

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-379

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: REDUCTION OF STAFFING NUMBERS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Have staffing number been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?
- b) If so, where and at what classification?

Answer:

- a) In 2010-11 the Department managed the impact of the efficiency dividend without reducing staffing levels.

In 2010, the Australian Government commissioned a review of the administrative arrangements in the Health and Ageing Portfolio (strategic review). A thorough analysis of the Portfolio has been undertaken, including examination of its approach to program and grant management and corporate services.

Staffing numbers in 2011-12 and the forward estimates will be impacted by strategic review outcomes together with movement in measure funding, cost pressures and Budget parameters, i.e the efficiency dividend and wage cost indexation. It is presently estimated staffing for the core department will reduce from a forecast 4,060 staff in 2010-11 to a forecast 3,640 in 2012-13 i.e an estimated decrease of 420 staff or approximately 10 per cent.

- b) The Department is presently incorporating strategic review outcomes in 2011-12 business planning activities. Efficiencies in grants, procurement and funding; business process improvement; IT governance and database realignment; and Portfolio shared services have been identified as the areas where efficiencies will be delivered.

The Department anticipates the reduction in staffing levels will be achieved through natural attrition. The impact on staff classification levels will be better known on completion of the Department's 2011-12 business planning cycle.