

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 250

Topic: Social Security Appeals Tribunal (SSAT)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Has this move to single manner panels resulted in any savings or efficiencies for the SSAT?
Please provide details of any identified savings.

Answer:

Yes. Each application for review heard by a member sitting alone results in a lesser cost to the SSAT than if two members heard the review.

The saving in constituting the SSAT by one member rather than by two members results in a saving in members' time ranging from two hours to many hours depending on the extent of preparation for, and length of, the hearing. There is also a reduction in the costs associated with photocopying hearing papers for members and postage of papers to part-time members.