

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2013**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Staffing**
Question: **118**
Written **Senator Ryan**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

- a) Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, & if any services/programs will be cut.
- b) If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

Answer

- a) The 2012–13 Portfolio Budget Statement has set an average staffing level at 702, a further reduction of 18 FTE compared to June 2012. DPS is currently undertaking workforce planning analysis, rather than a strict budgetary analysis, to determine if this target can or should be met. This involves assessing positions when they are vacated to determine if the duties could be re-assigned to another staff member(s), done on a part-time basis, abolished or redesigned to be more effective.
- b) While natural attrition will be used as the main mechanism to meet the PBS staffing target, DPS cannot rule out offering voluntary redundancies through re-alignment processes or through the need to address budget constraints. A systematic approach will be taken to determine the best method to manage DPS's average staffing levels.