

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross

**Question No:** 303

**Topic:** Staffing

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Smith** asked:

1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred this financial year to date? What was the reason for these reductions?
2. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
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.

**Answer:**

During the 2012-13 financial year 46 redundancies were processed – 42 voluntary and four involuntary. FAHCSIA's staffing numbers over this financial year have been affected by a number of factors including:

- efficiency dividends;
- implementation of government policy and programs; and
- the need for the Department to manage its budget responsibly.

Every effort was made to redeploy the four employees who received involuntary redundancies, including:

- inclusion in the Departmental and APSC redeployment register;
- consideration in isolation for FaHCSIA vacancies over the retention period; and
- one-on-one support from the Department's Redeployment Support Manager.

There are no plans for reduction in staff numbers in the 2012-13 financial year other than normal turnover/attrition.

There are no plans for involuntary redundancies.