

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
27-28 May 2015

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Breakdown of Department of Education and Training and Human Services' funding and efficiencies

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: F27

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 114, 27 May 2015

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 July 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: In relation to the education and training portfolio, on page 79 of budget paper No. 2. I think these are similar questions to the one Senator Ludwig just asked ... I am really just trying to get an understanding of the different elements relating to the savings there—the breakdown. We will achieve savings over five years. Is that able to be provided, the breakdown of the 131?

Senator Cormann: Consistent with the approach taken in relation to other measures, we can take that on notice, but just by way of background: the government initiated and has conducted functional and efficiency reviews, so far, into the health and education departments.

...

Senator GALLAGHER: If we could get a breakdown of those, that would be very useful; and the same for the Department of Human Services. I think they are covered on 115.

Senator Cormann: Yes, we will do that.

Answer:

A breakdown of the 2015-16 Budget measure *Smaller Government – Education and Training Portfolio* is as follows:

	Impact on Fiscal Balance (\$m) – five years to 2018-19
Programmes (or elements of programmes) to cease	63.1
Programmes to be redesigned	58.6
Net impact of establishing the Australian Industry and Skills Council	1.6
Functional and Efficiency Review – Departmental	7.6
Total	131.0

A breakdown of the 2015-16 Budget measure *Department of Human Services Efficiencies* is as follows:

	Impact on Fiscal Balance (\$m) – five years to 2018-19
Element 1: Phase out the option for customers to receive Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme payments via cheque or credit EFTPOS from July 2016 in favour of the faster and more flexible payment method of Electronic Funds Transfer;	17.1
Element 2: Phase out the use of cheques and Electronic Benefits Transfer Cards for all Centrelink payments from 1 January 2016 and 1 January 2017 respectively, with these payments to be made directly into the bank accounts of eligible customers; and	10.5
Element 3: Cease the payment to the Australian Taxation Office for the Child Support Lodgement Enforcement Programme from 1 July 2015. DHS undertakes a range of compliance and enforcement activities that continue to ensure child support obligations are met. The Australian Taxation Office retains responsibility for taxation lodgement enforcement generally.	27.5
Total	55.1