

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Efficiency Dividend

Question reference number: HS 173

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 25 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) What is the efficiency dividend to be realised in 2014-15 and across the forward estimates?
- b) How will the efficiency dividend be achieved in 2014-15 and across the forward estimates?
- c) Will there be forced redundancies in order to meet the government's efficiency dividend?
- d) What impact with this efficiency dividend cut to the department's budget have on the current service delivery standards to the community?
- e) Will this involve staff reductions, will frontline services be affected?

Answer:

- a) The efficiency dividend to be realised in 2014-15 and across the forward estimates is as follows:

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017.18
	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)
Efficiency Dividend	(101.9)	(211.3)	(318.4)	(360.2)

This includes both capital and operating elements.

- b) The department is in the process of implementing initiatives to reduce departmental expenditure with a view to remaining within budget. Current initiatives focus on areas such as increasing access for customers to departmental services through the provision of additional digital applications, reducing communication costs through enhanced digital mail and mobile phone messaging, and streamlining internal business processes where possible.
- c) The department does not expect to use redundancies to meet the efficiency dividend.
- d) The department regularly adjusts its staffing profile to match available funding and to meet operational needs.
- e) The department regularly adjusts its staffing profile to match available funding and to meet operational needs.