

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

Group: 2

Program: Other Agency

Question No. BE15/070

Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 27 and 28 May 2015 hearing:

1. How many vacant positions currently exist in the National Archives of Australia? Please break these positions down by full/part-time and ongoing/non-ongoing/casual.
2. I refer to Portfolio Budget Statements for the Attorney-General's Portfolio at page 364, table 3.2.1. Why do the forward estimates forecast a more than \$14 million increase in suppliers' expenses for the 2016-17 financial year?
3. What are the planned operating hours for the National Archives Preservation Facility? Will the National Archives Preservation Facility operate on a 24 hours per day, seven days per week basis?
4. If it will operate constantly, how does the National Archives of Australia plan to staff the National Archives Preservation Facility, including during relocation?
5. Will the National Archives of Australia consult with employees as required under the relevant enterprise agreement about extending working hours to relocate to and staff the National Archives Preservation Facility?
6. How will the National Archives of Australia staff the National Archives Preservation Facility during the hours between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am, Monday to Saturday, and on Sunday? Does the agency plan to staff the facility during these hours with non-ongoing employees or through an outsourced service provider?
7. Does the National Archives of Australia have a sufficient number of employees to relocate to and constantly operate the National Archives Preservation Facility?
8. Is a freeze on access to leave by National Archives of Australia employees currently in place, be it formally or informally imposed? To what leave types does this freeze apply? For how long will the freeze be imposed?
9. Will a freeze on access to leave by National Archives of Australia employees be imposed (formally or informally) to manage relocation to the National Archives Preservation Facility? To what leave types will this freeze apply? For how long will the freeze be imposed?

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

1. The National Archives of Australia currently has 42 substantively vacant positions (headcount). The breakdown of these positions is as follows:

Position type	Employment type	Total
Casual	Casual	7
Full Time	Ongoing	17
	Non-ongoing	13
Part Time	Ongoing	1
	Non-ongoing	4
Grand Total		42

2. Supplier expenses increase in 2016-17 as a result of the 2011-12 Budget decision which provided the Archives additional funding for a new National Archives Preservation Facility. The supplier expenditure represents the property operating expenditure and other costs associated with the new preservation facility.
3. The National Archives Preservation Facility will open during normal business hours. No the facility will not be staffed 24 hours per day, seven days per week.
4. The National Archives Preservation Facility will be open during normal business hours and will not be staffed 24 hours per day, seven days per week.
5. The Archives is not extending working hours to staff the National Archives Preservation Facility. The arrangements for the relocation of some specialised records may require some additional hours but this would be over a short period and would involve additional non-ongoing staff employed specifically for this task and possibly a small number of existing Archives' staff with appropriate clearances on an employee opt in only basis. The Archives will continue to consult with and keep staff informed about the National Archives Preservation Facility Project, including relocations.
6. The National Archives Preservation Facility will not operate between 10:00pm and 7:00am or on a Saturday or Sunday.
7. Yes, noting the National Archives Preservation Facility will not be open or staffed 24 hours per day, seven days per week.
8. There is no freeze on access to leave by National Archives of Australia employees currently in place either formally or informally.
9. No freeze on access to leave by National Archives of Australia employees is planned for the National Archives Preservation Facility relocation.