

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

Question: BET 678-683

Topic: Public Service Efficiencies

Written: 17 June 2013

Senator BUSHBY asked:

678. Please provide details of the amended operational efficiencies your agency will make as per the 2013-14 Budget Measure 'Public Service efficiencies' (see 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 2, page 108).
679. In addition, please provide the following detail:
- a. 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?
 - b. 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?
680. Has there been a reduction in business flights*?
- a. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
681. Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors?
- a. Has this impacted on the department/agency, and how?
 - b. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
682. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online.
- a. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why?
 - b. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
683. Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs?
- a. If not, why not?
 - b. Have printing costs increased, and if yes, why and by how much?
 - c. Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not be achieved, why not?
 - d. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

*Financial year to date – 31 May 2013

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Answer:

678. Targeted savings have been embedded in the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority's and (APRA's) current year budget and forward estimates. For 2013-14 the committed 'Public Service Efficiency' savings are \$0.742 million. The overall budgeted expense level is to be met through ongoing careful expense management by APRA.
- 679a. Service Efficiency' savings are \$0.742 million. The overall budgeted expense level is to be met through ongoing careful expense management by APRA.
- 679 b. The revised density target for all new leases, buildings and major fit-outs will be adopted upon future lease renewals – only one minor office renewal is to be considered over 2013-14. To date no analysis has been undertaken on the estimated savings from this directive.
680. International and domestic travel costs reduced in 2012-13 from the prior year and are also expected to do so over the forward estimates as a consequence of reduced international representation, increased use of video-conferencing and continued prudent budget management. The estimated savings over the forward estimates have not been quantified.
681. Consultants and contractors are only used when required for business purposes. By their nature these costs vary from year to year and therefore a useful comparison of previous years cannot be made. Appropriate approval processes are in place for the engagement of consultants and contractors and regard is given to APRA's available budget. No estimate of savings over the forward estimates can be made.
682. a. All roles externally advertised are through on line media. In limited cases, press advertising may be used for certain senior and / or specialist roles.
- b. No estimate has or can be made in respect to the forward estimates as it would be dependent on the actual staff turnover rate.
683. As with other areas of discretionary expenditure, printing costs are monitored at various levels throughout APRA. The targeted savings are expected to be achieved through existing procurement practices, reduced volumes and a recent change in supplier arrangements for multi-function printing devices. The estimated savings over the forward estimates have not been quantified.