

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

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

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No.EW0037_12

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Staffing - Efficiency Dividend/Budget Cuts

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

In 2011-12 the department will be required to meet a staff reduction of approximately 200 people. The department is unable to provide information on classifications and locations at this stage, as it is in the process of finalising the revised staffing arrangements.

The department intends to manage this reduction through natural attrition and strengthened focus on internal mobility.

A small number of voluntary redundancies have been offered in certain State offices of the department.

The department's budgetary position will be considered in determining the scale of graduate and other entry level programs.