

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: SBT 545-549

Topic: Public Service Efficiencies

Written: 25 November 2013

Senator LUDWIG asked:

545. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
546. 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?
547. 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?
548. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much?
549. Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not, why not? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

Answer:

545. Yes, there has been a reduction in business flights.
The ABS does not estimate savings down to the level requested over the forward estimates.
546. Yes, there has been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors.
No, there is no impact on the agency.
The ABS does not estimate savings down to the level requested over the forward estimates.
547. The ABS has fully implemented the government guidelines on non-campaign recruitment advertising. All recruitment advertising is online except for rural interviewer positions, indigenous positions and where it has been difficult to attract a suitable field of candidates, for example some SES positions.
The ABS does not estimate savings down to the level requested over the forward estimates.
548. The printing costs of the ABS fluctuate with the cycles of survey programs. The ABS is moving toward increased use of e-forms for data collection rather than printed forms.
549. The ABS does not estimate savings down to the level requested over the forward estimates.