

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

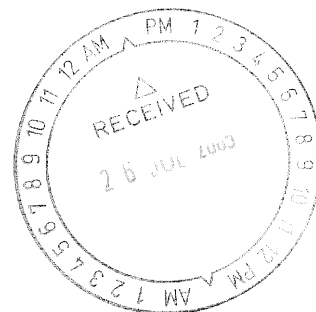
**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates, 31 May to 2 June 2005

**Question: Bud 26**

**Topic: ABS – Efficiency Dividend**

**Hansard Page: Written**



Senator Carr asked:

1. What financial impact will the increased efficiency dividend have on your Department/agency this financial year and in the out years?
2. The increase in the efficiency dividend was announced in last year's elections, what plans have you made to meet it?
3. What will this mean for staff numbers?
4. Will any specific programs be cut? Please specify which ones and the size of the estimated savings?
5. Will any core functions be affected by these savings measures?
6. How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your graduate recruitment plans?
7. How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your ability to retain experienced staff?

Answer:

1. The increase in the efficiency dividend reduces the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) appropriation by an estimated \$689,000 in 2005-06, \$1,525,000 in 2006-07, \$1,777,000 in 2007-08 and \$1,673,000 in 2008-09.
2. The ABS has examined its financial position and identified available funds for its work program over the next 3 years, taking account of the increased efficiency dividend. The increase in efficiency dividend will be met by internal productivity savings and a reduced capacity to undertake new work commitments.
3. It is estimated that as a result of the efficiency dividend ABS staff levels will reduce by seven staff in 2005-06, a further seven staff in 2006-07 and a further two staff in 2007-08.

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4. The ABS will not cut any existing programs to absorb the impact of the efficiency dividend.
5. No core functions will be affected by these savings.
6. The graduate recruitment process is a priority recruitment process for the ABS. The additional efficiency dividend will be managed as part of the total efficiency dividend and the ABS does not expect its implementation to have an impact on graduate recruitment levels.
7. It is not expected that the efficiency dividend will impact at all on the ABS' ability to retain experienced staff, but there will be a small reduction in the number of new staff ABS will be able to engage in future.