

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2015-16 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing  
22 October 2015

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

**TOPIC:** Ministerial staff entitlements

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 22 October 2015, page 78)

**QUESTION No.:** SI-24

**Senator KIM CARR:** Of the ministerial staff previously employed by Mr Macfarlane, how many of them have transferred over to the new minister and assistant ministers?

**Ms Beauchamp:** I am aware that two officers have transferred to Minister Pyne's office and one officer to Minister Frydenberg's office.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Are there any ministerial staff vacancies within the minister's office?

**Ms Beauchamp:** I will have to take that on notice and just check with each of the ministers. My understanding is that I think they have the full complement.

**Senator KIM CARR:** The reason I ask that is because the convention was that the department would provide ministerial staff for a limited period. Is that still in play?

**Ms Beauchamp:** According to the guidelines, we do assist with the transition period until permanent officers and advisers are found.

**Senator KIM CARR:** It is up to three months; is that right?

**Ms Beauchamp:** Indeed, yes.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Do you have any officers currently serving in ministerial offices other than the DLOs?

**Ms Beauchamp:** There are two officers in Assistant Minister Andrew's office and one officer in Assistant Minister Roy's office.

**Senator KIM CARR:** In what capacity are they serving?

**Ms Beauchamp:** They are only there in a transitional basis, as we have said, just to make sure that they can support and keep the office—

**Senator KIM CARR:** So are they extra numeri at the moment?

**Ms Beauchamp:** I am not sure what you mean.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Are they in addition to ministerial entitlements?

**Ms Beauchamp:** No, they are not.

**Senator KIM CARR:** So are they filling vacancies?

**Ms Beauchamp:** Whilst the permanent staffing is being filled, we are trying to provide some continuity of business with—

**Senator KIM CARR:** I am not arguing about the legitimacy of their practice; I just want to know: are they in addition? I thought you said before that the ministerial positions have been filled. Have you got additional officers in the ministerial offices—

**Ms Beauchamp:** Do you mean over and above the compliment?

**Senator KIM CARR:** Yes, over the top of the established ones.

**Ms Beauchamp:** I would have to take that on notice because sometimes, if there is a person sick for example, they might come off and head up the office.

**Senator KIM CARR:** But that is not in addition; that is a temporary vacancy.

**Senator Ryan:** No, it could be in addition, to be fair. If there was an announcement or some work was being undertaken and someone was off work for a week, that would, I think, fit the criteria you outlined before of being in addition.

**Senator KIM CARR:** No, they are not in addition; they are filling a temporary vacancy.

**Senator Ryan:** Not if a person is on sick leave. They would not be filling under the way that

ministerial entitlements work. I understand, from my other committee I did for many years, if somebody came up to supplement an office while someone was on sick leave, they are still actually employed. I would not want to mislead you and say they were there for—

**Senator KIM CARR:** I want to know if these three additional officers in the executive wing are filling unfilled vacancies or are an addition to the establishment within the executive officers.

**Ms Beauchamp:** I will take that on notice.

## **ANSWER**

Two officers in Assistant Minister Andrew's office and one officer in Assistant Minister Roy's office are providing transitional support and are not filling vacant positions.