

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: 1.1

Topic: Enterprise Bargaining

Senator: Ludwig and Gallagher

Question reference number: 7

Type of question: Spoken

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: Do you have information about how many participated in the vote? Is that reported back to you as the central bargaining agency?

Ms Foster: We do have those numbers, just not to hand. But we will see if we can get them for you.

Senator LUDWIG: In addition to the two mentioned in question on notice 94, how many APS agencies have had their offers rejected by the APSC and the Department of Finance? Are you able to provide on notice a list of those, if any?

Mr Lloyd: That is an iterative process. It is one where there is a communication back and forth between the agency and the APSC as the proposal has been developed. So it is very hard to say whether they are actually rejected.

Senator LUDWIG: Perhaps if I rephrase it: those that are stalled in that process.

Mr Lloyd: Okay, we will take it on notice.

Ms Foster: I do not think there are any that I would categorise as stalled. We are in active discussion.

Senator LUDWIG: That was my colour. I am happy to have the number that are still in the iterative process. Of all of those that we have been talking about, are we able to be provided a list of those offers where they include the 1.5 per cent mentioned by Senator Bernardi?

Mr Lloyd: The one to human services?

Senator LUDWIG: Yes. So how many include 1.5 per cent and how many include less than 1.5 per cent?

Ms Foster: I think we can provide that on notice.

Answer:

As at 25 May 2015, the following agencies had gone to vote on an enterprise agreement and the following number of employees had registered a vote:

- Australian Financial Security Authority - 370
- ComSuper - 378
- Department of Employment - 1496
- Department of Industry and Science – 2076

As at 25 May 2015, the Department of Finance has provided advice on three proposals which it did not consider to be affordable based on the information provided.

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The APSC works with agencies to ensure that they develop proposals that are compliant with the Government's bargaining policy and are robust and defensible. This is an iterative process. The APSC and the Department of Finance frequently request additional information from agencies in the assessment process.

As at 25 May 2015, the APS Commissioner had approved 55 remuneration proposals. Eighteen of these proposals comprised an average annual remuneration increase of 1.5 per cent over the life of the proposed agreements.