

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010–11

Portfolio: Prime Minister and Cabinet

Department/Agency: Office of the Privacy Commissioner

Topic: Senate questions on Budget Estimates hearings

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: 1

- a) **Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts:**
 - i. **since the efficiency dividend was introduced?**
 - ii. **since Additional Estimates?****If so, where and at what level?**

- b) **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.**

- c) **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 paper says ‘improvement to strategic work practices’ or similar, what are these and how will they be delivered?)**

- 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.**

Answer

- a) Yes. Reductions in staffing have occurred through natural attrition and reflect the impact of reducing revenue through efficiency dividends combined with increasing operating costs.

- b) No

- c) Not applicable

- d) The Office has been approached by a candidate looking to secure an Indigenous cadetship commencing December 2010. The Office is also considering the introduction of a corporate service based Indigenous traineeship from September 2010. Both of these employment strategies are aimed to assist the Office in meeting the APSC and COAG targets for the employment of Indigenous people.