

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 140
Asked on Tuesday, 20 February 2007

MR CRIPPS asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

QUESTION:

With reference to his department's plans to offer up to 121 Voluntary Early Retirements (VERs) and recruit 100 new staff under the 'Workforce Skills Alignment Scheme'—

- (1) Will he provide a breakdown of how many VERs have been offered to date, including a breakdown by departmental business unit and a list of positions and also a breakdown by region?
- (2) Will he provide a breakdown of how many VERs have been accepted to date, including a breakdown by departmental business unit and a list of positions and also by region?
- (3) Will he provide a list of how many of the 100 new staff have been recruited to date, including a breakdown by departmental business unit and a list of positions and also a breakdown by region?

ANSWER:

(1) & (2)

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) participated in the whole-of-government Workforce Skills Alignment Scheme. Up to 28 February 2007, completion date of the scheme, there have been 117 VER offers made to DPI&F employees and 104 VER offers have been accepted.

The breakdown of VER offers and acceptances by Business Group is as follows:

Business Group	No. offered	No. accepted
Delivery	80	72
Corporate Capability	26	23
Fisheries	7	5
Industry Development	4	4
Total	117	104

The breakdown of VER offers and acceptances by region illustrates a continued commitment to maintaining services in regional areas with most of the VER offers occurring in Brisbane and the south-east corner.

Region	No. offered	No. accepted
Brisbane	38	33
South-East	33	31
South	14	13
Central	17	14
West	1	1
North	14	12
Total	117	104

The VER offers and acceptances to date have been grouped by job type as follows:

Job Grouping	No. offered	No. accepted
Administration	17	11
Information Technology	8	7
Policy/Planning	4	4
Extension	10	10
Accountancy/Finance	3	3
Science Technical/Assistant	11	10
Information Extension	6	5
Scientist/Research Assistants	35	33
Management/Project Management	12	12
Biometrician	1	1
Farmhand/Gardener/Cleaner	10	8
Total	117	104

- (3) For the financial year to 31 January 2007, 442 appointments (including permanent, temporary and casual employees) have been made in DPI&F. A breakdown of appointments by business group is outlined in the table below:

Business Group	Number
Biosecurity	153
Corporate Capability	32
Delivery	200
Fisheries	26
Industry Development	31
Total	442

Over 80% of appointments have been made in regional locations as follows:

Region	Number
Brisbane	87
South East	177
South	35
Central	20
North	112
West	11
Total	442

These appointments have been grouped by job type as follows:

Job Grouping	Number
Administration	80
Information Technology	7
Policy/Planning	27
Extension	11
Accountancy/Finance	4
Science Technical/Assistant	102
Science Operational	25
Information Extension	7
Scientist/Research Assistants	49
Management/Project Management	39
Regional Development Officers	2
Client Service/Liaison	3
Economist	1
Experimentalist	13
Farmhand/Gardener/Cleaner	43 ¹
Kitchen hand/Cook	4
Legal	4
Engineer	1
Biosecurity Veterinary/Inspectors	20
Total	442

¹ 17 were involved in Operation Farm Clear

DPI&F anticipates that approximately 500 new appointments will be made in the 2006-07 financial year.