

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014
3 June to 5 June 2014

Department/ Agency: Clean Energy Finance Corporation

Question: 2221-2227

Topic: Contracts for temporary staff

Reference: Written 12 June 2014

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

2221 How much did the department/agency spend on temporary or contract staff since September 7th 2013?

2222 How many temporary or contract staff were employed since September 7th 2013?

2223 How many temporary or contract staff are currently employed?

2224 How much was paid for agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff?

2225 How much is budgeted in the 2014/15 year for contract staff?

2226 What policies/criteria govern the appointment of Contract staff?

2227 How is the use of contract staff consistent with a professional, independent public service?

Answer:

The answer to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

2221 \$254,366 in direct and indirect costs including wages, superannuation, workers' compensation and hiring costs.

2222 8.

2223 7.

2224 \$35,028 for 1 temporary and 2 contract staff.

2225 \$0. The Australian Government budget assumes the CEFC is abolished effective 1 July 2016 and has therefore not included any amount in the 2014/15 budget for contract staff.

2226 Board and CEO established policies and procedures.

2227 The CEFC is not an "agency" for the purposes of the *Public Service Act 1999*, and its' staff are not APS members, but the CEFC notes the use of contract staff is entirely consistent with the efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources.

Typically contract staff are used to:

- fill short term staffing gaps
- provide a specific skill set that is required for a discrete period of time
- complement the standing workforce in times of peak demand
- perform a specified task which a small agency could not justify on ongoing role.

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There is no inconsistency between an employee's status as on contract and their professionalism. With regard to independence, the CEFC is a statutory authority with enabling legislation that has been deliberately designed by the Parliament with operational independence in mind. It is extremely unlikely that independence would be compromised by the hiring of staff on contract.