

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2011

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Allegations of bullying**

Question: **22**

Hansard reference **F&PA p.21, 23 May 2011**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Senator HUMPHRIES: All right. In this present financial year, how many allegations of bullying have been made with respect to ongoing staff of your department?

Ms Missingham: Other than the exit interviews, I am not aware of any. We will doublecheck.

Senator HUMPHRIES: Okay. Can you give us information with respect to this financial year and the previous two financial years?

Ms Missingham: Certainly.

Answer

1 DPS has received the following number of formal allegations of bullying from ongoing staff for the financial years indicated.

(a) 2010–11: 1.

(b) 2009–10: 2.

(c) 2008–09: 0.

Note that the above figures will not directly correlate with exit interview statistics. Responses at exit interviews referring to concerns about workplace harassment, bullying or discrimination incidents often do not relate to allegations made during employment.

Data about exit interview statistics for earlier years were previously advised to the Committee in response to the October 2010 hearing. For 2010-11, the number of respondents who indicated they had experienced or observed harassment, bullying or discrimination (and reported it to their supervisor or a Harassment Contact Officer) was 3.