

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16**

Finance Portfolio  
27-28 May 2015

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 3/3.1

**Topic:** MOPS Act (Cth) entitlements – Office of the Prime Minister

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Question reference number:** F94

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 10 July 2015

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Please provide the following information with reference to the Office of the Prime Minister in the 2014-15 Financial Year.

1. At any point during the 2014-15 financial year, how many ongoing and non-ongoing Senior Government Personal Employees and Government Personal Employees (other than senior staff) did the Prime Minister employ?
  - a) Please provide a list of their classification and level (and salary point) pursuant to Part 5.2.1 of *Ministers of State Entitlements*.
  - b) Are there any personal employees that are employed as Advancers?
    - i. If so, how many?
    - ii. What is their level (or salary point) and classification?
  - c) Are there any personal employees that are employed as graphic designers?
    - i. If so, how many?
    - ii. What is their level (or salary point) and classification?
  - d) Are there any personal employees that are employed as speech writers?
    - i. If so, how many?
    - ii. For each person or persons employed in the capacity of a speech writer, what is their level (or salary point) and classification?
  - e) Are there any personal employees that are not employed in the policy, media or administrative classification?
    - i. If so, please detail their responsibilities.
  - f) Please provide a gender profile.
2. In accordance with the departmental determination 2007/PM/1 – Senior Staff Guidelines (Private-Plated Vehicles): how many entitled Senior Government Personal Employees attached to the Office of the Prime Minister were currently claiming a private-plated vehicle or a Private-Plated Vehicle Allowance (PPVA) 2014-15 financial year?
  - a) Referring to Guideline 4, what are the makes and models selected from the list of Australian manufacturers vehicles issued by the Department, under a vehicle package?
    - i. Were there any exceptions granted?

- ii. If so, why?
- iii. If so, please detail the make, model and cost.
- b) Referring to Guideline 9, what is the total of fuel and maintenance costs that were met at official expense for all vehicles?
- c) Referring to Guideline 12, how many parking and traffic infringement notices were issued and employees nominated for payment by the responsible employee?
  - i. Were there any exceptions granted?
  - ii. If so, please detail how many times this occurred and for what reasons and who granted the exception?
- d) Referring to Guideline 14, were there any accidents where the ComInsure excess was met by the Department?
  - i. If so, how many?
- e) Referring to Guideline 15, were there any incidents where the conduct of the employee rendered the ComInsure policy void or voidable?
  - i. If so, how many times?
  - ii. If so, were these costs met by the Department?

**Answer:**

1. As at 28 May 2015, the number of ongoing and non-ongoing staff employed by the then Prime Minister, including the Cabinet Office, was 56.
  - a) The Department tabled a document at the Budget Estimates 2015-16 ([Personal Positions as at 1 May 2015](#)) which provides details of positions allocated to the then Prime Minister, including the Cabinet Office. The salary ranges and classifications applicable are provided in Attachments A and B of the *Commonwealth Members of Parliament Staff Enterprise Agreement 2012-2015* (the MOP(S) EA). Due to the possibility of individuals being identified, it would not be appropriate to provide further detail regarding individual employees.
  - b) - e). There are no classifications for Advancers, speech writers or graphic designers in the MOP(S) EA. The duties performed by staff are determined by the Prime Minister.
  - f) Of the 56 staff employed as at 28 May 2015, 46.4% were male, 53.6% female.
2. As at 28 May 2015, six senior staff employed by the then Prime Minister were claiming a private plated vehicle. At that date, 22 senior staff employed by the then Prime Minister were receiving the Private-Plated Vehicle Allowance.
  - a) The makes and models of the selected vehicles were the Holden Calais, Holden Commodore Sportwagon and Ford Territory.
    - i. No.
    - ii. – iii. Not applicable.
  - b) \$7,612.87.
  - c) One.
    - i. No.
  - d) No.
  - e) Not applicable.