

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Corporate Services Group

Question No. 1

Senator Trood asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2008:

Since May Budget Estimates:

- a) how many permanent staff have been recruited by the Department
- b) what level were staff recruited
- c) how many temporary positions exist or have been created since Budget Estimates
- d) how many employees have been employed on contract, and what length of time were the contracts
- e) was any reduction in staffing numbers as a result of the efficiency dividend that the department was required to take earlier in the year, and
- f) are there any further considerations being given to the refiguring of staff in light of the decisions that have been taken and the ones that are in prospect?

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

a) As at 20 October 2008, 61 permanent staff have been recruited by the Department since May Budget Estimates (26 May 2008).

b) The staff referred to at a) have been employed at the following levels:

APS Level 3 = 6

APS Level 4 = 2

APS Level 4/5 = 3

APS Level 5 = 5

APS Level 5/6 = 2

APS Level 6 = 19

Legal Officer = 6

Executive Level 1 = 8

Senior Legal Officer = 4

Executive Level 2 = 2

Principal Legal Officer = 2

SES Band 2 = 2

c) 16 new non-ongoing positions have been created since May Budget Estimates.

d) 128 employees have been engaged on non-ongoing contracts (i.e., staff who are employed under the conditions of employment as specified in the AGD Agreement 2007). Of these, 26 have been employed in non-ongoing positions, the remainder have been employed in ongoing positions pending permanent filling. For all non-ongoing employees, the average length of non-ongoing

contract has been 15.6 weeks. For non-ongoing employees in non-ongoing positions, the average length of contract has been 22 weeks.

In relation to contractors (i.e. staff who are not employed under the conditions of employment as specified in the AGD Agreement 2007) there have been 137 contracts entered into by the Attorney-General's Department since 26 May 2008, including extensions to contracts. The contract length for each position varied from one week to 12 months.

e) No

f) Based on the normal turnover rates, the Department anticipates that staff turnover will give the flexibility needed to accommodate the reduction in the Department's budget for the balance of the year. The Department continually monitors staffing against its budget, including monitoring budgeted FTE against actual FTE.