

Responses of the Public Service Association of New South Wales to questions-on-notice arising from – Review of the Inquiry into Allegation of Bullying in WorkCover NSW, PSA appearance, 28 October 2014.

Mr TURNER: Effectively, if you are a temp with more than five years' service or less than five years' service but not appointed through merit - however that is perceived – on 14 February next year you will be terminated. There is 19 per cent of the public sector at the moment in temporary employment.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: How many full-time equivalent employees are we talking about?

Mr TURNER: This is a very rough figure.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: I am happy for you to take it on notice and provide us with the detailed figures if you would like.

Mr TURNER: I will take it on notice and give the detail, but there is approximately 325,000 people in the public sector full-time equivalents and 19 per cent of that approximately are temp.

Figures contained in 2013 Workforce Profile, compiled by the Public Service Commission shows there to be 329,336.16 full-time equivalent employees in the NSW public sector. Of these employees, 21.79% (71,762) are engaged on a non-permanent basis.

The non-permanent group is compiled of 13.35% (43,976) temporary employees and 6.14% (20,221) casual employees (which sums to the quoted 19%). The remaining portion is classified by the Public Service Commission as 'Contract' or 'Other'.

Since 2004 the portion on non-permanent public sector employees has increased from 18.08 to 21.79% and the portion of temporary employees has increased from 8.52 to 13.35%.

Information provided directly by the Public Service Commission in a meeting on 4 November 2014, is that within the public service, to which the Government Sector Employment Act applies, as of June 2014 there are 9,572 temporary employees of which 2,400 would will have least four years of service on 24 February 2015. By this date agencies are expected to have achieved compliance with the temporary employment provisions of the GSE Act, including a maximum period of temporary employment of four years in any five year period.

Subsequent to the PSA's appearance before the Committee, the Public Service Commission has issued draft amendments to the Rules of the GSE Act, which if adopted, will amongst other things, permit agencies to seek an extension to this compliance deadline through until February 2017.