

**Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee:
Answers to written Questions on Notice Budget Estimates 2012
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio**

Department/Agency: Department of the Senate

Topic: Staffing

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 7

Type of Question: Written

Question

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.

Answer

Yes there are plans for staff reductions. The department aims to have an average full-time equivalent of 152.9 for the 2012-2013 financial year. Mostly, this will be achieved through natural attrition; however, two voluntary redundancies have occurred. Services that have changed include reductions in the quantity of printed materials, some adjustments to delivery services schedules, changes to the number of newspapers provided to senators, reductions in advertising and changes to the staffing of the inquiry service in the Table Office and Senators' Services after 5pm on sitting days.

If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

Answer

The reduction in staff numbers is due to budget cuts.