

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission
Outcome/Program: 1.1 / Human Capital Research and Analysis
Topic: State of the Service Survey

Senator: Mason

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Question:

Mr Sedgwick: When we provide agencies with a report on their results in the State of the Service survey – I am looking to my colleague-we usually provide some data which benchmarks the performance of the agency compared to the rest of the APS or their agency size. I am just looking to see whether we include unexplained absence in that list.

Dr Schmidtchen: I would have to check.

Mr Sedgwick: We will check that for you. There is no reason.....

Answer:

The Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) does not provide data regarding “unexplained absence” to agencies. However, in 2011 for the first time the APSC did report two sets of figures on Unplanned Leave. This was reported to the heads of agencies with over 200 employees based on self-report data from the State of the Service Employee Survey. Respondents were asked the number of days of various types of Unplanned Leave they had taken in the last 14 days. This was reported as:

- The proportions of agency respondents who reported taking Sick leave, Carer’s Leave, Compensation Leave, Miscellaneous Leave and/or Unauthorised Leave. Duration of leave was also reported. Each leave type was reported separately against the proportions for the overall State of the Service Report (SOSR) sample.
- The number of days of Sick Leave, Carer’s Leave, Compensation Leave, Miscellaneous Leave and Unauthorised Leave taken in the previous 14 days were combined into a single composite figure of Unplanned Leave for each agency. This was compared against figures for the overall SOSR sample and similar sized agencies.