

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013**

**Question: E13-059**

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Staffing

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Smith

**Question:**

- a) How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred this financial year to date? What was the reason for these reductions?
- b) Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
- c) 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.
- d) If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
- e) Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.

**Answer:**

- a) 59 staff from the Department of Health and Ageing (Central and State/Territory Offices, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme and the Office of the Aged Care Commissioner) accepted voluntary redundancies in 2012-13. Voluntary redundancies assisted in achieving the budget targets.
- b) There were no involuntary redundancies.
- c) A reduction to achieve budget targets will be achieved through workforce realignment and streamlining along with natural attrition. No services/programs are planned to be cut.
- d) Departmental staffing levels will reduce progressively, by a total of 10 per cent over two years.

The Department is managing in aggregate all Government efficiency and saves measures including efficiency dividends, the further departmental saves measure, strategic review savings and reductions in Budget funded departmental measures.

Incorporated into the 2013-14 Portfolio Budget Statements are average staffing level (ASL) estimates for the core Department which are 3,921 ASL for 2012-13; 3,751 ASL for 2013-14; and 3,540 ASL for 2014-15. This represents an estimated reduction in staff of 4 per cent in 2013-14 and 10 per cent for the two years to 2014-15 when compared to 2012-13 staffing levels.

- e) There are no plans for involuntary redundancies.