

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

Group: 2

Program: 1.8

Question No. SBE14/175

Senator Bilyk asked the following question at the hearing on 20 November 2014:

1. How many administrative staff are employed by the TURC?
2. Are they employed under the Australian Public Service Act 1999?
 - a) If so, what level are they employed at?
3. Does the TURC employ people directly to prepare transcripts of hearings or is this a contracted service?
 - a) If a contracted service, what is the value of this contract?
4. How many IT staff are employed by the TURC?
5. Are they employed under the Australian Public Service Act 1999?
 - a) If so, what level are they employed at?
6. Please provide an itemised cost for the following expenses:
 - a) Computers
 - b) Printers/photocopiers/scanners
 - c) Fixed line telephones
 - d) Mobile telephones
 - e) Stationery
7. Does the TURC subscribe to legal databases?
 - a) If so, please list them and provide the cost?
8. How many media and public relations staff are employed?
9. Are they employed under the Australian Public Service Act 1999?
 - a) If so, what level are they employed at?
10. Who manages the TURC's Twitter account?
 - a) What is the total cost of Twitter management since the establishment of the TURC?
11. What is the total cost to the Australian Government of this employment?
12. What are the legal costs of managing the TURC's website?
13. What are the costs of retaining security personnel for hearings of the TURC?
14. What are the costs of security screening equipment (x rays, metal detectors etc.)?

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

1. As at 30 November 2014, the Office of the Royal Commission had employed or seconded 21 APS staff. These staff ranged from APS 3 to SES Band 2.
2. Yes.
 - a. See (1) above.
3. No, it is a contracted service provided by Law in Order.
 - a. \$222,640 as at 31 December 2014.
4. One.
5. Yes.
 - a. At the EL1 level.
6. Costs for expenses is as follows:
 - a. \$53,734
 - b. Included in 6(a) above
 - c. \$52,873
 - d. \$10,853
 - e. \$64,586.
7. No.
8. One.
9. Yes.
 - a. At the EL2 level.
10. The staff member in (8) above as part of their regular duties.
 - a. No additional cost as the staff member in (8) managed the Twitter account as part of their regular duties.
11. The staff member in (8) above has been engaged as an EL2 and is paid accordingly;
12. The TURC website is managed by the Attorney-General's Department and the Office of the Royal Commission.
13. One APS 6 staff member plus additional security for hearing days provided by Security Network Protection under contract.
14. \$16,450 for the hiring of equipment to 31 December 2014.