

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings 2006-2007, 30 October 2006**

**Question: PM 6**

**Outcome 1**

**Topic: Mr Andrew Robb**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 53:**

**Senator Ray asked: Senator ROBERT RAY – I also have a question, in a similar vein, about parliamentary secretary Mr Andrew Robb. We can confirm, of course, that he has two DLOs, because Ms Belcher has very kindly given us the list. Can we have an explanation as to why he has been allocated another eight staff as a parliamentary secretary – that is, he has two senior advisers, three advisers, an assistant adviser, an EAOM and an admin assistant? He has eight staff plus two DLOs. That comes to about \$1 million worth of staffing a year. Why does a parliamentary secretary get that staffing?**

**Senator Minchin: It would depend on the role and responsibilities allocated to the particular parl sec and whether there is a junior minister in the portfolio. But, again, I will get an explanation for that and the breakup of responsibilities in that portfolio and why the parl sec has so many staff.**

**Senator ROBERT RAY – If you could take it on notice as to the reason for it.**

**Answer:** As at 1 November 2006, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Andrew Robb MP, had a staff establishment of seven: one senior adviser (non-Cabinet), three advisers, one assistant adviser, one executive assistant/office manager (with a personal classification of adviser) and one secretary/administrative assistant.

The Prime Minister has advised that, consistent with the practice of previous governments, the number of staff allocated to each office holder is determined on the basis of the number of staff required to allow them to discharge their duties efficiently and effectively.