

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
—Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2013**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Staffing**  
Question: **109**  
Written **Senator Ryan**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 July 2013**

- a. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred this financial year to date? What was the reason for these reductions?
- b. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
- c. Are there any plans for further staff reductions/voluntary redundancies? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.
- d. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
- e. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.

**Answer**

- a. 19 staff were offered VRs in this financial year to 31 March 2013. Of the 19 staff 18 employees agreed to a voluntary redundancy and 1 employee was involuntarily retired after their retention period ceased. Staff were made redundant because their positions were no longer required or the duties of their positions changed significantly and the employee chose not to take the new role or another role in DPS.
- b. 1 employee was involuntarily retired this financial year to 31 March 2013.
- c. The 2012-13 Portfolio Budget Statement set an average staffing level at 702, a reduction of 18 staff from the prior year. While natural attrition has been used as the main mechanism to meet the PBS staffing target, a number of staff have been made excess and have accepted voluntary redundancies. DPS is currently undergoing a significant change process which may result in changes to some services offered by DPS. The 2013-14 Portfolio Budget Statement has set an average staffing level at 705, which is an increase of one from the final estimated average staffing level for 2012-13 of 704.
- d. Not applicable, see c) above
- e. There are no plans for involuntary redundancies.