

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: **SBE 649**

Topic: **Staffing reductions (ATO)**

Written: **29 November 2013**

Senator LUDWIG asked:

649.

- a) How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from 7 September 2013 to date? What was the reason for these reductions?
- b) Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
- c) 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.
- d) If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
- e) Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

649.

- a) There were 21 voluntary redundancies in the period 7 September to 30 November 2013.
- b) There were no involuntary redundancies in the period 7 September to 30 November 2013.
- c) As announced on 20 November 2013, the ATO will aim to reduce its workforce by up to 900 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) by the end of the 2013-2014 financial year. This will be achieved through a range of strategies including:
 - natural attrition as a preferred approach
 - minimising the number of new hires and maximising re-deployment opportunities to the greatest extent possible, without compromising our ability to continue to do our job
 - the use of redundancies where there are identified opportunities to decrease potentially excess positions whilst maintaining the capability of the ATO to deliver its services to the community and Government
- d) The reductions have been considered in light of the ATO budget situation.
- e) There are no plans for involuntary redundancies. We will instead be focussing on the range of strategies outlined above to deliver the required reductions.