

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Program: Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre

Question No. AE17/021

Senator Wong, Penny asked the following question at the hearing on 28 February 2017:

Senator WONG: How many FTEs—the 2.68 which became; I will just finish this and then I will hand to my colleague—how was that broken up? Was there capital funding or simply departmental funding? How many FTEs did it fund?

Mr Jevtovic: We do not have the exact numbers. I can confirm: it is absolutely a mixture of both people and capability, including technology, but we can give that on notice.

...

Senator WONG: Okay, that is good to hear, but your budgeted figure for 19-20 is \$35.259 million. It is less in nominal terms than the 15-16 budget. Now, unless you had a lot of fat, which I assume you did not, it would be hard to see how you could have that kind of reduction over that period without having to cut staff.

Mr Jevtovic: Sometimes we, as you are aware, bring on people to do specific things in the organisation. I do not have the detail that I would like to have to answer your question.

Senator WONG: Could you on notice perhaps provide us with the detail as to—I think the question my colleague asked and then to add to that: what is the reduction in numbers of both employees—and would you call them contractors? Is that how you would describe them?

Mr Jevtovic: It can be—non-ongoing employers, contractors; we will have a look at that.

Senator WONG: We want to know how many fewer people will be engaged by whatever means. Where in the additional estimates statement is there the reference to the unwinding of the ED? Is there any additional AUSTAC measure in the additional estimates statement?

...

Senator WONG: I think they aggregate. Maybe Attorney-General's can tell me. Where are you aggregated into in terms of the budgeted expenses in this document?

Mr Mazzitelli: I do not have that in front of me.

Senator WONG: You should have this document, because that is what the Senate is inquiring into, with respect. You do not have your additional estimates document?

Mr Mazzitelli: I will take it on notice.

Senator WONG: Thank you.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The DHS program: Strengthening the Integrity of Welfare Payments comprises both departmental and capital funding that supports a total of 12 FTE in the final year 2018-19.

Funding for this initiative began on 1 July 2015 and ceases on 30 June 2019, at which time the capability will be fully implemented. This capability replaces an existing manual process and once complete, it will support ongoing data sharing with DHS that will increase detection rates of irregular financial activity of government payments without imposing unnecessary burdens on those welfare recipients doing the right thing. By automating the process, it will also improve the efficiency and effectiveness by which AUSTAC and DHS are able to share data and identify fraud and serious non-compliance.

The reduction in staff numbers in 2019-20 relating to the terminating DHS measure is 12.

Financial information for AUSTRAC does not appear in the Additional Estimates statement. There is no AUSTRAC measure to report. AUSTRAC's financials are not aggregated into the Additional Estimates (Attorney-General's Department) document because AUSTRAC has not received any additional appropriations since the May 2016 Budget.