

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING
23 MAY 2011 – DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Current vacancies within the Committee Office

Senator Polley asked (Hansard page 10) if there are any vacancies within secretariat staff at the moment.

Within the Committee Office secretariats, positions are allocated to support the eight pairs of Standing Committees, the two Joint Statutory Committees and, currently, five Select Committees.

The long standing departmental practice has been to fill up to ten positions wherever possible on an ongoing (or permanent) basis at the PEL2, PEL1, APS6 and APS3 levels. This is influenced by the number of permanent committees or pairs of committees supported by the Committee Office. At the APS4 level, eight positions are filled on an ongoing (or permanent) basis because these officers support the estimates process undertaken by the eight legislation committees.

As at 23 May 2011, the following ongoing vacancies exist:

- PEL2 – no vacancies

- PEL1 – no vacancies

- APS6 – one vacancy

- APS4 – no vacancies

- APS3 – two vacancies

As at 23 May 2011, the department was employing 15 non-ongoing (or temporary) employees at various levels in the Committee Office secretariats and an expression of interest has been issued for non-ongoing Parliamentary Executive Level 1 staff positions.