

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2006-2007, 13th and 16th February, 2007

Question: HS71

Agency: Centrelink

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Staffing Levels

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written Question on Notice

SENATOR MOORE asked on 16/02/2007:

1. Has there (been) staffing reductions at Centrelink in the last 6 months? If so, please explain in which units and areas have been affected.
2. Does the change to a Business Lines structure effect staff and/or staffing levels?
3. What budget was allocated for the change to a Business Lines structure in the 2006-07 financial year and how much has been spent so far?
4. If these programs and business lines have been overspent, please provide the amount by.
5. How does the current staffing level for each Area, and on a national non-SES employee basis, compare to the figures quoted in the Annual Report figures?
6. Please provide how many non-ongoing employees are currently employed in each Centrelink Area and what classification levels they are employed under. Please highlight changes which have occurred since the public release of the 2005-06 Annual Report.
7. Which new payment programs have been administered by Centrelink since 1 July 2006?
8. What proportion of the budget of each Area has Centrelink allocated for offering and administering Australian Workplace Agreements in 2006-2007?
9. What is the actual spend of each Area in offering and administering Australian Workplace Agreements in 2006-2007?
10. What percentage of non-SES staff are employed under Australian Workplace Agreements as at 1 February 2007?
11. How many staff have separated from Centrelink since 1 July 2006?
12. How many staff have commenced employment with Centrelink since 1 July 2006?
13. Has Centrelink 'frozen' the hiring of new employees? If so, please explain when this 'freeze' be lifted.

ANSWER:

1. No.
2. The Business Line structure does not affect staffing levels. The impact on Area Network staff was to realign existing staff into formal Business Line structures. Prior to the introduction of Business Lines staff were broadly grouped by payment type.
3. While \$5.1m was allocated for the change to a Business Line structure in 2006-07, this was for work that would have otherwise been done by other staff.

\$4.6m had been spent to end of February 2007.

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4. The Business Line functions are not overspent year-to-date.
5. Please refer to the response to QON HS 21.
6. The tables below detail the non-ongoing employees numbers, by area, by classification at 31 January 2007.

| All Centrelink Non-SES Employees as at 31 January 2007 | |
|--|------|
| Centrelink 4 | 19* |
| Centrelink 3 | 52* |
| Centrelink 2 | 673* |
| Centrelink 1 | 117* |
| Passport Information Service Operator | 19* |
| Trainees/Cadets | 4* |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 4* |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 124* |
| Centrelink IT Manager | 3 |
| Centrelink IT Technical | 2* |
| Centrelink IT | 9* |
| Public Affairs 4 | 0 |
| Public Affairs 3 | 5* |
| Public Affairs 2 | 3* |
| Public Affairs 1 | 4 |

Area by Area Snapshot as at 31 January 2007

| AREA BRISBANE | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 1* |
| Centrelink 3 | 7* |
| Centrelink 2 | 63* |
| Centrelink 1 | 10* |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 12* |
| Centrelink IT Manager | 1* |
| Centrelink IT | 6* |

| AREA TASMANIA | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 0 |
| Centrelink 3 | 1 |
| Centrelink 2 | 31* |
| Centrelink 1 | 5* |
| Passport Information Service Operator | 18* |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 4* |

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| AREA CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND | |
|---|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 0* |
| Centrelink 3 | 0* |
| Centrelink 2 | 72* |
| Centrelink 1 | 7* |
| Trainees/Cadets | 3 |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 10* |

| AREA EAST COAST NSW | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 0 |
| Centrelink 3 | 0 |
| Centrelink 2 | 48* |
| Centrelink 1 | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 3* |

| AREA HUNTER NSW | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 0* |
| Centrelink 3 | 1 |
| Centrelink 2 | 9* |
| Centrelink 1 | 3* |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 13* |

| AREA NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 0 |
| Centrelink 3 | 2 |
| Centrelink 2 | 75* |
| Centrelink 1 | 1* |
| Trainees/Cadets | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 12* |
| Centrelink IT | 0 |

| AREA NORTHERN AUSTRALIA | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Centrelink 4 | 1 |
| Centrelink 3 | 2* |
| Centrelink 2 | 6* |
| Centrelink 1 | 4 |
| Trainees/Cadets | 1* |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 1* |

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| AREA SOUTH AUSTRALIA | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 0 |
| Centrelink 3 | 3* |
| Centrelink 2 | 40* |
| Centrelink 1 | 7* |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 2* |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 16 |
| Centrelink IT Technical | 1* |
| Centrelink IT | 1* |

| AREA SOUTH METRO NSW | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 0 |
| Centrelink 3 | 1* |
| Centrelink 2 | 72* |
| Centrelink 1 | 0* |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 0* |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 6* |

| AREA SOUTH WEST NSW | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 0* |
| Centrelink 3 | 0* |
| Centrelink 2 | 12* |
| Centrelink 1 | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 1* |
| Total | 13* |

| AREA SOUTH EAST VICTORIA | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 0 |
| Centrelink 3 | 1* |
| Centrelink 2 | 11* |
| Centrelink 1 | 25* |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 14* |
| Centrelink IT | 0 |

| AREA WEST AUSTRALIA | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 0 |
| Centrelink 3 | 0* |
| Centrelink 2 | 47* |
| Centrelink 1 | 3* |
| Passport Information Service Operator | 1* |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 8* |

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| AREA PACIFIC CENTRAL | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 0 |
| Centrelink 3 | 0* |
| Centrelink 2 | 39* |
| Centrelink 1 | 7* |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 0* |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 14* |

| AREA WEST NSW | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 0 |
| Centrelink 3 | 0 |
| Centrelink 2 | 40* |
| Centrelink 1 | 4* |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 0 |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 3 |

| AREA WEST VICTORIA | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Centrelink 4 | 0 |
| Centrelink 3 | 0 |
| Centrelink 2 | 64* |
| Centrelink 1 | 9* |
| Centrelink Professional 2 | 1 |
| Centrelink Professional 1 | 6* |

Source: January 2007 Workforce Cube

* note: this is a change since the 2005-06 Annual report

7. Please refer to QON HS 22.
8. Nil
9. Centrelink does not collect this information.
10. 4.42%.
11. 2,221.
12. 3,034.
13. No.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 2 hours and 26 minutes at an estimated cost of \$141.