

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15**

**Finance Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** All  
**Outcome/Program:** General  
**Topic:** Contracts for Temporary Staff

**Senator:** Ludwig  
**Question reference number:** F200  
**Type of question:** Written  
**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 11 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. How much did the department/agency spend on temporary or contract staff since September 7th 2013?
2. How many temporary or contract staff were employed since September 7th 2013?
3. How many temporary or contract staff are currently employed?
4. How much was paid for agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff?
5. How much is budgeted in the 2014/15 year for contract staff?
6. What policies/criteria govern the appointment of Contract staff?
7. How is the use of contract staff consistent with a professional, independent public service?

**Answer:**

For the period 7 September 2013 to 31 May 2014:

<b>Department/ Agency</b>	<b>Response</b>
Finance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. \$4.2m.</li><li>2. 15 new contractors were engaged by Finance; 12 contractors have ceased during this period.</li><li>3. 32 contractors were employed as at 31 May 2014.</li><li>4. Nil.</li><li>5. Approximately \$4.6m.</li><li>6. A Contractor may only be engaged to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• provide specialist knowledge and/or expertise; and/or</li><li>• complete a one-off task, or a set of tasks, for a limited period where the engagement of ongoing staff is unwarranted.</li></ul></li><li>7. Contract staff are brought on for temporary engagements to meet specific project and programme needs, or to provide interim options where skill set coverage from within the sector is not immediately available. They are not a</li></ol>

Department/ Agency	Response
	replacement for ongoing roles and so do not affect the independence and professionalism of the public service.
Australian Electoral Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. \$3,908,207.</li> <li>2. 61.</li> <li>3. 32.</li> <li>4. Nil.</li> <li>5. The AEC has yet to finalise its budget for 2014/15 so are unable to provide a figure at this time.</li> <li>6. All contract staff are appointed under the procurement guidelines in the FMA Act.</li> <li>7. Contract staff have terms and conditions within their contracts requiring the adherence to government policies and legislation consistent with APS obligations.</li> </ol>
ComSuper	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The total spend on contract staff since 7 September 2013 is \$5,123,085.25.</li> <li>2. The number of contract staff employed since 7 September 2014 is 47.</li> <li>3. The number of contract staff currently engaged by ComSuper are 32.</li> <li>4. Nil.</li> <li>5. ComSuper does not have a specific budget split for contract staff as the budget line items are broken down by outcomes and projects.</li> <li>6. The policies that govern the engagement of contract staff include the Commonwealth Financial Framework, Commonwealth Procurement Rules and ComSuper's internal procedures and policy documentation.</li> <li>7. Contract staff are engaged to provide professional services. As part of their contract conditions they are required to abide by the APS Code of Conduct and APS Values. This includes behaving in an apolitical manner. There are also a number of governance arrangements in place which also ensure contractors remain professional and independent.</li> </ol>
Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. \$73,328.</li> <li>2. Three.</li> <li>3. One.</li> <li>4. Nil.</li> <li>5. \$224,400.</li> <li>6. CSC engages contract staff as required to assist in fulfilling its statutory obligations.</li> <li>7. CSC employees and contractors are not public servants.</li> </ol>
Future Fund Management Agency	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. \$550,881.23.</li> <li>2. 18.</li> <li>3. Seven.</li> <li>4. Nil.</li> <li>5. Temporary staff are currently employed to fill ongoing positions. We currently have a number of ongoing positions awaiting approval from the APS Commissioner therefore the budget for 2014/15 will depend on the approval of these positions.</li> <li>6. Appointment of contract staff is subject to demonstrated business need and the organisation's operational planning and budgeting processes.</li> <li>7. Use of contract staff is consistent with the organisation's purpose to act as a professional investment organisation.</li> </ol>