

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TREASURY

Australian Taxation Office

(Budget Estimates 29 May 2007)

Question **BET 104**
Topic: **Decline in ATO employees**
Hansard Page: **E80**

Senator **Sherry** asked:

We touched earlier on some staffing level issues in the ATO. I am fairly sure that you do not have these issues to hand, but could you take on notice the areas where there is to be a decline in tax office employees, other than the identification in more detail than that identified in the PBS?

Ms Granger—Yes. So, where there is a reduction, you are asking us to give an explanation of that?

Senator SHERRY—Yes.

Answer:

Pay rises negotiated under the Tax Office's Agency Agreements and the government's efficiency dividend, offset partially by the annual parameter adjustment which increases agency funding, have the net effect of reducing affordable staff numbers across all areas of the Tax Office in 2007-08.

This impact is largely offset in the major front line business areas by additional funding for new policy announced in the 2007-08 budget process and increases in funding for policy announced in the prior year's budget. As a result staff numbers in the major front line business areas are largely unchanged in 2007-08.

The minor reduction in overall staff numbers by 116 will be largely borne by support areas including Plan and Manage and some operational areas such as a result of productivity initiatives.