

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

#### **Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0084\_14**  
**Senator Carr provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

**Deregulation Taskforce and Australian Qualifications Framework Council (AQFC) Branch**

- a. What are the roles and responsibilities of the Deregulation Taskforce and office of the AQFC branch in the Department of Education?
- b. How many FTE position are allocated to the Deregulation Taskforce and office of the AQFC branch?
- c. Has this changed since 7 September 2013?
- d. As at 18 September 2013 when the new Government was sworn in, provide a breakdown of actual headcounts, and provide the number of staff on non-ongoing employment arrangements.
- e. Also please provide an up to date organisational structure for this branch.
- f. What programs is the Deregulation Taskforce and office of the AQFC branch in the Department of Education responsible for?

#### **Answer**

- a. The Deregulation Taskforce and Office of the AQFC branch includes the following functions:
  - Primary responsibility for implementation of the recommendations of the *Review of Higher Regulation*, including coordinating related work in a number of areas across the department.
  - Secretariat support to the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Council, including projects as directed by the AQF Council. The Council is established as a committee of the Standing Council on Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment.
  - Corporate support to the Quality and Support Group through the Business Services Unit.
- b. There are currently 16.4 FTE allocated to the Deregulation Taskforce and Office of the AQFC branch.
- c. This Branch did not exist on 7 September 2013. It was established as a consequence of the Administrative Arrangements Order announced on 18 September and comprises of previously-existing functions and personnel.
- d. At 18 September 2013, the headcount was 11, with no staff on non-ongoing employment arrangements.
- e. The Deregulation Taskforce and Office of the AQFC branch currently consists of three sections: the Deregulation Taskforce, the Office of the AQFC, and the Business Services Unit.
- f. There are no programmes for which the Deregulation Taskforce and Office of the AQFC branch is responsible.