

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-2011
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Output Group: 1.1

Topic: Staffing Levels

Senator: Abetz

Question reference number: PM 111

- a) How many permanent staff recruited since Budget Estimates 2010? What level are these staff? Where is their location?
- b) Since Budget Estimates 2010, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?
- c) Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the current efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts since Budget Estimates 2010? If so, where and at what level?
- d) Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
- e) If your Department/agency has been identified in the 2010 election as delivering efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, savings commitments included reducing program funding, rationalising grants etc how will these impact the department and staffing)

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: Two

Answer:

- a) Twenty six permanent staff were recruited in the period 30 April 2010 until 30 October 2010. The following ongoing employees were recruited to the Commission:
 - APS3 x 1 in Brisbane
 - APS5 x 3 in Brisbane
 - APS6 x 2 in Canberra
 - APS6 x 2 in Sydney
 - EL1 x 7 in Canberra
 - EL1 x 3 in Sydney
 - EL2 x 6 in Canberra
 - EL2 x 1 in Sydney
 - EL2 x 1 in Melbourne

- b) From 30 April 2010 until 30 October 2010 the Commission engaged 38 employees on non-ongoing contracts. The length of these contracts ranged from 6 weeks to 3 years. The average length is 7.5 months, with the most frequent length being 6 months.
- c) No. The Commission is managing its staffing consistent with its available budget.
- d) Future staffing levels will depend on the Commission's future business model.
- e) The APS Reform Budget measure was reduced by \$29.5 million over three years as a result of 2010 election commitments. The Commission's capacity to implement recommendations of the Blueprint for which it has responsibility has been affected by this decision. Thought is being given to priorities, timeframes and approaches in light of these constraints.