

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2015-16 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 4.3 Programme Support for Outcome 4      Question No: SQ15-000743**

**Topic: Staffing**

**Hansard page: CA128, 3 June 2015**

**Senator McLucas, Jan** asked:

Of the 110ish people employed in Program 4.3, what proportion have changed in the last 12 months?

**Answer:**

The 2014-15 average staffing level (ASL) figure included in table 2.4 of the 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statements reflects a recent transfer of programme assurance functions into the Housing, Homelessness and Assurance Group, as well as the existing housing and homelessness responsibilities and a component of corporate and network support.

The Department's human resources system does not allow a precise staff turnover proportion to be calculated. However, from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, the number of staff working in the housing and homelessness branches declined from 90 to 72 (headcount). As part of this, 12 permanent staff transferred into the housing and homelessness branches from across the Department of Social Services (DSS) (13.3 per cent of 1 April 2014 headcount) and ten permanent staff left the department permanently through voluntary redundancy, resignation, or permanent transfer (11.1 per cent of 1 April 2014 headcount). The balance of staff movement is staff transferring to other areas of DSS.

In addition to the staffing figures outlined above, non-ongoing staff and contractors have been brought in to assist with peak workloads, such as National Rental Affordability Scheme claims processing, as required.