

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Sections 37s

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 34

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

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Question:

Senator LUDWIG: Do redundancies also include early retirement—an incentive package to go early?

Mr Neal: That applies only to the Senior Executive Service. It is a different part of the act that is used.

Senator LUDWIG: What part of the act is used for that?

Mr Neal: Section 37 of the Public Service Act deals with the ability of the Secretary to declare an SES officer excess. Under those requirements the person can elect to take a severance payment from the service. It is termed "incentive to retire" under the act.

Senator LUDWIG: Or, in short, a section 37.

Mr Neal: A section 37, correct.

Senator LUDWIG: How many section 37s were in effect for this term of the government?

Mr Neal: I might need to take the actual number on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister Cabinet completed 14 *Section 37 Incentives to Retire* this financial year.