

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

**Question: BET 888-893**

**Topic: Public Service Efficiencies**

**Written: 17 June 2013**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

888. Please provide details of the amended operational efficiencies your agency will make as per the 2013-14 Budget Measure 'Public Service efficiencies' (see 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 2, page 108).
889. In addition, please provide the following detail:
- a. Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by implementing more efficient management structures, through a reduction in expenditure on staff across the Executive Level (EL) 1 and 2, and Senior Executive Service (SES) levels?
  - b. Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by revising down the occupational density target for all new leases, buildings and major fit-outs undertaken by agencies from 16 square metres per occupied workpoint down to 14 square metres?
890. Has there been a reduction in business flights?
- a. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
891. Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors?
- a. Has this impacted on the department/agency, and how?
  - b. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
892. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online.
- a. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why?
  - b. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
893. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs?
- a. If not, why not?
  - b. Have printing costs increased, and if yes, why and by how much?
  - c. Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not be achieved, why not?
  - d. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

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**Answer:**

888. The AOFM has not initiated specific additional savings measures pursuant to the Budget Measure.
889. a. See Department of Finance and Deregulation response to Question on Notice F10 from the Finance and Public Administration Committee.  
b. Nil. The AOFM is not expecting to move location or conduct major fit-out during the forward estimates period.
890. The AOFM's policy is to restrict travel to circumstances where it fulfils a legitimate business need. The AOFM also requires that travel be completed in a single day where possible to reduce costs. The AOFM's policy is for all domestic travel to be economy class unless it is undertaken as part of an overseas trip. This policy is applied to all staff including SES.
891. Expenditure on consultants and contractors is only undertaken in limited circumstances. The AOFM only engages consultants where it lacks specialist expertise or when independent research, review or assessment is required.
892. All recruitment advertising has been exclusively on-line since the Government released the first Non-Campaign Recruitment Advertising Policy in July 2009.
893. The AOFM has been reducing its expenditure on printing of publications over a number of years. It is a relatively minor expense and there are no significant efficiency gains in reducing it further.