

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 10

Topic: Employment of Ministerial staff

Hansard Page: 03/06/2013 - CA 10

Senator Cash asked:

How many former ministerial staff - staff from either the former Rudd government or the current Gillard government - have been employed by the department from the 2007 election to the present day in EL or SES band position? When they were employed, the length of their employment and what positions they are in?

Answer:

FaHCSIA makes employment decisions in accordance with APS Values and the merit principle. Staff selections are open and competitive and conducted without discrimination, patronage or favouritism. While not common, it is not unusual for former ministerial staff to be employed by the Department, if they are found to be the best person for the job. This is not a new practice.

As at 30 June 2013, there were four SES Band 2, or above, officers employed by the Department known to have previously worked as ministerial staff for the former Howard, Gillard, or Rudd governments.

It would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to check all selection processes to confirm whether EL or SES Band staff had, at one point in their career, worked as ministerial staff.