

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2010

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome General, Program General

Topic: Staffing

Question reference number: F83

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Number of Pages: 3

Senator Barnett asked:

- a) Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?
 - Since the efficiency dividend was introduced?
 - Since additional estimates?
- b) If so, where and at what level?
- c) Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
- d) If your Department/agency has been identified in the budget as delivering further efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, if the budget papers say 'improvement to strategic work practices' or similar, what are these and how will they be delivered?)
- e) What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

Answer:

- a) No.
- b) N/A.
- c)

Department/ Agency	Planned staff reductions
Department of Finance and Deregulation	The Department currently has no plans for staff reductions.

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ComSuper	ComSuper estimates reducing staffing by 25 from 545 to 520 FTE in the 2010-11 financial year. The reduction will be made across the organisation and met from natural attrition. ComSuper intends to maintain the same service levels.
Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)	There are currently no plans for staff reductions in the AEC.
Australian Reward Investment Alliance (ARIA)	There are currently no plans for staff reductions in ARIA.

d)

Department/ Agency	Further efficiencies
Department of Finance and Deregulation	N/A
ComSuper	Savings announced at the 2009-10 Additional estimates and subsequently in the 2010-11 Budget envisage efficiencies resulting from the merger of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Board and Australian Reward Investment Alliance, rental savings from subleasing surplus office space along with additional savings resulting from the outsourcing of the Public Sector Superannuation Accumulation Plan.
AEC	N/A
ARIA	N/A

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e)

Department/ Agency	Recruitment, cadetships etc
Department of Finance and Deregulation	Finance runs a number of targeted recruitment programs – Graduate, Career Starters, Vacation Employment and Indigenous. There are no reductions planned but we intend to increase the proportion of Indigenous staff within our current staffing numbers through whole-of-government Indigenous recruitment programs.
ComSuper	ComSuper has no plans to initiate graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs.
AEC	The AEC increased its graduate program in 2009-10 from two to 12 graduates, including two Indigenous graduates. This will continue in 2010-11. The AEC will also recruit two apprentices in 2011.
ARIA	ARIA has no plans to initiate graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs.

Note: In relation to parts a)-e) the Future Fund Management Agency (Future Fund) does not receive appropriations. Agency operations are funded under the *Future Fund Act 2006*. The agency has continued to grow over the past 12 months, however staff number growth is expected to be modest from here on.