

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2007

Question: F9

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: Security Clearances

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Senator Faulkner asked:

How many clearances are outstanding currently?

How many clearances as of today's date are outstanding for three months?

Answer:

As at 23 May 2007, 196 Top Secret security clearances out of a total of 595 (32.9 per cent) were outstanding. The breakdown is as follows:

- 87 Top Secret security packs had been returned and were being assessed by Ministerial and Parliamentary Services' (M&PS) external security vetting agency; and
- 109 Top Secret security packs were yet to be completed and returned to M&PS' external security vetting agency. Of these, 31 had been outstanding for over three months.