

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio (AOFM)

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: SBT 555-559

Topic: Public Service Efficiencies

Written: 25 November 2013

Senator LUDWIG asked:

555. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
556. 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?
557. 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?
558. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much?
559. 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:

555. The AOFM has not initiated additional measures to reduce business flights as it had existing policies in place which:
- restrict travel to circumstances where it fulfils a legitimate business need; and
 - require that all domestic travel (including that undertaken by SES) to be economy class unless it is undertaken as part of an overseas trip.
556. There has not been a reduction in external consultants or contractors as the AOFM only engages consultants and contractors in limited circumstances. In particular, the AOFM only engages consultants where it lacks specialist expertise or when independent research, review or assessment is required.
557. All recruitment advertising has been exclusively on-line since the Government released the first Non-Campaign Recruitment Advertising Policy in July 2009.
558. The AOFM has been reducing its expenditure on printing of publications over a number of years. It is a relatively minor expense and there are no significant efficiency gains in reducing it further.
559. The AOFM has not initiated additional savings measures to meet the 5% target, as either the expenditure on the items targeted is relatively minor or there was an existing policy in place to control expenditure as explained above.