

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Sub Program All

Question No. 123

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 8 February 2010:

Regarding the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts:

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

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a. The Department operates within budget and deploys employees between programs in response to Government priorities as they exist from time to time. Accordingly, there can be no direct linkage between the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts and the reduction in Departmental staff numbers.
- b. The Attorney-General's Department has no plans for staff reductions.
- c. There are no proposed changes to planning for graduate recruitment or similar projects for this year. Each year, AGD set a target for the relevant programs using information from the workforce plan and by anticipating the proposed budget for coming year.