

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates**

20-21 November 2013

**Question:** SBT 550-554

**Topic:** Public Service Efficiencies

**Written:** 25 November 2013

**Senator LUDWIG asked:**

550. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
551. 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?
552. 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?
553. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much?

**Answer:**

550. The expenditure on business flights in 2012-13 reduced by 30 percent compared to 2011-12. This saving is expected to be maintained throughout the forward years.
551. No. The ACCC's consultancy requirements are primarily driven by regulatory and enforcement activities that arise on an ongoing basis and as such the ACCC is unable to define an exact number of planned consultancies at any given time. The total spend is also impacted by new measures which include consultancy components.
552. The ACCC is compliant with the requirements imposed by the Department of Finance and Deregulation's "Non-Campaign Recruitment Advertising Policy" (the Policy), effective 1 July 2012. Pursuant to the Policy, any external recruitment advertising that is now required is placed online. While the Policy provides for certain exceptions for print media such as indigenous, local, regional or rural media, or where an Agency Head approves press advertising for a Senior Executive Service role, this would only occur in exceptional circumstances.
- In the 2012-13 financial year, the ACCC reduced recruitment advertising costs by \$50,000 and expects to maintain this saving over the forward years.
553. The ACCC has reduced printing costs by installing more efficient and cost effective printing equipment. This has resulted in savings in power, toner and other associated costs. Further measures have been employed such as reducing colour printing and double-sided printing.
- Printing costs have reduced by 3% in the 2012-13 financial year, and are expected to reduce by a further 25% in the 2013-14 financial year.