

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES 2016**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Australian Public Service Commission

**Outcome/Program:** All agencies

**Topic:** Domestic violence leave

**Senator:** Moore

**Question reference number:** 17

**Type of question:** Spoken

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator MOORE:** Ms Foster, in the interest of time, I will put that on notice. I am also interested in the issues around domestic violence. I want to find out what the guidelines are within the Public Service about domestic violence leave and whether there is any central discussion about best practice in agency practice in that area. I will put that on notice for you as well.

**Answer:**

The Australian Public Service Commission has issued a circular on supporting employees affected by domestic or family violence remains current.

The circular confirms that extensive and flexible leave entitlements are contained in workplace instruments and legislation. The entitlements allow employees to access leave in times of personal crisis, including if affected by domestic or family violence.

Agency heads have the discretion to grant paid and/or unpaid leave, for miscellaneous purposes, including domestic violence.

No public service agency has proposed any new agreement or arrangement that would diminish the ability of workers to take leave in this regard.