

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000067

Senator Gallagher asked on 10 April 2015 on proof Hansard page 11

Question

Staff reductions - Investigations Branch

Senator GALLAGHER: In terms of the ability to manage the contracts in the Shared Services Branch—or the Investigations Branch—

Mr Hehir: The Investigations Branch.

Senator GALLAGHER: a robust program is in place. Do you have more resources available for that, or less, in terms of jobs? You have obviously had some significant job losses across the department. Are there—

Ms Leon: I would have to take it on notice to find out whether the Investigations Branch has had any of the staff reductions but across the whole Department of Employment we only let go less than 70 people on voluntary redundancies in the year in which the reductions occurred. The departmental resources applied to the Job Active program are commensurate with what they were under Job Services Australia, so we are still applying an equivalent level of program are assurance. But, as Mr Hehir said, the nature of the work will be somewhat different. Our contract managers are very much preparing for and being trained for the new approach in that there will be less manual ticking off of paperwork. There will be more looking at patterns of claiming and visiting providers to assess what is occurring there rather than a manual desktop based process of just checking each piece of paper as it comes in.

Senator GALLAGHER: Could you please take that on notice.

Ms Leon: Yes.

Answer

The Investigations Branch has not lost any Department of Employment staff due to voluntary redundancies.