

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 13

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing of 22 February 2011:

In Question on Notice 117, you advised that "staff without the required security clearance are escorted by appropriately cleared staff to and from their work area at all times".

Given that there are, according to this answer, more than two and a half thousand staff at the AFP who don't have the appropriate level of clearance to be in the AFP building,

1. How many staff are being escorted to and from their workstation?
2. Would a staff member with say, Highly Protected clearance, require someone to escort them to and from the toilet?
3. Are there staff who have, as part of their role, to escort people to and from their workstation?

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

1. There are 79 people (as at 9 March 2011) in the Edmund Barton Building that hold a Highly Protected or lower security clearance that require escorting. The remainder who hold a security clearance below Secret do not work at the EBB and do not necessarily require a security clearance above Highly Protected. These people hold a clearance appropriate to the facility at which they work.
2. The preferred position is that staff have the required security clearance for the facility they work in prior to commencement. There are times when operational necessity does not allow this and provision exists to accommodate this. In such a circumstance, staff are required to be escorted when away from the immediate environs of their designated work area.
3. No. However, at the Edmund Barton Building arrangements are in place to escort non AFP service providers to and from secure areas. The movement of staff who are awaiting finalisation of their security clearance are managed within business areas by line managers.