

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26-27 May 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of National Assessments

Outcome/Program: 1

Topic: Contracts for Temporary Staff

Senator: 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?

ONA Response:

1. Year to date data from 1 July 2013 to 31 May 2014, ONA has spent \$418,744.52. To attempt to provide different date periods would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
2. Three contractors.
3. Three contractors.
4. Nil.
5. ONA is reducing expenditure across all areas to meet budget restraints. The 2014/15 budget for contract staff is currently being reviewed.
6. ONA follows the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.
7. ONA engages specialist under labor hire contract arrangements to meet its business needs.