

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 16 FEBRUARY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Staff Reductions

Question reference number: HSW 33

Senator: McKenzie

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 29 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. Reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut, etc
- b) If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

Answer:

- The 2011-12 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements reported that the estimated Average Staffing Level (ASL) in the department will reduce in order to manage staff affordability (representing a reduction of 801 ASL, or 2.3 per cent, from the 2010-11 actual ASL).
- The department has already made considerable progress in managing workforce numbers in order to maintain workforce affordability.
- It is anticipated that natural attrition will continue to deliver much of the required workforce adjustments.
- The department can accommodate the adjustments without adverse effect on our work. Key business performance indicators will be closely monitored to gauge any impact on service delivery to customers, and any localised effects on services will be managed, should they occur.

Definition of ASL:

- The average number of employees receiving salary/wages over the reporting period (year to date), with adjustments for casual and part time employees to show the full-time equivalent.
- In other words, ASL is average paid full-time equivalent (FTE) for each financial year.
- It is important to note that the actual number of people employed will vary from the forecast ASL figure.