

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Budget Estimates Hearings, 25-26 May 2005

Question: F34

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: Members of Parliament Staff

Hansard Page: F&PA 96-97

Senator Kim Carr asked:

Senator Coonan's office went from 13 down to 11, so two positions were removed. Can anyone explain why that is? Why has the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, Mr Payne, had an increase from two to five? I wonder if you can explain why it is that there have been these changes. That is the explanation I am seeking from you. I am interested to know what the new positions are that have been created and at what levels? When were they appointed? Can you tell me that?

Answer:

The Prime Minister allocates staff to Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries having regard to their portfolio responsibilities and needs.

The three extra positions in the office of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing are each at the Adviser level.