

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Employment

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

**Question reference number:** 118

**Type of Question:** FPA, Friday 28 February 2014, page 60

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 April 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator McLUCAS: Thank you. I will put some on notice, back to the seawalls: can I also get that list of where and who and what? Not by location, but can I get an understanding of the number of people who are in the blue card—that is what we call it in Queensland; I think Senator Peris calls it an ochre card—and who are in the exempt period? So, people who have applied for their card but who, properly, are going through that process to get that card, but have been employed?

Ms Carroll: For the people who are employed, we do not employ them until they actually have the card.

Senator McLUCAS: Did I misunderstand you?

Ms Carroll: No, but..... as part

Senator Scullion: Because they do not have their working-with-kids check. So they are engaged by the RJCP provider, often doing the occupational health and safety and the prevocational work. Invariably it is a very short period of time. When they say "imminent" there has been an awful lot of work done to get the working-with-kids material done over Christmas. The jurisdictions have done very well, but there is a short period of time under which they are engaged by the provider. So that is why there is another category, because we will not allow them to work with kids unless they have the working-with-kids card.

Senator McLUCAS: Thank you. If you could give me those three figures?

Ms Carroll: We will give you the definition for the three groups.

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**Answer:**

The funding agreement with Remote School Attendance providers requires that the providers ensure School Attendance Supervisors and School Attendance Officers have appropriate working with children checks, or equivalent checks in the relevant state and territory jurisdictions.

It is expected that providers employ School Attendance Supervisors and School Attendance Officers and that they meet the requirements for checks and cards that apply in each jurisdiction. In some jurisdictions, where a receipt for an application for a check is an accepted legal requirement, a small number of School Attendance Officers are engaged under participation arrangements while awaiting receipt of their cards.