## Part 2: Staffing of Agencies

## A SMART, AGILE AND RESPONSIVE PUBLIC SERVICE

## MODERNISING GOVERNMENT

The Australian Government remains focused on public sector staffing reforms to improve public sector productivity and performance.

The Government continues to examine all parts and aspects of the Commonwealth public sector, from the functions of agencies to how they operate and are structured.

Independent Functional and Efficiency Reviews of agencies, and Scoping Studies of government businesses and assets, have identified activities that can be opened to competition to provide better and more affordable services, as well as greater value to taxpayers.

The Government is addressing areas of inefficiency in its operations through targeted efficiency initiatives, with many of these reforms due to deliver increased savings over time. This includes the Shared and Common Services and the Streamlining Grants Programs, which enable efficiencies to be achieved through standardised business processes and systems, ensuring simpler and more consistent administration across government.

The Australian Government is also positioning the Commonwealth public sector to respond to growing public demands, including for more open and collaborative solutions to emerging complex challenges and opportunities.

From 2017-18, the Government will adjust its approach to efficiency in the public sector by phasing down the efficiency dividend over the forward estimates, and partially re-investing savings from the efficiency dividend into public sector reforms.

The new efficiency profile will generate savings of approximately \$1.924 billion above previous baseline estimates for the Budget out years. From this, \$500 million will be re-invested over the same period into transformational Commonwealth public sector productivity and innovation initiatives.

The public service will implement the Australian Government Public Data Policy Statement and collaborate with the private and research sectors to collect, manage and share data, along with new digital technologies to deliver quality services faster, and at lower cost.

## MAINTAINING AFFORDABLE STAFFING LEVELS

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government made a commitment to maintain the size of the general government sector (excluding military and reserves) around, or below 2006-07 levels (167,596). Based on the estimated staffing levels for both 2015-16 and 2016-17 the Government is on-track to deliver on this commitment.

In the 2015-16 Budget the estimated Average Staffing Level (ASL) in the general government sector (excluding military and reserves) for 2015-16 was 167,340. The general government sector (excluding military and reserves) is now estimated to be 166,765 in 2015-16, and 167,155 in 2016-17. The 2015-16 result is about 16,000 full time equivalent staff below the peak of 182,505 in 2011-12.

In 2016-17 — like in 2015-16, the actual ASL may be lower than the estimate as a result of Functional and Efficiency Reviews currently underway. A key contributor to controlling growth in public sector staffing levels is the decision to reduce the number of permanent public service positions in the National Disability Insurance Agency from a projected peak of 10,595 in 2018-19 to a maximum of 3,000 and to use more efficient non-government models to achieve the same outcomes.

Australian Public Service Commission data (on a headcount basis) shows that:

- There were 21,927 separations over the period from 1 July 2013 to 1 July 2015, 9,164 of which were redundancies and 12,763 were departures without redundancy;
- From 1 July 2015 to 31 March 2016, there were a further 6,991 separations, of which 1,912 were redundancies and 5,079 were departures without redundancy; and
- Since 1 July 2013, over sixty per cent of separations were achieved through natural attrition, which has helped to lessen the number of redundancies required across the public sector. So far the Government has provided \$197 million to 38 agencies to assist with redundancies.

Turnover has allowed the Government to recruit the right skills against the highest priorities, allowing overall staffing reductions to be offset by temporary increases in targeted areas to implement policy changes and build infrastructure needed to achieve automation and other longer term efficiencies. Departments with temporary ASL growth in the 2016-17 Budget include the Department of Employment, to implement the Youth Employment Program and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, to support investment in information technology systems.

The Government's ongoing commitment to ensure Australian Public Service staffing remains at a sustainable level is part of the broader effort to modernise public sector efficiency and practices.

Table 2.1: Estimates of total Average Staffing Levels in the general government sector

	ASL Excluding military and reserves	Military and reserves	Total ASL
2006-07	167,596	71,026	238,622
2007-08	175,531	72,686	248,217
2008-09	175,422	75,144	250,566
2009-10	178,970	79,351	258,321
2010-11	181,018	80,873	261,891
2011-12	182,505	79,132	261,637
2012-13	179,953	76,678	256,631
2013-14	177,258	76,595	253,853
2014-15	166,261	76,874	243,135
2015-16	167,340 (a)	76,842 (a)	244,182 (a)
2016-17	167,155	78,319	245,474

<sup>(</sup>a) 2015-16 Budget Paper No. 4 estimate.

