

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Efficiency Dividend

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F2

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

The department has advised that it will be able to implement the efficiency dividend through a combination of non-staffing related efficiencies, natural attrition and making structural changes, without the need for a round of either compulsory or voluntary redundancies.

- a) What are the non-staffing related efficiencies? Provide details and explain.
- b) What are the structural changes? Provide details and explain.

Answer:

- a) Non-staffing related efficiencies are as follows:

Details
50% reduction in publication and printing expenditure
25% reduction in spending on hospitality and entertainment costs
25% reduction in travel costs
10% reduction in use of consultants/contractors
Reduce recruitment advertising expenditure
Better use of internal legal services
Centralised coordination of corporate learning and development
Reduction in use of stationery and other consumables

- b) Finance has examined its priorities and considered structural adjustments to assist the department work more effectively while maintaining capabilities and continuing to meet the Government's policy priorities. Steps taken to date have included:
 - The Superannuation Administration Reform Project (SARP) will be incorporated into the Superannuation Branch within the Financial Management Group (FMG).

- The Commonwealth New Building Project in the Asset Management and Parliamentary Services Group (AMPS) is drawing to a conclusion and that branch will no longer be required – the staff currently working in the branch will be offered other roles within the Department.
- The Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO) is taking the opportunity to consolidate work across branches and divisions. This will see a reduction in branches – from seven to six – with functions currently undertaken by the Cyber Security and Skills Branch ceasing or being redistributed within AGIMO.