

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

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 1.1

Topic: 14,500 jobs at work

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: F71

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday 17 January 2013

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. When did you commence work on the advice to the Minister relating to the reduction of the public service by 14,500?
2. Which branch or division was responsible for drafting this advice?
3. What other branches or divisions were involved in the drafting of this advice?
4. When did you provide the advice to the Minister's office?
5. For how long have you used the assumption of the ratio of 55/45 for staffing/non-staffing costs in relation to the application of the efficiency dividend?
6. Can you provide a list of the measures that were assumed to end over the forward estimates for the purposes of the costing of the 8,800 jobs element, which previous governments have continued in the past when they got to their end dates?

Answer:

1. Work commenced on advice to the Minister on staff reductions in the context of preparing an Incoming Government Brief in August 2013.
2. Governance and Resource Management Group.
3. Budget Group.
4. The material was provided to the Government soon after the election.
5. The ratio of staffing to non staffing costs (a simplified assumption to indicate how departmental funding reductions might be financed)) was first used to estimate the staffing impact of the efficiency dividend in the context of preparing the Incoming Government Brief in August 2013.
6. In the context of estimating the staff reduction implicit in existing budget measures, Finance undertook this analysis at an aggregated level and did not consider individual measures. However, some subsequent work has been undertaken and 2016-17 figures are now available (see question on notice 63).

Finance has not made any assumptions about future government decisions in relation to the continuation of measures that are due to end over the forward estimates period.