 2011 to 14 February 2012 inclusive is six, including staff who may have transferred from the office of another Senator or Member.
- b) As at 14 February 2012, one position with the classification of Senior Adviser 1 (Cabinet) in the office of the Hon Julia Gillard MP was vacant. The duties to be performed by any staff employed against the position are determined by the Prime Minister.
- c) The number of personal staff employed in the office of the Hon Julia Gillard MP who resigned from employment under *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* in the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011 inclusive is seven. This number excludes any staff formerly on leave without pay from the public sector who returned to their public sector employer in this period.

Resignations do not attract 'redundancy packages'. Staff who resign from MOP(S) Act employment receive payment in lieu of their accrued leave entitlements where eligible, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Enterprise Agreement 2010-2012*.

- d) The number of personal staff employed in the office of the Hon Julia Gillard MP who had been on leave without pay from the public sector that subsequently returned, without a break in employment, to their public sector employer during 2011 is four. The accrued leave entitlements of staff who return to their former public sector employment are transferred back to the public sector employer.

The Department does not track the employment history of staff following their departure from MOP(S) Act employment.

- e) The Prime Minister's former Chief of Staff's employment ceased on 3 June 2011.
- f) A full breakdown of personal positions allocated to the offices of Ministers, including that of the Prime Minister, is tabled by this Department at each Senate Estimates and may be referenced for this information. Information as at 1 February 2012 was tabled by the Department at the hearing on 14 February 2012.