

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2014**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Callida consultancy**
Question: **181**
Hansard Reference **p 76, 20 October 2014**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 31 December 2014

Senator HEFFERNAN: How long has Callida been in charge of the finance area of DPS?

Ms Mills: They are not in charge. They report to the chief operating officer, who is in charge.

Senator HEFFERNAN: But they do the sums?

Ms Mills: They do the sums along with DPS permanent staff in that area.

Senator HEFFERNAN: How many staff do they have doing the sums; is it six to 10?

Ms Mills: I would have to take that on notice, but that sounds right.

Senator HEFFERNAN: So how much would that cost? This is to replace the CFO?

Ms Mills: It is to do more than replace the CFO. We used Callida's skills to undertake a significant review of our whole financial operating arrangement. They assisted with the development of the new policy proposals and their rollout this year. It was actually a recommendation of the Department of Finance, as part of our funding for this year, that we continue to have independent financial advice available to the department.

Senator HEFFERNAN: So you have brought in six to 10 people to figure out how to run—

Ms Mills: Sorry; no, there are not. There are two people who have been working on contract for Callida and, as we have been determining the structure, we have been bringing in a mix of short-term and permanent replacements. The full-time CFO will start this time next week.

Senator HEFFERNAN: Could you advise the committee how much this interim period of no CFO has cost, through the various people you have had employed? And what was the process for selecting Callida?

Ms Mills: I will take that all on notice.

Answer

Refer to question 183.