

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Contracts for Temporary Staff

Question reference number: HS 103

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Since Budget Estimates in June 2014:

- a) How much did the department/agency spend on temporary or contract staff?
- b) How many temporary or contract staff have been employed?
- c) What is the total number of temporary or contract staff currently employed?
- d) How much was paid for agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff?
- e) Have there been any changes to the policies/criteria that govern the appointment of contract staff?

Answer:

- a) Between 1 June 2014 and 31 October 2014, the department spent \$22,064,598.84 on contractor engagements through specialist contracting companies. This includes a substantial value of payments applicable to periods prior to 1 June 2014 that had not been invoiced, processed and paid by 1 June 2014.
- b) Between 1 June 2014 and 31 October 2014, the department engaged 20 new contractors through six specialist contracting companies.
- c) As at 31 October 2014, the department had 249 contractors engaged through specialist contracting companies.
- d) The department is not charged fees for the sourcing of contract/temporary staff. The specialist contracting or services companies that provide the contractors are paid fixed hourly rates for the provision of contract/temporary staff. These rates are inclusive of all administration costs for those companies, including contractor sourcing and placement expenses.
- e) The department has not introduced any changes to policy or criteria regarding the appointment of contract staff. Contractor resources are engaged through specialist providers, under panel arrangements established through Open Tender procurements. These engagements are for fixed timeframes which are aligned to the finite scope of work and set period for delivery.