

Department/Agency: Department of the Senate

Topic: Making the Public Service more efficient

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 13

Type of question: Written

Question

- 1. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.**

Answer

Yes, there are plans for staff reductions in future years if funding is not increased. The department aims to have an average full-time equivalent of 152.9 for the 2012-2013 financial year and to date this has been achieved. Mostly, this will be achieved through natural attrition; however, three voluntary redundancies have occurred. Services that have changed include reductions in the quantity of printed materials, some adjustments to delivery services schedules, changes to the number of newspapers provided to senators, reductions in advertising and changes to the staffing of the inquiry service in the Table Office and Senators' Services after 5pm on sitting days.

- 2. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.**

Answer

The reduction in staff numbers is due to a decrease in real terms in recent years to the department's budget combined with an increase in staff costs.