

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

Question No. 39

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 30 May 2013:

In relation to staff lost as a result of the 2011–12 financial year budget:

Senator BRANDIS: What about the 36 staff that you lost as a result of last year's budget? Where did they come from?

Mr Lawler: I will need to take that on notice to get specific details of what positions. They will have come from natural attrition.

Senator BRANDIS: But even those who came from natural attrition had been doing something before they retired and are presumably not being replaced.

Mr Lawler: That is right.

Senator BRANDIS: So that is a degradation in the capacity of that part of your agency.

Mr Lawler: That is right. There is no disguising the fact that the positions have gone, or will go.

Senator BRANDIS: Can you take that on notice, please, for both the 36 staff you lost in last year's budget and in respect of whom decisions will have been made by now, so that we can get a clearer sense of where they have come from.

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

The staffing figure referred to at the hearing was in the context of an Average Staffing Level (ASL) as reported in the Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS). ASL is defined as the sum of paid FTE (for each pay period from the beginning of the financial year up to and including the current pay period) divided by the number of pay periods (from the beginning of the financial year up to and including the current pay period). ASL does not convert to Actual FTE or Headcount and cannot be used to track the individual movements of staff.

The ASL reduced by 26 (not 36) in 2012-13 because the ACC converted a proportion of its supplier budget to the employee budget. The reduction of 26 ASL was achieved through natural attrition from across the ACC.