

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010

Outcome 3 Program 3.1

Topic: Ministerial Staff Turnover

Question reference number: F18a) - e)

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 136, 19 October 2010

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

Number of Pages: 3

Senator Cormann asked:

a) Senator CORMANN—I note the recent article by Simon Benson, ‘Labor’s staffers leaving in droves’, 7 October 2010, where he talks about the high rate of departure of ministerial staff. He describes the exodus as unprecedented. Can you tell us how many government ministerial staff separations there have been since 23 June 2010?

Ms Mason—I do not think we can give it to you since that date. We may be able to give you some other figures.

Senator CORMANN—Why can’t you give it to us since that date?

Ms Mason—Because we do not have it with us. We would need to take that on notice if you wish us to do it.

.....

b) Senator CORMANN—So you can tell me between 1 June 2010 and 1 October 2010 how many separations there have been?

Ms Mason—We would be able to do that on notice.

.....

c) Senator CORMANN—Can you provide the number of vacancies in personal staff positions in ministerial offices as of today’s date?

Senator Wong—We could take that on notice.

.....

d) Senator CORMANN—But you will be able to provide us on notice with how many vacancies there are today?

Ms Mason—Of positions not yet filled?

Senator CORMANN—Positions not yet filled.

Ms Mason—May I just check before I undertake to take that on notice? As I said earlier, normally the work that we do on staffing allocations is done as at the first of each month, so if you would like to choose a date—1 October?

Senator CORMANN—For 1 October.

Ms Mason—1 October we could do, yes.

e) Senator CORMANN—Thank you. In terms of the question you have taken on notice, if you can tell us the number of government ministerial staff separations since 23 June 2010 and from whose offices they have come, that would be great.

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010

Answer:

a) - d) The total number of positions in the offices of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries that were not filled as at 1 October 2010 is 136 (out of the 403 allocated positions).

e) The total number of ongoing Ministerial staff who ceased employment in the period 23 June 2010 to 19 October 2010 is 146. The breakdown by office is provided in the table below:

Office	Total staff separations 23 Jun 10 to 19 Oct 10
Albanese, Anthony	4
Bowen, Chris	1
Burke, Tony	2
Byrne, Anthony	1
Carr, Kim	6
Combet, Greg	1
Conroy, Stephen	3
Crean, Simon	8
Elliot, Justine	3
Ellis, Kate	1
Emerson, Craig	3
Evans, Christopher	3
Faulkner, John	6
Ferguson, Laurie	1
Ferguson, Martin	1
Garrett, Peter	4
Gillard, Julia	18
Gray, Gary	1
Griffin, Alan	7
Ludwig, Joseph	3
Macklin, Jenny	4
McClelland, Robert	2
McKew, Maxine	2
McMullan, Robert	2
Plibersek, Tanya	3
Roxon, Nicola	7

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010

Office	Total staff separations 23 Jun 10 to 19 Oct 10
Rudd, Kevin	19
Sherry, Nick	3
Shorten, Bill	2
Smith, Stephen	4
Snowdon, Warren	4
Stephens, Ursula	1
Swan, Wayne	2
Tanner, Lindsay	6
Wong, Penny	7
Caucus Committees Support and Training Unit	1
Total	146

Separations include: Terminations and resignations