

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2006

Question: F29

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: MOP(S) Salaries

Hansard Page: F&PA24

Senator Ray asked:

How many times has the Minister granted an exemption on application by a Member of Parliament about salaries, and in what circumstances? That is an easy way of covering it, because it covers both your possibilities. Let's make it easy. Let's go back two financial years. You need search no further than this financial year and last financial year.

Answer:

Since 20 August 2003, when the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Commonwealth Certified Agreement 2003-2006* (Certified Agreement) was certified, neither the Special Minister of State, nor his predecessor, granted any request for an exemption to the salary setting provisions of the Agreement.

A determination made by the Special Minister of State under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 Act* allows relevant Office Holders under the Act to appoint or engage their electorate employees at any salary point in the relevant salary band and to adjust the salaries of their employees to another salary point in the band at any time.