

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio  
Department of Finance and Deregulation  
Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2008**



**All Outcomes**

**Topic: Activities reduced or ceased due to efficiency dividend**

**Question reference number: F41**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 83-84, 28 May 2008**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2008**

**Number of Pages: 2**

**Senator Brandis asked:**

Let us do this, Dr Watt: you take the following questions on notice. What activities have you stopped? What activities have you reduced the cost of, and by how much? If the cessation of those activities, or the reduction of outlays on them, has resulted in a reduction of staffing levels, what has been the reduction of staffing levels in each case? You take all of that on notice. But, nevertheless, I am sure you can give us some examples off the top of your head of activities within your department that you have stopped. So can you give us the ones that are the most important.

**Dr Watt** —I can perhaps not give you the ones that are the most important but I can give you a number. I would like our CFO to mention three or four to you...

**Dr Watt** —I am sure I have missed a great deal, but at the moment—

**Senator BRANDIS**—You will give that to me in writing, won't you, Dr Watt.

**Dr Watt** —Yes...

**Senator BRANDIS**—In your written answer you will give me the cost savings on those measures?

**Dr Watt** —As best we can, acknowledging that the exercise was much broader than just the efficiency dividend.

**Answer:**

1. The effects of the efficiency dividend on the Department of Finance and Deregulation are as detailed below.

|  | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | Total |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Dividend   | \$m     | \$m     | \$m     | \$m     | \$m   |
| Election commitment saving: 2% efficiency dividend | 0.96    | 4.08    | 3.95    | 4.00    | 12.98 |

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2. As with all agencies we have reduced or ceased some of our activities as a result of the efficiency dividend.

3. Activities that have stopped or reduced include:

- A number of Corporate activities were reviewed and reduced including ceasing the Cadetship Program and reducing the cost of media monitoring; and
- A small number of other positions reduced, which the Department has been able to absorb without a noticeable impact on its outputs.

4. Finance's budgeted staff numbers reduced by 32 from 2007-08 to 2008-09, primarily as a result of the 2% efficiency dividend.