

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/085) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

How many job losses are expected in the Department as a result of the Government's commitment to axe public service jobs?

- a. Is that based on actual staff numbers or is it based on a savings target?
- b. Can you confirm that the cut in staff levels is additional to the redundancies announced in the 2013/14 budget.
- c. What are the mechanisms this department will employ to meet the Government's job cuts target.
- d. Will the target be met through voluntary redundancies or with there be some compulsory redundancies as well – if so how many job cuts will come via compulsory redundancies.
- e. Has this department offered any packages to staff as a means of achieving the job cuts target.

Answer:

The Portfolio manages workforce numbers in accordance with budget allocation. Over the 2014-15 financial year the average staffing level for the portfolio is forecast to decrease from 14,304 to 13,824, a reduction of 480 full time positions. The reduction of 480 includes the effect of the Machinery of Government changes of 18 September 2013 for functions transferred out of both agencies. The average staffing level for October 2014 for the portfolio was 13,716. This figure includes Locally Engaged Employees who are employed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or Austrade on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's (DIBP) behalf.

Currently there are no plans within the Portfolio for widespread voluntary redundancies. Voluntary redundancies remain as a valid workforce management strategy in the current employment framework. This financial year the portfolio has offered 32 voluntary redundancies.