Table 2.2 provides details of ASL at the portfolio and agency level.

Following the issuing of the Administrative Arrangement Orders of 21 September 2015, 30 September 2015 and 18 February 2016, there were a number of machinery of government changes including transfers of function between agencies, movements of agencies between portfolios, mergers of agencies, and the establishment and abolition of agencies. Comparison of ASL at a portfolio and agency level between years should take into consideration that the related ASL would have had a part-year effect in 2015-16 and a full-year effect in 2016-17.

Table 2.2: Estimates of average staffing levels (ASL) of agencies in the Australian general government sector (a)

	Averag	Average staffing levels #		
	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change	
Agriculture and Water Resources				
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (b)	4,250	4,517	267	
Australian Fisheries Management Authority	175	176	2	
Australian Grape and Wine Authority	53	53	0	
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	174	192	18	
Cotton Research and Development Corporation	13	14	0	
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	14	19	5	
Grains Research and Development Corporation	79	79	0	
Murray-Darling Basin Authority	298	316	18	
Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation	19	19	0	
Total	5,075	5,384	309	

	Averag	e staffing le	vels #
	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change
Attorney-General's			
Attorney-General's Department (c)	2,034	1,832	-202
Administrative Appeals Tribunal (d)	715	805	90
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	49	52	3
Australian Crime Commission (e)	559	588	29
Australian Federal Police	6,475	6,275	-200
Australian Financial Security Authority	487	487	0
Australian Human Rights Commission	114	111	-3
Australian Institute of Criminology (f)	14	0	-14
Australian Law Reform Commission	12	13	1
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	1,740	1,812	72
Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre	281	302	21
CrimTrac Agency	229	229	0
Family Court and Federal Circuit Court (g)	780	0	-780
Federal Court of Australia (h)	400	1,101	701
High Court of Australia	73	72	-1
National Archives of Australia	395	390	-5
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	92	97	5
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	72	75	3
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions	373	390	17
Total	14,895	14,631	-264

Part 2: Staffing of Agencies

	Average staffing levels #			
	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change	
Communications and the Arts				
Department of Communications and the Arts (i)	495	552	57	
Australia Business Arts Foundation Limited	16	16	0	
Australia Council	112	110	-1	
Australian Broadcasting Corporation (j)	4,275	4,194	-81	
Australian Communications and Media Authority	420	418	-2	
Australian Film, Television and Radio School	138	144	6	
Australian National Maritime Museum	120	125	5	
Bundanon Trust	20	20	1	
National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (k)	176	164	-12	
National Gallery of Australia	237	217	-20	
National Library of Australia (I)	421	393	-28	
National Museum of Australia	215	226	11	
National Portrait Gallery of Australia	51	48	-3	
Old Parliament House	70	70	0	
Screen Australia	100	97	-3	
Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	1,020	1,020	0	
Total	7,885	7,815	-71	

	Average staffing levels #		
	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change
Defence			
Department of Defence — Civilian (m)	18,100	17,950	-150
Department of Defence — Military (n)	58,021	59,209	1,188
Department of Defence — Reserves (o)	19,360	19,110	-250
Department of Veterans' Affairs	1,896	1,838	-59
Australian War Memorial	265	278	13
Defence Housing Australia	650	650	0
Total	98,292	99,035	743

		Average staffing levels #			
	2015 AS		2016-17 ASL	Change	
Departments of the Parliament					
Department of Parliamentary Services (p)		781	820	39	
Department of the House of Representatives		158	158	0	
Department of the Senate		155	162	7	
Parliamentary Budget Office (q)		42	45	3	
Total		1,136	1,185	49	

Part 2: Staffing of Agencies

	Average staffing levels #		
-	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change
Education and Training			
Department of Education and Training (r)	1,815	2,025	210
Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	78	93	15
Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	56	56	0
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (s)	140	121	-19
Australian Research Council	128	136	8
Australian Skills Quality Authority	205	197	-8
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (t)	60	48	-12
Total	2,483	2,676	194

