

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Finance

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Communications and Public Affairs Functions – targeted savings measure

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F239

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. Can you explain how the measure entitled “Communications and Public Affairs Functions – targeted savings” on page 113 of Budget Paper Number Two of the 2014-15 Budget will work in practice?
2. What does it mean to have “more efficient practices for public affairs and internal communications within Australian Government agencies”?
3. Have you issued guidance or information to agencies to help them implement this measure?

Answer:

1. The savings over the forward estimates will be achieved by applying a reduction in estimated communications expenditure across portfolio agencies of 2.5 per cent in 2014–15 and 5 per cent in 2015–16, 2016–17 and 2017–18. The implementation of those savings will be determined by individual Portfolio Secretaries and Chief Executives of other affected agencies.
2. It is a matter for affected agencies to consider and implement more efficient practices for communications and public affairs, noting the wide range of functions provided across those agencies on a day-to-day basis.
3. As at 31 May 2014, no guidance or information had been issued to agencies.