

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(2) Program 1.1: Office of the MARA

Senator Cash (L&CA 10–11) asked:

(1) Provide a breakdown of the number of professional standards officers employed by the Office of the MARA on a monthly basis since 1 July 2009.

(2) Provide the Committee with statistics showing how many professional standards officers have been employed since the commencement of your office and how many are employed to date, basically showing what has actually occurred with those staff over the time?

Answer:

(1) As at 25 October 2010, there were nine professional standards officers employed with one vacancy. The monthly breakdown since 1 July 2009 is as follows:

Month	No of Staff (full time equivalent)
Jul-09	6.3
Aug-09	5.3
Sep-09	5.3
Oct-09	6.3
Nov-09	6.7
Dec-09	7.2
Jan-10	7.2
Feb-10	8.2
Mar-10	10.4
Apr-10	10.4
May-10	9.6
Jun-10	9
Jul-10	8.5
Aug-10	8.5
Sep – 10	9
Oct – 10	9

(2) In total, 18 officers have worked in the section since commencement of the Office of the MARA.

Seven professional standards staff were appointed on a non-ongoing basis from 1 July 2009.

- One of these resigned after one month to take up another offer.

All positions were advertised for permanent filling from October 2009.

- Of the original six, three continued until end December 2009 but were unsuccessful in merit rounds for a permanent position.
- The remaining three were successful in obtaining permanent positions. One did not take up the offer of employment and left at the end of January 2010. One left at the end of May 2010 to take up another offer. One has continued with the office.

As a result of the recruitment round, eight officers were appointed to the Professional Standards and Integrity section. It was decided to increase the staffing in the section to undertake integrity and monitoring.

- One commenced in October 2009 but subsequently transferred in January 2010 to another area due to a demand for particular skills not held by other officers.
- Three commenced in December 2009 and all remain.
- One commenced in January 2010 and remains.
- Three commenced in February 2010 and one of these remains. One transferred out at the end of April 2010 for personal reasons. One transferred out in July 2010 to take up an overseas assignment.

Since the recruitment round three officers have transferred to the Professional Standards and Integrity Section:

- One commenced assisting on a part time basis in November 2009 and transferred full time in June 2010 and remains
- One transferred in March 2010 and remains
- One transferred in August 2010 and remains

A newly-recruited officer will commence on 23 November 2010. Once this officer commences, there will be ten officers in the Professional Standards and Integrity section.