

# Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

## BUDGET ESTIMATES - 4 JUNE 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Staffing - Reductions

**Question reference number:** HS 43

**Senator:** Smith

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 26 July 2013

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

- a) How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred this financial year to date? What was the reason for these reductions?
- b) Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
- c) Are there any plans for further staff reductions/voluntary redundancies? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.
- d) If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
- e) Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.

#### **Answer:**

- a) As at 30 June 2012 the Department of Human Services had a headcount of 36,977. As at 30 April 2013 the Department's headcount was 35,206. This is a reduction of 1,771. During this period 392 voluntary redundancies were accepted.  
The Department is required to operate within budget. This reduction in staffing levels is part of the normal way in which the Department operates within budget. People leave for a range of reasons such as retirement, taking up a position elsewhere or, in the case of non-ongoing employees, their contract ended.
- b) No.
- c) In 2013-14 the Department will need to reduce its Average Staffing Level by 1,341 (see page 27, Portfolio Budget Statements 2013-14). It is expected that this will be achieved through natural attrition.
- d) See the answer to (c).
- e) No.