

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

**Question: AET 805 - 809**

**Topic: Efficiency Dividend (ABS)**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator HUMPHRIES asked:**

805. What is the effect of the efficiency dividend increase from 1.5 per cent to 4 per cent on the department/agency's budget bottom line during financial years 2012/13, 13/14, 14/15?
806. What percentage of the department/agency's budget is designated to staffing?
807. What is the size of the department/agency's staffing establishment? Include figures for FTE, PT, casual, contractors, and consultants.
808. What specific strategies will the department/agency adopt to ensure continued operation within budget?
809. Will or has consideration been made to reducing staffing compliment including contractors, and consultants?

**Answer:**

805. The percentage of the ABS budget that must be cut is as follows:
- The 2.5% one off additional efficiency dividend totals \$23.5m over 3 years to 2014-15 in Expense Appropriation;
  - The 20% additional efficiency dividend totals \$15.1m over 3 years to 2014-15 in Departmental Capital Budget Appropriation.
806. Table 3.2.1 Budgeted Departmental Comprehensive Income Statement (page 36) of the 2011-12 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement (Treasury Portfolio) provides a summary of the expenses budget.
807. The ABS 2011-12 average staff numbers (ASL – ongoing and non-ongoing) in the recently released 2011-12 Portfolio Additional Estimate Statement (PAES, page 34) is forecast to be 3,570.
808. There would not be any forced redundancies as a result of this decision and the ABS where possible looks to find savings in a range of areas.
809. There are no forced staff reductions or involuntary redundancies directly attributable to the increase to the efficiency dividend. The ABS manages its staffing

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through natural attrition and by utilising non-ongoing staff. Where appropriate voluntary redundancies are offered.