

Question on Notice

No. 1635

Asked on 17 October 2019

MR S BENNETT asked the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (HON D FARMER)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise (a) how many departmental medical redundancies or any other form of redundancies have been approved since October 2017 until now, including the total cost and (b) how many positions are vacant as at 31 October 2019?

ANSWER

The Machinery-of-Government changes creating the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (DCSYW) only took effect from 1 January 2018, so a response is provided from that date.

- (a) From 1 January 2018 to 23 October 2019, DCSYW and the Department of Youth Justice (DYJ), within my portfolio, recorded 28 Redundancies with a total cost of \$2,665,433.99. All 28 redundancy payments were made as part of the transition to National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) under whole-of-government arrangements. DCSYW's redundancies occurred in areas of shared services provided to the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors pursuant to Directive 04/18. There have been no medical redundancies during this period.
- (b) Vacancies recorded in a given pay period reflect the ongoing movement of staff. When staff leave their position, either through a promotion or separating from the department, those positions are vacant for a number of weeks while recruitment processes are underway. Previous reports have indicated that positions are usually filled in approximately six to eight weeks, reflecting the general practice and timeframes for advertising (two weeks), interview and selection (two weeks), and the appointment period and providing notice, and police checks for the staff being appointed (two to four weeks).

As of 11 October 2019 pay period, the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women had 143 permanent positions that were vacant, from a paid workforce of 3313.1 FTEs.

As of 31 October 2019, the Department of Youth Justice had 100 permanent positions that were vacant, from a paid workforce of 1541.04 FTEs.

The Department of Youth Justice has focussed specifically on Detention Youth Worker recruitment for the youth detention centres in 2019. This focus should result in full permanent staffing levels within both youth detention centres by the end of 2019.