

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2017

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **New policy proposal details**

Question: **21**

Hansard Reference **p 29; 27 February 2017**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017

Senator WONG: In your initial new policy proposal, when you put in your bid for funding, what was the configuration of staffing that underpinned the costing—how many APS 1s, how many APS 2s and how many APS 3s? If it has changed since 2010, can you tell me how? If it has changed, I would like to know the basis for those changes.

Mr Creagh: I can take that on notice.

Answer

The funding requirement was calculated on 64 PSS staff with capability commensurate with a Parliamentary Service Level three (3) officer. The funding received included costs to support recruitment, training and ongoing salary expenditure to ensure appropriately skilled, trained, and physically capable officers were engaged to provide the necessary security services.

On 17 February 2016, the then First Assistant Secretary agreed that the PSL3 positions required further work and planning before this could be implemented and cancelled the PSL 3 recruitment process.

Advice was sent to all candidates explaining that whilst the Security Branch is still committed to offering career development and higher standards of service, the staffing model and resourcing issues need further consideration before we moved forward.

Currently, Security Branch is undertaking a Functional Review which will look at aspects of the staffing profile for PSS positions and reassess the requirement for PSL3's within the PSS.

As has been advised to the Committee previously, there has been active recruitment of PSS staff over the last 12 months to achieve the optimal level of staffing, taking account of the additional funding. PSS ongoing staff numbers at the PSL 1 to 4 levels have increased from 125 at 30 June 2014 to 152 at 31 March 2017. Recruitment is ongoing and it is estimated that a further 31 staff are required to support current operational needs with a minimal reliance on double shifts and overtime.