

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 266

Topic: Making the Public Service more efficient

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Please detail how the department/agency will achieve savings over the forward estimates through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State of 25 September 2012 http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html).

Answer:

The Department's primary strategy for managing within budget has been to set balanced budgets early and carefully monitor and regularly review these budgets.

In addition, there is a continuing focus on business improvements and reducing operational costs wherever possible. Examples include:

- Information Technology improvements/savings;
- reducing travel and increasing the use of videoconferencing;
- reducing our accommodation footprint;
- reducing our publishing/printing costs; and
- pursuing ongoing improvements in how we manage other corporate and program areas.