

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0934_12

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Staffing

" 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. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening. "

Answer

Based on current forward estimates the Department expects to reduce staff numbers by around 500 from 2011-12 to 2012-13. The reduction will be achieved through a combination of natural attrition and voluntary redundancies. The reductions are as the result of the finishing of budget measures, application of the increased efficiency dividend to both operating and capital budgets and government decisions to absorb workload. The Department will carefully work through a planning process that considers workload and priorities to manage the staff reductions and deliverables of the department.