

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 251

Topic: Social Security Appeals Tribunal (SSAT)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

How many Tribunal members have left over the last three financial years, as a total and as a percentage of total tribunal members during this time, broken down by year?

Answer:

As a result of both the large fall in the number of applications for review in 2009-10 and 2010-11 and of the SSAT being constituted by a single member for most reviews from 1 January 2011, the SSAT has required fewer members.

Members are appointed for a term. Their appointments expire either on 31 December or 30 June. Not all members whose terms of appointments have ended in the last three financial years were reappointed. Also, the SSAT has not needed replacements for members who have resigned (most commonly on appointment to other tribunals or positions) during the last three financial years.

Statistics on membership numbers are included in the SSAT's Annual Reports. The SSAT had the following membership over the past three financial years:

- At 1 July 2009: 227 members. At 30 June 2010: 211 members. (Reduction of 7%)
- At 1 July 2010: 209 members. At 30 June 2011: 201 members. (Reduction of 4%)
- At 1 July 2011: 187 members. At 30 June 2012: 160 members. (Reduction of 14%)