

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 MAY 2008

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### (11) Output: Internal Product

Senator Ellison (L&CA 24) asked:

In relation to staff reductions, could you advise the committee when that decision is made. I appreciate the time for answering questions might conflict with that, but if you could advise the committee of that decision when it is made—the level of classification of the staff involved, the positions within the department and the location. When I say ‘location,’ I mean geographic as well.

*Answer:*

The reductions in staff are in two specific categories. The first is reductions as a result of the Financial Health Check Implementation that will be implemented in National Office. The second is the specific initiative from the budget to reduce the number of A-based positions at posts overseas by 10 percent.

In relation to the National office reductions, it is anticipated that there will be a net reduction of around 250 positions. Details are still being worked through and this number may shift up or down slightly in coming weeks. All of these positions are being drawn from the National Office in Canberra. The level of positions is yet to be finalised for all positions but it is expected that all levels from the SES down will be impacted. Full details are expected to be available in early August.

The reduction of 10 percent from the overseas network has resulted in the withdrawal of 16 positions overseas. The decision was announced to DIAC staff on 15 May following the Government’s announcement of the new federal budget on 14 May. The budget measure is expressed to commence from 1 July 2008.

**Classification level of staff involved:** APS6 and Executive Level 1.

**Positions within the department:** Senior Migration Officer (Operations), Senior Migration Officer (Compliance), Principal Migration Officer (Operations), Principal Migration Officer (Compliance), Regional Director, Airline Liaison Officer.

**Geographic location:** Athens, Bangkok, Beijing, Beirut, Belgrade, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, London, Manila, Shanghai, Suva, Taipei.

Details of the number of positions being withdrawn from each post were given by First Assistant Secretary, James Fox, at the Budget Estimate hearings on Wednesday 28 May 2008 in response to questions from Senator Ellison.