

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Outcome/Program: 1

Topic: Making the Public Service more efficient

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: 46

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Please provide an update of the savings achieved through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by the 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).

In addition, please provide the following detail:

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

Answer:

- (1) It is not possible to quantify the forward estimate savings.
- (2) (a) Yes, the Office has reduced its access to business class flights through amended travel entitlements. It is not possible to quantify any reduction to business flights
(b) It is not possible to quantify the forward estimate savings.
- (3) (a) Yes.
(b) No impact has resulted at this point in time.
(c) It is not possible to quantify the forward estimate savings.
- (4) (a) Only advertisements for SES positions have been undertaken in printed materials.
(b) There is no significant impact from moving recruitment on-line. The savings are insignificant due to the size and recruitment activity of the Office. It is not possible to quantify the forward estimate savings.
- (5) (a) Yes.
(b) No.
(c) Yes, the Office has reduced its reliance on printed materials.
(d) It is not possible to quantify the forward estimate savings.