

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 30 May 2013

Question: 01

Topic: Current Staffing Numbers

Asked By: Senator JOYCE

Type of Question: RRA&T 5

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Ms Beauchamp: Certainly. I can point you to this year's budget papers under outcome 1. On page 36 for outcome 1, which covers a range of regional programs and local government programs, we have an average staffing level predicted in the order of 212. That also includes an attribution of corporate staff as well. Like I said, at any one point in time it varies in terms of the number of people that are working on either local government or regional, depending on what issues are coming up.

Senator JOYCE: So we have 212 at the moment?

Ms Beauchamp: That is the forecast average staffing level for 2013-14, as per the budget papers.

Senator JOYCE: How many do you have at the moment?

Ms Beauchamp: Right now, as at today?

Senator JOYCE: Yes.

Ms Beauchamp: In the local government area I would have to go back—my apologies—and add up from today the number of people working on the National Disaster Recovery Taskforce, the constitutional recognition of local government area, the people working on the Financial Assistance Grants Review, the organisation that we are doing around the ACLG, working with ALGA and others. So I would actually have to take that on notice for a particular point in time....

Answer:

At 31 May 2013, there were 220.17 Full Time Equivalent employees working on outcome 1.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 30 May 2013

Question: 02

Topic: Funding for Various Programs

Asked By: Senator JOYCE

Type of Question: RRA&T 8

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013

Number of pages: 2

Senator JOYCE: As well as the Clean Energy Future, can you get back some time—I do not want to put all of these notice again—or can I rely on you to get back to us on the Regional Structural Adjustment package, community infrastructure grants, Northern Australia Sustainable Futures and the Regional and Rural Research and Development Grants. In fact, I will ask for those more pertinently: RDA committees and the Regional Development Australia Fund. I will just start with the last one first and I will pull up and put the rest on notice. The Regional Development Australia Fund – what has been the expenditure in the previous year on that date?

Answer:

Actual Program Expenditure for 2007-08 to 2011-12 is detailed below

Program name	2007-08 Actual Expenses \$000's	2008-09 Actual Expenses \$000's	2009-10 Actual Expenses \$000's	2010-11 Actual Expenses \$000's	2011-12 Actual Expenses \$000's
a. Clean Energy Future - Regional Structural Adjustment	-	-	-	-	-
b. Community Infrastructure Grants	-	-	-	-	37,248
c. Northern Australia Sustainable Futures	-	-	-	531	4,900
d. Regional and Rural Research and Development Grants	228	125	195	228	228
e. Regional Development Australia Committees	16,869	17,437	14,552	18,717	18,584
f. Regional Development Australia Fund	-	-	-	-	32,425

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Estimated Program Expenditure for 2012-13 to 2016-17 is detailed below

Program name	2012-13 Estimated Actual \$000's	2013-14 Budget \$000's	2014-15 Forward Year 1 \$000's	2015-16 Forward Year 2 \$000's	2016-17 Forward Year 3 \$000's
a. Clean Energy Future - Regional Structural Adjustment	-	-	-	-	-
b. Community Infrastructure Grants	68,250	97,087	36,500	17,000	-
c. Northern Australia Sustainable Futures	4,470	1,400	971	-	-
d. Regional and Rural Research and Development Grants	-	228	228	228	228
e. Regional Development Australia Committees	18,884	19,194	19,604	20,017	20,437
f. Regional Development Australia Fund	100,000	160,100	364,700	224,200	92,576

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Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 30 May 2013

Question: 03

Topic: Last Tender Process Undertaken

Asked By: Senator JOYCE

Type of Question: RRA&T 8

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Senator JOYCE: What was the last tender process that you did and how long did it take?

Ms Beauchamp: It all depends on what you are tendering for—whether you are tendering for—

Senator JOYCE: Just the last one. What was the last tender process that you did?

Ms Beauchamp: I would have to take that on notice

Answer:

The last tender process undertaken by the Department as at 30 May 2013 was for the engagement of a contractor to supply, install, commission and maintain digital hardware and television services in the Indian Ocean Territories.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Budget Estimates 30 May 2013

Question: 04

Topic: Timing of Responses to Questions on Notice

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: RRA&T 37

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Ms Beauchamp: A batch sent up on 17 April and we continued to provide, as you can see from the amount of work required, those answers up until 10 May.

Senator BRANDIS: Well, just pausing there, Ms Beauchamp, 17 April was already 12 days after the deadline. Mr Crean was dismissed on 21 March, so were an earlier set of answers sent to Mr Crean?

Ms Beauchamp: I would have to take that on notice because across the portfolio, as I mentioned, there was a very, very large number of questions on notice taken.

Answer:

No.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Budget Estimates 30 May 2013

Question: 05

Topic: Clearance of Questions on Notice by Minister Burke

Asked By: Senator BRANDIS

Type of Question: RRA&T 37

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Senator BRANDIS: No, no, you are not, but it is not your fault. I just want to make that as plain as can be. It is not your fault but you are the officers at the table. I am looking for an explanation as to why there has been such an egregious delay here. I can only imagine it is because the minister's office did not clear these answers that your department had supplied. When were these 372 pages of answers, which were provided at one o'clock yesterday, cleared by the minister's office?

Ms Beauchamp: I would have to take that on notice and see when they were....I can only assume that, given that Minister Burke was away overseas, he would have probably cleared them when he returned, so it would have been after Tuesday evening.

Senator BRANDIS: After Tuesday?

Ms Beauchamp: I am making that assumption. As I said, I will take that on notice.

Answer:

Responses to the questions asked of Outcome 3 and Arts Portfolio Agencies were cleared by Minister Burke on 28 May 2013.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Budget Estimates 30 May 2013

Question: 06

Topic: Media material prepared by the Department

Asked By: Senator SMITH

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Please provide copies of:

- a. all media related materials prepared by the Department of Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport for the Office of the Minister for Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport; and
- b. copies of all articles published in newspapers and magazines that appear under the authorship of the Minister for Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport that were prepared by the officials in the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport.

Answer:

All media materials and articles prepared for Ministers with responsibility in the Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport portfolio can be seen at ministers.regional.gov.au or are publicly available.