

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

Budget Estimates – May 2014

ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Program 1: Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

Outcome 1: The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

Topic: Staffing reductions

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: QoN 358

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 2

- 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?

Answer:

- a) One (to 31 May 2014). Voluntary redundancy due to employee being deemed excess to requirements due to changes in the work methods of the Office.
- b) No.
- c) Yes. At this stage, four positions will be deemed excess to requirements (1 x GH08, 1 x GH03, 1 x GH02, 1 x GH01). Reductions will be through voluntary redundancies where possible. No services will be cut.
- d) To meet budget forecasts over the forward estimates.
- e) Yes. Due to budget restrictions and changes in the operational functions of the Office 1 x GHO1 will be deemed excess to requirements.
- f) Four, from 1 March 2014 to 31 May 2014.
3 x GHO1 and 1 x GHO6.
- g) Nil.
- h) Voluntary redundancy packages offered by the Office are standard packages in accordance with the Office Enterprise Agreement and the Fair Work Act 2009.
- i) No difference.
- j) The Office is seeking consideration under the Department of Finance Redundancy Funding Application process.