

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 1 JUNE 2017 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Employment

Question reference number: HS 51

Senator: Watt

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 21 July 2017

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) Can the following staff numbers be provided:
 - Full Time employees Nov 2016
 - Part Time employees Nov 2016
 - Casual employees Nov 2016
 - Total Head count Nov 2016
 - Full Time employees May 2017
 - Part Time employees May 2017
 - Casual employees May 2017
 - Total Head count May 2017
- b) What is the timeframe to reduce the 1,188 jobs identified in the 2017/18 budget.
- c) What employment conditions will the 250 employees from the "accredited Government Service Provider" be employed under?

Answer:

- a) The total headcount of employees in the Department by employee type as at the dates specified, are outlined in the table below.

Employment type	Total headcount as at 30 Nov 2016	Total headcount as at 31 May 2017
Full-time employees headcount	23,117	22,328
Part-time employees headcount	8,920	8,805
Casual employees headcount	3,290	3,088
Total DHS employees headcount	35,327	34,221

In the 2017-18 Budget, the Department estimated a reduction in Average Staffing Levels (ASL) between 2016–17 and 2017–18.

The ASL figures in the Portfolio Budget Statements are the average levels over the financial year rather than the number of actual staff at a point in time.

In relation to the published numbers, during 2016–17 the Department operated with an ASL of 29,838. This was 403 higher than the predicted number of 29,435 in the 2016–17 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements. This higher number was due to the support provided by the Department to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and in response to Cyclone Debbie.

In addition, the estimated decrease in ASL between 2016–17 and 2017–18 is due to:

- the Government’s decision not to proceed with a number of unlegislated measures from previous Budgets;
- a reduction in the level of support that will be required by the NDIA; and
- the Department implementing efficiencies.

- b) The Department’s ASL is already substantially at its 2017–18 budgeted ASL.
- c) The service provider will be the employer for this measure and will employ staff under the relevant terms and conditions of the provider. The terms and conditions of the provider will need to comply with the requirements of the *Fair Work Act 2009*.