

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

Program All

Question No. 88

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:

Staffing

Are there any plans for staff reduction?

- a) If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
- b) If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

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

Attorney-General's Department

- a) The Department operates within budget and deploys employees between programs in response to Government priorities. In the 2011-12 Portfolio Budget Statements, the Department has a forecast reduction of 25 ASL. The planned staffing reduction will be managed by natural attrition.
- b) Of the forecast reduction of 25 ASL, 21 of these are directly related to changes in funding received for New Policy Proposals and four relate to a general reduction in staff numbers.

Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI)

- a) No.
- b) Not applicable.

Australian Crime Commission (ACC)

- a) Yes. There will be a reduction of 23 staff by voluntary redundancies, natural attrition and the expiry of non-ongoing contracts. Measures are in place to ensure that priority areas of the ACC are allocated the resources required to deliver services and programs of work.
- b) The reduction is due to a reduced appropriation.

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

- a) Customs and Border Protection is forecasting a net reduction in staffing levels of 90 ASL between 2010-11 and 2011-12 as reported in the 2011-12 Portfolio Budget Statements. As part of the Commonwealth Budget process, Government approved a savings measure: *Border Security – passenger facilitation at international airports efficiencies* which resulted

in staff reductions of 77 ASL in 2011-12 increasing to 87 ASL by 2014-15. These staffing reductions are expected to be achieved largely through natural attrition.

- b) Planned staffing reductions across the forward estimates are driven by a number of factors which impact upon agency resources. These include the cumulative effect of efficiency dividends, the need to fund pay rises over and above appropriation supplementation and increasing supplier cost pressures. In addition, funding for a number of staff is provided from measures agreed by government, a significant number of which are scheduled to terminate across the forward estimates period.

Australian Federal Police (AFP)

- a) As stated in the 2011-12 Portfolio Budget Statement, the AFP is anticipating a reduction of 72 ASL in its National Operations (i.e. excluding ACT Policing). The organisation has reduced its FTE during the 2011-12 financial year, due to natural attrition, retirements and voluntary redundancies.
- b) The voluntary redundancy program is part of a normal workforce management program for the organisation.

Australian Government Solicitor (AGS)

- a) No.
- b) Not applicable.

Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC)

- a) No.
- b) Not applicable.

Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)

- a) The ALRC reduced its legal staff by one Senior Legal Officer (EL 2) at end of November 2011 when the Commonwealth Laws and Family Violence Inquiry was completed. There are no intentions to cut services or programs.
- b) The reason for this reduction is operational and aligns the ALRCs expenditure with its current appropriation.

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO)

- a) There are no plans for staff reductions.
- b) Not applicable.

Crimtrac

- a) No.
- b) Not applicable.

High Court of Australia

- a) No.
- b) Not applicable.

Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia (ITSA)

- a) No.
- b) Not applicable.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP)

- a) As stated in the 2011-2012 Portfolio Budget Statements the staffing levels expected for the out years are:
 - i. 2011-12 anticipated ASL 513;
 - ii. 2012-13 anticipated ASL 508;
 - iii. 2013-14 anticipated ASL 496;
 - iv. 2014-15 anticipated ASL 494.

Staffing number reductions will be achieved across the broad range of office functions rather than in relation to specific areas, classifications, services or programs.

- b) These reductions are due to budget reduction and an increase in the Efficiency Dividend.

Office of Parliamentary Counsel (OPC)

- a) No.
- b) Not applicable.