

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

14 February 2013

Question: AET 889

Topic: Making the Public Service More Efficient (ATO)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

889. 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:

889. Refer SBT 339 – October 2012

- a. In 2012-13 to 28 February 2013, the number of air travel bookings has reduced by 20.2% and the associated expenditure reduced by 14.6% from the same period in 2011-12. This is a saving of \$ 1.5 million. It is expected that there will continue to be some reduction in both air travel bookings and expenditure over the forward estimates.

For further information refer SBT 340 – October 2012

- b. Yes, in 2012-13 to 28 February 2013, business class bookings have reduced by 12.5% and the associated expenditure reduced by 18.8% from the same period in 2011-12. This is a saving of \$ 0.9 million. It is expected that there will continue to be a reduction in both business class bookings and expenditure over the forward estimates.

For further information refer SBT 341 – October 2012

- c. Refer SBT 342 – October 2012
- d. Refer SBT 343 – October 2012
- e. Refer SBT 344 – October 2012