

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

**Cross Portfolio**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0875\_10**

**Senator Barnett provided in writing.**

**Question**

Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts? If so, where and at what level? 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. 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**

Staffing numbers for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations have been reduced for a range of reasons including lapsing measures, the efficiency dividend and specific savings measures.

The actual ASL for the 2008-09 financial year was 5,489. The budgeted ASL for 2009-10 as per the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) is 5,335.

The reduction in staffing will be managed through natural attrition.

The department is continually refining business processes and support activities.

No changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment or cadetships. 100 graduates commenced in the 2010 intake, an increase over the 2009 cohort of 87.