

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: ALL
Output Group: ALL

DEST Question No. E011_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

- a) What financial impact will the increased efficiency dividend have on your **Department/agency** this financial year and in the out years?
- b) The increase in the efficiency dividend was announced in last year's elections, what plans have you made to meet it?
- c) What will this mean for staff numbers?
- d) Will any specific programs be cut? Please specify which ones and the size of the estimated savings?
- e) Will any core functions be affected by these savings measures?
- f) How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your graduate recruitment plans?
- g) How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your ability to retain experienced staff?

Answer:

Increase to the Efficiency Dividend

- a) The increase to the efficiency dividend results in a reduction to Departmental resources as follows:

	\$m
2005-06	0.662
2006-07	1.314
2007-08	1.988
2008-09	1.962

(page 30 – 2005-06 Portfolio Budget Statements)

- b) The Department plans to meet the efficiency dividend by a range of business strategies that are being pursued. These include:
 - In sourcing of Information technology from DEWR back to the Department;
 - Whole of agency contracts for a range of services including printing, office machines and travel services;
 - Increased use of information technology more generally to assist with business processes;
 - Better use of alternative procurement processes such as panel arrangements;
 - Implementation of video conferencing; and
 - Improving the utilisation of our available property by better designed fitout.
- c) The increased efficiency dividend is not expected to have an impact on staff numbers.

- d) No specific programmes will be cut.
- e) No core functions will be affected by this measure
- f) Meeting the dividend will not change the Department's approach to graduate recruitment.
- g) Meeting the efficiency dividend will not change the Department's approach to retaining experienced staff.