

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

Question: SBT 333-338

Topic: Public Service Efficiency (CGC)

Written: Received from Committee – 26 October 2012

Senator BUSHBY asked:

333. Please detail how the department/agency will achieve savings over the forward estimates 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 http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html).

In addition, please provide the following detail:

334. How will reductions in air travel spending be achieved? What is the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
335. What restrictions will be implemented for business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
336. How will the use of external consultants and contractors be reduced? How will this impact on the Department/agency? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
337. How will the department/agency manage moving recruitment advertising online? Will all future recruitment advertisement be online only? If not, explain why. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
338. How will printing costs be reduced? Explain if and how the department/agency will reduce its printing costs by five per cent, or if it will not, why not? How will it be determined what documents will no longer be printed? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

Answer:

333. The Commonwealth Grants Commission will continue to make savings wherever possible. Use of Whole of Government purchasing arrangements, including air travel, should produce small savings but these are indeterminate at this point. Recruiting advertising is now restricted to APS Online and SEEK.com. The Commission intends to confine printing to publications which need to be tabled in the Parliament.
334. Use of Whole of Government travel contract. Savings are indeterminate at this point.

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- 335. Most business class travel is mandated by the Remuneration Tribunal. Savings on business class flights will be negligible.
- 336. Use of external consultants is sporadic and confined to absolute necessity. Use of consultants is already minimal and no savings are expected.
- 337. The Commission has already moved to online recruitment advertising. No further savings are expected.
- 338. The Commission intends to publish one of its two remaining printed major reports online only. Savings are estimated at \$7000 pa.