

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 20-24 October 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous

Topic: School attendance officers - figures

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 54

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator McLUCAS: How many school attendance officer positions are not filled to date? I am not meaning vacancies that are there because someone has just resigned and gone on to another job. I am looking at unfilled places.

Mr Fordham: We have got 113 across all the communities at the moment. There are 78 people in what we refer to as 'the pipeline', which is basically people who are in recruitment, getting work with children's checks and so on.

Senator McLUCAS: Can you split that across participating jurisdictions?

Mr Fordham: I think I can. I would have to add it up; I am sorry, Senator.

Senator McLUCAS: Could you provide it to us on notice, please, Mr Fordham.

Mr Fordham: I will.

Answer:

As at 4 February 2015, there are a total of 136 vacancies across the five jurisdictions including 46 in the pipeline. Individuals may be in the pipeline for a range of reasons including waiting on 'working with children checks from State/Territory governments and other documentation required for employment. A breakdown of the vacancies by jurisdiction follows:

- New South Wales: 3 vacancies across 2 schools (1 School Attendance Supervisor (SAS), 2 School Attendance Officers (SAOs),
- Northern Territory: 59 vacancies across 21 schools (all SAOs);
- Queensland: 15 vacancies across 7 schools (3 SAS, 12 SAOs);
- South Australia: 10 vacancies across 6 schools (all SAOs); and
- Western Australia: 49 vacancies across 10 schools (7 SAS, 42 SAOs).