

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 1, Program 1.1

Topic: One-off efficiency dividend

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Senator Coonan asked:

Perhaps you could give me an answer as to where the exemptions were and how it was applied over the year.

Answer:

The additional one-off two per cent efficiency dividend was introduced effective from 1 March 2008 until 30 June 2009 as part of the Government's approach to responsible economic management.

The two per cent efficiency dividend was applied to the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 departmental expense estimates and a pro-rate efficiency dividend of 0.46 per cent was applied to the 2007-08 departmental expense estimates.

The exemptions from the one-off two percent efficiency dividend were consistent with longstanding exemptions from the ongoing efficiency dividend. Exempt agencies are:

- the Australian Broadcasting Corporation;
- the Australia Council for the Arts (in relation to grants to major performing arts organisations);
- the Australian Customs Service (in relation to the Coastwatch contract);
- the Australian Institute of Marine Science (in relation to 88 per cent of its departmental funding);
- the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (in relation to search and rescue contracts);
- the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation;
- the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation (in relation to 70 per cent of its departmental funding);
- the Department of Defence (in respect of defined operational and capability areas); and
- the Special Broadcasting Service Corporation.

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The Government also agreed to exempt a number of agencies, which are ordinarily subject to the efficiency dividend, from the application of the one-off measure. They were:

- the Australian Fair Pay Commission Secretariat;
- the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority;
- the Australian Sports Commission (in respect of grants);
- the Australian Trade Commission; and
- the Workplace Authority.