

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Agency: ACARA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000034

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 25 February 2015, Hansard page 58

ACARA - staffing

Question

Senator O'NEILL: Can I just check the staffing levels. I think the average staffing level was expected to reduce from 116 in 2013-14 to 95 in 2014-15.

Mr Randall: Yes.

Senator O'NEILL: Is that the reduction that you are still expecting?

Mr Randall: By the end of the year that will be the average. Yes.

Senator O'NEILL: You are on track to achieve that reduction?

Mr Randall: Yes.

Senator O'NEILL: Has there been any revision to the agency staffing level, at all?

Mr Randall: No. Those projections are still there. We are working with them but I would make two observations. One is that because we have had additional funding for programs like languages and others, the figure is in relation to the core funding. So if you came and counted the heads there would be a few more, whether it was in national trade cadetships or languages. But we are working towards that in terms of an average level.

Senator O'NEILL: Could you advise, either today or on notice, what positions have gone.

....

Senator O'NEILL: Yes; what has gone down and what has gone up—a full picture. How many redundancies have there been at ACARA in 2014-15?

Mr Randall: Again, I would need to go back and seek that. I will come back to you. There have been some because we have changed, along the way, our structural arrangements. We have decided, organisationally, priorities. I recall we did some work within the communications team and adjusted some things there. So there have been some there, which were about the operation of the organisation as opposed to any other factors. I will come back to you with that advice.

Senator O'NEILL: Could you do a 2014-15 acquittal of redundancies—forced and voluntary—and a comparison with 2013-14, for the same matrix.

Mr Randall: I will give you, for 2013-14 and 2014-15, our staffing and the changes and the extent that those changes have been from redundancies. Yes, I can provide that.

Senator O'NEILL: Whether forced or voluntary and identified accordingly?

Mr Randall: Yes, and/or people just choosing to move on, for example.

Answer

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority has provided the following response.

Changes to staffing levels	FY2014-25/2/15	FY13-14
Ongoing appointments	63	59
Fixed term contracts not continued	5	4
Resignations	9	19
Redundancies	0 (forced), 0 (voluntary)	5 (forced), 0 (voluntary)