

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

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 8

Topic: Efficiency Dividend

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McKenzie asked:

How has the efficiency dividend been implemented?

Please list where and what spending has been reduced to meet the efficiency dividend.

Answer:

The Department manages the efficiency dividend, including any changes to the rate, through early allocation of internal budgets to Groups to ensure that business planning is linked to available resources. This allocation of budgets encompasses:

- the efficiency dividend
- lapsing or terminating measures
- new policy proposals
- adjustments to current budget measures
- wage cost index supplementation
- workloads/priorities across the Department.

Some of the strategies used by the Department to assist meeting the Efficiency Dividend are:

- promoting video conferencing and reducing air travel
- in-sourcing of IT services
- greater use of online procurement processes
- IT savings (and a reduced environmental impact) from the:
 - i. virtualisation of IT servers
 - ii. ability to remotely power down IT equipment.