

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-224

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Regulation

Type of Question: Hansard Page 13/14, 20 November 2013

Senator: Zesolja

Question:

- a) Are you able to give examples in terms of the number of regulations that have been added in the portfolio and any regulations that have been taken away or simplified during that time?
- b) Can you give us an example or two of where you have reduced the regulatory burden in your portfolio?

Answer:

- a) No. Quantifying the regulations that have been added in Health and any regulations that have been taken away or simplified during the past few years would be a lengthy and complicated process that would unreasonably divert resources from the Department of Health's core business.
- b) A number of changes have been introduced to the hearing services program, reducing regulatory burden including:
 - 1. Moving to a three year entitlement period (from a two year period) has reduced the application process frequency and impost on clients and hearing service providers.
 - 2. Replacing the resource intensive cyclical auditing process of hearing service providers with a risk based audit and compliance framework including a self-assessment process. The new arrangements allow businesses to implement continuous quality improvement activities while allowing targeted auditing of hearing service providers identified on the risk register.
 - 3. Introducing a new streamlined contract which reduces prescriptive requirements and increases flexibility of service delivery by hearing service providers within their own business models.
 - 4. Streamlining the listing process for clinicians by hearing service providers with the introduction of a certification process which reduces documentation requirements.