

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-17

Finance Portfolio
5 May 2016

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 3/3.1

Topic: *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* - staffing for former leaders

Senator: McAllister

Question reference number: F18

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Question:

Senator McALLISTER: Can I ask about the allocation of staff to leaders? I note that Senator Abetz and the Hon. Warren Truss have both been allocated staff, given their status as former leaders. I understand the allocation to Senator Abetz is equivalent to that which was provided to Senator Faulkner.

Senator Cormann: I would have to take that on notice. I do not think anybody at this table was around when the allocation was made to Senator Faulkner. I suspect that it would be, but I am happy to confirm that on notice.

Senator McALLISTER: That would be helpful.

Senator Cormann: One of my advisers has just confirmed that Senator Faulkner did have a staffing position allocated to him as a former Labor Senate leader.

Senator WONG: Yes, I think it was that level.

Senator Cormann: I am honestly not aware.

Senator WONG: You can take that on notice.

...

Senator McALLISTER: Mr Truss is a former Deputy Prime Minister, and that is the basis on which it is indicated he receives the allocation in the table that is provided.

Ms McGregor: I will check for you, but it is my understanding that when it comes to staffing for the opposition, for example, that whilst the overall allocation and levels might be made, it would probably then be up to the Leader of the Opposition to make the allocation in more detail. I will have to check and just see what the exact process is around that.

Answer:

Mr Truss was allocated an Adviser position by the Prime Minister on 26 February 2016 in recognition of his roles as a former Leader of the Nationals and former Deputy Prime Minister.

In November 2010, Senator Faulkner and Senator Minchin were each allocated an Assistant Adviser position by the then Prime Minister in recognition of formerly being the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate for more than five years.