

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates  
31 May – 1 June 2017

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** ONA use of labour hire companies

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Ketter

**QUESTION No.:** BI-182

1. Does the Office of Northern Australia's use any labour hire companies to source Office of Northern Australia's staff?
2. Does the Office of Northern Australia's use Labour Hire Agreements?
3. How long has the Office of Northern Australia's used labour hire companies?
4. How many staff are employed under via these arrangements?
5. How many staff are employed by the Office of Northern Australia's as contractors?
6. Who authorised the use of labour hire companies?
7. Do staff under these labour hire arrangements receive as much training and security clearance as permanent staff?
8. Do staff under these arrangements receive the same pay and conditions as permanent staff?
9. Do these temporary staff have access to the same systems and databases?
10. Is this a concern from a security perspective?
11. Does this impact productivity of the Office of Northern Australia's if staff employed via labour hire arrangements are unable to access the required resources to do their job?

**ANSWER**

1. The Office of Northern Australia can engage contractors through a number of labour hire firms. For the period 1 March 2017 to 31 May 2017 the Office of Northern Australia has not used any labour hire firm to source any Office of Northern Australia staff.
2. Refer to answer one above.
3. Since 1 July 2016 to 31 May 2017, the Office of Northern Australia has not used any labour hire firms.
4. Not applicable.
5. Not applicable

6. The Office of Northern Australia, as part of the department, utilises a Commonwealth approved panel of labour hire companies if such services are required.
7. If any labour hire agreements were in place for the Office of Northern Australia, staff would receive the same training and security clearance as permanent staff.
8. The Office of Northern Australia pays the labour hire firm for the provision of the contractor or contractors as per the terms of the contract.
9. Contracted staff have access to the systems required to undertake their duties.
10. All staff are required to go through a pre-employment suitability assessment before a person can start working in the Office of Northern Australia. Staff must pass this security assessment before being granted access to the departments IT network.
11. All staff are able to access the systems required to undertake their duties.