

Department of Immigration and Border Protection

BE2015-ED2- Communication and Media Staffing Numbers

Key Talking Points

- On 1 July 2014, communication staff from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Australian Customs and Border Protection Service combined to form the Communication and Media Branch within the portfolio's Executive Division as one of the early steps towards consolidation.
- The Branch delivers communications activities across the portfolio.
- As at 30 April, there were 75.94 staff in the Portfolio Communication and Media Branch (comprising 53.53 from DIBP and 22.41 from ACBPS).
- Of these staff, not all are communication officers – approximately 13 staff are technical officers responsible for maintaining the Portfolio's websites and online presence.
- 14 staff work in Portfolio Media Operations (10 Canberra-based staff and 4 state-based officers).
- The Communication and Media Branch budget for 2014-15 is \$12.89 million (\$8.69 million from DIBP and \$4.20 million from ACBPS). This does not include campaign funding.

BACKGROUND:

1. In mid- to late-2014 the Portfolio was subject to media coverage about the size and cost of the Department's communication and media functions, based on answers to Questions on Notice. Portfolio consolidation activities have now centralised these functions into a single branch structure.
2. The combined Portfolio Communication and Media function was stood up on 1 July 2014. The majority of staff for the new function were collocated at Portfolio Headquarters in Belconnen in November 2014.
3. As a part of integration activities, a new function was brought into the Branch. Web Operations and Governance is responsible for the maintenance, functionality and usability of the Portfolio's websites and online presence.
4. Other communication functions previously based in other areas of the Department, including Compliance Status Resolution Communication and Onshore Protection Communication, were also transitioned into the Communication and Media Branch.
 - a. These changes saw 28.26 FTE transferred into the branch (of this, 13.1 FTE within Web Operations and Governance are technical staff and not communication officers).

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