

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

**Question: BET 783-788**

**Topic: Public Service Efficiencies**

**Written: 17 June 2013**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

783. 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).
784. 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?
785. Has there been a reduction in business flights?
- a. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
786. 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?
787. 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?
788. 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?

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**Answer:**

783. The ACCC is constantly reviewing its administration and the way it does business to identify operational efficiencies. These are implemented as they become viable in order to increase our efficiency in line with the PBS requirements.
- 784.
- a. No, this is difficult to estimate until new internal structures are finalised.
  - b. No, this will take a number of years to determine as accommodation is refurbished or new sites are leased.
785. Yes.
- a. \$400,000 per annum for each year of the forward estimates.
786. No.
- a. The ACCC's consultancy requirements are primarily driven by regulatory and enforcement activities that arise on an ongoing basis. As such, the ACCC is unable to define an exact number of planned consultancies at any given time. The total spend is also impacted by new measures, which may include consultancy components.
  - b. Nil.
- 787.
- a. Yes. The ACCC has moved to online advertising in accord with Government policy, however when specific, highly technical skills are sought the ACCC uses print media to maximise applications. This has happened on one occasion.
  - b. Estimated savings targets for general costs in this area are \$60,000 per annum for each year of the forward estimates.
788. Yes.
- a. Not applicable.
  - b. No.
  - c. Yes. The ACCC is seeking to reduce printing costs through more efficient printing processes and improved technology. This includes reductions in colour printing and reduced paper usage.
  - d. The estimated savings target is \$30,000 per annum across the forward estimates.