

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: 1.1

Topic: APS voluntary redundancies

Senator: Seselja

Question reference number: 154

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 5

Question:

Senator SESELJA: Mr Sedgwick, I will just refer you to the number of reports in recent months—particularly here in the ACT—about voluntary redundancies within the Public Service. Are you able to talk us through your understanding of that, in terms of how many agencies and departments have initiated voluntary redundancy programs this year? Mr Sedgwick: I do not have a comprehensive list. I am quite happy to take that question on notice.

Senator SESELJA: Is it your understanding that it is a widespread practice across agencies in the Public Service?

Mr Sedgwick: There are a number of agencies that need to live within their budget. In order to live within their budget, there are times when they need to reduce staff. If, as has happened, the level of resignations has fallen—it has been falling for the last few years—then agencies will often find themselves in a position where they will offer voluntary redundancies. But I just do not have the number off the top of my head, so I am quite happy to take it on notice.

Senator SESELJA: In taking that on notice, could you also come back with not only a number of agencies but the number of VRs in the last financial year plus this financial year to date?

Mr Sedgwick: We cannot separately identify VRs from other retrenchments; but, subject to that caveat, yes.

Senator SESELJA: So to the extent that you can break it down or provide them.

Mr Sedgwick: To the extent that we can do it, yes.

Answer:

Between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013 there have been 2,679 retrenchments¹ across 70 departments and agencies.

Between 1 July 2013 and 30 November 2013 there have been approximately 832 retrenchments across 49 departments and agencies. Data from 1 July 2013 to 30 November 2013 (Attachment B) are unofficial figures as:

- 10 agencies have not submitted their data up to and including 30 November 2013.
- Machinery of Government moves are still being finalised.
- The data has not been subjected to the full range of quality assurance and verification checks that are instituted bi-annually.

¹ When an employee employed under the Public Service Act 1999 is identified as excess to the requirements of the agency and is terminated under section 29(3)(a) of the Act, this type of separation action is known a retrenchment.

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Attachment A

**Number of agencies that have had retrenchments between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013
(Official figures)**

Department/ Agency	Number of Retrenchments
National Native Title Tribunal (NC)	8
Wheat Exports Australia (NC)	5
Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (NC)	50
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	47
- Australian Fisheries Management Authority	1
Attorney-General's	41
- AUSTRAC	35
- Australian Crime Commission	5
- Australian Financial Security Authority	16
- Australian Human Rights Commission	1
- Australian Institute of Criminology	1
- Commonwealth DPP	31
- Customs & Border Protection	80
- Family Court of Australia	6
- Federal Circuit Court of Australia	1
- Federal Court of Australia	11
- OAIC	7
DBCDE	29
- ACMA	19
Defence	711
- Defence Housing Australia	1
DEEWR	18
- Comcare	6
- Fair Work Commission	43
- Fair Work Building and Construction	8
- Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman	6
FaHCSIA	57
- Aboriginal Hostels Ltd.	29
- Workplace Gender Equality Agency	1
Finance and Deregulation	69
- Australian Electoral Commission	5
- ComSuper	13
Foreign Affairs and Trade	31
- ACIAR	1
- AusAID	1
- AUSTRADE	15
Health and Ageing	62
- ARPANSA	4

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Department/ Agency	Number of Retrenchments
- NHMRC	1
- National Health Performance Authority	1
- Professional Services Review	1
Human Services	466
Immigration and Citizenship	18
Infrastructure and Transport	3
- Australian Transport Safety Bureau	1
DIICCSRTE	78
- AIATSIS	1
- Australian Research Council	1
- Clean Energy Regulator	2
Prime Minister and Cabinet	13
- ANAO	1
- Australian Public Service Commission	15
- OIGIS	1
- Office of National Assessments	2
Regional Australia	1
- Australian National Maritime Museum	1
- Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority	2
- National Museum of Australia	5
Resources, Energy and Tourism	41
SEWPAC	128
- Bureau of Meteorology	25
- GBRMPA	2
- Murray Darling Basin Authority	5
Treasury	5
- Australian Bureau of Statistics	19
- ACCC	8
- ASIC	40
- Australian Taxation Office	254
- Productivity Commission	7
Veterans' Affairs	56
Total	2679

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Attachment B

Number of agencies that have had retrenchments between 1 July 2013 and 30 November 2013 (Unofficial figures)²

Department/ Agency	Number of Retrenchments
-Australian National Maritime Museum	11
-Australian Securities and Investments Commission	16
-Family Court and Federal Circuit Court	2
-Administrative Appeals Tribunal	1
-Australian Competition Consumer Comm.	8
-Australian Human Rights Commission	1
-National Museum of Australia	3
Veterans' Affairs	4
-Bureau of Meteorology	4
-Director of Public Prosecutions	2
-ComSuper (Commonwealth Superannuation Admin.)	3
-Australian Bureau of Statistics	5
-Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	9
-Australian Taxation Office	69
Defence	65
Finance	4
-Aboriginal Hostels Limited	2
Foreign Affairs and Trade	3
-Comcare	1
-Australian Public Service Commission	4
Attorney-Generals	3
Prime Minister and Cabinet	15
Treasury	23
Immigration and Border Protection	11
-Productivity Commission	5
Agriculture	28
Environment	11
Social Services	71
Health	26
Infrastructure and Regional Development	1
-Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre	4
-National Science and Technology Centre (Questacon)	1
-CRS Australia	14

² These are unofficial figures as:

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Department/ Agency	Number of Retrenchments
-Australian Radiation Protection & Nuclear Safety Agency	1
-Australian Antarctic Division	1
-CrimTrac Agency	4
-Australian Crime Commission	7
Human Services	219
-Australian Communications & Media Authority	15
-Australian Trade Commission	15
-National Health and Medical Research Council	1
-Future Fund Management Agency	1
Industry	70
Communications	47
DEEWR	3
-Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman	2
Regional Australia	1
-Australian National Preventive Health Agency	1
-Independent Hospital Pricing Authority	1
-Clean Energy Regulator	1
-National Disability Insurance Agency	1
Education	6
Employment	5
All	832