

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: 1.1

Topic: voluntary redundancies across agencies

Senator: Bernardi

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Question:

CHAIR: Mr Sedgwick, you will recall that at last estimates we agreed that, if ways of improving productivity could not be found, we would be looking at around 10,000 job losses were the CPSU's 12 per cent wage claim to succeed. That is a matter in the Hansard. I therefore ask you and your group to confirm that some agencies have or have not been conducting voluntary redundancy rounds to meet the 2013-14 budget.

Mr Sedgwick: A number of agencies have been conducting voluntary redundancy rounds for some time.

CHAIR: Do you have any indication of the number of agencies that are doing this?

Mr Sedgwick: No, I do not. I do not have that list with me.

CHAIR: Would you be able to provide that to me on notice?

Mr Sedgwick: We do not necessarily know them all, but we can give you what we know.

Answer:

The Australian Public Service Commission (the Commission) does not collect official data on the number of agencies conducting voluntary redundancy rounds to meet the 2013–14 Budget.

The Commission collects data on retrenchments that have taken effect. This data does not differentiate between voluntary and involuntary retrenchments. Between July 2013 and April 2014 staff separated from 68 agencies under retrenchment provisions. The Commission does not have information on whether these retrenchments were to meet any measures of the 2013–14 Budget.