

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010

Outcome 1, Program 1.1

Topic: Whole-of-government departmental efficiencies

Question reference number: F67

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

Number of Pages: 2

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed whole-of-government departmental efficiencies. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies?
- b) Can you provide details of how these efficiencies will be achieved? Please provide specific examples.
- c) Will the implementation of the Government's election commitment to maintain the 1.25 per cent efficiency dividend impact on your department or portfolio agencies ability to meet the efficiencies outlined in the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook?
- d) Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff to meet the 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed whole-of-government departmental efficiencies in your portfolio? If so, please provide details? Are there such plans for the future?

Answer:

Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance):

- a) Finance contributed savings of \$1.4m in 2009-10, \$2.7m in 2010-11 & 2011-12 and \$2.8m in 2012-13 to the 2009-10 MYEFO whole-of-government departmental efficiency measure.
- b) Finance has achieved these savings through a range of overhead and general cost reduction measures. A significant saving has been achieved by ending tenancy arrangements for vacated floorspace. Finance also implemented a range of general overhead cost reduction measures including: reducing ICT service desk support; reducing recruitment advertising; reducing media monitoring services and reducing security vetting costs.
- c) No.
- d) No.

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Australian Electoral Commission (AEC):

- a) The Australian Electoral Commission had general savings of \$3.0m over four years. \$0.3m for 2009-10, \$1.1m for 2010-11, \$0.8m for 2011-12 and \$0.8m for 2012-13.
- b) Efficiencies will be achieved by:
 - a. making general cuts to operating budgets across the AEC;
 - b. focussing activity on priority work such as implementing JSCEM recommendations; and
 - c. directing activity to most value for money options such as use of mail-outs to maintain the electoral roll.
- c) No.
- d) No.

ComSuper:

- a) ComSuper is required to provide savings of approximately \$1.6m per annum in property expenditure.
- b) ComSuper is attempting to sublease surplus office space to fund these efficiencies.
- c) No.
- d) No.