

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES (SUPPLEMENTARY HEARINGS) 2013-2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Outcome/Program:

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government agencies by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and inspecting statutory compliance by law enforcement agencies.

Topic: Employed Staff

Senator: Senator Siewert

Question reference number: 214

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 3

Question:

- (1) In the last three financial years, how many staff have been employed offices of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, at what grades?
- (2) Outline what engagement the Ombudsman's office has been engaged in in the Northern Territory for each of the last three financial years.
- (3) What funding is available for Indigenous outreach and remote outreach, for 2011-12 and 2012-13?

Answer:

- (1) The below table highlights how many ongoing and non-ongoing staff have been employed by the Office for the past three financial years as at 30 June:

Classification	Ongoing			Non-ongoing		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
APS 1	-	-	-	-	-	-
APS 2	2	-	-	1	-	-
APS 3	2	2	12	1	-	1
APS 4	34	29	23	1	-	3

Classification	Ongoing			Non-ongoing		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
APS 5	24	22	21	3	-	1
APS 6	40	29	28	2	-	1
EL 1	46	43	43	-	1	-
EL 2	19	17	18	-	-	2
SES	5	5	5	-	-	-
Statutory officers	2	1	1	-	-	-
Total	174	148	151	8	1	8

(2) The table below outlines what engagement the Office has had in the Northern Territory for each of the last three (3) financial years:

FY	Engagement
2010 – 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Immigration Detention Review team visited immigration detention centres and alternative places of detention. • The Indigenous Team met with various Northern Territory Government officials, representatives of non-government organisations and individuals in remote communities, and other locations in relation to our independent oversight of the Northern Territory Emergency Response. • The Inspections Team conducted inspections of the Northern Territory Police’s stored communications access records under s 152 of the <i>Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979</i> at its Darwin office.
2011 – 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Immigration Detention Review team visited immigration detention centres. • The Indigenous Team met with various Northern Territory Government officials, representatives of non-government organisations and individuals in remote communities and other locations in relation to our independent oversight of the Northern Territory Emergency Response. • The Inspections Team conducted inspections of the Northern Territory Police’s stored communications access records under s 152 of the <i>Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979</i> at its Darwin office.
2012 – 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Immigration Detention Review team visited immigration detention centres. • The Indigenous Team met with various Northern Territory Government officials, representatives of non-government organisations and individuals in relation to complaint handling and to conduct outreach.

FY	Engagement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="437 248 1399 389">• The Inspections Team conducted inspections of the Northern Territory Police's stored communications access records under s 152 of the <i>Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979</i> at its Darwin office.

- (3) The Commonwealth Ombudsman received funding of \$0.817m in 2011-12 for independent oversight of the Northern Territory Emergency Response. This funding terminated at the end of that financial year. No specific funding for Indigenous and remote outreach was provided in 2012-13.