

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: Cross Portfolio

Topic: Contracts for Temporary Staff

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: 354

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

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:

1. From 7th September 2013 to 31 May 2014, the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) spent \$81,991 on temporary or contract staff.
2. Six temporary staff were employed since September 7th 2013.
3. Two temporary staff are currently employed.
4. The APSC paid \$15,868 exclusive of GST for agencies to find temporary staff.
5. The APSC's internal budget does not show the level of details required to answer this question.
6. In reaching a decision to recruit temporary staff, it is the APSC's policy to explore resources both internally and on the Government Redeployment Register before seeking assistance from external job agencies.
7. The selection process is merit-based, i.e. candidates are assessed against specific job descriptions and selection criteria to ensure their suitability for the duties. 'Value for money' is also considered as part of the overall procurement process.