

**Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee:  
Answers to written Questions on Notice Additional Estimates 2012-13  
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio**

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**Department:** Parliamentary Budget Office

**Topic:** Resource allocation

**Senator:** Senator Scott Ryan

**Question reference number:** 51

**Type of question:** Written

### **Question**

**Senator RYAN:** You also mentioned that you have the top echelons on the website. I have not checked that. Do you plan, when you have got those on-board, to publish a bigger set of boxes that indicate where the staff below the SES level are allocated?

**Mr Bowen:** I have not thought about that, to be honest. We do have those boxes internally. It is not usual for departments to post all of their staff on their website. Of course we are much smaller. We will look at that.

**Senator RYAN:** Even if it did not include names? Some of the issues I think Senator Faulkner was getting to was to try and get an idea of resource allocation and resource demands, and staff is a very good reflection of that.

**Mr Bowen:** Sure. One thing you have to bear in mind is that while we have a formal organisation structure at the top level and we will have permanent slots in the lower levels for individuals, we also will be quite flexible in how we use our staff. So whatever we publish at a point in time, apart from the top levels, should not be taken to mean that those people are fixed in silos because they will not be. They will be used very flexibly.

**Senator RYAN:** I appreciate that. Some other departments that come for estimates committees provide a periodic update knowing that it changes every time there is an estimates hearing to reflect resource allocation. It is a potential idea in that case.

### **Answer**

The PBO will provide the Committee with regular updates on its total staffing and their deployment.

The PBO's 24 staff are allocated as follows:

- PBO Executive: 2
- Budget Analysis Division (BAD): 16
- Fiscal Policy Analysis Division (FPAD): 3
- Corporate Strategy Branch (CSB): 2
- BAD, FPAD, CSB Executive Assistant: 1