

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 147

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

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) No. The total agency staffing has increased during this period as disclosed in the Treasury Portfolio Budget Statement 2009–10.
 - b) No.
2. Not applicable
3. No.
4. Not applicable.
5. The ACCC graduate program for 2009-10 aimed to engage 20 to 30 graduates. 23 graduates were engaged. The ACCC graduate program for 2010-11 has the same aim, between 20 to 30 graduates, with an expectation that the number will be closer to 30. This is due to the growth in the ACCC’s functions due to the National Broadband Network and the Australian Consumer Law.

The ACCC continues to run its summer internship program on the same basis as previous years and will engage 10-12 economic honours interns for six weeks between the academic years.