

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Additional Estimates
2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: ABS

Question: AET 529-538

Topic: Staffing reductions

Reference: written - 19 February 2016

Senator: Ludwig, Joe & Wong, Penny

Question:

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

529. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred?
- i. What was the reason for these reductions?
530. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
531. 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.
532. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
533. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
534. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency? What classification were these staff?
535. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from? What classification were these staff?
536. What are the voluntary redundancy packages offered? Please detail for each staff level and position
537. How do the packages differ from the default public service package?
538. How is the department/agency funding the packages?

Answer:

529. 14 voluntary redundancies have occurred from 14 September 2015 to 19 February 2016.

- i. The reason for these redundancies was because of technological or other changes in the work methods of the ABS.

530. Nil involuntary redundancies have occurred from 14 September 2015 to 19 February 2016.

531. There are currently no plans for a program of advertised agency-wide voluntary redundancies

532. There are currently no plans for any future staff reductions.

533. There are currently no plans for any future involuntary redundancies.

534. The following ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers, who are not employed under the *Public Service Act*) left the ABS between 31 August 2015 and 31 January 2016 (these are the periods for which data is readily available rather than the exact dates specified in the question).

APS1	0
APS2	0
APS3	4
APS4	10
APS5	16
APS6	26
EL1	13
EL2	2
SES B1	4
SES B2	1
SES B3	1
Total	77

535. The following non-ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers, who are not employed under the *Public Service Act*) left the ABS between 31 August 2015 and 31 January 2016 (these are the periods for which data is readily available rather than the exact dates specified in the question):

APS1	6
APS2	52
APS3	20
APS4	31
APS5	14
APS6	13

EL1	4
EL2	1
SES B1	0
SES B2	0
SES B3	0
Total	141

536. An employee who accepts an offer of voluntary redundancy is entitled to payment of a redundancy benefit amount of two weeks' salary for each completed year of continuous service, plus a pro rata payment for completed months of service, subject to any minimum amount that the employee was entitled to under the National employment standards. The minimum sum payable is four weeks' salary and the maximum is 48 weeks' salary.

537. ABS voluntary redundancy payments are based on and are consistent with the standard APS voluntary redundancy formula.

538. The Voluntary Redundancies have been funded from a concerted effort to reduce discretionary spending.