

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 4

Topic: Efficiency Dividend

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Humphries asked:

What specific strategies will the department/agency adopt to ensure continued operation within budget?

Answer:

The department's primary strategy in managing the efficiency dividend is to set balanced budgets early and carefully monitor and regularly review these budgets. In setting the budget the efficiency dividend has been applied across all Groups and States. Group and State Managers are expected to operate within their allocated budgets.

Some strategies utilised to assist the department to meet the efficiency dividend include:

- adjusting staffing profiles including appropriate use of temporary staffing
- promoting video conferencing and reducing air travel
- scrutinising the need for travel, and requiring SES to travel economy class between Canberra and Sydney
- turning off IT equipment to produce power savings
- reducing property holdings
- reductions in printing and publication expenditure
- more efficient and consistent delivery of training
- deferring non-essential equipment replacement and purchasing 'off the shelf' software.