

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11AM WEDNESDAY 3 JULY 2013

Media release

Abbott keeps us guessing on public service job cuts

New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland could lose well over a thousand jobs each under the Coalition's planned public service job cuts, according to new research from The Australia Institute.

The Institute has launched an analysis of the economic impacts of the Coalition's proposed public service job cuts, and is today releasing some initial findings.

The Coalition is yet to make it clear whether the 12 thousand job cuts Joe Hockey has promised as a 'starting point' will be focused in Canberra or spread around Australia. It's also unclear whether the cuts will be made as redundancies or through so-called 'natural attrition'.

"With parliament rising and politicians heading off to campaign for the election, it's time for the Coalition to clear this issue up," The Australia Institute's Executive Director Dr Richard Denniss said.

The initial phase of The Australia Institute's research reveals where these job cuts would hit hardest if they are spread across every electorate. This was done using historic separation rates.

The results show that New South Wales would be the hardest hit state, predicting 1830 job losses. Victoria and Queensland are predicted to lose 1550 and 1341 respectively.

Western Australia would be set to lose more than 800 jobs, while South Australia and Tasmania would lose 534 and 203 respectively.

The Northern Territory is predicted to lose more than 300 jobs and the ACT would see more than 5400 jobs axed.

"When Ford announced its decision to shed 1200 jobs there was national outrage. Unfortunately our analysis suggests that every state on the east coast will lose substantially more jobs than that if the Coalition spreads its planned job cuts across the country," Dr Denniss said.

"With the election looming, the Coalition needs to clear up this ambiguous policy and explain the real effects of its planned public service job cuts."

For media enquiries, please contact:

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Briefing Note

Introduction

The Coalition has promised to significantly reduce the size of the Australian Public Service (APS) should it win government at the 2013 Election, but there remains considerable ambiguity about the nature of the proposed cuts. The Coalition policy remains unclear with respect to:

- agencies and classifications to be targeted
- total numbers to be reduced
- how the targets will be achieved
- geographical locations of the cuts

The Coalition has said it will cut 12 thousand jobs as a 'starting point', but it's unclear what the final number will be.

Hockey's questionable claims over public service increases

Joe Hockey argues there are 20,000 more public servants in Canberra than there were under the final year of the Howard Government.

Hockey's historical claim is not supported by the data. Indeed both the Budget and the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) data show the public service around Australia grew by less than 20,000 jobs since the end of the Howard Government. That means the Canberra based public service could not have grown by 20,000 jobs.

Separation rates by state

The APSC provides data on ongoing APS staff separations over time, broken down by state and by classification. This can be used to determine proportion of separations across the states and then allocate the 12,000 job losses to the states on this basis:

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	<i>Total</i>
ongoing separations 11-12	1554	1316	1139	453	682	172	284	4589	10189
State separation rate	6%	5%	7%	5%	10%	5%	13%	7%	
% of separations	15%	13%	11%	4%	7%	2%	3%	45%	
Job losses	1830	1550	1341	534	803	203	334	5405	12000

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Job losses by electorate

The following table shows estimated job losses for the 30 Commonwealth Electoral Districts likely to be most affected. It shows estimated separation rates from the Census figures. The 'Capital Region' is an amalgamation of the ACT electorates and the surrounding Eden-Monaro and Hume electorates.

CED	Predicted job losses
Capital Region	5744
Canberra, ACT	2709
Fraser, ACT	2702
Eden-Monaro, NSW	200
Solomon, NT	200
Lingiari, NT	132
Melbourne, Vic	81
Herbert, Qld	98
Hume, NSW	81
Denison, Tas	76
Lilley, Qld	89
Adelaide, SA	76
Wills, Vic	70
Griffith, Qld	85
Franklin, Tas	70
Brisbane, Qld	79
Hindmarsh, SA	69

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Lindsay, NSW	70
Batman, Vic	63
Perth, WA	94
Sturt, SA	65
Gellibrand, Vic	58
Boothby, SA	63
Corio, Vic	56
Dickson, Qld	71
Grayndler, NSW	59
Ryan, Qld	68
Melbourne Ports, Vic	54
Gippsland, Vic	55
Bonner, Qld	68
Moreton, Qld	66