

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

**Question: AET 185**

**Topic: Making the Public Service More Efficient**

**Written: Received from Committee – 22 February 2013**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

185. Please provide an update of the savings achieved through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State of 25 September 2012 at: [http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr\\_1982012.html](http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html)).

In addition, please provide the following details:

- a. Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for reductions in air travel?
- b. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- c. Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors? Has this impacted on the Department/Agency, and how? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- d. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- e. Has the Department/Agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and by how much? Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, and if no, why not? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

**Answer:**

185. The Treasury will aim to achieve the savings over the forward estimates by targeting the items identified in the media release.

- a. Please refer to the response provided for the Supplementary Budget Estimates, question SBT 298.
- b. Please refer to the response provided for the Supplementary Budget Estimates, question SBT 299.
- c. Please refer to the response provided for the Supplementary Budget Estimates, question SBT 300.
- d. Please refer to the response provided for the Supplementary Budget Estimates, question SBT 301.
- e. Please refer to the response provided for the Supplementary Budget Estimates, question SBT 302.