

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013**

**Question:** E13-057

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Staffing Reductions

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Question:**

- a) How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from 7 September 2013 to date? What was the reason for these reductions?
- b) Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
- c) 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.
- d) If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
- e) Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.

**Answer:**

In the Department of Health, including Therapeutic Goods Administration Trust, National Industrial Chemical Notification and Assessment Scheme and Office of Gene Technology Regulator:

- a) From 7 September 2013 to 30 November 2013 the Department has reduced by 1,447 staff (1,276 ongoing and 171 non-ongoing including casual staff). The reductions are the result of:
  - Machinery of Government Changes (1,239: 1,232 to the Department of Social Services and seven to Prime Minister and Cabinet);
  - voluntary redundancies (19); and
  - resignations, retirements, cessation of non-ongoing contracts (189).
- b) No.
- c) A reduction to achieve budget targets will be achieved through workforce realignment which will include a small number of voluntary redundancies as we reduce overall staff numbers by approximately 10 per cent. The exact number of voluntary redundancies will depend on the rate of natural attrition.

- d) Over the last few years the Department has been managing Government efficiency and saves measures including efficiency dividends, the further departmental saves measures, Strategic Review savings and reductions in Budget funded departmental measures. The Department is also managing staff pay increases.
- e) No.