

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: Staffing Reductions

Senator: Senator 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: 2

Question:

- (1) How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date? What was the reason for these reductions?
- (2) Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details?
- (3) 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?
- (4) If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
- (5) Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
- (6) How many ongoing staff left the department/agency from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?
- (7) How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?
- (8) What are the voluntary redundancy packages offered? Please detail for each staff level and position.
- (9) How do the packages differ from the default public service package?

(10) How is the department/agency funding the packages?

Answer:

- (1) From 28 February 2014 to 31 May 2014, the Office has had one voluntary redundancy. The employee was deemed to be excess as they were returning from long term (288 days) temporary transfer with another agency and no position was available in which to place them.
- (2) No.
- (3) The Office is likely to make an offer of voluntary redundancy to approximately five employees during the 2014/15 financial year. No services/programs will be cut as a result of the proposed redundancies.
- (4) The redundancies are being offered as a result of budget pressures.
- (5) At this point in time the Office is unable to comment on whether the proposed offers of voluntary redundancy will result in involuntary redundancies.
- (6) From 28 February 2014 to 31 May 2014, the Office has had no ongoing staff leave (other than the one voluntary redundancy referred to in Question 1).
- (7) From 28 February 2014 to 31 May 2014, the Office has had two (2) non-ongoing staff leave: 1 x APS 6 and 1 x EL 1.
- (8) The voluntary redundancy benefit provided is in line with the provisions of the Office's Enterprise Agreement of two weeks' salary for each year of service.
- (9) The redundancy benefit paid was consistent with the general redundancy provisions for APS employees.
- (10) The voluntary redundancy was paid from within existing budgets.