

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

Question: AET 695

Topic: Making the Public Service More Efficient (PC)

Written: Received from Committee – 22 February 2013

Senator BUSHBY asked:

695. Please provide an update of the savings achieved through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State of 25 September 2012 at: http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html).

In addition, please provide the following details:

- a. Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for reductions in air travel?
- b. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- c. Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors? Has this impacted on the Department/Agency, and how? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- d. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- e. Has the Department/Agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and by how much? Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, and if no, why not? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

Answer:

695. The Commission manages its outlays, including travel, printing, recruitment and external consultants within its appropriation budget and will continue to do so as that appropriation is adjusted over time. It does this through flexible deployment of the available resources against the Commission's needs which vary over time as the nature and content of the work program changes. It is not practical for the Commission to attribute specific savings to disaggregated expenditure categories at this level of detail.

- a. See above.
- b. See above.
- c. See above.
- d. See above. Recruitment advertising is placed online, unless an exemption is granted in particular circumstances (eg SES positions) in accordance with the whole-of-government Non-Campaign Recruitment Advertising Policy.
- e. See above.