

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2016-17

Finance Portfolio
28 February 2017

Department/Agency: Finance
Outcome/Program: 3/3.1
Topic: Senator Bernardi's Staff allocation

Senator: Dastyari
Question reference number: F57
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Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator Ryan: My office has advised me that late today—I have not got to this part of my in-tray yet—I received a letter from the Prime Minister providing Senator Bernardi with the same staff as other Senate crossbenchers.

Senator DASTYARI: So that is two or three staff?

Senator Ryan: One adviser, two assistant advisers.

Senator DASTYARI: Okay. Well, that answers that question.

Senator Ryan: I have a whole list of examples that I can read out.

Senator DASTYARI: No. We understand. Minister Ryan, if you could take this on notice—if you don't mind, Chair—

CHAIR: Please.

Senator DASTYARI: as this follows on from the statement. With the information you have provided us—and I accept this—it appears the precedent has been and continues to be that all crossbenchers are treated the same, regardless of how they came to be a crossbencher. Can you take that on notice to confirm that, but that seems to be the case.

Senator Ryan: What I am happy to try and do is provide examples of where it has happened. I honestly cannot confirm a negative. I cannot prove that it has never happened but I can provide you with a whole bunch of examples where it has happened this way. They do reflect both major parties and minor parties—Meg Lees, Shayne Murphy, Peter Slipper. I think there might be one example where it did not happen, but I will get you a comprehensive list. When I checked it, I do recall there being quite a lot.

Answer:

NAME	Senator/ Member	Independent from date	Previous party	Staff allocation	Allocation for other Independents
Bernardi, Cory	Senator	8/02/2017	LIB	1 x Adviser 2 x Assistant Advisers	1 x Adviser 2 x Assistant Advisers
Johnson, Michael Andrew	Member	21/05/2010	LIB	1 x Assistant Adviser	1 x Assistant Adviser
Lambie, Jacqui	Senator	20/11/2014	PUP	1 x Assistant Adviser 1 x Executive Assistant	1 x Assistant Adviser 1 x Executive Assistant
Lazarus, Glenn	Senator	14/03/2015	PUP	1 x Assistant Adviser 1 x Executive Assistant	1 x Assistant Adviser 1 x Executive Assistant
Lees, Meg	Senator	27/07/2002	DEM	1 x Assistant Adviser	1 x Assistant Adviser
Murphy, Shayne Michael	Senator	2/10/2001	ALP	1 x Assistant Adviser	1 x Assistant Adviser
O'Connor, Gavan Michael	Member	19/10/2007	ALP	NIL positions allocated	1 x Assistant Adviser
Quick, Harry Vernon	Member	21/08/2007	ALP	NIL positons allocated	1 x Assistant Adviser
Slipper, Peter Neil	Member	24/11/2011	LIB	1 x Senior Adviser 2 x Advisers 1 x Assistant Adviser 1 x Executive Assistant	Not applicable – Speaker's allocation
Thomson, Craig	Member	30/04/2012	ALP	NIL positions allocated	2 x Assistant Advisers 1 x Executive Assistant