

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

**Outcome/Program:**

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government agencies by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and inspecting statutory compliance by law enforcement agencies.

**Topic:** Staff Redundancies

**Senator:** Senator Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 307

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 3

**Question:**

- (1) How many positions have been made redundant in your department since the 2013 federal election?
  - a. How many of these positions were ongoing?
  - b. How many of these positions were non-ongoing?
  - c. How many of these positions were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?
- (2) How many of the employees filling these redundant positions were redeployed since the 2013 federal election?
  - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
  - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
  - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?
- (3) How many of these employees were offered voluntary redundancies since the 2013 federal election?
  - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
  - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
  - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?
- (4) How many accepted voluntary redundancies since the 2013 federal election?
  - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
  - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
  - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

- (5) How many employees were offered the choice between a voluntary redundancy and redeployment since the 2013 federal election?
  - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
  - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
  - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?
  
- (6) For all employees who accepted voluntary redundancies since the 2013 federal election please:
  - a. Provide a dollar figure of their pay out, their age, gender and a description of their position including APS level, contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing), responsibilities and where they were located.
  - b. Please specify what component of that figure was paid out entitlements (annual leave etc.).
  - c. Please specify any other costs incurred by the department because of this redundancy.
  - d. Please provide the reason a voluntary redundancy was offered for their position.
  - e. Please provide all relevant dates.
  
- (7) For all employees who were redeployed please provide:
  - a. Their age, gender and a description of their position prior to and after redeployment, including the wages of these positions, the APS level of these positions, the contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing) and where they were located.
  - b. Please specify any other costs incurred by the department because of this redeployment.
  - c. Please provide the reason for that redeployment.
  - d. Please provide all relevant dates.
  
- (8) Since the 2013 federal election, how many employees in your department have been made forcibly redundant?
  - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
  - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
  - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?
  
- (9) How many of these employees were offered voluntary redundancies or redeployments prior to being made forcibly redundant?
  - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
  - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
  - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?
  
- (10) For employees who were made forcibly redundant since the 2013 federal election please provide:
  - a. Their age, gender, the dollar figure of their pay out and a description of their position including APS level, contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing) responsibilities and where they were located.
  - b. Please specify what component of that figure was paid out entitlements (annual leave etc.).
  - c. Please specify any other costs incurred by the department because of this redundancy.
  - d. Please provide the reason for that redundancy.
  - e. Please provide all relevant dates.

**Answer:**

- (1) From 7 September 2013 to 31 May 2014, the Office made one position redundant.
  - a. One
  - b. Not applicable
  - c. One
- (2) No employees were redeployed.
- (3) One employee was offered a voluntary redundancy.
  - a. One
  - b. Not applicable
  - c. One
- (4) One employee accepted an offer of voluntary redundancy.
  - a. One
  - b. Not applicable
  - c. One
- (5) One employee was offered a choice between voluntary redundancy and redeployment.
  - a. One
  - b. Not applicable
  - c. One
- (6)
  - a. Given the Office is a very small organisation with a low number of employees and the fact that only one employee was made redundant, disclosure of the dollar figure for their payout would be an unreasonable disclosure of personal information. The other details are age 53, female, \$126,743, Executive Level 2, ongoing, Canberra.
  - b. Given the Office is a very small organisation with a low number of employees and the fact that only one employee was made redundant, disclosure of this level of detail would be an unreasonable disclosure of personal information.
  - c. No other costs were incurred by the Office because of this redundancy
  - d. Employee was returning from a long term (288 days) temporary transfer with another agency and no position was available in which to place them.
  - e. The employee was terminated with effect from close of business 21 May 2014
- (7) Not applicable
- (8) Nil
- (9) Not applicable
- (10) Not applicable