

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 General Program General

Topic: Staffing trends since the 2007 Elections

Question reference number: F43

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 2

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) What has been the general staffing trend in your department and portfolio agencies since the 2007 election (for example SES numbers and recruitment has increased by X per cent because of Y)?
- b) What have been the changes in staffing levels since Budget Estimates 2010? Why have these changes occurred? What have been the Budgetary implications? In the case of reductions in staff numbers, how have these reductions been absorbed by the Department? What functions these staff performed have been sacrificed and why?

Answer:

a)

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Following the 2007 election, the general staffing trend in the department has been an increase in staffing levels. This increase is attributed to machinery of government changes since the 2007 election; implementation of the Gershon recommendations including coordinated procurement; a reduction in the use of contractors; and new activities including the Commonwealth Property Review and the Travel Arrangements Taskforce.

Administrative arrangement orders (AAOs) issued since the 2007 election have increased Finance's responsibilities and functions. Major AAO changes have transferred the following functions to Finance:

- AUSPIC and the central advertising system from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C);
- the Office of Best Practice Regulation from the Productivity Commission;
- regulatory reform policy from the Department of the Treasury, and;
- the COAG Business Regulation and Competition Working Group secretariat from PM&C.

Note: a complete list of AAO changes since November 2007 can be found in response F63.

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Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)

Total AEC staffing numbers increased from 933 to 956 - an increase of 2.46 per cent.

ComSuper

ComSuper increased non-SES full-time equivalent staff by three. Non-SES staffing levels are generally stable with fluctuations due to seasonal work demands. Nominal SES staff members reduced from 9 to 7.

Future Fund Management Agency (FFMA)

FFMA staff increased from 23 to 76. This is consistent with the planned establishment of the agency and the implementation of the investment program.

b)

FINANCE AND DEREGULATION PORTFOLIO – CHANGES IN STAFFING LEVELS

Agency	Changes in staffing levels	Date range	Explanation
Department of Finance and Deregulation	Net increase of 19 ongoing employees.	* 30 Apr – 30 Sep 2010	As changes have generally occurred as part of project-related work and normal replacement of separating staff, budgetary implications have been minimal.
AEC	Decrease of 10 ongoing employees. Increase of 33 non-ongoing employees.	27 May – 30 Sep 2010	The increase in non-ongoing staff is due to activity associated with the running of the 2010 Federal Election. Associated costs have been charged to this event.
ComSuper	Decrease of 17 ongoing employees. Decrease of 0.9 non-ongoing employees.	27 May – 30 Sep 2010	The reduction is attributed to staff supporting project work which has been completed. As these costs were accounted for when funding the projects, there are no budgetary implications associated with these reductions.
FFMA	Increase of 6 ongoing employees.	27 May – 30 Sep 2010	This increase is consistent with the planned establishment of the agency and the operating budget.

*NOTE: The Department of Finance and Deregulation is able to provide end-of-month staffing figures only.