

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 18-21 October 2010

Question: PM5

Asked By: Senator Abetz

Topic: SES numbers at PM&C

Type of Question: FPA 46, 18 October

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

Number of pages: 2

Senator ABETZ-How many of the SES these days are in PM&C compared to, let's say, three years ago?

Mr Lewis-I cannot comment on three years ago, Senator-

Senator ABETZ-Two years ago?

...

Senator ABETZ-over the Rudd-Gillard government, we do not seem to have the figures.

Can you take that on notice for me, please-

Mr Lewis-Certainly.

Senator ABETZ-so we can get the exact figures on that? Can you also advise whether a new level of SES called Executive Coordinators has been established?

Mr Lewis-Senator, it is not a level. It is just the name of an appointment.

Senator ABETZ-All right.

Answer:

As at 30 June 2007 PM&C had 35 substantive SES undertaking core functions; as at 30 June 2010 PM&C had 61 substantive SES undertaking core functions.

Changes to SES staffing levels during this period have been in line with additional functions established in the Department arising from Government decisions and requirements including:

- an enhanced role in the coordination of national security;
- new policy functions such as social inclusion, privacy policy, freedom of information and community cabinet;
- strategic policy advice and delivery capability;
- other coordination and administration roles; and

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- other changes as a net result of movements due to machinery of government and minor changes to structure.