	Averag	Average staffing levels #		
	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change	
Employment				
Department of Employment (u)	1,770	1,807	37	
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency	12	12	0	
Comcare	626	652	26	
Fair Work Commission	344	326	-18	
Office of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate	131	155	24	
Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman	702	675	-27	
Safe Work Australia	101	101	0	
Workplace Gender Equality Agency	30	30	0	
Total	3,716	3,757	41	

	Average staffing levels #		
	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change
Environment			
Department of the Environment (v)	1,828	1,755	-72
Australian Renewable Energy Agency	2	2	0
Bureau of Meteorology (w)	1,581	1,602	21
Clean Energy Finance Corporation	65	65	0
Clean Energy Regulator	324	324	0
Climate Change Authority (x)	18	9	-9
Director of National Parks	317	321	4
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	207	210	3
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust	62	62	0
Total	4,403	4,350	-54

	Averag	Average staffing levels #		
	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change	
Finance				
Department of Finance	1,295	1,323	29	
Australian Electoral Commission	837	819	-18	
Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation	455	476	21	
Future Fund Management Agency	120	141	21	
Total	2,707	2,759	53	

Part 2: Staffing of Agencies

	Average staffing levels #			
·	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change	
Foreign Affairs and Trade				
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (y)	5,700	5,760	60	
Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research	74	74	0	
Australian Secret Intelligence Service*	*	*	*	
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	1,024	1,020	-4	
Export Finance and Insurance Corporation — National Interest Account	3	3	0	
Tourism Australia	207	207	0	
Total	7,008	7,064	56	

	Average staffing levels #		
	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change
Health			
Department of Health (z)	4,000	4,483	483
Australian Aged Care Quality Agency	243	248	5
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	89	86	-3
Australian Digital Health Agency (aa)	0	51	51
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (ab)	300	311	11
Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority	27	28	1
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	135	131	-4
Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority	53	50	-3
Australian Sports Commission (Australian Institute of Sport)	584	582	-2
Australian Sports Foundation Limited	11	11	0
Cancer Australia	62	69	7
Food Standards Australia New Zealand	111	108	-3
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (ac)	59	1	-58
National Blood Authority	52	52	0
National Health and Medical Research Council	185	179	-6
National Health Funding Body	19	19	0
National Health Performance Authority (ad)	39	0	-39
National Mental Health Commission	14	14	0
Professional Services Review	17	18	1
Total	5,999	6,441	442

	Averag	Average staffing levels #		
	2015-16 2016-17 Chang		Change	
Immigration and Border Protection				
Department of Immigration and Border Protection (ae)	13,750	13,445	-305	
Total	13,750	13,445	-305	

Part 2: Staffing of Agencies

	Average staffing levels #		vels #
·	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change
Industry, Innovation and Science			
Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (af)	2,580	2,568	-12
Australian Institute of Marine Science	208	207	-1
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation	1,257	1,257	0
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (ag)	5,056	5,078	21
IP Australia	1,049	1,054	6
Geoscience Australia	584	590	6
National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority	112	135	23
Total	10,846	10,889	43

	Average staffing levels #		
	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change
Infrastructure and Regional Development			
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (ah)	1,135	1,130	-5
Australian Maritime Safety Authority	390	384	-6
Australian Transport Safety Bureau	105	96	-9
Civil Aviation Safety Authority	795	805	10
Infrastructure Australia	16	25	9
National Capital Authority	56	56	0
National Transport Commission	39	39	0
Total	2,536	2,535	-1

	Average staffing levels #		
	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change
Prime Minister and Cabinet			
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	2,064	2,070	6
Aboriginal Hostels Limited	402	411	10
Anindilyakwa Land Council	29	31	2
Australian National Audit Office	330	337	7
Australian Public Service Commission	213	209	-4
Central Land Council	230	230	0
Digital Transformation Office	74	74	0
Indigenous Business Australia	208	219	11
Indigenous Land Corporation	265	265	0
National Australia Day Council Limited	12	12	0
Northern Land Council	239	245	6
Office of National Assessments	128	138	10
Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman	149	149	0
Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security	16	17	1
Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General	76	76	0
Outback Stores Pty Ltd	150	158	8
Tiwi Land Council	16	17	1
Torres Strait Regional Authority	150	150	0
Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council	32	32	0
Total	4,783	4,841	58

