

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM0058_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Public Service Efficiencies

1. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates? 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? 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? 4. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much? 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?

Answer

The Department of Employment (the department) was established on 18 September 2013. Previously the functions of the Department were delivered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

The estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates period for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) were:

| | 2012-13 | Each year 2013-14 to 2015-16 |
|-------------------------|----------------|---|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Travel | 1,013 | 1,013 |
| Consultants/Contractors | 1,517 | 1,030 |
| Recruitment Advertising | 45 | 45 |
| Printing | 108 | 108 |
| Total | 2,683 | 2,196 |

The department promoted only necessary travel and better use of multimedia for meetings and communications. There was a significant reduction in business flights compared to the same period last year.

There had been a significant reduction in the use of external contractors and consultants in DEEWR compared to the same period last year. This did not have an impact on the department.

The booking and placement of DEEWR advertising in print media was consistent with the Department of Finance and Deregulation issued Non-Campaign Recruitment Advertising Policy. For the period 1 July to 17 September 2013 there was no print media used for recruitment advertising for DEEWR.

The department reduced printing costs.