

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-181

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: STAFFING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What has been the general staffing trend in your department and portfolio agencies since the 2007 election (for example SES numbers and recruitment has increased by X per cent because of Y)?

Answer:

Department of Health & Ageing

Since the November 2007 election, the department's Full Time Equivalent staffing levels as at 31 October 2010 have increased by 5%. The increase in staffing levels is due to the new measures approved by the Government and is consistent with the level of resources provided by the Government.

Aged Care Standards Accreditation Agency

Not applicable – Non-APS Agency.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Since the November 2007 election, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Full Time Equivalent staffing levels as at 31 October have increased by 63%. The increase in staffing levels is due to increased demand for health and welfare data by policy makers particularly for COAG performance reporting.

Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority

The Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority was established only on 1 January 2009.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

Since the November 2007 election, Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency's Full Time Equivalent staffing levels as at 31 October 2010 have increased by 10%. The increase in staffing levels is due to filling of new positions "created" as a result of funding provided for New Policy Proposals.

Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority

Since the November 2007 election, Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority's Full Time Equivalent staffing levels as at 31 October 2010 have increased by 34%. The increase in staffing levels is due to the significant increase in funding from the Government and the increase is in line with the additional funding.

Cancer Australia

Since the November 2007 election, Cancer Australia's Full Time Equivalent staffing levels as at 31 October 2010 have decreased by 15.5%. Cancer Australia was established in 2006-07 financial year and the initial establishment phase required additional resources.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand

Since the November 2007 election, Food Standards Australia New Zealand's Full Time Equivalent staffing levels as at 31 October 2010 have decreased by 2%. The decrease in staffing levels is due to several positions being vacant which are due to be filled in the near future.

General Practice Education & Training Ltd

Not applicable – Non-APS Agency.

National Blood Authority

Since the November 2007 election, National Blood Authority's Full Time Equivalent staffing levels as at 31 October 2010 have decreased by 11.4%. The decrease in staffing levels is due to staff numbers being maintained at a level consistent with funding availability and reflects both continual improvement in the efficiency of the operations of the National Blood Authority and regular re-prioritisation of functions and the adoption of a range of short term staffing arrangements for specific deliverables in response to requirements of funding bodies.

National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre

N/A – Non-APS Agency

National Health and Medical Research Council

Since the November 2007 election, National Health and Medical Research Council's Full Time Equivalent staffing levels as at 31 October 2010 have remained the same.

Private Health Insurance Administration Council

Since the November 2007 election, Private Health Insurance Administration Council's Full Time Equivalent staffing levels as at 31 October 2010 have increased by 34.5%. The increase in staffing levels is due to the increased legislated role following amendments to the *Private Health Insurance Act 2007*. Staffing levels were increased to meet the requirements under the Act.

Private Health Insurance Ombudsman

Since the November 2007 election, Private Health Insurance Ombudsman's Full Time Equivalent staffing levels as at 31 October 2010 have increased by 22%. The increase in staffing levels is mainly due to the increased workload after the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman became an FMA agency from 1 July 2007. The Private Health Insurance Ombudsman was previously a CAC agency.

Professional Standards Review

Since the November 2007 election, Professional Standards Review's Full Time Equivalent staffing levels as at 31 October 2010 have increased by 86.8%. The increase in staffing levels is due to the increase in the number of investigations referred to Professional Standards Review from Medicare Australia.