

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2015

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Former Secretary's payout figure**

Question: **25**

Hansard Reference **p 62-63; 25 May 2015**

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

Senator LUDWIG: The payout salary is computed by a formula, is it?

Senator WONG: It is in the contract.

The President: Yes, in the terms of contract, as we have deduced earlier, there was one year's salary payable upon termination of this nature.

...

Senator LUDWIG: So that is in accordance with her contract if it is terminated earlier? Where there is a reference salary equal to total remuneration, there is a formula that is used. What was the total payout figure?

Dr Heriot: I believe Ms Mills advised you of that at the inquiry.

Senator LUDWIG: Yes, but you are the department and I want to confirm with you what you paid.

Dr Heriot: I am the department, but I do not have that figure in front of me, I am afraid.

Senator LUDWIG: Could you take on notice the formula and the total figure, excluding any personal identifiers?

Ms Croke: For clarity, what sort of personal identifiers were you referring to?

Senator LUDWIG: Just the total figure. There might be annual leave and sick leave, but I want a lump amount.

Ms Croke: There was annual leave and there was—

Senator LUDWIG: I do not know whether I need to know that.

The President: You need to know the formula that was used to arrive at the termination payment and the total of the termination payment itself?

Senator LUDWIG: Yes.

Answer

Part 12 Determination Number 1 of 2012 – If the Secretary is terminated in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999* and the Commonwealth has not made the Secretary an offer of suitable alternative employment, the Secretary is entitled upon his or her termination to be paid:

- a) For a termination 12 months or more before the end of the Secretary's term of appointment – 12 months' Reference Salary at the time of termination; or
- b) For a termination less than 12 months before the end of the Secretary's term of appointment – 1 month's Reference Salary for each full month of the balance of the term not served, subject to a minimum payment of 6 months' Reference Salary at the time of termination.

\$409,600 – Total Remuneration

\$30,449 – Employer's Superannuation Contribution

\$379,151 – Reference Salary

\$185,784 – Tax payable

\$193,368 – Net amount