

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2016

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Communication with PSS staff**

Question: **177**

Written **Senator Bernardi**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 1 April 2016

In an answer to Question on Notice 69 (October 2015 Estimates), DPS stated that:

“We are endeavouring to find the right balance and approach to communicating within the Branch and we are currently discussing this further with the WCC.”

1. What discussions have DPS management had with the WCC about this since October 2015?
2. What dates did these discussions take place?
3. What has been the feedback from WCC about this?
4. In what ways do you think DPS can improve its communication with PSS staff?
5. Has the ‘right balance’ been achieved yet or is there more to be done to achieve this?

Answer

1. Meetings occurred with the Workplace Consultative Committee (WCC) on 26 October 2015, 9 November 2015, 20 November 2015 and 5 February 2016.
2. See response to question 1.
3. It was agreed with the WCC that all communication should occur in email, with the ability to supplement this with verbal briefings by Team Leaders and where required through written admin instructions posted at work points and in the PSS breakout and lunch room spaces.
4. The agreed model we believe strikes the right balance for a 24/7 rostered workforce.
5. The department will always strive to look at best practice or emerging technology to improve communication with the PSS, right now we believe that we have the right balance.