	Average staffing levels #		
-	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change
Social Services			
Department of Social Services (ai)	2,379	2,035	-344
Department of Human Services (aj)	30,102	29,292	-810
Australian Institute of Family Studies	75	82	7
National Disability Insurance Scheme Launch Transition Agency (ak)	1,103	1,749	646
Total	33,659	33,158	-501

	Average staffing levels #		
	2015-16 ASL	2016-17 ASL	Change
Treasury			
Department of the Treasury	810	810	0
Australian Bureau of Statistics	2,871	2,830	-41
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	739	739	0
Australian Office of Financial Management	36	40	4
Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (al)	602	605	3
Australian Securities and Investments Commission	1,658	1,687	29
Australian Taxation Office	17,781	18,320	539
Commonwealth Grants Commission	29	30	1
Inspector-General of Taxation	34	35	1
National Competition Council	1	1	0
Office of the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board	7	7	0
Office of the Australian Accounting Standards Board	22	22	0
Productivity Commission	164	167	3
Royal Australian Mint	219	215	-4
Total	24,973	25,508	535
TOTAL (for all general government sector agencies)	244,146	245,474	1,327

<sup>#</sup> Any discrepancies in totals are due to rounding of partial ASL.

- (a) This table includes estimates of ASL provided by general government sector agencies. ASL figures reflect the average number of employees receiving salary or wages over the financial year, with adjustments for casual and part-time staff to show the full-time equivalent. It also includes uniformed staff and overseas personnel. The ASL figures exclude contractors.
- (b) The projected increase relates to 2015-16 MYEFO measures, the transfer of the water function from the Department of the Environment as part of machinery of government changes, and employee recruitment in 2015-16.
- (c) The projected decrease is due to machinery of government changes, the completion of Defence Abuse Response Taskforce and Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption, implementation of savings measures, the implementation of the whole of government shared services and the impact of 2016-17 Budget measures.
- (d) The projected increase is due to the National Disability Insurance Scheme reaching its staffing peak.
- (e) The projected increase is due to part-year effect of transferring Australian Institute of Criminology staff into the Australian Crime Commission in 2015-16, and the impact of 2016-17 Budget measures.
- (f) All Australian Institute of Criminology staff were transferred to the Australian Crime Commission on 8 October 2015.
- (g) As of 1 July 2016, the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court of Australia will merge with the Federal Court of Australia.
- (h) The functions of the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court of Australia will be transferred to the Federal Court of Australia from 1 July 2016, with a corresponding transfer of staff.
- (i) The projected increase reflects machinery of government changes announced in 2015-16, including gaining Arts, Copyright and Classifications functions from the Attorney-General's Department and transferring staff to the Department of Industry and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- (j) The projected decrease is a result of the closure of Australian Broadcasting Corporation retail shops.
- (k) The projected decrease reflects the implementation of 2015-16 MYEFO measures.

<sup>\*</sup> Not disclosed.

