

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/016) - MRT-RRT Staff -

Senator Cash, Michaelia (L&CA 39) asked:

CHAIR: Thank you, Senator Bilyk. Minister, just before we go back to the department, I have a question which I should have asked the MRT or the RRT, but I didn't. Perhaps we could take it on notice. All government agencies are 'gender neutral', are they? You select your people on the basis of merit—

Senator Cash: Merit.

CHAIR: not on the basis of gender.

Mr Pezzullo: Absolutely. It is a legal requirement in the Public Service Act.

CHAIR: Sure. It is just that I note that, of the members of the MRT and RRT in Victoria, there are 23 of one gender and 10 of another gender. Perhaps on notice, is there some reason for that? Across the board—as best I could work out from Christian names, and they may not be exactly precise—the balance is 68 of one gender and 45 of another gender. I guess that is close enough to balance. But the Victorian ratio is 23:10 and the Western Australia ratio is 3:1. That is a small figure, but—

Senator Cash: We can take that on notice, Chair, and have a look at it.

Answer:

Members are appointed by the Governor-General. The breakdown of MRT-RRT members as at 28 February 2015 is as follows:

	Sydney		Melbourne		Adelaide		Brisbane		Perth		Totals
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Principal Member	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Deputy Principal Member	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Senior Members	3	3	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	11
Full-time Members	12	11	9	7	1	1	3	1	1	1	47
Part-time Members	14	25	7	15	3	3	-	4	-	2	73
Totals	29	41	18	23	4	5	4	5	1	3	133

Overall there are 77 female and 56 male members.