



Senator Tim Ayres
Chair
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Ayres

Inquiry into the current capability of the Australian Public Service

I am writing to respond to your request for information about staffing levels at the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) dated 31 August 2021.

DPS uses a range of employment arrangements to configure and optimise an agile and productive workforce to support parliament and maintain Australian Parliament House. Our workforce comprises ongoing and non-ongoing staff, including sessional part-time employees employed under the *Parliamentary Services Act 1999*, temporary staff and external labour hire.

Temporary staff are engaged to immediately fill critical positions that impact directly on business operations and to acquire specialist skillsets on a short-term basis to undertake a particular package of work or undertake a specified project.

These arrangements are also critical to manage workload surge for our food and beverage services during sitting weeks and special events.

The answers to the Committee's specific questions are:

1) (a)-(d) Staffing profile for Department of Parliamentary Services as of 1 July 2021

	Headcount	ASL -	
	-	30	
Parliamentary Service	1 July 2021	June 2021**	FTE
Ongoing	920	844.0	
Non-ongoing	149		
Labour hire/contractors	94		*N/A

*N/A - Labour hire/contractors do not count towards FTE data

**The DPS HR reporting process does not track ASL for ongoing and non-ongoing staff separately. The DPS HR reporting period for ASL takes place at the end of each reporting period. The date of 30 June 2021 is the closest period aligned to the question.

2)

Labour hire/contractors**	94	8%
Total Agency Headcount	1163	

3)

Value of labour hire/contractors**	\$9,702,118
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The total value of labour hire contracts entered into between 1 January and 30 June 2021 was \$9,702,118

** The department does not track labour hire and contractors separately.

The majority of labour hire contracts entered into during this period relate to managing workload surge in APH Catering and Events during sitting weeks and special events, and to acquire skills of Information Technology specialists on a short-term basis to undertake specific packages of work.

I trust this information will assist the Committee with its inquiry.

Rob Stefanic
Secretary

15 September 2021