

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Australian National Audit Office

**Outcome/Program:**

**Topic:** Public Service Efficiencies - Operational

**Senator:** Ryan

**Question reference number:** 72

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 12 July 2013

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. Please provide details of the amended operational efficiencies your agency will make as per 2013-14 Budget Measure 'Public Service efficiencies' (see 2013-14 Budget Paper No 2 p108).

In addition, please provide the following detail:

Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by implementing more efficient management structures, through a reduction in expenditure on staff across the Executive Level (EL) 1 and 2, and Senior Executive Service (SES) levels?

Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by revising down the occupational density target for all new leases, buildings and major fit-outs undertaken by agencies from 16 square metres per occupied workpoint down to 14 square metres?

**Answer:**

Q1. The ANAO continues to actively monitor costs and pursue efficiencies where practicable. During 2012-13 the ANAO commenced a number of initiatives aimed at achieving cost savings over the forward estimates. These include:

- Investing in videoconferencing equipment to lessen the need for interstate travel. Videoconferencing equipment is scheduled to be installed in August 2013 and will be available for all ANAO staff in the 2013-14 financial year. It is anticipated this investment will assist in reducing travel for audit program requirements.
- The ANAO conducted a survey of Parliamentarians and recognised an increase in demand for documents to be provided online. The ANAO is investigating whether investment in online distribution methods can reduce printing costs over the forward estimates, while maintaining accessibility of ANAO reports for key constituents.

Initial steps have also been taken to extend the availability of ANAO reports to various mobile platforms, reducing the need for hardcopy versions. While the estimated savings cannot be estimated at this stage, the ANAO anticipates a reduction in the cost of printing over the forward estimates as part of the negotiations of its next printing contract for audit reports.

- Through both internal strategies and external factors, the ANAO anticipates an increase in employee retention during the 2013-14 financial year. It is expected this will translate into savings in online advertising and staff recruitment.

The ANAO staffing structure reflects the combination of staff required to meet audit program requirements. As a specialist public sector audit practice, the ANAO also competes with the broader accounting and auditing industry to employ appropriately qualified and experienced audit staff. While the ANAO expects to maintain a consistent staffing profile in 2013-14 compared to the previous year, it is likely that staffing reductions will be required over the forward estimates. It is anticipated these reductions will be achieved through natural attrition, and may impact Executive Level and Senior Executive Service levels.

The ANAO operates from a single location at 19 National Circuit, Barton ACT. It is anticipated the current premises will continue to meet ANAO requirements until lease expiry in September 2018. The ANAO also subleases space in excess of operational requirements to partially offset current lease costs. Upon lease expiry the ANAO will seek to comply with the revised density targets for any new leases.