

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 2/2.2

Topic: Occupational Density Target

Senator: Cormann

Question reference number: F31

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Question:

Senator CORMANN: If you take the total property space across Australia, what the proportion? Is it fifty-fifty?

Mr Whalen: I would have to check on that. We are talking about a number of leases and, depending on the size of each of those leases, it may not work out exactly. But that would be a fair starting point.

Ms Mason: We can check. Intuitively, I would suspect that if you are going by square metres it would be a larger proportion in Canberra. The head offices tend to be based in Canberra, so I think the answer would be that it would be a larger proportion by floor space.

Senator CORMANN: Which would mean a proportionately larger level of effort would be required across Australia than in Canberra in terms of reducing the used floor space? Let us say for argument's sake, it is 70-30 and the impact of the change is going to be fifty-fifty between Canberra and the rest of Australia, the effort in the rest of Australia from using less space is going to be more significant than the Canberra based effort.

Ms Mason: No.

Mr Tune: I think the fifty-fifty applies to the square meterage as well.

Mr Whalen: We can provide more specific details and so on. But, as a rule of thumb, it is fifty-fifty.

Answer:

Approximately 50% of the Commonwealth office space (for leases greater than 500 square metres) is located in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Therefore, the effort required to reduce the floor space used would be approximately 50:50 between Canberra and non-Canberra locations.