

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2011

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Staffing—efficiency dividend / budget cuts**

Question: **25**

Written **Senator Fifield**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

- (a) Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?
- (b) If so, where and at what classification?
- (c) 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.
- (d) What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs?
- (e) If reductions are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

Answer

- (a) Yes. As reported in the DPS 2011–12 Portfolio Budget Statements (**PBS**), “in 2010–11, [cost-saving] actions included reducing staff levels by over 20 FTE”.
- (b) As staff budget and FTE are managed in an aggregate manner, this breakdown cannot be provided.
- (c) As reported in the DPS 2011–12 PBS, “a further reduction of around 6 is planned for 2011–12” as a result of the declining purchasing power of the DPS operational budget for 2011–12. Reductions will be achieved largely through natural attrition—although, from time to time, voluntary redundancies will be offered in accordance with Parliamentary Service Act and the DPS employment agreement.
- (d) DPS has not previously run graduate or cadetship programs.
- (e) Not applicable.