

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2016-17**

Finance Portfolio  
28 February 2017

**Department/Agency:** Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 3/3.1

**Topic:** Allocation of staff to crossbench members and senators

**Senator:** Dastyari

**Question reference number:** F129

**Type of question:** Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 110, 28 February 2017

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Thursday, 13 April 2017

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator DASTYARI:** ...As I understand it, at the start of this parliament—again I do not think that this was in improper; I think it was actually quite appropriate—because of the nature of the crossbench and the sheer size of it and, perhaps it is fair to say, lessons learnt from the previous parliament regarding the enormity of legislation that the crossbenchers need to be across, a decision was made that three extra staff would be applied. My understanding of the last parliament—and Ms Huxtable may correct me on this—was that two additional staff were provided. Is that correct?

**Ms McGregor:** We can take that on notice.

**Senator DASTYARI:** You can take that on notice

**Answer:**

As at 9 May 2016 (the last day of the 44<sup>th</sup> Parliament):

- Independent Senators had a personal staffing allocation of three.
- Independent Members had a personal staffing allocation of one.