

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Budget Estimates Hearings 2004-05 – 26 May 2004

Question: F16

Outcome 3 Efficiently Functioning Parliament, Output 3.1 Services to Senators, Members and their Staff

Topic: Government Members' Secretariat

Hansard Page: F&PA 55

Senator Ray asked:

Senator ROBERT RAY—Do we know the expected salary payout that has been budgeted for in the next budget for this particular secretariat?

Senator Abetz—I think we will have to take that on notice.

Ms Mason—We will.

...

Senator ROBERT RAY—That is the amount of salary and allowance? Most of these people would be on a ministerial staff allowance, I assume.

Mr Edge—We are not able to confirm that at the moment. The remuneration is obviously linked to the positions and the level of the positions.

Answer:

As at 26 May 2004 the estimated cost of salaries and Ministerial Staff Allowances/Parliamentary Staff Allowances for the Government Members' Secretariat (GMS) for 2004-2005 is \$867,170. The estimate is based on the actual salary levels of staff in the GMS. Where a position is currently vacant the base of the salary level has been used.

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Budget Estimates Hearings 2004-05 – 26 May 2004

Question: F17

**Outcome 3 Efficiently Functioning Parliament, Output 3.1 Services to Senators,
Members and their Staff**

Topic: Government Members' Secretariat

Hansard Page: F&PA 57

Senator Ray asked:

Senator ROBERT RAY—Could you tell us what level Mr Wheeler is employed at?

...

Senator ROBERT RAY—I repeat the question. I do not want to assume anything. I want to know an answer to my question, not what I might be expected to assume.

Senator Abetz—I will take that on notice and give it consideration as to whether I want to make that information available.

Answer:

Senior Adviser.

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Budget Estimates Hearings 2004-05 – 26 May 2004

Question: F18

**Outcome 3 Efficiently Functioning Parliament, Output 3.1 Services to Senators,
Members and their Staff**

Topic: Government Members' Secretariat

Hansard Page: F&PA 58

Senator Ray asked:

Senator ROBERT RAY—Are all members of the Government Members Secretariat paid within the standardised salary bands—are there any positions being paid outside that?

Ms Mason—We will need to take that question on notice so we can check our records.

Answer:

One staff member of the Government Members' Secretariat is being paid a salary outside the relevant salary band.