

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2006

Question: F32

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: Approval of MOP(S) salaries above the range

Hansard Page: F&PA26

Senator Faulkner asked:

Does the Prime Minister in each case exercise that responsibility himself or is it delegated? If it is delegated, to whom has it been delegated? What is the nature of the delegation?

Answer:

Under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act) the Prime Minister has the authority to set the terms and conditions of employment of MOP(S) Act employees, including salary bands. He is authorised to set salaries above the band. Sometimes he has done so himself; in other cases this has been done by the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff on his behalf.