

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 21-24 May 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: COAG Reform Council - staffing and turnover

Senator: SenatorPayne

Question reference number: 7

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Question:

Senator PAYNE: So is the council experiencing a relatively high level of turnover? It seems we are able to discuss turnover almost at every estimates. It is not a large body.

Mr Elton: I do not know the detail. I do not think we are experiencing any unusual level of staff turnover. I know that the head of secretariat receives regular reports on human resources statistics, but if you wanted to get the detail of that I would have to take that on notice.

Senator PAYNE: If you could, for the senior level. I have forgotten the classification that we last spoke about when we were discussing it, and I am not sure whether it was you who was here at the time when we were last discussing it at estimates, but with respect to the senior level of the policy advisers and so on-what the average duration of employment is and the number of staff turning over in that particular area.

Mr Elton: I do not have that detail with me, but I am happy to take it on notice and get you an answer.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet prepares a monthly human resources report. A recent report shows that the total turnover rate for all secretariat staff was 31 per cent for the year to date ending May 2012, compared to the departmental average of 29 per cent for the same period.

Since July 2009 there have been twelve Executive Level (EL) 1 or 2 staff that have left the organisation, with a median length of service of 18 months.

Not counting four recent appointments, there are eleven EL and SES level staff currently working with the secretariat, whose median length of service to date is 3.0 years.