

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2015 - 2016

**Department/Agency: ABS**

**Question: 1067-1076**

**Topic: Staffing Reductions**

**Reference: written - 30 October 2015**

**Senator: Wong, Penny**

**Question:**

Since 1 January 2015:

1067. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred?  
a) What was the reason for these reductions?
1068. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
1069. 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.
1070. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
1071. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
1072. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency? What classification were these staff?
1073. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from? What classification were these staff?
1074. What are the voluntary redundancy packages offered? Please detail for each staff level and position
1075. How do the packages differ from the default public service package?
1076. How is the department/agency funding the packages?

**Answer:**

1067. 13 voluntary redundancies have occurred from 1 January 2015 to 30 October 2015.
- a) The reason for these redundancies was because of technological or other changes in the work methods of the ABS.
1068. Nil involuntary redundancies have occurred from 1 January 2015 to 30 October 2015.
1069. There are currently no plans for any future voluntary redundancies.

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1070. There are currently no plans for any future staff reductions.

1071. There are currently no plans for any future involuntary redundancies.

1072. Between 1 January 2015 and 31 October 2015, 154 ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers) left the ABS. Of these, 116 were at the APS level, 23 were at the Executive Level (EL1s and EL2s) and 15 were at the SES level.

<b>Nominal Classification</b>	<b>Total</b>
APS2	2
APS3	6
APS4	36
APS5	41
APS6	31
EL1	22
EL2	1
SESB1	9
SESB2	4
SESB3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>

1073. Between 1 January 2015 and 31 October 2015, 263 non-ongoing staff (excluding ABS Interviewers) left the ABS. Of these, 254 were at the APS level, eight were at the Executive Level (EL1s and EL2s) and one was at the SES level.

<b>Nominal Classification</b>	<b>Total</b>
APS1	77
APS2	69
APS3	41
APS4	47
APS5	8
APS6	12
EL1	3
EL2	5
SESB1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>263</b>

1074. 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

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amount that the employee was entitled to under the National employment standards. The minimum sum payable is four weeks' salary and the maximum is 48 weeks' salary.

1075. ABS voluntary redundancy payments are based on and are consistent with the standard APS voluntary redundancy formula.

1076. The Voluntary Redundancies have been funded from appropriations due to savings generated from limited recruitment undertaken over the year, and a concerted effort to reduce discretionary spending.