

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000419

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** National Mental Health Commission Staffing

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 70, 1 June 2015

**Senator:** Wright, Penny

**Questions:**

Senator WRIGHT: In relation to staffing and funding, can you provide an outline of staffing changes at the National Mental Health Commission since February of this year?

Mr Butt: I would have to take that on notice. We are down a few staff at the moment. One was seconded to another Commonwealth agency. Another was seconded to the New South Wales Mental Health Commission. They are both short term secondments. We have been going through a restructuring, given that the focus of the commission last year was so much about the review which was a very different focus from what we had been doing previously. We have been going through a restructure. We have been going through recruitment processes and I am beginning interview processes this week to get our staffing numbers up. It is a headcount now of nine and we usually have 13 FTEs.

Senator WRIGHT: So, nine FTEs and it is usually about 13?

Mr Butt: It is a headcount of nine. Some of them are four days a week rather than five days a week so I would have to go back and get the exact detail.

Senator WRIGHT: If you could.

**Answers:**

Since February 2015, there have been the following changes to Commission staffing:

- One staff member was seconded to another government agency for a period of up to 12 months.
- An APS officer has been seconded from their agency to the Commission into a vacant position for a period of up to 12 months.
- A permanent staff member of another Commonwealth agency on a temporary transfer to the National Mental Health Commission returned to their agency and was replaced by a contractor, who was subsequently replaced by another contractor, pending permanent recruitment.
- One non-ongoing staff member completed their non-ongoing arrangement. A contractor has commenced in this position.
- One part-time contractor finished on 27 May 2015.

The Commission is budgeted for an Average Staffing Level (ASL) of 13. The new structure comprises one additional position.

