

"Enhanced Productivity Programme: 2001-02" Booklet

Report on EPP Savings – Consumer Council

Total value of EPP savings in 2001-02: **\$1.305m**, equivalent to **2.0%** of total recurrent baseline expenditure in that year that is subject to EPP. Total EPP savings (as a percentage of recurrent baseline expenditure subject to EPP) achieved by 2001-02 on a **cumulative** basis is **3.0%**.

Category	Savings (\$m)	EPP Measures in 2001-02	Safeguards for Quality Service
Subventions	0.562	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the use of on-line services for research work and redistribute duties of staff in the Trade Practices Division <p><i>Savings:</i> Deletion of 1 Senior Trade Practices Officer post in 2001-02.</p>	Quality of research and investigation will be maintained through increased use of on-line services. Project work will be spread among the other Senior Trade Practices Officers after redistributing part of their routine work to the support staff who has been upgraded from Clerical Officer II to Clerical Officer I.
	0.056	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Modify consumer education strategy by organising programmes to cater for larger audiences in place of talks for small groups, and by providing more support to schools and other organisations in the education programmes. <p><i>Savings:</i> Deletion of 1 Consumer Protection Officer post in 2001-02(2months).</p>	The new programmes organised by the Council will be more far-reaching than the conventional talks. In addition, more training materials will be produced to enable teachers and instructors to carry out their consumer education activities more effectively.
	0.339	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Streamline and rationalise the Council and Committee meetings. <p><i>Savings:</i> Deletion of 1 Consumer Protection Officer post in 2001-02.</p>	More issues will be consolidated for discussion at meetings and less controversial issues will be dealt with through circulation of papers and recommendations.

Category	Savings (\$m)	EPP Measures in 2001-02	Safeguards for Quality Service
	0.096	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computerise fully the complaints registration system by April 2001. <p><i>Savings:</i> Deletion of 1 Statistical Officer post, offset by creation of 1 Clerical Assistant post in 2001-02.</p>	With full computerisation of the complaints registration system, data input, analysis and compilation of statistics will be more efficient.
	0.082	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change focus of research and mode of survey, and use more efficient means of communication to reduce research and survey costs. 	Emphasis of research projects will be placed on specific areas of consumer interests rather than products and services. Market surveys will be conducted in place of large-scale opinion surveys or testing of services when the impact on quality or accuracy of the findings is acceptably low. E-mail will be used in conducting market surveys to enhance efficiency and to save fax line resources, call charges and postage.
	0.170	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop new joint tests with overseas consumer organisations so as to reduce test project costs. 	International joint tests can cover a greater number of product types and models than the test programmes conducted by the Consumer Council alone. Thus, this would provide more comprehensive test reports and bring about reduction in test costs.
Total	1.305		

Subventions

i.e. Recurrent payment to non-government bodies in support of their on-going expenses