

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Priorities and Coordination Division

Question No. 175

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2009:

For each Minister/Parliamentary Secretary in the portfolio:

- a) how many personal staff are employed, how many vacancies exists and what levels are these positions?
- b) How many laptops, mobile phones and PDAs does the Department provide to the personal staff of the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?
- c) How many Departmental Liaison Officers are currently allocated to each Minister/Parliamentary Secretary?
- d) Do any DLOs provide policy advice?
- e) Are any Departmental officers are on secondment to the office of the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary? If so, how many and to whom?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

As at 27 May 2009:

- a) Nine personal staff were employed in the Office of the Attorney-General, with no vacancies. The staffing levels comprised one Chief of Staff, one Media Adviser, three Advisers, two Assistant Advisers, one Office Manager, and one Administrative Assistant.

Six personal staff were employed in the Office of the former Minister for Home Affairs, with no vacancies. The staffing levels comprised one Chief of Staff, one Media Adviser, one Senior Adviser, one Adviser, one Office Manager and one Administrative Assistant.
- b) The Attorney-General's Department makes available one laptop, one BlackBerry device, and one mobile phone to each personal staff member in the Offices of the Attorney-General and Minister for Home Affairs.
- c) The Attorney-General had two Attorney-General's Department Liaison Officers allocated. The Minister for Home Affairs had one Attorney-General's Department Liaison Officer, one Australian Customs and Border Protection Service Liaison Officer, and one Law Enforcement Liaison Officer from the Australian Federal Police.
- d) The Departmental Liaison Officers, in the same manner as other departmental officers, may provide policy advice in relation to portfolio matters. However, their principal role is liaison between the Ministerial office and their Department. The Australian Federal Police Law Enforcement Liaison Officer provides operational advice in relation to law enforcement matters.
- e) There were no Departmental officers on secondment to either Portfolio Minister.