

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-001401

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Staffing reductions

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

**Senator:** Ludwig, Joe

**Question:**

1. Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014 how many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred?

- a) 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.
- f) How many ongoing staff left the department/agency? What classification were these staff?
- g) How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from Budget Estimates in June 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?
- h) What are the voluntary redundancy packages offered? Please detail for each staff level and position
- i) How do the packages differ from the default public service package?
- j) How is the department/agency funding the packages?

**Answer:**

1. Since the June Budget Estimates, 180 staff exited the Department of Health, which includes 33 staff accepting voluntary redundancies. All these voluntary redundancies were completed in June 2014.

- a) Reasons for the reductions include the end of non-ongoing contracts, resignation, retirement and transfers between agencies.
- b) No.
- c) No.
- d) Not Applicable.
- e) No.
- f) 134. Five at the SES, 65 at the EL and 64 at the APS classification levels.
- g) 46. Six at the EL and 40 at the APS classification levels.
- h) Voluntary redundancy packages are calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Department's Enterprise Agreement, being two weeks' salary for each completed year of service. The packages do not differ between APS and Executive Level classifications.
- i) No differentiation to the default public service package, as set out in the *Public Service Act 1999*.
- j) The Minister for Finance approved funding to support voluntary redundancies in the 2013-2014 financial year.