

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Staffing - Reductions

**Question reference number:** HS 72

**Senator:** Boyce

**Type of question:** Written question

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 7 December 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

- a) Are there any plans for staff reduction? 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.
- b) If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

**Answer:**

- a) The Department is forecasting a reduction in staffing levels in 2012-13 as reported in the 2012-13 Portfolio Budget Statements. This reduction was 440 ASL in March, and has since been revised down to a reduction of 318 ASL for this financial year. Given the size of the organisation, this reduction can be easily achieved through natural attrition. No services or programs are expected to be cut as a result of this reduction.
- b) The Department is forecasting a reduction in staffing levels due to a number of factors, including the conclusion of a number of budget measures, the application of the Government's efficiency dividend, and the impact of the new *Department of Human Services Agreement 2011-2014* on salary rates across the Department.