

**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:** Ministerial Staff Code

**Senator:** Senator Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 349

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

- (1) Have there been any identified breaches of the Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct by the Minister, their office or the department?
  - a. If so, list the breaches identified, broken by staffing classification level
  - b. If so, what remedy was put in place to manage the breach? If no remedy has been put in place, why not?
  - c. If so, when was the breach identified? By whom? When was the Minister made aware?
  
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that all ministerial and electorate officers in their office comply fully with the ministerial staff code of conduct?
  - a. If not, how many staff don't comply, broken down by classification level?
  - b. How long have they worked for the Minister?
  
- (3) Can you confirm they all complied with the code on the date of their employment?
  - a. If not, on what date did they comply?
  
- (4) Can you confirm that all disclosures as required by the code were made to the government staffing committee?
  - a. If so, on what date were those disclosure made?
  
- (5) By position title list the date each staff member was approved by government staff committee

- (6) Can you confirm all staff have divested themselves of any and all relevant shares as of the date of their appointment
- (7) Can you list by number if any staff have been granted exception by the SMOS to remain a director of a company as allowed by the Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct, break down by position level.

**Answer:**

- (1) The Special Minister of State will answer on behalf of all Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio agencies.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) Not applicable.