

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

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: PSS - 10 hour break or shifts in excess of 16 hours

Question: 29

Hansard Reference: p 117, 22 May 2017

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

Senator WONG: Mr Cooper, you said to me that, yes, you think the enterprise agreement has been complied with. I would like to ask you this question: are there any occasions on which the pattern of overtime worked is leading to staff having less than a 10-hour break and/or working more than 16 hours in a day?

Mr Cooper: I do not think there is. I will make the point that we have a situation now where we have staff looking for the extra hours and looking to work longer hours, and there are more staff looking for those extra hours than we have available because we have increased our numbers.

Senator WONG: But you will take that on notice if you are incorrect?

Mr Cooper: Yes, I will.

Answer

The issues with DPS' combined manual and electronic rostering system are an ongoing concern. The current level of manual intervention, inhibits the ability to provide a precise response to this question.

A significant body of work is being undertaken to overhaul the system, through a combination of electronic system and structural changes including the establishment of a centralised rostering office. It is anticipated that the results of this work will be realised in 2017- 2018.