

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SENATE ESTIMATES SESSION

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet – Indigenous Portfolio bodies

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator: Senator Ludwig

Question reference number: 191

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- 1) Can the department please outline the process it under goes to access Freedom of Information requests?
- 2) Does the department consult or inform the Minister when it receives Freedom of Information requests?
 - a. If so, when?
 - b. If so, how does this occur?
- 3) Does the department consult or inform other departments or agencies when it receives Freedom of Information requests?
 - a. If so, which departments or agencies?
 - b. If so, when?
 - c. If so, how does this occur?
- 4) Does the department consult or inform the Minister when or before it makes a decision on a Freedom of Information request?
 - a. If so, when?
 - b. If so, how does this occur?
- 5) Does the department consult or inform other departments or agencies when or before it makes a decision on a Freedom of Information request?
 - a. If so, which departments or agencies?
 - b. If so, when?
 - c. If so, how does this occur?
- 6) What resources does the department commit to its Freedom of Information team?
- 7) List the staffing resources by APS level assigned solely to Freedom of Information requests
- 8) List the staffing resources by APS level assigned indirectly to Freedom of Information requests
- 9) Does the department ever second addition resources to processing Freedom of Information requests?
 - a. If so, please detail those resources by APS level

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- 10) How many officers are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the department?
 - a. How does this differ to the number of officers designated as at 6 September 2013?
- 11) How many officers are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Minister's office?
 - a. How does this differ to the number of officers designated as at 6 September 2013?
- 12) Of the officers that are designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Ministers office, how many are seconded officers from the department?
- 13) What training does the department provide to designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act who work within the department?
 - a. Of the officers designated as decision makers within the department, how many have received formal training?
 - b. Of the officers designated as decision makers within the department, how many have received informal training?
 - c. How long after each officers appointment as a designated decision maker did they receive formal training?
 - d. What did the training involve?
 - e. How long was the training?
 - f. By whom was the training conducted?
- 14) What training does the department provide to designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act who work within the Minister's office, excluding those officers on secondment from the department?
 - a. Of the officers designated as decision makers, how many have received formal training?
 - b. Of the officers designated as decision makers, how many have received informal training?
 - c. How long after each officers appointment as a designated decision maker did they receive formal training?
 - d. What did the training involve?
 - e. How long was the training?
 - f. By whom was the training conducted?

Answer:

The Department has not requested an answer to those parts of this question that are applicable to the Indigenous portfolio bodies (Aboriginal Hostels Limited, Indigenous Business Australia, Indigenous Land Corporation, Outback Stores Pty Ltd, Torres Strait Regional Authority, Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council) as in its view the provision of answers would unreasonably impact on the limited resources of

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Indigenous portfolio bodies so as to cause a significant distraction from their core functions.