

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-182

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: STAFFING LEVELS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) What have been the changes in staffing levels since Budget Estimates 2010?
- b) Why have these changes occurred?
- c) What have been the Budgetary implications?
- d) In the case of reductions in staff numbers, how have these reductions been absorbed by the Department?
- e) What functions these staff performed have been sacrificed and why?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing (the Department) average budgeted staffing levels for 2010-11 is 4,622. For the first four months to 31 October the Department's 2010-11 average staffing levels were 4,724 that is an average 102 staff greater than budget.
- b) Whilst current average staffing levels are higher than budget the Department anticipates staffing levels will move closer to the budgeted levels throughout the remainder of the financial year.
- c) The Department has budgeted to operate within the level of resources provided by government.
- d) N/A the Department forecast an increase in average staffing levels of 36 to 4,622 in 2010-11 from the budget estimate of 4,586 staff for 2009-10.
- e) Not applicable.