

Tuesday, 15 September 2009
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009 – 2010
General Purpose Standing Committee No 1.

Questions on Notice to the Premier by Committee Members

Questions from Mr Gallacher

1. In relation to the 20% reduction in SES officers:

- a) How many of these officers were made 'unattached'?
- b) For how long were these officers unattached, or average?
- c) What was the cost of this?
- d) Were any officers attached for longer than 4 weeks?
- e) How many of these officers sought compensation determined by the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal (SOORT)?
- f) How many of these applications were successful?
- g) What was the total amount of compensation paid as a result of these determinations?
- h) Have any of the officers who were terminated been subsequently re-employed in the NSW public service? If so, how many, and in what capacity?
- i) Have any of the officers who were terminated been engaged on a contract basis by the agency or department that terminated them?
- j) Have any of the officers who were terminated been engaged on a contract basis another NSW Government department or agency?

ANSWERS:

1.

- a) Circular 2006-28 – *Unattached Officers – Chief and Senior Executive Service* provides that the maximum period of unattachment is 4 weeks.
- b) As per 1(a) above.
- c) Unattached SES officers continue to receive normal remuneration.
- d) 15 SES officers were unattached for more than 4 weeks. Each case was considered on its merits and was consistent with the rules outlined in Circular 2006-28.
- e) 32.
- f) 32.
- g) SOORT as an independent Tribunal determines compensation based on the merits of each case. The statutory maximum amount of compensation that can be determined is 38 weeks. The total compensation determined for the 32 officers was \$4.115 million.
- h) Section 78(8) of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002* provides executive officers can only be re-engaged in the NSW public sector if they refund a proportionate amount of the compensation payment.
- i) Refer to 1h) above.
- j) Refer to 1h) above.

**2. How many staff are employed by the NSW Government at Senior Officer level at 30 June 2009?
Please provide a breakdown of the number employed at each grade ie SO1, SO2, SO3**

ANSWER: All public sector agencies report their staffing profile annually as part of their annual report.

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3. *How many staff are employed by the NSW Government at Senior Officer level at 30 June 2008?
Please provide a breakdown of the number employed at each grade ie SO1, SO2, SO3.*

ANSWER: All public sector agencies report their staffing profile annually as part of their annual report.

4. *How many staff are employed by the NSW Government at Senior Officer level at 30 June 2007?
Please provide a breakdown of the number employed at each grade ie SO1, SO2, SO3.*

ANSWER: All public sector agencies report their staffing profile annually as part of their annual report.

5. *How many staff are employed by the NSW Government at Senior Officer level at 30 June 2006?
Please provide a breakdown of the number employed at each grade ie SO1, SO2, SO3.*

ANSWER: All public sector agencies report their staffing profile annually as part of their annual report.

6. *When will the Sydney Emergency Warning System (public address system) review announced by Premier Nathan Rees on the 31st of March be completed?*

ANSWER: The review of the Sydney CBD Emergency Warning System was completed in September 2009.

7. *What are the total number of Media and/or Communications staff/advisers for Department of Premier and Cabinet and any other associated agencies?*

ANSWER:

Ministerial and Parliamentary Services: As at 23/9/09, there were 34 Media Advisors in Ministers' offices.

ICAC: The ICAC employs one Manager, Communications and Media.

IPART: Nil

Audit Office: Nil

Ombudsman: Nil

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Community Relations Commission: Nil

Electoral Commission: Nil

Natural Resources Commission: Nil.

8. *What is the total entertainment budget and actual expenditure in entertainment for Department of Premier and cabinet and other associated agencies?*

ANSWER:

Department of Premier and Cabinet: There is no dedicated budget for entertainment costs within the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Business Units are issued a global budget and allocate these funds internally based on business requirements.

Total DPC expenditure on entertainment in 2008/09 was \$417,554.12.

Additional Information:	State Governor's Office total:	\$343,659.96 (82.3%)
	Remainder of DPC:	\$79,894.16 (17.7%)
	Minister's Offices total:	\$29,626.69
	Average of 23 offices:	\$1,288.12
	Total Leader of the National Party:	\$9,538.85

ICAC: The ICAC has no budget for entertainment.

IPART: The entertainment expenditure for 2008/09 for IPART was \$15,204 which included payment for a one-off function for a meeting of Commonwealth and State Government economic regulators which was hosted by IPART. The 2009/10 budget for entertainment is \$10,700.

Audit Office: Budget - Nil
Expenditure - Nil

Ombudsman: The Ombudsman's Office occasionally provides refreshments as part of Community consultation meetings, but the cost is incidental and is not considered as entertainment expenditure.

Community Relations Commission: The CRC's total entertainment budget and actual expenditure for the year ended 2008-09 was as follows: Actual 2008/09 \$29,046
Budget 2008/09 \$30,000

The above figures exclude the CRC National Multicultural Marketing Awards catering expenses of \$60,692 which were off-set by \$83,567 in revenue from the event.

Electoral Commission: Nil

Natural Resources Commission: Budget for 2009/10 is \$1,000. Actual expenditure in 2008/09 was \$329.