

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 168(a)

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 19/2/2016

Topic: Staffing reductions

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred?
 - (a) What was the reason for these reductions?
2. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
3. Are there any plans for further staff reductions/voluntary redundancies? 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.
4. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
5. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
6. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency? What classification were these staff?
7. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from? What classification were these staff?
8. What are the voluntary redundancy packages offered? Please detail for each staff level and position
9. How do the packages differ from the default public service package?
10. How is the department/agency funding the packages?

Answer:

1. There were six voluntary redundancies between 14 September 2015 and 29 January 2016.
 - (a) Voluntary redundancies were associated with changes to the classification and/or location required to undertake the role.
2. No.
3. No.
4. N/A.
5. No.

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6. In the period 14 September 2015 to 29 January 2016, 69 ongoing staff left the Department. Their classification levels were:

| Classification | Ongoing | Non-ongoing |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| APS1 | 0 | 2 |
| APS2 | 1 | 0 |
| APS3 | 1 | 0 |
| APS4 | 7 | 5 |
| APS5 | 8 | 1 |
| APS6 | 17 | 1 |
| EL1 | 19 | 4 |
| EL2 | 13 | 0 |
| SES1 | 3 | 0 |
| SES2 | 0 | 0 |
| SES3 | 0 | 0 |
| Secretary | 0 | 1 |
| | 69 | 14 |

7. In the period 14 September 2015 to 29 January 2016, 14 non-ongoing staff left the Department. Their classification levels are noted above.
8. Voluntary Redundancy packages are in accordance with the Department's Enterprise Agreement 2015-18 and the National Employment Standards.
9. N/A
10. The Department has funded these packages through its annual operational budget.