

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

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Finance

Outcome/Program: 3/3.1

Topic: Code of Conduct for Senators and Members

Senator: Kroger

Question reference number: F78

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 97, 29 May 2014

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Ms Moy: Senator Kroger, in terms of a specific case, I could not provide you an answer now. I would have to take that on notice and go back into our records. I am not quite sure what I would be looking for. We would be able to probably go back and talk to entitlements managers. Again, in terms of the senators or members requirements for backbenchers, there was no code of conduct prior to 7 September 2013. But for ministers, and I understand the Presiding Officers were included in that, there was a ministerial code of conduct. I would have to take on notice the specifics.

Senator KROGER: With the ministerial code of conduct—

Ms Moy: For ministerial staff, sorry.

Senator KROGER: For ministerial staff. Is it the same for all nonbackbenchers?

Ms Moy: I would have to check. My understanding is that it applied to anyone who was an officeholder.

Senator KROGER: We were talking about police checks earlier. Prior to the election last year, were all staff of officeholders required to have a police check? I was asking you before whether it was at the discretion of the member or senator. Were they all required to have security checks and security clearances?

Ms Moy: Staff of government officeholders? I would have to check. My understanding is that there was a requirement for security clearances, yes.

Answer:

It is at the discretion of the employing Member or Senator to request the Department of Finance to conduct a Police History Check as part of the employment agreement for new employees being employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act).

Under *Determination 2012/1*, it is a requirement for all MOP(S) Act employees of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries to obtain and maintain a security clearance. A Police History Check is conducted by the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency as part of that security clearance process.