

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2013**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Public Service efficiencies**

Question: **111**

Written **Senator Ryan**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 July 2013

- a. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
- b. 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?
- c. 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?
- d. 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) No. As a result of staff acting as members of international parliamentary delegations, a reduction in business class travel for the financial year to 31 March 2013 was not achieved. Business class travel is only provided to staff with an entitlement to this class of travel (ie when undertaking international travel). Travel is only undertaken when there is an established business need. As the need for business travel over the forward estimates period has not yet been quantified, no estimate of savings is currently available.
- b) No. DPS considers the use of contractors and consultants carefully before proceeding.
- c) All DPS recruitment advertising is now undertaken online. As no recruitment advertising is printed, the estimated savings over the forward years is nil.
- d) Yes. For the financial year to 31 March 2013 costs have reduced by 24 per cent when compared with the financial year to 31 March 2012, primarily due to a review of Hansard printing arrangements. No further saving over the forward estimates period in addition to that already achieved is forecast.