

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Staffing

**Question reference number:** HS 20

**Senator:** Cameron

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 12 December 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

- a) Is the Department's current ASL (average staffing level) below the 30,150 funded for in the 2014-15 Budget?
  - 1) If so, what's the difference and why is the department operating below the staffing level it's funded for?
  - 2) How many of these are casual or fixed-term contract staff?
- b) Is there anything preventing the department from hiring new permanent staff?
- c) What are the department's plans in relation to ongoing staffing levels?
  - 1) Do you expect to reduce staffing further this year?
  - 2) By how much?
  - 3) From what work areas?
  - 4) From what locations?
  - 5) Will you need to retrench staff to meet these targets?

#### **Answer:**

- a) Yes.
  - 1) The department is 410 ASL below our affordable staffing levels. As at 31 October 2014, the department's actual ASL was 29,740. The department is currently recruiting staff in line with the interim arrangements for recruitment in the Australian Public Service.
  - 2) As at 31 October 2014 there are 2,416 non-ongoing employees.
- b) The department is currently recruiting staff in line with the interim arrangements for recruitment in the Australian Public Service.
- c) See the answer to (b).
  - 1) No.
  - 2) Not applicable.
  - 3) Not applicable.
  - 4) Not applicable.
  - 5) Not applicable.