

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**
Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 12
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Program: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: Reliance on labour hire
Hansard Page: 70
Question Date: 23 May 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: Are you aware of the reliance on labour hire arrangements? Is there a reliance on the use of labour hire?

Ms Goodwin: It depends on how you define the word 'reliance' We would use them intermittently, as I said, depending on the peaks and troughs of work.

Senator URQUHART: I guess it depends on whether you need to use labour hire as opposed to, maybe, a non-ongoing or casual employee because of the skill level or something like that?

Ms Goodwin: It may be that situation.

Senator URQUHART: Could you look at that and maybe provide some further information on notice?

Ms Goodwin: Yes, I will.

Answer:

1. The *Public Service Act 1999* (10A(1)(b)) recognises the usual basis for engagement is as an ongoing employee.
2. The use of labour hire in the Department is approximately 2 per cent of the workforce. The Department does not generally rely on labour hire arrangements, instead, uses such arrangements on an ad-hoc basis to undertake specialised tasks or to provide additional assistance at times of peak workload.