

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Cross Portfolio - Corporate

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000272

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 04 June 2015, Proof Hansard page 26

Staffing levels

Question

Senator O'NEILL: If you go to page 134 of budget paper 4, it says the department's average staff level is going to decrease by 50 positions. Is that correct?

....

Senator O'NEILL: Why did this reduction occur?

....

Ms Monkley: As Mr Cook has explained, when we calculate the average staffing level the average is taken over the year. Those numbers reflect the shift between the average staffing level for 2014-15 and the starting position for 2015-16. For us, 2014-15 was a year in which it was harder to calculate averages because of the machinery-of-government changes. As we worked through the machinery-of-government changes, we had a period of overlap between when we gained the incoming people from Industry and when the people who were heading to DSS left. That creates a little bit of a disparity in the ASL numbers that are presented. The numbers that are there also reflect our expectation around the number of voluntary redundancies that have been taken and reflect a combination of the ones that had been taken at the time the figures were produced and an expectation of the ones we might get between the publishing of the PBS and the end of the financial year.

Senator O'NEILL: Thank you for your fulsome answer there. Obviously there were a number of moving parts in that answer, so if there is any way you could construct a very clear written articulation of that on notice that would be helpful for me as well.

Answer

The Average Staffing Level (ASL) reported in the 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statements and Budget Paper 4 reflects the average number of employees expected to receive salary and wages in the financial year.

The ASL calculation for 2014-15 incorporates the part year impact of the machinery of government changes which transferred staff out of the department to the Department of Social Services (DSS) and transferred staff into the department from the Department of Industry and Science (Industry) and the part year impact of the voluntary redundancy and mobility programmes.

The ASL calculation for 2015-16 is based on full time equivalent (FTE) staff numbers at 30 March 2015, which incorporates all machinery of government changes, and adjusted for the full year impact of the estimated voluntary redundancies, mobility transfers, and additional measures announced in the 2015-16 Budget.