

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES – 29 MAY 2008

Human Services Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Human Services
Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1, Output Group 1.1
Topic: Restructure



Senator: Coonan

Question reference number: HS6

Type of question: Hansard F&PA 37

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2008

Question:

HS6: Senator COONAN—I will come to the other agencies, but I wonder if you could just refer to questions on notice in respect of staff that were excess to requirements as a result of the abolition of the Office of the Access Card. There were a number of them. I think there is an inconsistency in some of them, but no doubt you can clear this up. In HS78 and HS79, in answer to my question on notice about the current employment status within the department or agencies of staff from the Office of Access Card, the answer appears that 28 had departed during the period 31 December to 6 March. Is that right? Can you just update me now and confirm what has happened to any others?

Ms Hartland—As we have moved through this restructure process I would have to take it on notice to go back and look...

Senator COONAN—Perhaps the best way to do it is if you could give me a comprehensive statement from the peak of 136 as to where the ones who have left went and whether they went to some other department, whether they were outsourced in some other way or whether they resigned. I would appreciate that statistic and then where the other 80 people who are left have been placed.

Ms Hartland—Just to clarify, we will not do that on an individual basis, but just in terms of saying the number of people that went to other departments.

Senator COONAN—That is all I need. I do not need to know about individuals.

Ms Hartland—We can do that.

Answer:

HS6: At the end of November 2007, there were 136 former Access Card program staff. As at 25 June 2008:

- eight staff have resigned;
- eight staff who were on temporary transfer have returned to their home Department;
- four non-ongoing staff reached the end of their contracts;
- 44 staff have moved to jobs in other APS agencies;
- three staff who were not seeking redeployment to another APS position have been declared excess;
- four staff have been declared potentially excess and we are working with these staff and the Career Transition and Support Centre to achieve redeployment for them within the APS; and
- the remaining 65 staff will be placed in the new structure.

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