

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0200_15

Senator O'Neill provided in writing.

Question

Savings; efficiency dividend; changes to employee benefits.

1. Page 92 of the PBS shows the Employee Benefits spend increasing sharply in 2014-15, to \$196 million, then decreasing over the forward estimates. Can you explain why this occurs? 2. Page 20 of the Portfolio Budget statement shows the additional 0.25 per cent efficiency dividend amounts to about \$6 million in savings over the forward estimates. 3. What is the total savings the department must make over the forward estimates to deliver on the 2.5 per cent efficiency dividend requirement? 4. as the department identified where the savings will come from? 5. How much in savings for 2013-14 did the department achieve, and did it meet the 2.25 per cent target in 2013-14?

Answer

The budgeted expenses for the department are based on estimates of appropriation and revenues over the forward estimates period, and will be adjusted to take account of increases and decreases as they are known. The estimates take into account adjustments for efficiency dividends, targeted savings, and the commencement and cessation of measures.

The management of the departmental resourcing takes into account all impacts, not stand alone efficiency measures.

The department has previously confirmed that around 100 voluntary redundancies would be sought to position the department to meet its final 2014-15 resourcing levels.

Final outcomes for 2013-14, pending finalisation of machinery of government changes, are not yet known.