

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2010

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Staffing—efficiency dividend / budget cuts**

Question: **P 13 a)–d)**

Written: **Senator Barnett**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

- a) Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?
 - Since the efficiency dividend was introduced?
 - Since additional estimates?
- b) If so, where and at what level?
- c) Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
- d) What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.
- e) If your Department/agency has been identified in the budget as delivering further efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, if the budget papers say 'improvement to strategic work practices' or similar, what are these and how will they be delivered?)

Answers

- a) Staffing number reductions;
 - Since the efficiency dividend was introduced? Yes
 - Since additional estimates? None
- b) The number of staff at July 2004 (the first full year of DPS operations) was 866 and the staffing level at May 2010 was 731, a drop of 135. Staffing levels at August 2009 were 771 and at May 2010 were 731, a reduction of 40. The major elements of the reduction since August 2009 are set out below.

Explanation for reduction in staff	FTE reduction
(a) Transfer of payroll function to the Department of the House of Representatives	8
(b) Efficiencies in security operations	18
(c) Efficiencies in facilities section	8
(d) SES responsibilities re-organised	1
(e) Small reductions across various sections	5

- c) The Portfolio Budget Statements for 2010-11 indicates an average staffing level of 735 at 30 June 2011. DPS is currently operating at a workforce level which is fluctuating between 730 and 745 FTEs, depending on the operational requirements of the Parliament. Any modest reductions through 2010-11 will be achieved through natural turnover and limited use of voluntary redundancies.
- d) DPS has an apprentice and trainee program. No reductions are planned other than branches having to meet their overall budget allocation.
- e) Not applicable