

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 240
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 3
Program: Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)
Topic: Seasonal Employee Numbers
Hansard Page: 53
Question Date: 24 October 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Duniam, John asked:

Senator DUNIAM: A little earlier on I did ask a couple questions with regard to the number of seasonal employees attached to the Antarctic program—specifically how many there are, what they are doing, where they are drawn from and where they are based. If that needs to be taken on notice, that is fine.

Mr Clark: I can provide a broad overview—

Senator DUNIAM: A broad overview is fine.

Mr Clark: and perhaps take some of the detail on notice. To clarify: expeditioners, as you characterise them, are people who travel south with the Australian Antarctic program to Antarctica or the sub-Antarctic. Typically we take about 500 people to the continent and sub-Antarctic to participate in the program each year. Within that, obviously the staff of the AAD are a major component of that, and the staffing number within the Australian Antarctic Division ASL this year, as outlined in the PDS, is 380. That is the same as last year. To go back to the broader question of expeditioners and where they come from: it is probably important to point out that, although the majority of them are AAD staff, we also have staff from the Bureau of Meteorology and other government agencies such as Geoscience Australia, ARPANSA, as we talked about before, and the Department of Defence. This year will see personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force participate in the Australian Antarctic program. Obviously in the summer period and latter part of the summer in particular the numbers within the program increase as they arrive in Hobart and undertake their training. Then, over the winter period, they decrease. On the station at the moment we have about 70 personnel across all of the stations. Once the first ship arrives and the first planes arrive for the season, those numbers will increase.

Senator DUNIAM: Sure. Any detail you are able to provide about the roles they perform and where they are based I would appreciate if you could take on notice.

Answer:

The number of seasonal employees, their roles, and the station they work at, for a season are as follows:

Roles:

Station Leader
Operations Coordinator
Antarctic Medical Practitioner
Chef
Communications Technical Officer
Communications Operator
Station Mechanical Supervisor
Diesel Mechanic

Plant Operator
Electrician
Instrument Electrician
Plumber
Carpenter
Field Training Officer
Field Guide
Aircraft Ground Support Officer
Engineering Services Supervisor
Supply Officer
Voyage Management
Watercraft Operator
Refueller
Aerodrome Management
Aerodrome Camp Support Officer
Aerodrome Plant Operator
Surveyor
Boilermaker/Welder
Rigger
Concreter
Fitter/Turner

Numbers by Location:

Casey - 57
Davis - 40
Mawson - 20
Macquarie Island – 19
Voyage only – 57
Total - 193

Please note that these positions can range from two weeks in duration through to 16 months. In terms of where they are drawn from, their home location obviously fluctuates from year to year as they are non-ongoing employees and we are not employing the same people every year. With regards to what industries they are drawn from, this also fluctuates, however traditionally we employ a number of people with mining backgrounds, as well as previous (or current) military service, and the humanitarian aid industry.