

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT PORTFOLIO

Question No. 104

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:

The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed whole-of-government departmental efficiencies.

- a. How has this applied to the portfolio?
- b. Please provide details of how these efficiencies will be achieved. Please provide specific examples.
- c. Will the implementation of the Government's election commitment to maintain the 1.25 per cent efficiency dividend impact on your portfolio's ability to meet the efficiencies outlined in the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook?
- d. Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff to meet the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed whole-of-government departmental efficiencies in your portfolio? If s, please provide details. Are there such plans for the future?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Attorney-General's Department	
a)	For the Attorney-General's Department savings of \$5.1m over four years were announced in the 2009-10 MYEFO for whole-of-government departmental efficiencies.
b)	The efficiencies will be made in administered programs. Examples include increasing electronic maintenance and publication of Acts and legislative instruments, marginally reducing the scope of funding for academic institutions, providing training to anthropologists, and strengthening the eligibility criteria for financial assistance for the Native Title Responded Funding Scheme.
c)	Implementation of the Government's election commitment to maintain the efficiency dividend at 1.25 per cent will occur as part of the 2011-12 Budget process.
d)	No.

Australian Institute of Criminology and the Criminology Research Council	
a)	Savings of \$3.9m over four years were announced in the 2009-10 MYEFO for the AIC and CRC.
b)	The savings will be achieved by more strategically focussing the work of the AIC and by the AIC absorbing the costs of administrative support and research advice provided to the CRC
c)	Implementation of the Government's election commitment to maintain the efficiency dividend at 1.25 per cent will occur as part of the 2011-12 Budget process.
d)	No.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions	
a)	The CDPP has been required to make ongoing savings for service-wide initiatives.

b)	The CDPP has reduced the range and level of service it provides to agencies.
c)	Implementation of the Government's election commitment to maintain the efficiency dividend at 1.25 per cent will occur as part of the 2011-12 Budget process.
d)	No.

Australian Law Reform Commission	
a)	The ALRC has had a budget decrease of \$1,727,000 over the next four years, being \$242,000 for 2010-11 and \$495,000 for the next three forward years.
b)	Other efficiencies will be achieved by ceasing the publication of hard copy consultation papers and providing them only on CDROM and for download or view on the ALRC's website, and cost recovery for hard copy Final Reports by only providing Hard Copies for sale. (Final Reports will be available as downloads from the ALRC website, for viewing on the website and for purchase on CDROM.) Other efficiencies will be driven by consulting as far as possible by telephone conference rather than face to face for interstate consultations to save on travel costs. In 2012, the ALRC's current lease will expire and there is potential to achieve savings on our rental costs by moving offices. The ALRC is currently operating with only one full-time Commissioner who is also the President.
c)	Implementation of the Government's election commitment to maintain the efficiency dividend at 1.25 per cent will occur as part of the 2011-12 Budget process.
d)	No.