

**Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee:
Answers to written Questions on Notice Budget Estimates 2013-14
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio**

Department: Parliamentary Budget Office
Topic: Public Service efficiencies

Senator: Senator Scott Ryan
Question reference number: 53
Type of question: Written

Question

- a) **Please provide details of the amended operational efficiencies your agency will make as per 2013-14 Budget Measure ‘Public Service efficiencies’ (see 2013-14 Budget Paper No 2 p108).**

In addition, please provide the following detail:

- b) **Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by implementing more efficient management structures, through a reduction in expenditure on staff across the Executive Level (EL) 1 and 2, and Senior Executive Service (SES) levels?**
- c) **Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by revising down the occupational density target for all new leases, buildings and major fit-outs undertaken by agencies from 16 square metres per occupied workpoint down to 14 square metres?**

Answer

- a) The Parliamentary Budget Office commenced operation on 23 July 2012 and during its establishment year was subject to targeted departmental savings in operational funding in 2012-13 and across the forward years as part of the Government’s ‘Public Service Efficiencies’ measure. Although the PBO was not consulted on the impact of these savings, given their small size, the PBO can manage within its reduced budget without materially affecting its current functions.
- b) The Parliamentary Budget Office’s management structure is consistent with its budget.
- c) The Parliamentary Budget Office’s permanent accommodation is expected to be completed before the end of 2013 and will meet the Governments’ revised occupational density targets.