

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of National Assessments

Outcome/Program: 1

Topic: Public Service efficiencies

Senator: Senator Ludwig

Question reference number: 176

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

ONA Response:

- Nearly all domestic travel is economy. ONA officials are entitled to fly business class when travelling internationally. ONA has consistently achieved 100% compliance against best fare of the day for domestic and international travel.
- ONA does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow a more detailed answer to be provided to this question. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

Question:

2. 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?

ONA Response:

ONA has reduced its expenditure on external consultants and contractors. There has been no measureable impact on achieving outcomes. ONA is not able to identify any specific savings in the forward estimates.

Question:

3. 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?

ONA Response:

The majority of recruitment advertising for ONA is conducted online. However, the agency still uses printed material in limited circumstances to advertise hard to fill positions (such as the Senior Executive Service) where attracting appropriate candidates requires diverse forms of advertisement. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Question:

4. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much?

ONA Response:

The Office of National Assessments does not print any hard copies of reports/ statements/ papers for formal delivery to entities external to the APS.

Question:

5. Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not, why not? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

ONA Response:

The Office of National Assessments does not print any hard copies of reports/ statements/ papers for formal delivery to entities external to the APS.