

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-001031

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Staffing - Mental Health Policy

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 113, 2 June 2014

**Senator:** Wright, Penny

**Question:**

Senator WRIGHT: Thank you. I ask the department about staffing. Has there been a reduction in the number of people employed on mental health policy within the health department over the past 12 months?

Mr Booth: On mental health policy specifically?

Senator WRIGHT: It was a bit hard to work out how to phrase this. Really, the health department is huge, but there are certainly people working on dedicated mental health programs or policies. I am interested in whether there has been a reduction.

Mr Booth: In people working on policy and programs I would need to take the exact figures on notice.

Prof. Halton: All areas of the department have been subject to reductions.

Senator WRIGHT: Perhaps you could then take on notice the reductions that have occurred in that specific area of mental health over the past 12 months.

Mr Booth: Sure.

Senator WRIGHT: Thank you. Are there any redundancies proposed, including voluntary redundancies, redeployment or alterations to positions or classifications, again in that same cohort?

Mr Booth: Again, across the department there are different programs, but I would need to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Questions relating to staffing were discussed during responses to 'whole of portfolio' issues.