

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Federal Court of Australia

Question No. BE17-193

Senator Pratt asked the following question on 28 August 2017:

I refer to the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement proposal for Federal Court staff which was voted down by 90 per cent of staff in July this year.

1. Is it appropriate for Federal Court employees to be offered half the pay rise of the rest of the public service?
2. Are you aware that management of the Federal Courts has threatened to terminate existing enterprise agreements? How is this appropriate?
3. Are you aware that since the arrival of new HR Director, Darrin Moy, 18 existing HR staff have departed, while Mr Moy has been able to install four of his former colleagues from Sydney Ferries on high wages? Is this not a breach of standard APS practices, in terms of hiring on merit?

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

1. The proposed enterprise agreement provided a salary equalisation included in a 6 per cent salary cap over three years. The proposed offer was consistent with the Government's Workplace Bargaining Policy 2015.
2. Federal Court management has not threatened to terminate the existing two enterprise agreements.
3. The Government rejects the premise of the question.

All candidates were interviewed and considered against selection criteria and consistent with the APSC Commissioner's Direction relating to the appointment of APS employees. There was no breach of standard APS practices.