

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

Question: AET 830-834

Topic: Staffing Reductions (ABS)

Written: 5 March 2014

Senator LUDWIG asked:

830. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?
- What was the reason for these reductions?
 - Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
831. 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.
- If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
832. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
833. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What classification were these staff?
834. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What classification were these staff?

Answer:

830. Five voluntary redundancies have occurred from 25 November 2013 to 5 March 2014.
- The reason for these redundancies was because of technological or other changes in the work methods of the ABS.
 - No.
831. In March 2014, the ABS commenced a voluntary redundancy program. It is anticipated that approximately 70 to 100 employees will formally be declared excess to requirements as a result of the program. Changes to the forward work program are being considered to align the work program with the expected budget for 2014/15.
- To enable the ABS to meet its budget in 2014/15
832. There are currently no plans for involuntary redundancies.
833. Between 26 November 2013 and 5 March 2014, 60 ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers) left the ABS. Of these; 46 were at the APS level, 13 were at the Executive Level (EL1s and EL2s) and one at the SES level (SESB1). In addition, the Australian Statistician departed the ABS.
834. Between 26 November 2013 and 5 March 2014, 43 non-ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers) left the ABS. Of these; 42 were at the APS level and one was at the Executive Level (an EL1).