



DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021 – BRIEFING NOTES

March 2021 Session 1

Supplementary and Questions on Notice

Questions on Notice

40. Review SRA employment grades, all incidence allowance and overtime

Suggested Response:

The Electorate Officers were covered by an Enterprise Agreement that expired on 1 July 1996 and negotiations between the PSA and the Speaker led to the Crown Employees (Parliamentary Electorate Officers) Award in 1997.

Investigation has revealed that the All Incidence of Employment Allowance rates were simply struck as follows:

- \$2500 pa for Electorate Officers Grade 1
- \$3000 pa for Special Salary Scale
- \$4000 pa for Electorate Officers Grade 2

These new All Incidence of Employment Allowance rates back in the day then flowed onto Secretary/Research Assistants.

Therefore, the rates were simply struck and not based on any data at the time ie. not based on any average hours overtime that Electorate Officers may have worked.

From 2014 when MOPS was established the two higher All Incident of Employment Allowance rates were attached to the new Classifications of Electorate Officer and Senior Electorate Officer and the higher rate flowed onto Secretary/Research Assistants.



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Those Allowance rates have risen with salary rate rises ever since to the current rates of \$6726 pa for EO's and \$8968 pa for SEO's and Secretary Research Assistant's.

In summary the All Incidence of Employment Allowance rate was not derived from the number of hours overtime worked.



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41. List of all DPS employment grades and the number of staff in each grade.

Suggested Response:

	DPS
Casual	8
Clerk General Scale 13	7
Clerk Grade 1	0
Clerk Grade 2	4
Clerk Grade 3	8
Clerk Grade 4	13
Clerk Grade 5	13
Clerk Grade 6	8
Clerk Grade 7	15
Clerk Grade 8	20
Clerk Grade 9	12
Clerk Grade 10	26
Clerk Grade 11	6
Clerk Grade 12	14
Snr Parliamentary Officer	7
Kitchen Attendant	3
Librarian Grade 1	1
Librarian Grade 2	2
Librarian Grade 3	2
Library Technician Grade 1	1
Library Technician Grade 2	2
Library Assistant	1
PT CLEAN	13
FT CLEAN	7
Hansard Reporter	19
Snr Reporter	2
Snr Sub Editor	1
Sub Editor	8



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42. Number of people employed by Parliament with a disability

Suggested Response:

The number of staff who have identified as having a disability either requiring an adjustment or not is:

- DPS has 4 staff members who have identified as having a disability
- LC has 1 staff member who has identified as having a disability



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43. [Accessibility and stairs into L9 garden](#)

Suggested Response:

The lift at the front of the building provides access to the level 9 garden. Currently the lift runs at 0.5 of a meter per second. With changes in elevator technology there is a project that will take that up to 0.95 meter per second, nearly doubling the speed of that elevator allowing someone in a wheelchair can get to level 9 much faster. That is a short-term fix while DPS advocates for the funds to work with the steps from the level 9 tower block into the garden.



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44. Funding for Legislative Council committees

Suggested Response:

At the commencement of the Parliament, on the initiative of the Clerk, I approved the employment of an additional Director grade 11/12, two additional Principal Council Officers grade 9/10, one additional Senior Council Officer grade 7/8 and one additional Administration Officer grade 3/4 in anticipation of the additional workload. Additional funding of \$635K per annum was received in the 2019-2020 Budget to support these additional positions.

In addition, in advance of the delayed 2020-2021 budget, the committee received a further funding boost of \$440k per annum. This allowed the employment of two further Principal Council Officers grade 9/10, the employment of a second Council Officer grade 5/6 (senior administrative officer) and two additional Administration Officers grade 3/4.

Prior to Christmas, in view of the overall budget position of the Parliament, the Clerk authorised the temporary employment of an additional fifth Committee Director grade 11/12 for the duration of 2021. This was an absolutely necessary measure. Prior to that point, our Committee Directors had each been carrying 6 or 7 inquiries, which was not sustainable. I flag that given the workload of the Directors this fifth Director position may need to be continued in 2022.

In February, the Parliament submitted a budget bid for additional funding to extend the fifth Committee Director to the end of the Parliament and to employ additional Principal Council Officers grade 9/10 and an additional Administration Officer grade 3/4. The funding bid was for an additional \$450K over two years. We await the results of this funding bid.



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45. Improvements to the e-petition process including load balancing.

Suggested Response:

In July 2020 improvements were made to our servers to take a step towards ensuring the website and PIMS could handle expected peak loads during significant activity for committee inquiries (submissions) and electronic petitions (page views and signatures).

The results of the stress test showed a failure rate of 0.05% when the public website was tested to 36,000 hits per minute. The stress test also showed that the capacity of the website and PIMS to accept submissions improved more than 400% when compared to pre-load balancer state.

More recently, these load balancing servers were rebuilt to improve security and further testing undertaken.



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46. Website usage statistics

Suggested Response:

Website statistics as collected using Google Analytics provided for the period:

1 December 2020 – 28 February 2021 Total: 664930

Day Index	Users
1/12/2020	9278
2/12/2020	9140
3/12/2020	7622
4/12/2020	5761
5/12/2020	3006
6/12/2020	2762
7/12/2020	6560
8/12/2020	6536
9/12/2020	7333
10/12/2020	6673
11/12/2020	5638
12/12/2020	2945
13/12/2020	2634
14/12/2020	6186
15/12/2020	11377
16/12/2020	8758
17/12/2020	6146
18/12/2020	6805
19/12/2020	3192
20/12/2020	3476
21/12/2020	5846
22/12/2020	6267
23/12/2020	4579
24/12/2020	3678
25/12/2020	1783
26/12/2020	2203
27/12/2020	2273
28/12/2020	2838
29/12/2020	2907
30/12/2020	3357



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31/12/2020	2995
1/01/2021	2750
2/01/2021	3902
3/01/2021	3735
4/01/2021	7567
5/01/2021	6237
6/01/2021	5541
7/01/2021	4784
8/01/2021	4478
9/01/2021	3803
10/01/2021	3981
11/01/2021	6437
12/01/2021	7552
13/01/2021	13280
14/01/2021	6839
15/01/2021	6266
16/01/2021	3595
17/01/2021	3071
18/01/2021	5840
19/01/2021	6165
20/01/2021	6061
21/01/2021	5536
22/01/2021	5332
23/01/2021	2907
24/01/2021	3150
25/01/2021	5973
26/01/2021	4882
27/01/2021	6694
28/01/2021	6862
29/01/2021	9180
30/01/2021	5293
31/01/2021	4554
1/02/2021	7606
2/02/2021	7365
3/02/2021	8194
4/02/2021	7701
5/02/2021	6886
6/02/2021	5920
7/02/2021	5142



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8/02/2021	9976
9/02/2021	28566
10/02/2021	21736
11/02/2021	15542
12/02/2021	12302
13/02/2021	7760
14/02/2021	6443
15/02/2021	22946
16/02/2021	16049
17/02/2021	13935
18/02/2021	16957
19/02/2021	12660
20/02/2021	7766
21/02/2021	10673
22/02/2021	15480
23/02/2021	16960
24/02/2021	13239
25/02/2021	12487
26/02/2021	10393
27/02/2021	5932
28/02/2021	5513
	664930