

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: 1.1

Topic: Vacancies

Senator: Lundy

Question reference number: 38

Type of question: Hansard FPA, 24 Feb 2014, p.125&126]

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 April 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator LUNDY: How many vacancies have been approved by the commissioner as critical since the minister's announcement?

Mr Sedgwick: I can get that data for you.

Senator LUNDY: How many have been rejected?

Mr Sedgwick: I can get that data for you too.

Senator LUNDY: Is that more than have been approved or less?

Mr Sedgwick: No, it is less than have been approved.

Senator LUNDY: So you have approved more than you have rejected?

Mr Sedgwick: Yes.

Senator LUNDY: Can you give me a ballpark figure, seeing I have to wait for those answers?

Mr Livermore: There are different categories. About 50 SES ongoing roles and 430 non-SES ongoing roles have been approved. The biggest category is the casuals—intermittent and irregular, non-ongoings—which are to support those activities where there is a standing workforce to provide surge capacity.

Senator LUNDY: Please take it on notice to provide me with a full list of ones that have been approved and rejected and the description of the position, not the name.

Mr Sedgwick: We can do it in aggregate numbers; we are quite happy to do it in terms of aggregate numbers.

Senator LUNDY: Just to double check: is this approval for advertising the position?

Mr Sedgwick: Yes, typically it is advertising, and secondly—

Senator LUNDY: Do you then go back and follow up to find out if someone was subsequently employed and by what method or from where?

Mr Sedgwick: We are monitoring quite carefully movements in and out of the service. We are tracking the total number of public servants, the number who leave by natural attrition, the number who leave by other means and the number of new hires across the Public Service.

Senator LUNDY: While you are at it, you can provide the committee all of those figures as well.

Mr Sedgwick: Yes. The number should be available for December relatively soon. Actually, it will be available by the time of the return date.

Senator LUNDY: Okay. Could we also put in that data that Mr Livermore is going to provide

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to the department or agency that provided the advertisement.

Answer:

Since 1 November 2013 up to and including 28 February 2014, the Australian Public Service Commissioner has granted approval to advertise for: 1248 ongoing employees; 1038 non-ongoing employees; and 4669 irregular and/or intermittent employees. There have been 81 positions rejected and 81 requests to fill positions were withdrawn.

At 31 December 2013, there were 163,716 APS employees, a decrease of 3355 or 2.0 % from 167,071 (revised figure¹) employees at 30 June 2013.

Between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013 there were 6715 engagements to the APS and 8680 separations from the APS. Of the separations from the APS;

- 6218 employees left through natural attrition, which includes resignations and age retirements,
- 1916 employees were retrenched, and
- 546 employees left for other reasons, including death, invalidity retirement, moves to non-APS agencies and terminations of appointment.

¹The Commission makes every effort to ensure the integrity of data held in the APS Employment Database data, but it is not responsible for inaccuracies in the data agencies provide. The Commission undertakes extensive audits of the data and, as a result, some errors in historical data have been corrected. For this reason, previously published data on employee numbers may be revised, and therefore may not be directly comparable.