

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

Question: SBT 315-320

Topic: Public Service Efficiency (APRA)

Written: Received from Committee – 26 October 2012

Senator BUSHBY asked:

315. Please detail how the department/agency will achieve savings over the forward estimates 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 http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html).

In addition, please provide the following detail:

316. How will reductions in air travel spending be achieved? What is the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
317. What restrictions will be implemented for business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
318. How will the use of external consultants and contractors be reduced? How will this impact on the Department/agency? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
319. How will the department/agency manage moving recruitment advertising online? Will all future recruitment advertisement be online only? If not, explain why. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
320. How will printing costs be reduced? Explain if and how the department/agency will reduce its printing costs by five per cent, or if it will not, why not? How will it be determined what documents will no longer be printed? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

Answer:

315. Savings are to be found in areas such as training, travel and other discretionary expenditure.
316. Increased use of video conferencing and lower levels of international representation are expected to reduce overall travel costs by \$100,000 per year over the forward estimates.
317. See response to 316.

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318. Consultants and contractors are only used when needed for business purposes. Appropriate approval processes are in place for the engagement of consultants and contractors and regard is given to APRA's available budget.
319. All roles externally advertised are currently advertised on line; press advertising will continue to be used for certain senior and specialist roles.
320. As with other areas of discretionary expenditure, printing costs are monitored at various levels through APRA. The targeted savings are expected to be achieved through existing procurement practices and reduced volumes.