

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2013

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Making the Public Service more efficient**

Question: **119**

Written **Senator Ryan**

#### Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

- a) Please provide an update of the savings achieved through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State of 25 September 2012 [http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr\\_1982012.html](http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html)).

In addition, please provide the following detail:

- b) Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for reductions in air travel?
- c) Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- d) Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors? Has this impacted on the Department/agency, and how? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- e) Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- f) Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much? Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not, why not? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

#### Answer

- a) DPS's operating funding has not changed significantly since 2004 and remains under pressure as purchasing power declines. DPS continues to pro-actively monitor and manage its resources. DPS is taking action by tightening recruitment processes (as over 60 per cent of DPS expenditure relates to employee and related costs), rationalising Information Technology purchases and usage, examining staffing logistics in the form of sessional employees as opportunities arise to meet demand.

- b) DPS's travel expenditure is principally related to Broadcasting and Hansard support to parliamentary committees and, therefore, not directly within its control. DPS has approved controls over all other flights to minimise costs.

- c) Very little DPS air travel is in Business Class. The majority of air travel is Economy class and DPS travellers observe the Government's lowest practical fare policy.

- d) Contractors and Consultant expenditure for DPS will be reduced in alignment with the activities as set out in part (a) of this question. At this stage, the number, amount or the savings that will be made is not known.

- e) DPS has not undertaken any print media recruitment advertising from 1 July 2012. The only recruitment advertising undertaken since then has been online.

The DPS total recruitment advertising for 2011–12 was \$39,900 for both print and online media. The online component of this cost was \$11,317 (28%).

The DPS total recruitment advertising to 31 December 2012 was \$2,237. This is a saving of 94% (to date) on the previous financial year.

- f) Ninety-five per cent of the DPS printing budget is allocated to the publishing of Hansard. There are no immediate plans to alter Hansard printing arrangements.