

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001021

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Staffing Reductions

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 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.
6. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?
7. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? 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. Between 24 February 2014 and 31 May 2014, 142 staff exited the department, as outlined below:
 - 25 non-ongoing contracts ended;
 - Two invalidity retirements;
 - 23 transfer or promotions to other APS agencies;
 - 22 resignations;
 - Six age retirements;
 - 13 transfers to other agencies through Machinery of Government changes; and
 - 51 ongoing staff through requesting a voluntary redundancy.
2. No.
3. Consideration of any staff reductions/voluntary redundancies will occur after the department has finalised business planning.
4. See response to question 3.
5. See response to question 3.
6. Between 24 February 2014 and 31 May 2014, 51 ongoing staff exited the department through requesting a voluntary redundancy. Twenty-three were at the APS level and 28 were at the EL level.
7. Twenty-five non-ongoing staff left the agency at the end of their contracts.
8. Voluntary redundancy packages are calculated in accordance with the provisions of the department's Enterprise Agreement, being two weeks salary for each completed year of service. The packages do not differ between APS and Executive Level classifications.

The Department of Health's corporate systems do not allow for the staff level and position details requested to be readily identified. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
9. No differentiation to the default public service package, as set out in the *Public Service Act 1999*.
10. In 2013-2014 the Government provided the Department of Health with supplementary departmental funding to support the voluntary redundancy programme.