

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Administration Portfolio**

**Australian Electoral Commission**

Budget Estimates Hearings, 25-26 May 2005

**Question: F65**

**Outcome: Australian Electoral Commission**

**Topic: Efficiency Dividend - Australian Electoral Commission**

**Written Question on Notice: 6 June 2005**

**Senator Carr asked:**

1. What financial impact will the increased efficiency dividend have on your Department/agency this financial year and in the out years?
2. The increase in the efficiency dividend was announced in last year's elections, what plans have you made to meet it?
3. What will this mean for staff numbers?
4. Will any specific programs be cut? Please specify which ones and the size of the estimated savings?
5. Will any core functions be affected by these savings measures?
6. How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your graduate recruitment plans?
7. How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your ability to retain experienced staff?

**Answer:**

1. The financial impact of the 0.25% additional efficiency dividend on the AEC is reflected in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2005-06 page 103. Departmental appropriation was reduced by the following amounts:

2005-06 (189,000)	2006-07 (412,000)	2007-08 (1,154,000)	2008-09 (613,000)
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2. The AEC is reviewing all areas of its operations in regard to efficiency and effectiveness during 2005-06 and will make budget decisions on staffing and core programs once the review is complete.
3. No decisions have been taken regarding changes in staff numbers that may be required to meet the increased efficiency dividend.
4. No specific programs have been identified at this time.
5. All core functions have potential to be affected. The extent depends on the outcome of the efficiency review process.

6. At this point in time AEC has no graduate recruitment program in place.
7. Staff retention is important to the AEC and it will progress workforce planning in the Efficiency Dividend context. It is not possible to say what impact the increased Efficiency Dividend will have on future retention rates.