

**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Department of the Senate**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates**

**18 – 21 November 2013**

**Question: 43**

**Topic: Staffing reductions**

**Written: 26 November 2013**

**Senator LUDWIG asked:**

1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from 7 September 2013 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.

**Answer:**

The department has had no staff reductions since 7 September 2013.

The department has reduced full-time equivalent staffing levels over several years as a consequence of previous budget cuts due to efficiency dividends but there are no plans for voluntary or involuntary redundancies at this time.