

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000800

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Labour Hire

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

- a) Does the Department use any labour hire companies to source Departmental staff?
- b) Does the Department use Labour Hire Agreements?
- c) How many staff are employed under/via these arrangements? Please break down by work type.
- d) How many staff are employed by the Department as contractors?
- e) Do staff under these labour hire arrangements receive as much training and security clearance as permanent staff?
- f) Do staff under these arrangements receive the same pay and conditions as permanent staff?
- g) Do these temporary staff have access to the same systems and databases?

**Answer:**

- a) Yes. The Department utilises labour hire (Recruitment) companies to source staff. Non-ongoing staff and contractors are sourced through companies via several panels including the Austrade Recruitment Services Panel, the Department of Human Services Contractor Panel, and the Commonwealth Contracting Suite.
- b) Yes.

- c) The number of staff employed and nature of work undertaken is shown in the table below.

Nature of work undertaken	No. of current contractors
Specialised IT support and IT project work	177
Specialised assessment and evaluation roles	111
Project management and business design expertise	99
General administrative or technical support	119
TOTAL as at 31 May 2017	506

- d) The number of staff employed by the Department as contractors is 506.
- e) Labour hire staff do not generally receive the same access to training that ongoing employees do, but line areas may provide training if appropriate.

Security clearances are assessed on the basis of role, regardless of the employment mechanism.

- f) Contractors are not employed under the Health Enterprise Agreement and do not have the same pay and conditions as APS staff.
- g) Access to health systems and databases is based on the requirements of the role. Contractors will be granted access to relevant systems and databases based on approval by a relevant delegate.