

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

10 – 11 February 2010

**Question: aet 145**

**Topic: Staffing – Efficiency Dividend/ Budget Cuts (PC)**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator EGGLESTON asked:**

1. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?
2. If so, where and at what level?
3. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
4. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

**Answer:**

1. The efficiency dividend and other savings measures have had a negative impact on staffing numbers. However, the average staffing level is forecast to increase as a consequence of new policy funding announced in the 2009-10 Budget context.
2. Average staffing levels are forecast to increase by 6 in 2009-10 (after taking account of the net impact of the efficiency dividend and new policy funding) with the impact spread proportionately between Melbourne and Canberra.
3. There are no plans for staff reduction in 2009-10. Plans beyond 2009-10 are subject to the government's budget considerations.
4. There are no changes planned for graduate recruitment.