



SENATOR THE HON. ERIC ABETZ
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister for Employment
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA STATEMENT

24 March 2014

Allegations made in *The Australian* today by David Crowe that the Government sought to “massage” employment figures are false.

The story in *The Australian* contains numerous errors.

At no stage did staff in my office request that figures be “scaled up”.

At no stage did staff in my office suggest that the Department’s figures be “dumped” and replaced with alternative figures.

At no stage did any staff in my office suggest that figures be “massaged”.

The Department of Employment, with the agreement of the Government, will be publishing its annual employment projection figures this week, as was always intended. These figures are based on November 2013 MYEFO data and, as such, do not take account of the Government’s policy initiatives designed to increase employment.

During the course of the production of these figures, the Department offered to provide a second set of figures which take into account Government policies to create jobs, such as the abolition of the carbon tax and mining tax. These figures will not form part of the employment projection report to be published this week.

The leaked email quoted in the story clearly only requested input into the wording around the media release and in no way sought to alter the figures to be published.

I have full faith and confidence in the staff involved.

The story in *The Australian* is based on selectively leaked information. Mr Crowe did not contact the Department to seek to verify the accuracy of the information leaked to him.

The Department of Employment has confirmed that the allegations made to *The Australian* are not correct.

Media contact: David Allender 0457 590 881

Budget Estimates 2014-15

Education and Employment Senate Committee

Document No: 7

Pages: _____

Date and time: 3/6/14 10:50am

Tabled by: Senator Abetz



24 March 2014

Statement

Media reports today assert that ministerial advisers pressured the Department of Employment to change its employment forecasts. This is not correct.

The Department is not publishing employment projections 'scaled up' to reflect the Government's commitment to create one million jobs. The figures, to be published this Friday, are based on the employment growth projections from the 2013-14 MYEFO.

The Department also offered the Minister's Office figures showing the potential make-up of sectoral growth taking into account the Government's policies. However these figures are not being published, nor did the Minister's Office ever ask the Department to publish them.

Department Media: media@employment.gov.au