- (I) The National Library of Australia is funded by both appropriations and revenue from external sources. A decline in revenue has resulted in an ASL reduction.
- (m) Defence's APS workforce is forecast to reach 18,100 ASL in 2015-16 as the culmination of a conscious program of workforce reductions, before stabilising at 17,950 in 2016-17. New APS positions in areas of high priority will be offset by ongoing reductions elsewhere in the APS workforce, including through the reform of service delivery areas of Defence's business, as part of the implementation of the 2015 First Principles Review.
- (n) The Australian Defence Force has been below its approved allocations since 2011-12 due to a combination of factors. Defence has been working to address this through increased recruiting for both Navy and Army. In addition, Army's separation rates have decreased since late 2014-15, which is helping Army to retain more people and grow the size of the force. As a result, the permanent force strength has been increasing since January 2014 and is gradually closing towards to the workforce strength approved by Government.
  - Building on this foundation, under the 2016 Defence White Paper the permanent ADF workforce will grow to around 62,400 over the coming decade, beginning in 2016-17 with some modest growth from 2015-16 levels.
- (o) Figures provided for the Reserve Forces reflect the total number of days of service expected to be rendered by Reservists in each year, rather than an ASL figure, reflecting the widely varying patterns of employment of Reservists, which Defence does not measure in ASL terms.
- (p) The projected increase relates to the Australian Parliament House Security Upgrade Budget Measure and the Australian Parliament House Building Maintenance Budget Measure.
- (q) The projected increase relates to increase of staffing to build Parliamentary Budget Office's capability to accommodate the anticipated increase in demand for policy costing services in the lead up to the general election.
- (r) The projected increase reflects recent machinery of government changes relating to Child Care transferred from the Department of Social Services to the Department of Education and Training and measures announced in the 2016-17 Budget.
- (s) The projected decrease reflects terminating Budget measures.
- (t) The projected decrease reflects the implementation of the Budget measure announced at the 2014-15 Budget.
- (u) The projected increase is due to measures announced in the 2016-17 Budget.
- (v) The projected decrease reflects impact of water functions transferred to Agriculture and the Cities and Built Environment function transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. This decrease was partly offset by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency transferred to the Department from the Department of Industry and implementation of 2016-17 Budget measures.
- (w) The projected increase reflects the implementation of budget measures and the inclusion of staff related to capital projects that were previously excluded.
- (x) The projected decrease reflects Government policy that the Authority be wound down after the current Parliament.
- (y) Projected increase due to implementation of 2015-16 Budget measures.
- (z) The projected increase reflects the Health Provider Compliance functions transferred from the Department of Human Services, and the Aged Care functions transferred from the Department of Social Services. 2016-17 Budget measures will reduce ASL by 151 staff, including the transfer of staff to the Australian Digital Health Agency.
- (aa) The new Australian Digital Health Agency is due to commence operations on 1 July 2016 with ASL to be transferred from the Department of Health.
- (ab) The projected increase reflects the Government's decision in the 2015-16 MYEFO to close the National Hospital Pricing Authority (NHPA) on 30 June 2016 and transfer the functions related to Performance and Accountability Framework reporting to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). From 1 July 2016, the remainder of the NHPA staff will be transferred to the AIHW.
- (ac) The projected decrease reflects Government's decision to not proceed with the establishment of a Health Productivity and Performance Commission. From 1 July 2016, the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority Board and CEO will remain independent and will be supported in their operations by the Department of Health.
- (ad) The projected decrease represents the implementation of the Government's decision to close National Health Performance Agency by 1 July 2016, and to transfer staff and functions to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care by 30 June 2016.
- (ae) The projected decrease is due to the implementation of savings measures agreed as part of the 2015-16 Budget.
- (af) The projected decrease reflects the impact of the machinery of government changes announced in September 2015 and decisions of Government.
- (ag) The projected increase reflects the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) assuming effective control of National ICT Australia Limited (NICTA) from 28 August 2015.

- CSIRO is combining the activities previously undertaken by its Digital Productivity business unit with those of NICTA within CSIRO to create a new operating business named Data61.
- (ah) The projected decrease is due to functions relating to Northern Australia Policy and Coordination being transferred to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science as part of the machinery of government changes announced in September 2015.
   (ai) The projected decrease is mainly due to the full-year impact of the machinery of government changes,
- (ai) The projected decrease is mainly due to the full-year impact of the machinery of government changes, recruitment lag, a smaller graduate intake, and earlier than anticipated results from redundancy and attrition program.
- (aj) The projected decrease reflects difficulties associated with recruitment, machinery of government changes and impact of 2016-17 Budget measure.
- (ak) The projected increase is due to the Scheme transitioning from trial to full scheme. This involves the significant ramp up of organisational activities as the number of participants entering the Scheme in each year grows and existing participants continue to be serviced. The transition to full scheme is the basis of Government policy and several years of decisions with the most recent being at 2015-16 MYEFO.
- (al) The projected increase reflects a structural change occurring on 1 July 2016 when the former Private Health Insurance Administration Council responsibilities will be transferred to the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.