

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004255

Senator Marshall asked on 13 June 2017 on proof Hansard page

Question

Labour hire arrangements

- Does the Department use any labour hire companies to source Departmental staff?
- Does the Department use Labour Hire Agreements?
- How long has the Department used labour hire companies?
- How many staff are employed under via these arrangements?
- How many staff are employed by the Department as contractors?
- Who authorised the use of labour hire companies?
- Is the Minister aware of the reliance on these labour hire arrangements?
- How much Commonwealth money is being directed through payroll companies?

Answer

Departmental staff are engaged under the Public Service Act. It has been a long standing practice for the Department to source contractor capability (not Departmental staff) from labour hire companies under contractual arrangements. As at 26 May 2017 the Department employed 226 contractors under contracts with labour hire companies, out of a total of 230 contractors.

Operational decisions to engage contractors are devolved to managers with the requisite financial delegations under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. The Minister is aware that the Department uses contractors.

The Department does not hold information on the amount of Commonwealth payments for contractors directed through payroll companies, noting that the payroll arrangements between contractors and labour hire firms is a matter for those parties.