

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0277_15

Senator Carr asked on 4 June 2014 , Hansard page 7

Question

Temporary staff

Senator KIM CARR: How many temporary staff has the department engaged over the last nine months? Ms Cornish: We currently have 1,918 employees and there are 20 non-ongoing employees as at 31 March. Senator KIM CARR: What is the average length of contract for those 20? Ms Cornish: We responded to an earlier question on notice from you that talked about an average time of 627 net working days. That was for non-ongoing employees who were employed in educational appointments to overseas posts. Perhaps it might be better if I explain that. Last time I said that we had 28 non-ongoing staff as of 13 February. On 28 February we explained in the response to the question on notice that three had not had their contracts renewed and one resigned, so that took us down to 24. Between 28 February and 31 March we now have another four who have left. So we have 20. Senator KIM CARR: But the average length is over two years, is it? Ms Cornish: I think I would have to take that on notice. Senator KIM CARR: It is 600 days net—is that what you mean? Ms Cornish: That was for the two non-ongoing employees who were appointed to educational overseas posts. Ms Paul: That is not what you are after, though. You are after an average. The average will be lower than that. Ms Cornish: Yes, I do not have that for the 20. Ms Paul: We will take it on notice.

Answer

The average length of non-ongoing contracts in place at 31 March 2014 is 279 working days. This includes two non-ongoing overseas postings of three years.

If the overseas postings are not included the average contract length is 219 working days.