

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2010–11 (May 2010)

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET PORTFOLIO

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman
Topic: Staffing

Senator: Senator Barnett
Question reference number: PM 61
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Number of pages: Two

- 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 ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.**
- d) **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?**
- e) **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:

Note: This question is similar to that asked in Additional Estimates 8-11 February 2010 PM 72a-g.

- a) Staffing numbers have reduced due to efficiency dividend, savings and increased salary costs.
- b) Staff reductions have occurred in every branch across the office including the Executive where the budget anticipates one less Deputy Ombudsman in 2010–11.
- c) Yes we estimate a reduction of six staff through natural attrition during the year.

d) N/A

e) No changes are planned to recruitment activities. The office participates as a placement opportunity for participants in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet graduate program.