

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE:

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0121) Program: Internal Product

Senator Humphries asked:

- a) For the year 2010-11, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?
- b) Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut, etc.
- c) If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reasons why these are happening.

Answer:

- a) For the financial year 2010-11 the Department of Immigration and Citizenship has employed 1009 contractors. Of the 1009 contractors, 11 contractors have been employed on two separate occasions during the period. The average period of employment was 229 days.
- b) Yes. Although there are aggregate increases approved in the 2011-12 Portfolio Budget Statement estimates (PBS), the current reduced budget will necessitate changes in staffing levels in business units within the Department, particularly those not engaged in IMA work. In particular, to meet contractor reductions recommended by the Gershon Report, the Department intends to reduce ICT contracting staff over the current financial year. In line with this, the department is currently testing the ICT labour market and conducting a program of contractor conversion to APS.
- c) DIAC intends to reduce staff by 180 across the department through natural attrition by 30 June 2015 to meet the additional costs of the Enterprise Agreement 2011-14. This will be achieved through rigorous business and workforce planning by managers.