

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012**

**Question:** E12-385

**OUTCOME 0:** Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** AVERAGE STAFFING LEVELS

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Number of pages:** 2

**Senator:** Senator Fierravanti-Wells

**Question:**

I am looking at the annual report for the 2011-12 financial year, pages 88 to 89 so the actual 602 less 34,000. I am looking at page 51 of the portfolio budget statement, which talks about the average staffing level number for 2011-12 as being 461 and then 401. It then has 1,185 and 1,198. Could you explain that to me. Have I missed something there? There seems to be a big difference or they are different numbers? Do you understand what I mean??

**Answer:**

A corrections document to the 2012-13 Health and Ageing Portfolio Budget Statements was tabled on 29 May 2012 (refer attached) which corrected the average staffing level (ASL) estimates for outcome 1 shown on page 51. The original numbers erroneously omitted the ASL for the Department of Health and Ageing's special accounts (Therapeutic Goods Administration, National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme and the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator).

The corrected ASL estimates for outcome 1 as at the 2012-13 Budget are:

- 1,185 ASL for 2011-12 (not 461); and
- 1,129 ASL for 2012-13 (not 401).

## Corrections

*On page 51, in relation to Table 1.1: Budgeted Expenses and Resources for Outcome 1:*

The average staffing level for Outcome 1 in 2011-12 is 1,185 (not 461).

The average staffing level for Outcome 1 in 2012-13 is 1,129 (not 401).

*On page 66, under the heading 'Establish the Australia New Zealand Therapeutic Products Agency':*

The joint scheme for the regulation of therapeutic goods will be progressively implemented over the next four years (not five years).

*On page 81, in relation to the quantitative deliverable for Program 1.6:*

In Table 1.34, the 'Number of grants to local governments administered through the Healthy communities initiative' should have a target of 92 in 2013-14 (not N/A). Footnote 24 should also read 'Funding for this activity ends in 2013-14' (not in 2012-13).

*On page 103, under the heading 'Capping Extended Medicare Safety Net Benefits':*

The cap on the Extended Medicare Safety Net will apply from 1 November 2012 (not 1 November 2013).