

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

Question: SBT 247-256

Topic: Staffing (ABS)

Written: Received from Committee – 26 October 2012

Senator BUSHBY asked:

247. How many ongoing staff recruited this financial year to date (26 October 2012)? What classification are these staff?
248. How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date (26 October 2012)? What classification are these staff?
249. This financial year to date (26 October 2012), how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?
250. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency in the year 2011-12? What classification were these staff?
251. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency in the year 2011-12? What classification were these staff?
252. How many contract staff left department/agency in the year 2011-12? What classification were these staff?
254. How many non-ongoing staff were recruited in the year 2011-12? What classification were these staff?
255. How many contract staff were recruited in the year 2011-12? What classification were these staff? What is the average length of their employment period?
256. Are there any plans for staff reduction? 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.
 - a. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

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Answers:

247. Nine ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers and Census Field employees) have been recruited this financial year to date (to 26 October 2012). Of these; four were at the APS level, four at the Executive Level and one at the SES level.
248. As at the 26 October 2012, there were 543 non-ongoing staff employed by the ABS, compared with 480 as at 30 June 2012 (excluding ABS Interviewers and Census Field employees). Please see the following table for comparison of levels.

	at 30/06/12	at 26/10/12
APS 1-6	418	516
DPC 1-6	31	0
EL	30	26
SES	1	1
Total	480	543

249. Contractors are not engaged as APS staff.
250. During 2011/12 there were 415 ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers and Census Field employees) that left the ABS. Of these; 338 were at the APS level, 70 at the Executive Level and seven at the SES level.
251. There were 1219 non-ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers and Census Field employees) that left the ABS in 2011/12. Of these; 447 were at the APS level and 50 were at the Executive Level. The other 722 non-ongoing staff were Population Census Data Processing Centre (DPC) employees who left at the completion of the Population Census processing phase.
252. Contractors are not employed as APS staff.
253. During 2011/12 there were 274 ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers and Census Field employees) recruited into the ABS. Of these; 255 were at the APS level, 18 at the Executive Level and one at the SES level.
254. During 2011/12 there were 1203 non-ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers and Census Field employees) recruited into the ABS. Of these; 448 were at the APS level, 703 were at the DPC classification level, 51 were at the Executive Level and one at the SES level.
255. Contractors are not employed as APS staff.
256. Activities to reduce staffing numbers in the ABS include: natural attrition; recruitment freeze for general recruitment (recruitment has been limited to key positions, including a recent EL2 and current EL1 bulk round); strict limitations to non-ongoing and graduate recruitment; and extensions to non-ongoing staff contracts needing approval by the Chief Operating Officer (COO). As at 26th October 2012 there was no staff reduction target.