

Senate Committee on Red Tape

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Policy and process to limit and reduce red tape, 2 November 2018

Department of Jobs and Small Business

Senator Leyonhjelm asked on 2 November 2018 on proof Hansard page 14

Question

Portfolio Deregulation Units

CHAIR: [...] The childcare subsidy changes that have recently come in were the subject of some complaints from the industry in relation to the red tape—the administration of it, essentially. Are you able to help the committee on this? This is not a criticism of the changes to the policy, as I say; it's a matter of how it's being administered. I'm not sure whether the complaints were legitimate or not, but I'm wondering whether anyone has looked at whether the administration is appropriate and whether the complaints of the sector being unnecessarily administratively burdensome have any legitimacy from the way you look at it.

Mr Cully: I'm not sure if it's a problem. It may well not be. Certainly we haven't looked at it directly. We have a whole-of-government role. I would describe it as a coordination role. So we would expect that, in this kind of situation—and I'm showing my ignorance here—it would be the Department of Education and Training, the Department of Social Services or the Department of Human Services who would administer the program. We would expect that they would be the agency, and their deregulatory area would be looking at that and seeking to address or respond to any concerns.

CHAIR: That raises a very interesting point, which is that, although you have overall responsibility for it, there are obviously limits to how much you can do. Are you satisfied that there is somebody in each agency, in each department, focusing on this issue of red tape? Would there have been somebody in whatever department it was—and I must admit I don't recall either—who actually followed the inquiry and would have been sensitive to the complaints that were being made?

Mr Cully: I'm certainly confident that every agency has a regulatory reform area. We would anticipate that, yes, they would be following the proceedings of this committee and any other public commentary around how their agency is performing in the regulatory context.

CHAIR: You're confident, but you're not sure which department it is.

Mr Cully: I'm confident that each agency has a regulatory area. That is part of the government's policy. We engage with all of those areas. But I don't have visibility of and I can't say with certainty on this particular example that you've raised. But we're happy to take it on notice and give you a response, if you would like.

Answer

- Every Department in the Commonwealth Government has a Deregulation Unit responsible for reducing regulatory burden within that Department.
- The Deregulation Units quantify the cost to business and individuals of complying with the regulations administered by their respective portfolios, and report changes in regulatory compliance costs to the Department of Jobs and Small Business twice

annually. Deregulation Units also advise on the Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) process, and support portfolios in identifying regulatory offsets, a requirement for all Cabinet Submissions since 2013.