Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: **SBT 643**

Topic: **Staff Reductions**

Written: **25 November 2013**

Senators LUDWIG and WONG asked:

643. 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:

643. a) Between 7 September 2013 and 25 November 2013, 38 Treasury staff separated from the Treasury. Of these, 22 were voluntary redundancies and three were SES incentives to retire. Details of the separation reasons are as follows:

Separation Reason	**Number of staff (head count)**
Non-ongoing - contract completed	1
Invalidity	1
Promotion to other department	1
Transfer to other department	6
Resignation	4
SES incentive to retire	3
Voluntary redundancy	22
TOTAL	**38**

b) There have been no involuntary redundancies at the Treasury.

c) The Treasury's recent voluntary redundancy/SES incentive to retire process resulted in a total of 43 staff accepting a voluntary redundancy and five staff accepting a SES incentive to retire. As at 25 November 2013, 21 staff who accepted VRs were still to separate from the Department and two SES staff who accepted incentives to retire are to separate. The majority of these will separate from the Department before the end of 2013.

One incentive to retire offer is still under consideration. Expressions of interest in voluntary redundancies will also be extended to staff who have recently joined the Treasury from the Small Business Division of the Department of Industry as a result of a Machinery of Government Change. This process is expected to commence in January 2014.

d) The staffing reductions have been initiated to position the Department on a path to lower resourcing in the medium term, particularly in the forward years to 2016-17 as a result of:

- a reduction of $19.4 million in Treasury's funding over the forward estimates;
- a reduction in appropriation funding from government relating to terminating measures; and
- the ongoing impact of the efficiency dividend.

e) There are no plans to offer involuntary redundancies to Treasury staff.