

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Arts Portfolio Agencies

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

Question: PM109

Topic: Staffing Levels

Asked By: Senator Abetz

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 4

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:

Australia Council

a) Recruitment since the 2007 election has decreased in the Australia Council by 22% because the organisation has built in efficiencies into its administration processes e.g. Grants online.

b) Since Budget Estimates, staffing levels have decreased by two positions at the Australia Council due to the end of these employment contracts. There are no

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Arts Portfolio Agencies

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

budgetary implications as the Australia Council expects to remain within its annual salaries budget.

National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA)

a) No increase in SES staffing. There has been a slight increase in non-SES staffing levels. When the NFSA became a Statutory Authority in July 2008 there were 202 staff. As at 30 June 2009 there were 211 staff, as at 30 June 2010 there were 225 staff and as at 19 October 2010 there were 229 staff. Overall an increase of 13% from July 2008. Staff have been recruited to meet operational needs.

b) Since 2010 Budget Estimates four additional staff were employed to cover normal staff turnover with no budgetary implications.

National Gallery of Australia (NGA)

a) There has been a general increase in staffing numbers. SES numbers have remained the same while non-SES numbers have increased by approximately 28 FTE or around 11.5%. This has been largely due to the need to engage casual and contract staff to assist with the delivery of the NGA's exhibition program.

b) SES staffing levels have remained the same with non-SES staffing levels increasing by approximately 12 FTE or around 4.6% due both to the need to assist with the delivery of the exhibition program and also for increased security staffing required in the new South Entrance and Indigenous galleries.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Arts Portfolio Agencies

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

National Library of Australia

- a) Staffing levels have remained virtually unchanged since the 2007 election and include a reduction of one SES position.
- b) Staffing levels have been reduced by 6 to 494 since Budget estimates 2010. The reductions are mostly as a result of the cessation of one-off projects.

National Museum of Australia

- a) Staffing levels for the National Museum of Australia have remained fairly static over recent years with no discernible increasing or decreasing trend illustrated by the following information.

As at 31 December 2007 (the nearest date to the 24 November 2007 election for which data is available) the National Museum of Australia employed 294 people which equated to approximately 259 full-time equivalent staff.

As at the end of June 2010 (the nearest date to 25 May 2010 for which data is available) the National Museum of Australia employed 297 people which equated to approximately 257 full-time equivalent staff.

- b) The change since 25 May 2010 in staffing levels for the National Museum of Australia has not been significant. At the end of October 2010 the Museum employed 298 people which equated to just over 260 full-time equivalent staff. This small increase is reflective of fluctuating activity levels throughout the year and the Museum expects this number to decrease again in coming months due to the cessation of a number of temporary employee contracts and associated work. The budgetary implications are not significant and the costs associated with all current employee contracts were factored into the Museum's 2010-11 budget during normal business planning processes.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Arts Portfolio Agencies

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

Screen Australia

- a) Since the inception of Screen Australia on 1 July 2008 staff numbers have declined by 33 per cent due to the merger of three predecessor agencies and subsequent restructuring.
- b) There have been no significant changes since Budget Estimates 2010.