

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Treasury Portfolio**  
Supplementary Budget Estimates  
2014 - 2015

**Department/Agency: ABS**

**Question: SBT658-667**

**Topic: Staffing reductions**

**Reference: Written - 30 October 2014**

**Senator: Ludwig, Joe**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

658. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred?  
a) What was the reason for these reductions?
659. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
660. 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.
661. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
662. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
663. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency? What classification were these staff?
664. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from? What classification were these staff?
665. What are the voluntary redundancy packages offered? Please detail for each staff level and position
666. How do the packages differ from the default public service package?
667. How is the department/agency funding the packages?

**Answer:**

658-662 98 voluntary redundancies have occurred from 3 June 2014 to 30 October 2014. The reason for these redundancies was because of technological or other changes in the work methods of the ABS. Nil involuntary redundancies have occurred from 3 June 2014 to 30 October 2014.

663 Between 3 June 2014 and 30 October 2014, 139 ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers) left the ABS. Of these; 107 were at the APS level, 30 were at the Executive Level (EL1s and EL2s) and 2 were at the SES Levels.

664 Between 3 June 2014 and 30 October 2014, 11 non-ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers) left the ABS. Of these; all 11 were at the APS level.

- 665 An employee who accepts an offer of voluntary redundancy is entitled to payment of a redundancy benefit amount of two weeks' salary for each completed year of continuous service, plus a pro rata payment for completed months of service, subject to any minimum amount that employee was entitled to under the National employment standards. The minimum sum payable is four weeks' salary and the maximum is 48 weeks' salary.
- 666 ABS voluntary redundancy payments are based on and consistent with the standard APS voluntary redundancy formula.
- 667 The Voluntary Redundancies have been funded from appropriations due to savings generated from a staff freeze, that has operated over the twelve months, and a concerted effort to reduce discretionary spending.