

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Efficiency dividend**

Question: **65**

Written **Senator Ryan**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

1. How will the efficiency dividend applied in the 2011-12 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook be implemented in your agency/department?
2. What percentage of your budget must be cut?
3. Will any staff position be cut to meet the efficiency dividend? If yes, provide details of where the positions are located, the classification, whether the position is ongoing or not.
4. Please list where and what spending has been reduced to meet the efficiency dividend.

Answer

1. DPS is currently developing options to absorb the efficiency dividend. As advised at the February Estimates hearing, it will be difficult to absorb the efficiency dividend without any impact on the overall budget for staff costs.
2. The DPS departmental Capital program reduces by approximately \$2.4 million in 2012–13, rising to a reduction of approximately \$5.4 million in 2014–15.

The DPS operational budget is cut a further 2.5 per cent from its departmental appropriations, which will be \$2.6 million in 2012–13.
3. DPS will need to review its current staffing complement. As approximately 61 % of departmental revenue received by DPS is attributable to employee costs, it will be difficult to absorb the full \$2.6 million with no impact on the budget for staff costs. At this stage, no specific positions—ongoing and non-ongoing—have been identified.
4. As well as developing strategies to absorb the reductions due to the efficiency dividend, DPS is reviewing its capital program to meet the 20 per cent reduction to its departmental capital budget.