

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 146

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

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) The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) does not have information which separately identifies staffing reductions resulting from the efficiency dividend. However, the ABS estimates staff numbers have reduced in the region of 1% each year since the introduction of the efficiency dividend.

The ABS provided information to the February 2010 Additional Estimates outlining staffing changes due to 2008-09 work program cuts and the subsequent reinstatement of the work program as a result of increased funding from the government in the 2009 Budget.
- b) No
2. See answer above.
3. No
4. There were no decisions made at the 2010-11 Budget that will require the ABS to make further efficiencies (savings).
5. The ABS has an annual graduate and cadetship intake, and the number of graduates are determined annually by the operational requirements of each area

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within the ABS. The ABS is aiming to recruit 180 graduates for the 2011 intake. This is a slightly larger intake than the previous year and reflects the current work program and in particular the need to build our workforce to manage the Population Census in 2011.