

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 19 October 2009

Question: PM18(a-e)

Topic: Community Engagement Team

Type of Question: Written

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**With reference to the Community Engagement Team, Cabinet division,
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet:**

- a) **How many people are employed in this team and what are their levels?**
- b) **How many are contractors and how many are members of the APS?**
- c) **How many members of the team have a role which includes moderation of the Prime Minister's 'blog'?**
- d) **What is the aggregate remuneration provided to persons involved in moderating the Prime Minister's 'blog'?**
- e) **Are there written guidelines upon which these 'blog' moderators vet comments by members of the public? If so, can they be provided to the Committee?**

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Answer:

- a) The Community Engagement team is staffed as follows –
- 1 x Executive Level 2
 - 1 x Executive Level 1
 - 2 x APS 6
- b) There are no contractors in the Community Engagement team. Three team members are permanent APS employees, and one has been seconded from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.
- c) All members of the Community Engagement team have a role in the moderation of the Prime Minister's blogs from time to time and as required; along with their other duties.
- d) No one is specifically remunerated for undertaking moderation of the Prime Minister's blogs. Moderation of blogs, along with many other duties, is a standard task of Community Engagement team members.
- e) Interim online engagement governance and moderation guidelines have been written by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and are attached. These guidelines are summarised and published to the Prime Minister's website at http://www.pm.gov.au/PM_Connect/PMs_Blog/Blog_Conditions