

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0010_14

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Staffing - reduction

How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred this financial year to date? What was the reason for these reductions? Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details. 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. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.

Answer

A total of 17 employees exited the Department during the 2012–2013 financial year under a voluntary redundancy arrangement.

Fifteen of the voluntary redundancies related to a staffing reduction process in 2011-12. These employees were offered voluntary redundancies in 2011–12 but elected to remain with the Department for the duration of their consideration and notice period and as a result exited the Department in the 2012-13 financial year.

The remaining two voluntary redundancies were as a result of structural or other changes that meant the services of the employees could not be effectively used.

There were no involuntary redundancies.

As at 30 June 2013, the Department had no plans for further staff reductions.