

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance and Deregulation

**Outcome/Program:** 3 / 3.1

**Topic:** Ministerial staff

**Senator:** Ryan

**Question reference number:** F43

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 2 December 2011

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Recent reports in *The Financial Review* have indicated that two staffers to Wayne Swan Treasurer received large termination payouts and have subsequently returned to other Government roles, including one staffer returning to work for the Treasurer after 6 months. Without providing names of individuals involved, can you provide details of payments made to Ministerial staffers who have taken severance payments and then returned to work for the same Minister? Please include the amounts paid in each instance and the period of time before subsequent employment, as well as any clawback arrangements put in place?

**Answer:**

The number of Ministerial personal staff terminated under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* due to the swearing in of the new Ministry on 14 September 2010 and subsequently re-employed by the same Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, either as personal or electorate staff, is two. Details are as follows:

Office	Staff member's termination date	Severance Benefit paid	Break in service (weeks)	Severance Benefit repaid
The Hon Wayne Swan MP	28-Sep-2010	\$41,642.28	25.7	Not required - break greater than period for which severance benefit paid.
The Hon Jenny Macklin MP	28-Sep-2010	\$33,978.89	10.7	Not required - break greater than period for which

				severance benefit paid.
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This advice is based on records held by the Department as at 1 October 2011.

Payments made to the two staff members were in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Enterprise Agreement 2010-2012*.