

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Budget Estimates Hearing 27 May-6 June 2013**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Funding for CRC and COAG related activities

**Senator:** Senator Payne

**Question reference number:** 29

**Type of Question:** FPA, Monday 27 May 2013, Page 93

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 12 July 2013

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Mr Hazlehurst: There has been a small change to the departmental arrangements since last year, which primarily reflects the reduction in effort associated with the response to the review which you will recall. In particular, there was quite a substantial amount of work that went into the review of the performance frameworks for national agreements, and a selected number of National Partnership Agreements, which COAG then considered towards the end of last year. So the resourcing within the department—consistent, I think, with a question on notice that we completed from the last estimates—has been reduced marginally, from around 12 ASL to 10 ASL. In relation to the CRC's funding: I think I will have to take that on notice.

Senator PAYNE: Okay. Thank you very much. You may not be able to indicate this immediately, Mr Hazlehurst—if you cannot, then you can take it on notice—but can you indicate to the committee what portion of the total funding under program 1.1.1 was allocated to COAG related activities and functions in 2012-13; and, similarly, what portion of that funding will be allocated in 2013-14 to COAG related activities and functions?

Mr Hazlehurst: I will have to take that on notice. What I can say is that the ASL funding has gone from around 12 to around 10. That has been in place for around almost six months.

Senator PAYNE: Can you, similarly, do those numbers for me in relation to the COAG Reform Council?

Mr Hazlehurst: Yes, Senator.

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**Answer:**

PM&C does not collect information on resourcing allocated to COAG activities across the whole of program 1.1 (Prime Minister and Cabinet). Staffing of the Commonwealth-State Relations Branch (CSRB) was 9.9 Average Staffing Level in 2012-13 (see also response to question number 31). No significant changes to CSRB staffing levels are expected in 2013-14 based on known workloads.

COAG Reform Council (CRC) Staffing

The following information has been provided by the CRC.

There has been a decrease in staffing from 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013.

As at 1 July 2012, there was a Full-time Equivalent (FTE) staffing level of 27.2. This increased slightly in the months of September 2012 (29.5 FTE) and October 2012 (28.2 FTE). It then reduced to an FTE of 23.4 in the month of February 2013 and 24.2 FTE as at 31 May 2013.

There are no significant changes to CRC staffing levels expected in 2013-14 based on known workloads.