

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australian Communications and Media Authority**

**Question No: 172**

**Program No. Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Staffing reductions**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from 25 February 2014 to date? 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 from 25 February 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?
7. How many non-ongoing staff left Department/Agency from 25 February 2014 to date? 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. No staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from 25 February 2014 to 30 April 2014.
2. Not applicable.
3. The ACMA needs to continue reducing its staffing numbers in response to budget reductions occurring mainly as a result of expiring NPP funding. The ACMA has been managing these gradual funding reductions for some time and in this context will continue to make use of natural attrition as well as offers of voluntary redundancy to ensure its workforce numbers and workforce profile are affordable, efficient and support delivery of the agency's priorities.
4. See 3 above.
5. See 3 above.
6. No ongoing staff left the ACMA from 25 February 2014 to 30 April 2014.
7. No non-ongoing staff left the ACMA from 25 February 2014 to 30 April 2014.
8. Entitlements in relation to voluntary redundancy are set out in the agency's Enterprise Agreement which is available through the ACMA website.
9. See 8 above.
10. Expenses associated with voluntary redundancy are reflected in the agency's operating statements.