

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 19 October 2009

Question: PM56

Topic: What proportion of the eligible bonus was rolled into salaries

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009

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Senator RYAN-What proportion of the eligible bonus was rolled into salaries?

Ms Beauchamp-I think it was around 70 per cent of what was available.

Senator RYAN-So 70 per cent of the maximum bonus was rolled into the base salary?

Ms Beauchamp-That is my understanding.

Senator RYAN-I am happy for you to take that on notice, but I would also appreciate an explanation, whether it be part-year effects-and I know I am not necessarily looking at the same people, but there is a doubling of the number of people who are paid more than \$295,000 according to your table. Could you take that on notice?

Dr Grimes-We could certainly take that on notice

Answer:

The Department rolled into base salary 70 per cent of the maximum potential bonus for SES officers with effect from 1 July 2008.

The increase in SES above the \$295,000 reflects the costs to the Department of SES officers and does not reflect what they were paid. The increase is due to a combination of reasons including roll in of performance pay into SES salaries, annual review of SES remuneration and employee on costs such as leave liabilities and superannuation. Eligible officers received pro rata performance bonus applying to the period they were eligible from 1 October 2007 to 30 June 2008.