

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0221) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

How many DIAC staff work in each of the Parliamentary and Ministerial Liaison Units, broken down by location? What is the cost of these personnel in total and by location? How have these staffing numbers changed from 2010-11 and 2011-12? What were the reasons for this change? How many of these positions at each location are frontline Ministerial Contact Officers (Parliamentary Liaison Officers)? How have frontline staff numbers changed from 2010-11 and 2011-12? What have been the reasons for this change? What have been the consequences of these changes?

Answer:

The attached tables detail how many departmental staff work in each of the Parliamentary and Ministerial Liaison Units broken down by location in States over the 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 until 30th December 2012. The difference in staffing levels between the program years on average is 1.5 (ASL), which comprises the addition of a Parliamentary Liaison Network (PLN) manager from January 2012, and the return of a staff member to the NSW team who had undertaken a 12 month higher duty opportunity in another area of the department. During this period, the position was not backfilled. The Network in its current format came into existence on the 1st April 2011. Prior to this date, individual parliamentary and ministerial liaison teams in each State operated within a State organisation structure and some work which was previously undertaken by parliamentary liaison officers was inherited by the PLN when it was formally established. This includes functions such as, the role of 'proper officer' responding to subpoenas requests on behalf of the department, coordination of Global Feedback requests from departmental clients, as well as Ombudsman's enquiries. Not all States perform all of these additional functions.

The consequences of the change in staffing levels to include a Parliamentary Liaison Network manager has been an increased level of service to our clients through gained efficiencies from a reduction in duplication, better management of workload peaks by distribution of work amongst the Network, further consistency in our responses, and increased support to staff from the Network to ensure timely and accurate responses.

ASL by State

State	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (to 31 December)
Queensland	2	2.5	2.5
New South Wales	7	6	8
Victoria	2	2	2
South Australia	3.4	3.4	3.4
Western Australia	4	4	4
Tasmania	1	1	1
ACT	1	1	1
Northern Territory	1	1	1
Total ASL	21.4	20.9	22.9

Cost by State

State	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (to 31 December)
Queensland	\$127,022.00	\$178,237.00	\$90,918.75
New South Wales	\$469,699.60	\$418,788.10	\$247,404.15
Victoria	\$127,022.00	\$132,542.00	\$67,596.00
South Australia	\$225,979.00	\$234,074.00	\$119,377.20
Western Australia	\$259,025.00	\$267,185.00	\$136,263.50
Tasmania	\$73,553.00	\$75,024.00	\$38,262.00
ACT	\$73,553.00	\$75,024.00	\$38,262.00
Northern Territory	\$73,553.00	\$75,024.00	\$38,262.00
Total Cost	\$1,429,406.60	\$1,455,898.10	\$776,345.60