

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Australian Electoral Commission

Budget Estimates Hearings 2003-04 – 28 & 29 May 2003

Question: F62

Outcome 4, Output Corporate Inputs

Topic: Senior Executive Remuneration and Associated Entitlements

Hansard page: N/A

Written Question on Notice: 29 May 2003

Senator Carr asked:

the following questions on notice in relation to all Ministers, departments and each statutory authority staffed under the Public Service Act/Parliamentary Service Act within the Minister's portfolio covered by your committee.

- (1) What were the numbers of Senior Executive Service staff at each SES Band level at 30 June 1996 and at 30 June for each subsequent year including the number and level of SES staff as at 31 March 2003?
- (2) What were the minimum and maximum salary levels for each SES Band, whether determined by Australian Workplace Agreements or otherwise, as at 30 June 1996 and at 30 June in each subsequent year, including those at 31 March 2003?
- (3) What were the numbers of staff with salaries overlapping SES salaries as at 30 June 1996 and at 30 June in each subsequent year, including as at 31 March 2003 and what were the minimum and maximum levels of these salaries?
- (4) How many people are currently employed other than under the Public Service Act, including under contract arrangements, at salary levels equivalent to the SES and what are the minimum and maximum levels of the salaries paid?

Answer

1. The Australian Electoral Commission does not have SES staff as defined under the *Public Service Act 1999*, it does however employ senior executives appointed under section 35(1)(b) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, PEOs and the Electoral Commissioner.

The Australian Electoral Commission had the following numbers of senior executive staff at 30 June for the years 1996 to 31 March 2003:

30 June 1996	13
30 June 1997	15
30 June 1998	13
30 June 1999	15
30 June 2000	14
30 June 2001	13
30 June 2002	17
31 March 2003	17

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2. There are no SES Bands in the AEC. For minimum and maximum salary levels applicable to senior executives employed under 35(1) (b) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, refer to the information provided in question 3.

3. The number of senior executives employed under section 35(1) (b) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* and the minimum and maximum salary levels are as follows:

Date	No. Staff	Minimum \$	Maximum\$
30 June 1996	4	66,890	80,510
30 June 1997	6	68,228	82,120
*30 June 1998	4	68,228	95,000
30 June 1999	6	74,027	109,820
30 June 2000	5	76,396	113,334
30 June 2001	4	76,396	113,421
30 June 2002	8	83,421	114,000
31 March 2003	8	83,421	120,179

*Prior to 30 June 1998 there were no FAC's in the AEC structure.

4. In addition to the PEOs and the Electoral Commissioner whose conditions are determined by the Remuneration Tribunal, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) currently employs eight (8) senior executive under section 35(1) (b) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* at salary levels broadly equivalent to the APS SES bands. These staff members negotiate their salary and conditions through an AWA. When determining their salary the Electoral Commissioner takes into consideration the value of the contribution of the staff member to the Commission, affordability and the relativity with the employment market, eg the APS SES bands.

For those senior executives employed under section 35(1) (b) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* the minimum salary level is \$83,421 and the maximum salary level is \$120,179.