

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM0843_15

Senator Lines asked on 3 June 2014 on proof Hansard page 20

Question

Announcement regarding voluntary redundancies

Ms Leon: I announced that there would be access to voluntary redundancies.
Senator LINES: When did you do that? Ms Leon: I do not have the exact date, but it was in March this year. In advance of that, there were a handful of people whose jobs had come to an end for other reasons. I think I have described those in previous estimates as less than 10. Senator LINES: In March, what was the announcement? Was there a figure on that or just a generally putting a package together? Ms Rundle: I do not have the staff notice with me but, if I recall, the secretary at the time gave an indication that we would need to give a number of redundancies. At that time we did not know exactly how many. I would have to check, and we may have to take this on notice, but we may have said something in the order of between 50 and 80. Secretary's budget speech to all staff was subsequently then able to confirm with more certainty that it would be around that number. We said around 50 at that point to staff.

Answer

On 26 February 2014 the Secretary advised all staff that ceasing measures were likely to present some staffing challenges for the Department, and this position was reaffirmed in general communications to the Department during March and April.

On 16 April 2014, the Secretary formally advised Departmental employees that expressions of interest for voluntary redundancies were being sought in order to meet budget targets in the 2014-15 financial year.

Following the Federal budget in May, the Secretary confirmed approximately 50 voluntary redundancies would be required.