

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Estimates 22-23 October 2008

Question: sbt 85

Topic: Efficiency Dividend (PC)

Hansard Page: E26

Senator XENOPHON asked:

Senator XENOPHON —The infamous efficiency dividend: what does that mean in terms of the Productivity Commission's budget?

Mr Banks —As a relatively small organisation and a research based organisation with no spending programs as such, any such dividend flows through to fewer people that we employ. We do not have any spare capacity, so ultimately it affects the amount of work we can do. Then it comes back to government to, in a sense, prioritise work that it wants done from us. At a broad level that is the effect it has. If you want it in any more detail about how the most recent dividends have impacted on staff numbers, we could provide that.

Senator XENOPHON —Yes, if you could take that on notice.

Answer:

The expected impact of the efficiency dividend (3¼ per cent) in 2008-09 is a reduction of six staff.