

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-380

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: STAFF REDUCTION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

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.

Answer:

In 2010, the Australian Government commissioned a review of the administrative arrangements in the Health and Ageing portfolio (strategic review). A thorough analysis of the Portfolio has been undertaken, including examination of its approach to program and grant management and corporate services. The implementation of a range of initiatives within the Portfolio will result in a more efficient portfolio with a more flexible approach to the funding of health priorities.

Staffing numbers will be impacted by strategic review outcomes together with movement in measure funding, cost pressures and Budget parameters such as the efficiency dividend and wage cost indexation. It is presently estimated staffing for the core department will reduce from a forecast 4,060 staff in 2010-11 to a forecast 3,640 in 2012-13 an estimated decrease of 420 staff or approximately 10 per cent. The Department anticipates the reduction in staffing levels will be achieved through natural attrition.