

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Program SPCG

Question No. 90

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2010:

Staffing – efficiency dividend/budget cuts:

- a. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details (reduction target, how it will be achieved, services/programs to be cut).
- b. Has the Department been identified in the budget as delivering further efficiencies (savings)? If so, 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?)
- c. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons and target numbers.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a. The Attorney-General's Department has no plans for staff reductions. The Department operates within budget and deploys employees between programs in response to Government priorities as they exist from time to time. Accordingly, there can be no direct linkage between the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts and the reduction in Departmental staff numbers.
- b. There were no further savings identified for the Department in the 2010-11 Budget that will affect its staffing levels.
- c. There are no proposed changes to planning for graduate recruitment or similar projects for this year.