

25 June 2010

**FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
ESTIMATES HEARING, 24 MAY 2010  
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
ANSWERS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE**

**Staffing**

**F&PA12 – All Departments –Senator Barnett**

**How many permanent staff recruited since additional estimates (Feb 2010)?**

Answer:

The concept of 'permanent' employees does not exist under the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*. Since 1 February 2010, seven (7) employees have commenced with the department as ongoing employees.

**What level[s] are these staff?**

Answer:

The levels of these employees are: Parliamentary Executive Level 1 (one employee), Australian Parliamentary Service Level 6 (three employees) and Australian Parliamentary Service Level 4 (three employees). All were employed to fill vacancies as a result of other ongoing employees vacating these positions.

**How many temporary positions exist or have been created since additional estimates?**

Answer:

The concept of 'temporary positions' do not exist under the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999* (PS Act). Employees can be employed as ongoing or non-ongoing as set out in section 22 and are assigned duties under section 25 of the PS Act.

The department has five positions which could be considered as temporary in that they have been created to carry out particular projects or tasks and may not be needed once these are completed. Three of these positions existed before additional estimates and two have been created since then. Three of the positions are being jointly funded by the Department of the House of Representatives.

**Since additional estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?**

Answer:

The department currently employs 44 non-ongoing employees. Thirteen of those employees have been employed since 1 February 2010. The average length of employment of the department's non-ongoing employees is 1.4 years.