

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 104

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:

- a) On page 110 of the AGs PBS 2012-12, the figures show that 190 staff will be cut from Customs. In 2011-12 the staff number was 5,225 and in 2012-12 it has been cut to 5,035 – a difference of 190 staff. From which areas have staff been cut? Can you provide a breakdown?
- b) Have any staff been moved from one area to another? Provide information over the past 6 months of staff movements?
- c) Have any Customs offices closed over the past 12 months or had any staff cutbacks or variations? If so what are they?
- d) Is Customs looking to close any offices or reduce staff numbers in the future? If so which offices?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

a) At this stage the need to reduce staff by a planned 190 positions has been considered at the macro level. A more detailed consideration of where the final staffing reductions will occur will be performed as part of the organisation's business planning and internal budgeting process due for completion in July 2012.

Major budget adjustments impacting staffing levels for 2012-13 include:

- Additional funding for the Cape Class - Enhanced Option of \$5.9m which includes funding for a further 19 positions.
- A reduction in funding resulting from the Increased Use of Smart Gate expected to result in a reduction of 33 positions in 2012-13.
- ASL reductions in 2012-13 will be managed as far as possible through natural attrition and redeployment. Voluntary redundancies will be used only as a last resort.

b) Staff moves as a result of the organisational restructure, which occurred in March 2012 have (as far as possible) been excluded from this data if:

- it was a move within the same Division; or
- it was only a change to reporting line; or
- did not result in a change to job roles and responsibilities.

From 1 December 2011 to 31 May 2012 the following internal staff moves occurred¹:

- 28 internal promotions
- 260 permanent transfers at level
- 428 short term transfers²

(c) In the past 12 months no Customs and Border Protection offices have closed. As a result of officers completing their fixed term assignments and returning to their home ports during the last 12

¹ Promotions or transfers that have occurred within the same Division have been excluded.

² Short term transfers includes Fixed Term Assignments (FTAs), moves at level for specified periods (ie not permanent) and higher duties outside of the officer's substantive Division.

months there have been 14 staff reductions in district offices at Newcastle, Hobart, Cairns, Thursday Island, Darwin, Broome, Carnarvon and Geraldton.

d) Customs and Border Protection is not intending to close any offices at this stage. As stated in the response to a) more detailed consideration of where the staffing reductions will occur over 2012-13 will be performed as part of the organisation's business planning and internal budgeting process due for completion in July 2012