

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee — Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2017

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Catering labour hire staff**

Question: **109**

Written: **Senator Wong**

#### **Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017**

With reference to the answer to 2016-17 Additional Estimates question on notice 42, which indicates initial estimates of 23 FTE labour hire staff on non-sitting weeks and 75 on sitting weeks, why has the Department of Parliamentary Service opted for labour hire staff rather than employing its own casuals?

Are labour hire staff protected by conditions and rates of pay that apply under the Department of Parliamentary Services enterprise agreement?

Will the Department of Parliamentary Services be seeking to reduce its reliance on labour hire staff and increase its own pool of casual staff as it establishes “services and service standards in line with customer expectations”?

#### **Answer**

1. The use of labour hire staff provides an efficient and effective way of managing the fluctuating numbers of staff required to support the increased volume of catering and events that occur during sitting periods and for functions. Administration of a large casual workforce would also necessitate additional human resource management costs.
2. No, labour hire staff are not covered by the DPS Enterprise Agreement.
3. The department proposes to continue a model based on a core of DPS staff supplemented with labour hire staff to meet demand during peak periods. Consideration will be given to increasing permanent staffing levels where this is sustainable.