

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES MAY 24 2010

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Department/Agency: AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Outcome/Output Group: Program 1.1 APS Policy, review and evaluation

Topic: Statistical/Information Services

Senator: Ryan

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday 9 July 2010

Type of question: Hansard F&PA 89 – 90, Monday May 24 2010

Question reference number: PM 8

..... the most recent budget indicated an increase of 5,003, an 81 per cent increase over the increase estimated in last year's budget. Could you enlighten us as to why there had been an increase on the proposed increase in APS staffing levels?

Mr Sedgwick - Sure. But, as I say, these are big numbers and if you have workload formulas that drive funding of Centrelink and various other agencies, for example, those numbers go up and down through the course of the year. If you like, we will take the question on notice and try and get you some data. But, based on past recollections, it may not be easy to get you your answer.

Answer:

The Average Staffing Level (ASL) estimates used by Senator Ryan cover the general government sector, which includes both APS employees and other government employees such as soldiers and police. Most of the increase occurred in the non-APS component of the general government sector. Of the revised increase in total ASL estimates for 2009-10, 63% was attributable to increases in the Defence portfolio (57% military and 6% non-military).

A number of other agencies had smaller increases - these included the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (a net increase of 382 ASL with 46.6% being non-APS) and the Attorney General's Department (a net increase of 351 ASL with 71.2% being non-APS).

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