

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: 1.1

Topic: Wage offers and economic indicators

Senator: McKenzie

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Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Are you able to advise what the CPI increase was for 2015? If the CPI increase for 2015 was 1.5%, this is lower than the 2% offered in the Government's bargaining policy?

Please advise what the Employee Living Cost Index measures?

Please advise what the increase was in the 2015 year, from December to December?

Can you describe how this compares with the wage offers provided for in the Government's bargaining policy?

How does the CPSU's claim for a 12% wage increase compare with this data?

Answer:

The Consumer Price Index for the year to December 2015 increased by 1.7%.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics website advises that the Employee Living Cost Index attempts to measure the impact of price changes on the typical living costs of employee households.

The Employee Living Cost Index for the year to December 2015 increased by 1.1%.

The Government's *Workplace Bargaining Policy 2015* allows remuneration increases to be negotiated up to an average of 2 per cent per annum. This is almost double the December 2014 to December 2015 Employee Living Cost Index increase.

Over a three year enterprise agreement, the CPSU wage claim would provide a 4% wage increase per annum. The year to December 2015 Consumer Price Index increase was 1.7% and the Employee Living Cost Index increase for the same period was 1.1%. The CPSU claim is well above the other two indicators.