

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
30 May 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Staffing efficiency dividend/budget cuts

REFERENCE: Written Question-Senator Abetz

QUESTION No.: BI-45

- 1) Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or budget cuts?
- 2) If so, where and at what classification?
- 3) Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
- 4) What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc

ANSWER

Refer to previous Question SI-38 this response covers period 1 October 2010 to 31 May 2011.

DEPARTMENT OF INNNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE & RESEARCH

- 1) There have been no staffing numbers reduced as a result of the efficiency dividends and/or other budget cuts since 1 October 2010.
- 2) N/A.
- 3) As at 31 May 2001, no target has been set for staff reductions to achieve savings.
- 4) There are no plans to change or reduce graduate recruitment or cadetship programs in operation in the Department.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE (AIMS)

- 1) No.
- 2) N/A.
- 3) Yes. In 2010-11 AIMS will reduce staff numbers by 10 in order to meet increasing cost. This will be in the form of an early retirement plan and redundancies and it will include science and support areas.

- 4) No change.

IP AUSTRALIA

- 1) As an agency that derives 95% of funding on a cost recovery basis, IP Australia is not subject to the efficiency dividend.
- 2) Not applicable.
- 3) None related to the efficiency dividend. IP Australia will reduce staff numbers over the next four years as workload levels return to steady-state. This should see a reduction of approximately 50 staff (5%), via natural staff turnover.
- 4) IP Australia does not run a formal graduate program, though the majority of examiner vacancies are filled by people with university qualifications. There is no intention to alter recruitment from existing steady-state workload projections which will see small offers to recruit for any natural attrition of staff beyond workload decrease projections.

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ARC)

- 1) There has not been a reduction of staffing numbers as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or budget cuts. The effect of the efficiency dividend has been managed through changes to the staffing profile (i.e. both classification and categories).
- 2) No reduction has occurred.
- 3) Some vacant positions will now not be filled as a result of the budgetary position.
- 4) The ARC does not have graduate recruitment, cadetships or other similar programs.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES (AIATSIS)

- 1) The Institute is currently reviewing its overall structure due to the increase in the efficiency dividend and the implementation of other budgets cuts.

The Institute received special funding for the Digitisation project which ended at 30 June 2011. This funding employed 36 staff. Consequently, the Institute applied to the Minister for Finance for an operating loss of \$3.2M. This was approved and allows the Institute to continue to employ the affected staff for the 2011-12 year. However, without funding beyond the 2011/12 year, the Institute may potentially lose 36 staff members.

- 2) This cannot be quantified until such time as the review is completed which is expected to be late September.
- 3) As above.
- 4) N/A at this point in time.

COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

- 1) It is not possible to separate changes in staffing levels as a result of changes to the efficiency dividend and other adjustments to CSIRO funding levels and changing demand for research services.
- 2) Since 1 October 2010 staffing numbers in CSIRO have reduced by 64.
- 3) CSIRO's entry in the Portfolio Budget Statements for 2011-12 projects that our ASL will be the same as 2010-11.
- 4) CSIRO does not run Australian Public Service style entry-level graduate programs with the exception of Indigenous Traineeships and Cadetships. No reductions to Indigenous Traineeships and Cadetships are planned. CSIRO does provide Postgraduate Scholarships and a Postdoctoral Fellowship program. It is CSIRO's aim to gradually increase the intake of Postgraduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows over the next four years.

AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION (ANSTO)

- 1) No.
- 2) N/A.
- 3) There are no formal plans for staff reductions.
- 4) There are no changes underway or planned.