

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2012

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Employment of Contractors**

Question: **63**

Written **Senator Humphries**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012**

1. How many contractors are currently employed in the department/agency?
2. How many contractors have been under contract for a period of more than 2 years?
3. How many contractors have been under contract for a period of more than 5 years?
4. How many contractors have been under contract for a period of more than 10 years?
5. Does the department/agency make a habit of employing contractors to fill positions on a permanent basis?

Note: The 'contractors' has been clarified to include both external contractors and non-ongoing contracted staff. Please provide a breakdown of both the number of outsourced agency contractors and the number of non-ongoing contracted staff within the department/agency.

#### Answer

The responses to parts 1–4 of the question are set out in the table below.

Type of contractor	Total number of contractors	Number of contractors >2 years	Number of contractors >5 years	Number of contractors >10 years
External	37 (as at 1/3/2012)	3	1	0
Non-ongoing	30 (as at 18/1/2012)	0	0	0

External contractors are considered to be engaged through a contract with a third party and are specifically named in the contract to provide the services. Non-ongoing staff are employed under the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*.

Casual staff are not included in the non-ongoing figures as casual staff are employed for irregular and intermittent duties, and their contracted employment begins when they start work and ends when they stop work on a particular day.

5. External contractors and non-ongoing staff are generally employed for project work for specific terms including where specific specialist skills are required, or for other short term reasons such as while ongoing staff members are being recruited.