

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Outcome/Program:

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government agencies by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and inspecting statutory compliance by law enforcement agencies.

Topic: Existing Resources Program

Senator: Senator Ludwig

Question reference number: 309

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- (1) Since 7 September how many major projects, work, programs or other tasks has the department started as a consequence of government policies or priorities that are required to be funded 'within existing resources'?
- (2) List each project or piece of work.
- (3) List the staffing assigned to each task.
- (4) What is the nominal total salary cost of the officers assigned to the project?
- (5) What resources or equipment has been assigned to the project?

Answer:

- (1) In 2014-15, the Commonwealth Ombudsman (CO) will be appointed as the Norfolk Island Ombudsman, a statutory function under legislation enacted by the Norfolk Island Assembly. The NIO function will be funded by the CO from within existing resources.
- (2) The Norfolk Island Ombudsman service will receive complaints from the public about public administration within Norfolk Island, assess and investigate complaints when warranted, and conduct annual inspections of the records of the Norfolk Island Complaints Officer.

(3) Staffing dedicated to the office of the Norfolk Island Ombudsman includes:

- 0.5 ASL x APS6
- 0.2 ASL x EL2
- 0.1 x SES

Further staffing may have to be drawn from the office's operational areas on an ad hoc basis depending on the volume and complexity of complaints that may be directed to the Norfolk Island Ombudsman's office after 1 July 2014.

(4) **\$128,000 per annum** (as per the 2013-14 Standard Departmental Costing Template)

(5) Travel to Norfolk Island (1xAPS6 June 2014) -	\$1600
(further visit planned for third quarter 2014-15-	\$1600)
Printing of information materials (June 2014) -	\$ 228
Maintaining Norfolk Island Ombudsman web site-	\$ 750 per annum
Maintaining 1800 telephone number	\$ 264 per annum