

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26-27 May 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of National Assessments

Outcome/Program: 1

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?

ONA Response:

1. ONA has had two staffing reductions (including one voluntary redundancy) since Additional Estimates in February 2014. The position relating to the voluntary redundancy was excess to ONA's requirements. One position was abolished on vacancy.
2. No.
3. ONA will continue to closely monitor staff numbers to ensure budget targets are achieved and any future reductions will flow from considered workforce planning, natural attrition, or voluntary redundancies.
4. Staff reductions are required to allow ONA to remain within its budget allocation.
5. There are no plans at this stage to offer involuntary redundancies.
6. 2 ongoing staff have left ONA between 28 February and 18 June 2014. Their classifications are as follows:
 - 1 x ONA Band 3 (Executive Level 2)
 - 1 x ONA Band 1B (APS 4)
7. 2 non-ongoing staff have left ONA between 28 February and 18 June 2014. Their classifications are as follows:
 - 1 x ONA Band 3 (Executive Level 2)
 - 1 x ONA Band 1A (APS 6)

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8. One voluntary redundancy package has been offered. It was an ONA Band 1B (administrative position).
9. Payment of the voluntary redundancy was in accordance with the ONA Enterprise Agreement.
10. Voluntary redundancies are funded from within the budget.