

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Staffing reductions

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 358

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 3

**Question:**

a) How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? What was the reason for these reductions?

b) Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.

c) 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.

d) If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

e) Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.

f) How many ongoing staff left the department/agency from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?

g) How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?

h. What are the voluntary redundancy packages offered? Please detail for each staff level and position.

i. How do the packages differ from the default public service package?

j. How is the department/agency funding the packages?

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#### Answer:

- a. The response to PM40 for February 2014 Senate estimates stated that ‘voluntary redundancies were announced on 27 March 2014’. Since then, in the period to 26 June 2014, 123 redundancies have occurred. The reason for the reduction is to operate within budget over the forward estimates period.
- b. No.
- c. The Department plans to achieve a reduction of 350 to 400 staff during the 2014-15 financial year through a combination of voluntary redundancies and natural attrition. Reductions in the Indigenous Affairs Group will be factored into the design of the Indigenous Advancement Programme.
- d. Refer to answer a above.
- e. No.
- f. 105 ongoing staff left the Department in the period to 26 June 2014. The classification breakdown is outlined below.

SES Band 2	4
EL2	15
EL1	33
APS6	22
APS5	14
APS4	13
Graduate	1
APS3	3

- g. 32 non-ongoing staff left the Department in the period to 26 June 2014. The classification breakdown is outlined below.

EL2	1
EL1	7
APS6	4
APS5	5
APS4	5
APS3	1
APS2	9

- h. The packages associated with voluntary redundancies are in accordance with the relevant Enterprise Agreement that applies to each employee. The amount an employee receives is dependent upon several variable factors, including the Enterprise Agreement, their years of service and their leave balances in ceasing employment.

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- i. The packages associated with voluntary redundancies are in accordance with the relevant Enterprise Agreement that applies to each employee.
- j. Additional funding was received in the 2013-14 budget to fund the voluntary redundancies.