

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000024

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Staffing Reductions

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig Joe

Question:

1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What was the reason for these reductions?
 - a). Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
2. Are there any plans for further staff reductions/voluntary redundancies? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.
3. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
4. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
5. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?
 - a) What classification were these staff?
6. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?
 - a) What classification were these staff?

Answer:

1. From 20 November 2013 to 28 February 2014 the Department of Health (including Therapeutic Goods Administration Trust, National Industrial Chemical Notification and Assessment Scheme and Office of Gene Technology Regulator) has reduced by 358 staff (257 ongoing and 101 non-ongoing including casual staff). The reductions are the result of:
 - Machinery of Government Changes (128 including 73 to the Department of Social Services and 55 to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet);
 - voluntary redundancies (56); and
 - resignations, retirements, cessation of non-ongoing contracts (174).
 - a) No.
2. A reduction to meet budget targets will be achieved through ongoing workforce realignment, including a small number of voluntary redundancies, as we reduce overall staff numbers by approximately 439 FTE or 15.9 per cent in 2013-2014. The Department is projected to become 26 per cent smaller by 2016-17 than it was in 2007-08.

3. Over the last few years the Department has been managing whole of government efficiency measures including efficiency dividends, staff reductions relating to a portfolio-specific Strategic Review and reductions in Budget funded departmental measures.

4. No.

5. A total of 257 ongoing staff have left the department.

a) The classifications were:

- 133 APS2 to APS6;
- 116 Executive Level 1 and Executive Level 2; and
- Eight Senior Executive Service Band 1 and Senior Executive Service Band 2.

A total of 126 ongoing staff left the Department due to Machinery of Government changes and 131 due to other separation reasons.

6. A total of 101 non-ongoing staff have left the Department.

a) The classifications were:

- 80 APS2 to APS6; and
- 21 Executive Level 1 and Executive Level 2.

A total of two non-ongoing staff left the Department due to Machinery of Government changes and 99 for other reasons.