

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014

Communications Portfolio

Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 294

Program No. Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Staff reductions

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What was the reason for these reductions?
2. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
3. 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.
4. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
5. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
6. How many ongoing staff left the Department/Agency from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What classification were these staff?
7. How many non-ongoing staff left Department/Agency from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What classification were these staff?

Answer:

1. Nil.
2. Not applicable.
3. One redundancy is planned in the SBS News and Current Affairs division. This is not part of a reduction target and will not affect services. SBS constantly reviews opportunities for improving business processes that may lead to reductions in employee numbers.
4. A small efficiency was found as a result of the modernisation of the newsroom and the reshaping of jobs.
5. No. Refer to (3).
6. 10. SBS Band 1 – 2; SBS Band 3 – 4; SBS Band 4 – 3. SBS Band 6 – 1.
7. 13. SBS Band 1 – 1; SBS Band 3 – 3; SBS Band 4 – 1; SBS Band 5 – 4; SBS Band 7 – 4.

Note: All answers include NITV staff and SBS Subscription TV staff. SBS is not an Australian Public Service agency and employees are not employed under the Public Service Act 1999. SBS does not classify staff as SES/non-SES.