

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(17) Output: Internal Product

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA 54) asked:

In relation to the 15 reductions across the posts of locally engaged employees, what roles were those people playing? Was that natural attrition?

Answer:

The reductions identified during the estimates hearing were an amalgamated total of staff based on DFAT and Austrade reports as at 1 January 2009.

Over the course of a year, staff numbers can vary significantly as a result of cyclical variations to workload at all posts and the practice to employ additional staff during seasonal workload peaks, for example in Dubai where their peak processing period occurs from May to July. Special projects such as World Youth Day also result in additional short term staff required to assist with processing and impact on the numbers of Locally Engaged Staff (LES) at posts at any one time.

A table showing variations in numbers of LES at posts is attached. In cases where the staff change was greater than two, explanations of the reasons for the change are provided. Only posts where there has been a change in staff numbers are listed.