

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 145

Topic: Staffing – Efficiency Dividend/ Budget Cuts (Treasury)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

1. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?
 - a) Since the efficiency dividend was introduced?
 - b) Since additional estimates (8 February 2010)?
2. If so, where and at what level?
3. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
4. If your Department/agency has been identified in the budget as delivering further efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, if the budget papers say 'improvement to strategic work practices' or similar, what are these and how will they be delivered?
5. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

Answer:

- 1 (a). Yes.
- 1 (b). No.
2. Where necessary, the Treasury has reduced staffing numbers through natural attrition. It is difficult to pinpoint exact areas and levels as in net terms the Treasury's staff numbers have increased steadily since 2002.
3. No.
4. Not applicable.
5. There are no plans to change the Treasury's current graduate recruitment program or cadetships from that of last year.