

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-479

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: STAFFING NUMBERS

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Senator SIEWERT asked:

Update on staffing numbers and the total cost now and the number of staff dedicated to processing FOI's.

Answer:

The Department has three full time and one part time staff member working exclusively on FOI. One Principal Legal Officer, one full time EL1, one part time EL1 and one APS 4

FOI requests are processed in the relevant programme area and staff in those areas process FOI requests in conjunction with their other functions. Depending on the complexity of the request, the programme area may assign a staff member to work solely on processing FOI application. Programme areas may also choose to engage the services of external legal consultants depending on the complexity of the FOI request.

For the period February- May 2011 the programme areas have indicated that 1813 hours have been spent processing FOI requests. This is made up as follows:

SES -105hrs;

EL officers -834hrs;

APS 6 -624hrs; and

APS 4- 250.