

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-052

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: STAFFING

Written Question on Notice

Senator McKenzie asked:

- a) Are there any plans for staff reduction?
- b) If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
- c) If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b) The Department of Health and Ageing is reducing by an estimated 527 Full Time Equivalent over 2 years to end of 2012-13 through a mix of natural attrition and voluntary redundancy program. There will be no involuntary redundancies.
- c) There are multiple causes for staff reduction, including:
 - An outcome of the Government commissioned strategic review in 2010 and announced in the 2010-11 Budget;
 - the original efficiency dividend of 1.5 per cent in 2011-12;
 - the negotiated Certified Agreement pay increase;
 - declining and/or ceasing budget measures; and
 - an additional 2.5 per cent increase to the Efficiency dividend in 2012-13.