

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING**

Outcome *Cross Portfolio*

DEEWR Question No. EW779_09

Senator Humphries provided in writing.

Question

For each Minister/Parliamentary Secretary in the portfolio:

- a. How many staff are based in the electorate office?
- b. MOPS classification of each staff member based in electorate office?
- c. Duty statement of each staff member in electorate office?
- d. In relation to personal staff based in the electorate office, please list supporting Department for each.

Answer

- (a)(b) As a Senator or Member, a Minister is provided with four full-time electorate staff positions to help them carry out their Parliamentary and electorate responsibilities. A Senator or Member may structure his or her electorate office in a variety of ways and more than one employee may be employed in a position, provided that the total standard hours worked per week by the employees sharing a position does not exceed 37 hours and 30 minutes.

The Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance and Deregulation has advised that the number and classification of MOP(S) Act employees based in the electorate offices is as follows:

The Hon Julia Gillard MP – MOP(S) Act employees in Electorate Office

Number of Employees	Classifications
6	<i>Assistant Adviser x 1 (Part-time employee)</i>
	Electorate Officer B x 4 (3 of the 4 employees are part-time and share two positions)
	Electorate Officer A x 1

The Hon Brendan O'Connor MP – MOP(S) Act employees in Electorate Office

Number of Employees	Classifications
6	Electorate Officer C x 1
	Electorate Officer B x 1
	Electorate Officer A x 4 (3 of the 4 employees are part-time and share one position)

The Hon Kate Ellis MP – MOP(S) Act employees in Electorate Office

Number of Employees	Classifications
4	Electorate Officer B x 3
	Electorate Officer A x 1

Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens – MOP(S) Act employees in Electorate Office

Number of Employees	Classifications
2	Electorate Officer B x 1
	Electorate Officer A x 1 (Part-time employee)

- (c) The Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance and Deregulation has advised that the issue of duty statements is a matter for each employing Senator or Member of Parliament. There are no duty statements for MOP(S) Act employees issued by the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services.
- (d) The Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division of the Department of Finance and Deregulation is responsible for the payment of salaries, related expenses, travel costs and travelling allowances, on the same basis that applies to all MOP(S) Act employees.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations provides a degree of support to personal staff, including those personal staff based in electorate offices, to help them carry out their responsibilities to the portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. This support is related mainly to the provision of ICT and telephony equipment and service. The department does not provide this support to electorate staff.