

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-076

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Freedom of Information

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

- a) How many officers are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the department?
- b) How does this differ to the number of officers designated as at 6 September 2013?

Answer:

- a) As at 30 November 2013 there were 710 officers authorised to make decisions under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) within the Department of Health. The FOI Act prescribes the types of decisions that can be made by agencies. Not all of the Department's decision makers are authorised to make all decisions under the FOI Act.
- b) As at 30 June 2013 there were 849 authorised decision makers. The Department does not have a record of the number of authorised decision makers as at 6 September 2013. The difference between June 2013 and November 2013 can be attributed to both the natural attrition of staff and movements resulting from Machinery of Government changes.