

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Program: 1.4 Justice Services

Question No. SBE16/061

Senator Wong asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2016:

Senator WONG: And the department's advice is that no selection committee was established in relation to any of the 76 positions. So, my next question—not about advertising—is whether or not, in relation to any appointment to the AAT by this Attorney-General, there has been a selection committee process established.

...

Senator WONG: I would stake him in terms of his ability. There were 76 appointments the day before the election.

Senator Scullion: I can assist with part of the answer to that question. Many of the 76 appointments announced in May were in fact reappointments—

Senator WONG: Thirty-seven were not, 39 were—we have already established that.

Senator Scullion: A number of them had already been through the advertising and selection processes—the same sort of processes that have been included under previous governments.

Senator WONG: Of the 37 new appointments, given you have just given that answer, how many went through an advertising process? There were 39 reappointments and there were 37 new appointments. Of the new appointments, the evidence is that none of them went through a selection committee process. If the evidence is changing I would like to understand how.

Senator Scullion: I will have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: Thank you.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Appointments to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) are made in accordance with the protocol agreed between the Attorney-General and the President of the AAT, a copy of which is attached (Attachment 1).