

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000298

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 47

ACARA: staff re-employed as casual

Question

Senator O'NEILL: So they have been re-employed as a casual for a short period?

Mr Randall: Again, I would need to check the basis of it. But it is not an ongoing employment. It is a limited hours employment for them to be able to maintain functionality. Again, with nine new people, if someone goes on leave, I cannot just absorb it somewhere else in the 93 people. So, yes, that is one that comes to mind. I do not believe that there are any others, but that is one.

Senator O'NEILL: Take it on notice and provide some detail.

Answer

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has provided the following response:

Casual appointments following redundancy.

ACARA contracted one person following redundancy in May-June 2015 (5 week period, and a maximum of 60 hours). This appointment became necessary for the following reasons:

- the Manager ICT Strategic Solutions' was on 5 weeks annual leave
- the Enterprise Business Analyst (and Acting Manager ICT Strategic Solutions) resigned during this time.

This period of re-engagement was a peak period of data collection and management activity for ICT and was not to exceed 60 hours. It concluded in the first week of July 2015 on the return of the Manager ICT Strategic Solutions from annual leave.

The decision to re-engage (as a consultant, not as a casual) was specifically in the following areas:

- To participate and oversee the *My School* data collection and management for a technical handover to a new resource
- Coordinate data template generation and the data collection process with the Data Management team in Assessment & Reporting
- To provide knowledge transfer to ACARA/ICT resources on data architecture of Australian School's List (ASL)
- To provide consulting services to streamline data architecture of the Master Data Base, *My School*, and Principals' Portal data warehouses.

There have been no other similar appointments (casual or contractor) following redundancy.