

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

Question: AET 404

Topic: Making the Public Service More Efficient

Written: Received from Committee – 22 February 2013

Senator BUSHBY asked:

404. 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).

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:

404. The ACCC undertook a costing review as part of its internal budget process which focussed on identifying efficiencies and associated savings. This included travel and subscriptions.

- a. \$600,000 per annum.
- b. Yes. \$400,000 per annum.
- c. Yes. The ACCC has budgeted for a reduction in total consultancy and contractor costs. However, the ACCC's consultancy requirements are primarily driven by regulatory and enforcement activities that arise on an ongoing basis and as such the ACCC is unable to define an exact number of planned consultancies at any given time. The total spend is also impacted by new measures which include consultancy

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components. The ACCC is currently budgeting for a reduction in total consultancy and contractor costs of \$80,000 per annum.

- d. The agency has moved to online advertising for most advertised positions and as such there is minimal printed advertising. Estimated savings targets for general costs are 10% per annum.
- e. Yes. The ACCC is seeking to realise reduced printing costs through more efficient printing processes and improved technology. This includes reductions in colour printing and reduced paper usage. Estimated savings target is 10% per annum.