

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0405_14

Senator McKenzie asked on 26 February 2014 , Hansard page 12

Question

Impact on jobs, operations and services as a result of the efficiency dividend decisions of the former government

Senator McKENZIE: Can you briefly outline whether there was any impact on jobs, operations and services as a result of the efficiency dividend decisions of the former government? Ms Paul: Do you mean in terms of staffing in the department? Senator McKENZIE: Staffing, operations and services. You might need to take that on notice. Ms Paul: We can do so. In the broad, I have said here before that, in the last three years, we were required to take 20 per cent net costs out of the former department, and yet we took on more business. So there were large programs of voluntary redundancies over about two or three years, and we had to go through quite a range of ways of looking at how we could cut costs. That went from, for example, defaulting printers to black and white, right through to those big voluntary redundancy programs.

Answer

Arrangements for the Department following Machinery of Government changes are being finalised. It is not possible to determine the full impact on jobs, operations and services in the newly created department as a result of the efficiency dividends at this time.