

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2015 - 2016

**Department/Agency: Treasury**

**Question: SBT 42-43**

**Topic: Taskforce levels**

**Reference: Hansard page no. 106 - 27 October 2015**

**Senator: McLucas, Jan**

**Question:**

SBT 42-43 Senator McLUCAS: During the June estimates, I asked for the membership of the task force. It was taken on notice. I then received a response. It did not mention any names apart from Mike Callaghan, who is leading the task force. What is the reason for that? Why couldn't you give me the list of names?

Ms Quinn: My understanding is: for public officials who have been announced as leading the program, it is not usual that we list all of the names of all of the people who are of the secretariat. We do identify departments, expertise and things like that, but it is not usual—

Senator McLUCAS: Level?

Ms Quinn: We can provide level, if that is required. But we do not usually provide individual names of the officials.

Senator WONG: The department and the level—so 'APS' or 'EL' whatever.

Ms Quinn: It is a range of levels.

Senator McLUCAS: I understand that.

Senator WONG: How many in each?

Ms Quinn: I have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: Yes. So you might say, 'Three EL2s, two—'

Ms Quinn: Sure.

Senator McLUCAS: How often does the task force meet with the reference panel?

Ms Quinn: I am happy to take that on notice. It is a task force that is set up, and it is independent. I do not actually participate in its activities. But it does meet fairly regularly—not just in person but also through exchange of emails and considerations like that.

Senator McLUCAS: How often does the task force itself meet?

Ms Quinn: The task force is together on a daily basis working through the issues.

**Answer:**

42. The Taskforce included six officials: the Taskforce Head, three EL2s, and two APS6s, drawn from the Treasury and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Some were not with the Taskforce for the entire duration. The Taskforce was supported by the Australian Government Actuary and members of the actuarial team at the APS6 level.

43. The Taskforce met with the Reference Panel once a month in May, June, July, October and November. The Taskforce has also engaged with individual members by telephone, email and in person on a regular basis.