

WHAT IS THE ASL CAP?

#SCRAPTHECAP

The number of APS jobs in all Agencies is capped by the Federal Government through the Average Staffing Level (ASL) Cap, and your agency must comply with this cap, regardless of actual staffing needs.

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Coalition committed to capping the size of the Australian Public Service to around or below 2006-07 levels.¹ This has meant that regardless of funding levels or operational requirements, agencies are forced to arbitrarily limit and/or reduce their APS staffing numbers.

1. http://budget.gov.au/2016-17/content/bp4/html/09_staff.htm

WHY DOES IT MATTER? “

The increased use of consultants, contractors and labour hire is driven by the government's imposition of the arbitrary staff cap.

The ASL cap forces agencies, even where they have available budget, including new program funding, to avoid any direct employment of additional staff.

This then requires agencies to use labour hire and contractors for work better done through direct employment in the public service.

It is causing serious damage to the APS.

Essential skills are being lost, and the capacity of the APS is being hollowed out, while valuable funding, in a highly constrained resources environment, is being wasted on expensive external providers.

Staff are not getting replaced in my unit – those of us who are left behind have to pick up the slack. I'm already overloaded.

Peter, Defence Department

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The value of tenders for management, business professionals and administrative services alone totalled \$39.4 billion over five years.

Australian Financial Review

WHAT CAN YOU DO? “

CPSU members are working hard to make this happen – we're getting a lot of attention in the media, this issue is being raised in Senate Estimates and we've got people on our side.

Sign up to add your voice to this campaign:

http://bit.ly/Scrap_cap

The Government pretends it's cutting the size of the public sector but while it's slashing thousands of jobs it's lining the pockets of consultants and corporations.

Nadine Flood, CPSU National Secretary



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