

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013**

**Question: E13-060**

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Public Service Efficiencies

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Smith

**Question:**

- a) Please provide details of the amended operational efficiencies your agency will make as per 2013-14 Budget Measure 'Public Service efficiencies' (see 2013-14 Budget Paper No 2 p108). In addition, please provide the following detail:
- b) Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by implementing more efficient management structures, through a reduction in expenditure on staff across the Executive Level (EL) 1 and 2, and Senior Executive Service (SES) levels?
- c) Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by revising down the occupational density target for all new leases, buildings and major fit-outs undertaken by agencies from 16 square metres per occupied workpoint down to 14 square metres?

**Answer:**

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing is implementing operational efficiencies to meet resource reductions arising from the strategic review, efficiency dividend, payrise, decreasing Budget funded departmental measures and further departmental saves measures such as the Public Service Efficiencies. The Department does not hypothecate particular efficiency measures to meet individual resource reductions but manages this in the aggregate.

The initiatives being progressed by the Department include benefits from consolidation of 157 grant programs into 18 larger flexible funds; reform of grants administration and program funding systems and processes consolidated within a dedicated Grants Services Division; an enterprise data warehouse system, improving IT Governance; a number of business process improvement projects; establishing a portfolio shared services centre; and capturing administrative savings such as travel costs recruitment advertising, printing and 'Whole of Government' procurement.

- b) Agencies are yet to be advised of their savings allocations by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance). A question was taken on notice by Finance on this topic, please refer to their response to question F10 from the Finance and Public Administration Committee for more information.
- c) Agencies are yet to be advised of their savings allocations by Finance.