

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 10

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 60, 20/10/2015

Topic: BCR Staff Turnover

Senator McAllister, Jenny asked:

Senator McALLISTER: So you will retain the same staffing levels. How are you going with turnover? Is it the same staff that were there a year ago?

Dr Paterson: No. There have been what can only be described as significant staff turnover, not surprisingly, given the circumstances. The bureau was established by essentially assigning 20 staff to the bureau. I was brought in from the private sector to head the bureau. A number of those staff, it turned out, were not suitable for a research environment.

Senator McALLISTER: How many have gone from the original 20?

Dr Paterson: I would have to take that on notice. In round terms, about half of that staff have moved on in that period.

Answer:

At the time of the establishment of the Bureau of Communications Research (BCR) at 1 September 2014, there were 21 full time employees. This includes one staff member that was on maternity leave at the time the BCR was established.

As of 31 October 2015, 13 of these full time employees had departed the BCR.