

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 183

Topic: Making the Public Service more efficient

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Please provide an update of the savings achieved through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State of 25 September 2012: http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html).

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) continually looks for more efficient and effective ways of doing business. FaHCSIA has reduced its property holdings, increased the use of video conferencing while reducing non-essential air travel, reduced power costs by turning off IT equipment when not in use and implemented a staff management strategy to move existing staff from lower to higher priority work which is seeing a move away from reliance on external consultants and contractors.

Savings are also being achieved through the use of online recruitment advertising, printing fewer copies of the Annual Report and changing the procurement arrangements for office stationary including making greater use of standardised items and utilising online procurement processes.