

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20 November – 21 November 2013

Question: SBT 560-564

Topic: Public service efficiencies (APRA)

Written: 25 November 2013

Senator LUDWIG asked:

560. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
561. 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?
562. 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?
563. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much?
564. 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?

** to 30 November 2013.*

Answer:

560. International and domestic travel costs for the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) reduced in 2012-13 from the prior year, and are also expected to do so over the forward estimates, as a consequence of reduced international representation, increased use of video-conferencing and continued prudent budget management. The estimated savings over the forward estimates have not been quantified.
561. Consultants and contractors are only used when required for business purposes. By their nature these costs vary from year to year and therefore a useful comparison of previous years cannot be made. Appropriate approval processes are in place for the engagement of consultants and contractors and regard is given to APRA's available budget. No estimate of savings over the forward estimates can be made.
562. All roles are externally advertised through online media. In limited cases, press advertising may be used for certain senior and/or specialist roles. No estimate has, or can be made, in respect to the forward estimates, as it would be dependent on the actual staff turnover rate.
563. As with other areas of discretionary expenditure, printing costs are monitored at various levels throughout APRA. The targeted savings are expected to be achieved through existing procurement practices, reduced volumes and a recent change in supplier arrangements for multi-function printing devices. The estimated savings over the forward estimates have not been quantified.

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564. APRA is currently operating within its overall budget, inclusive of efficiency dividends and other savings measures introduced by Government. APRA continuously monitors and evaluates its operations and priorities to ensure the achievement of its targets. The estimated savings for each year and over the forward estimates have not been quantified.