

OFFICIAL

Defence Portfolio

INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No. 8)

Senator Matt O'Sullivan asked the Department of Defence the following question, upon notice, on 7 November 2025:

Senator O'SULLIVAN: How many staff work on the ANAO compliance within Defence in preparing this report?

Mr Deeble: I can answer that question in a very broad context. Every project that is part of this review will have project teams supporting that. Often there's in the order of about three people per project who would be actively gathering and working the PDSS project data—

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Would that be across all 21?

Mr Deeble: All 21. Those projects would be providing that data. They would be updating source data and correlating that data to meet the requirements of the ANAO and to provide the traceability for that data. I have a team of about seven that supports more broadly the ANAO in the correlation of all of this data and the coordination with those particular groups. We've routinely said it costs us, a combination of the ANAO and our teams, about \$10 million on an annual basis to collate the data that's in here. It is quite labour intensive. Our systems that support the data are not as coherent as we would like and they're not necessarily time correlated, so making sure that you have contemporary data at the point of publishing is a critical step, and that's a critical quality check that we have to do to meet the ANAO.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Do you have the total headcount with you now? I'm also happy for you to take it on notice if need be. You said three per project. Is it exactly three per? Can you come back to me with the total headcount and the total man hours working over the course of a year. How many staff are working on the Major projects report, specifically, given its annual nature?

Defence provides the following answer:

Defence estimates that effort on the Major Projects Report totals approximately 12 full-time equivalent staff, which equates to approximately 20,700 staff hours over a year.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Defence Portfolio

INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No. 9)

Mr Josh Burns asked the Department of Defence the following question, upon notice, on 7 November 2025:

CHAIR: For the purpose of the committee, we will wrap up in one second. It might be worth if Defence can put on record around the timing and the thresholds around the AIC plans that need to be met, and any comments on how often those are being that would be useful for the committee in our deliberations. We will have to wrap up there. There is a lot more ground we could have covered but I appreciate all the officials coming and answering all the questions to the committee, and everyone who joined us in the galleries who stepped up to the plate. I appreciate your time and honesty around the answers, and the Auditor-General and team from the ANAO for your thorough work in all of this. It is very much appreciated.

Defence provides the following answer:

Australian Industry Capability (AIC) Plans are required for materiel and non-materiel procurements valued at \$20 million or more. The requirement for an AIC Plan to be delivered as part of a contract is detailed in the released tender documentation. The contractor has six months from contract signature to have the AIC Plan approved, and this process is undertaken in conjunction with Defence.

Once the AIC Plan has been approved, the contractor then has to report, either quarterly or biannually (in accordance with the contractual provisions), on how it is implementing the commitments made in its AIC Plan. The AIC Plan is in place for the duration of the contract and is required to be updated annually, or more frequently on an as needed basis, to ensure the plan stays relevant over the life of the contract.

OFFICIAL