

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

10 – 11 February 2010

Question: aet 25

Topic: Staffing – Efficiency Dividend/ Budget Cuts (ATO)

Hansard Page: Written

Senators BARNETT & 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 ATO has not specifically reduced staff, except for 224 bona fide redundancies since late November 2007. However, the ATO has shifted its workforce to new priorities as necessary, relied on natural attrition, tightly controlled recruitment for key positions and made use of its temporary workforce.
2. See response to question 1.
3. No.
4. To meet the new measures in the Budget, the ATO is planning to increase its graduate recruitment by approximately 20 per cent in 2011 (approximately 200 in 2011 compared to approximately 160 in 2010). The ATO is also piloting a new strategy called Destination ATO. This strategy provides an avenue for candidates who are not successful for the Graduate program to be considered for another entry level position within the ATO. This strategy is designed to maximise the use of this candidate pool.

A new APS 1 entry level training program was piloted in March with 15 new staff. A subsequent recruitment to be run later in the year with a similar intake is expected.

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

10 – 11 February 2010

The ATO plans to expand the following programs in 2010:

- a) Indigenous School to Work program
- b) Indigenous Cadet and Traineeship program
- c) School to Work program for students with disabilities , and
- d) the Stepping Into program for university students with disabilities.