

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARINGS

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET PORTFOLIO

Department/Agency: Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Outcome: 1

Topic: Efficiency Dividend

Senator: ABETZ

Question reference number: 55

Type of question: Written, Tuesday 19 October 2010

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

- a) Has your portfolio started implementing the Government's savings election commitment of maintaining the annual efficiency dividend on departmental expenses at 1.25 per cent? If not, why not? If yes, give details.
- b) Will any agencies in your portfolio be seeking an exemption to implementing the efficiency dividend?
- c) How do you think you will implement it? Give examples of the types of cuts you will make (i.e. no more pot plants in departmental buildings).
- d) Will there be cuts to staff? If yes, give details.

Number of pages: 1

Answer:

- a) The Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government was established on 14 September 2010. An interim transfer of funds was made on 1 October 2010 under section 32 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*. The funds were discounted by the efficiency dividend.
- b) No.
- c) The Department is newly established and will work within its agreed budget.
- d) No staff cuts are planned.