

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26-27 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(110) Program: Internal Product

Senator Barnett asked:

(1) Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?

(a) Since the efficiency dividend was introduced?

(b) Since additional estimates?

(2) If so, where and at what level?

(3) 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:

(1) (a) While there has been no reduction in staffing levels as a direct result of the one-off two percent efficiency dividend imposed in the 2008-09 Budget, broader budgetary pressures have led to a reduction in Average Staffing Levels (ASL) of 125 from February 2009 to May 2010.

(b) No. Since additional estimates in February 2010, the Department's ASL has remained stable (6406 in February 2010 compared to 6406 in May 2010).

(2) **Table 1** – Ongoing and non-ongoing commencements and separations by location (1 February 2009 to 31 May 2010)

Location	Commencements	Separations	Net change
ACT & Regions Office	47	31	+16
National Office	491	502	-11
NSW	158	195	-37
NT	1	12	-11
Overseas	0	1	-1
QLD	38	63	-25
SA	52	64	-12
TAS	1	19	-18
VIC	271	264	+7
WA	102	135	-33
Total	1161	1286	-125

Table 2 – Ongoing and non-ongoing commencements and separations by classification level (1 February 2009 to 31 May 2010)

Actual Classification	Commencements	Separations	Net change
APS1	22	11	+11
APS2	88	61	+27
APS3	588	408	+180
APS4	146	196	-50
APS5	77	157	-80
APS6	69	202	-133
EXEC1	119	164	-45
EXEC2	41	71	-30
SES Band 1	5	12	-7
SES Band 2	5	4	+1
SES Band 3	1	0	+1
Total	1161	1286	-125

- (3) The Department does not anticipate any staffing reductions in the near future as the DIAC Portfolio Budget Statements 2010-11 projects only a negligible reduction in average staffing levels (by two from 2009-10 levels). The Department is currently undergoing structural and operational changes which may lead to retraining and redeployment of a number of staff to work on higher priority tasks.