

EDUCATION AND TRAINING — AGENCIES — VOLUNTARY TARGETED SEPARATION SCHEME

829. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme (VTSS) and with respect to public sector agencies under your direction, I ask:

- (a) how many offers have been made to public sector employees per month, per agency, since the scheme's commencement;
- (b) of those identified in (a), how many per month, per agency have been accepted by employees;
- (c) of those identified in (b), how many employees have departed the public sector per month, per agency arising from the VTSS; and
- (d) what specific targets has the Government set for each public sector agency under the VTSS?

**Hon Sue Ellery replied:**

- (a)–(d) The Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme (VTSS) is a Budget repair tool to assist agencies in meeting Machinery of Government (MoG) savings resulting from the amalgamation of a number of government departments as well as assist in achieving workforce renewal by enabling agencies to retain 20% of the savings. The VTSS is open to all general government employees, though priority is being given to agencies impacted by the MoG changes (which took effect from 1 July 2017). However in the Department of Education, only staff whose substantive position was not school based were invited to express an interest. Further, a number of employees requiring placement (ERP) have been categorised as suitable to receive a VTSS offer.

Agency targets are Cabinet-in-confidence and were provided as a guide to assist agencies and Ministers with implementation of the scheme. While the reductions will vary between agencies depending on factors like MoG changes, the size and role of individual agencies and other impacts, all agencies are expected to contribute in order to meet the overall reduction target of 3,000 employees.

Agencies are currently working with the Public Sector Commission to progress the scheme via individual expression of interest (EOI) processes. Progress will be reported to Cabinet during the 2018–19 Budget process and detailed in the 2018–19 Budget Papers.