

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0321_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Red tape reduction

1. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets? a. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target 2. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level? 3. How have they been recruited? 4. What process was used for their appointment? 5. What is the total cost of this unit? 6. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents? 7. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body. 8. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer

The department has established the Deregulation Unit to coordinate the department's work in relation to deregulation. The department has also established an internal deregulation committee, chaired by a deputy secretary with senior representation from across all clusters of the department, and a sub-working group with executive representation from across all clusters of the department. A deregulation taskforce has also been established to deliver the Government's deregulation agenda in Higher Education, Research and International Education (see ED0288_14).

As at March 2014, the Deregulation Unit has 9.2 full-time equivalent people, ranging from APS 4 to Executive Level 2. The unit has been staffed from within existing departmental resources and is led by an SES officer.

Staff in the Deregulation Unit have a range of security clearances from Baseline to Negative Vetting Level 1 and may access classified information appropriate to their security clearance, operating under the 'need to know' principle.

The department will report on progress in reducing red tape and regulatory burden annually, with the first report due in 2015.