

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-17

Finance Portfolio
18 October 2016

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 3/3.1

Topic: Increase to numbers of senior Government staffing positions

Senator: Farrell

Question reference number: F77

Type of question: Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 99-100, 18 October 2016

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 2 December 2016

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FARRELL: If we accept that is the position that you have removed 12 of the lower category employees and increased to 24 the higher category employees—in fact, senior advisers close to the top by category—can you explain what has brought this change about?

Senator Ryan: As I said, the determination of allocations is a matter for the Prime Minister and I am happy to take on notice if you have a specific question. It is not something I can speak to off the top of my head. I will note that based on past practice, in my experience, as a government has gone on in years, you do tend to get more people at higher classifications.

Senator FARRELL: That is obviously one possible explanation.

Senator Ryan: You notice that over time. Other than that, I will take on notice any other reason which I become aware.

Senator FARRELL: Is it that you have been promoting?

Senator Ryan: Honestly, I cannot speak to that. As I said, the determination of staff is not a matter within my personal purview.

Senator FARRELL: Perhaps if you can come back and look at that and see if you can tell us whether it has been promotions and if these people being replaced. ...

Answer:

The Prime Minister allocates personal positions.