

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2010

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 1, Program 1.1

Topic: Savings

Question reference number: F9

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 29, 26 May 2010

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Number of Pages: 2

Senator Ryan asked:

Senator RYAN—On budget day, Minister Tanner had a press release headed, ‘Budget delivers more than \$1.2 billion in efficiencies from government operations,’ which I believe were outlined in the 2010 budget. He also comments that the government ‘had achieved savings of more than \$8.5 billion from reducing waste and inefficiency.’ I am assuming that is since November 2007. Could you provide a list to the committee of the \$8.5 billion in efficiencies from government operations that have been made since that date? I presume you will need to take that on notice.

Senator Sherry—We will double check the date because you have made an assumption on that. I am sure we can provide you with a list.

Mr Tune—We will take that on notice.

Answer:

Since the election of the Rudd Labor Government, a number of saving measures have been implemented that have reduced the costs of Government operations. Major savings decisions taken prior to the 2010-11 Budget, relating to efficiencies from government operations totalling more than \$7 billion, were previously provided to the Committee in QoN F15, on 27 April 2010. Major savings since then include:

- 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook: Travel services – whole-of-government procurement: \$127.2 million over four years;
- 2010-11 Budget Measure: Australian Customs and Border Protection Service – efficiencies: \$146.2 million over four years;
- 2010-11 Budget Measure: Job Capacity Assessment – more efficient and accurate assessments for Disability Support Pension and employment services: \$383.3 million over four years;
- 2010-11 Budget Measure: Caring for our Country – reducing duplication: \$81.2 million over four years;
- 2010-11 Budget Measure: Travel services – additional savings from whole-of-government procurement: \$32.8 million over four years;

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- 2010-11 Budget Measure: Fraud prevention and compliance - enhancing capability for Centrelink to detect and respond to emerging fraud risks: \$56.6 million over four years;
- 2010-11 Budget Measure: Superannuation co-contribution – enhancing administration: \$179.0 million over five years; and
- 2010-11 Budget Measure: Preventable Admissions and Improved Community Care Program: \$92.7 million over four years.