

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014
3 June to 5 June 2014

Department/ Agency: ABS

Question: BET 1269-1276

Topic: Staffing Reductions

Reference: Written – 12 June 2014

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

1269. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
- a) What was the reason for these reductions?
 - b) Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
1270. 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.
- a) If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
1271. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
1272. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?
1273. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?
1274. What are the voluntary redundancy packages offered? Please detail for each staff level and position
1275. How do the packages differ from the default public service package?
1276. How is the department/agency funding the packages?

Answer:

1269. 38 voluntary redundancies have occurred from 26 February 2014 to 12 June 2014.
- a) The reason for these redundancies was because of technological or other changes in the work methods of the ABS.
 - b) No
1270. There are 79 voluntary redundancies to take effect from 13 June 2014 to 30 June 2014 and four further voluntary redundancies to take effect in July 2014. There were no involuntary redundancies. A number of recommended forward work program cuts have been announced effective 1 July 2014.
- a) The remaining voluntary redundancies are part of the current ABS voluntary redundancy program to enable the ABS to meet its budget in 2014/15.
1271. There are currently no plans for involuntary redundancies.

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1272. Between 26 February 2014 and 12 June 2014, 64 ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers) left the ABS. Of these; 49 were at the APS level and 15 were at the Executive Level (EL1s and EL2s).

Nominal Classification	Total
APS2	1
APS4	15
APS5	21
APS6	12
EL1	12
EL2	3
Total	64

1273. Between 26 February 2014 and 30 June 2014, 11 non-ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers) left the ABS. Of these; all 11 were at the APS level.

Nominal Classification	Total
APS1	1
APS2	3
APS3	5
APS4	1
APS5	1
Total	11

1274. 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 employee was entitled to under the National employment standards. The minimum sum payable is four weeks' salary and the maximum is 48 weeks' salary.
1275. ABS voluntary redundancy payments are based on and consistent with the standard APS voluntary redundancy formula.
1276. The Voluntary Redundancies have been funded from the 2013-14 appropriation due to savings generated from a staff freeze, that has operated over the twelve months, and a concerted effort to reduce discretionary spending