

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000129

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Staffing Reductions

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred?
 - a) What was the reason for these reductions?
2. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details. No
3. 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.
4. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
5. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details. No
6. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency? What classification were these staff?
7. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from? What classification were these staff?
8. What are the voluntary redundancy packages offered? Please detail for each staff level and position
9. How do the packages differ from the default public service package?
10. How is the department/agency funding the packages?

Answer:

1. 26.
 - a) Voluntary redundancies have been provided to staff where the role is no longer required and/or the staff member no longer has the desired skills and capability required for the work area.
2. No.
3. Further voluntary redundancies will be provided where particular roles are no longer required or where a staff member no longer has the desired skills and capabilities for the required work of the area. There is no reduction target and there will be no reduction in services or programmes.
4. There are no plans for staff reductions.
5. There are no plans for involuntary redundancies.
6. A total of 214 ongoing separations ranging from APS 2 to SES Band 3 classifications.
7. A total of 147 non-ongoing separations ranging from APS 2 to EL 2 classifications.

8. The voluntary redundancy packages offered by the Department are provided in Part H of the Department of Health Enterprise Agreement 2016-2019.
9. The Department's voluntary redundancy package does not differ from the public service default package.
10. The staff voluntary redundancy packages are funded from the Department's existing operational budget.