

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-053

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: EFFICIENCY DIVIDEND

Written Question on Notice

Senator McKenzie asked:

- a) How will the efficiency dividend applied in the 2011-12 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook be implemented in your agency/department?
- b) What percentage of your budget must be cut?
- c) Will any staff position be cut to meet the efficiency dividend?
- d) If yes, provide details of where the positions are located, the classification, whether the position is ongoing or not.
- e) Please list where and what spending has been reduced to meet the efficiency dividend.

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing has an efficiency program to respond to resource reductions from the Department specific measures as well as whole of government measures such as the increased efficiency dividend. There are no efficiency measures hypothecated specifically to the efficiency dividend.

A range of strategies have been or are in the process of being implemented to ensure continued operations within budget, both through the review of administrative arrangements in the portfolio, and a review of corporate expenditure. The Department is already implementing efficiencies in the administration of grants programs, travel, video conferencing, printing, publishing, shared corporate services, IT and data management.

The Department is now looking at the way it delivers some programs so it can focus effort on delivering legislative and regulatory responsibilities and the Government's priorities including health reform.

- b) By the end of 2012-13 the core Departmental budget must be reduced by a cumulative two-year total of 13 per cent, as a result of the Department's specific and whole of government measures and funding reductions.
- c) Staff positions are being reduced to enable the Department to meet its budget, which is affected by a range of the Department's specific and whole of government measures.
- d) The Department's staff reduction program is ongoing though both natural attrition and a voluntary redundancy program. Positions are being removed throughout the Department.
- e) Please see answer a) above.