

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

### **ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 27 FEBRUARY 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Department of Human Services**

**Topic:** Red Tape Reductions

**Question reference number:** HS 85

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 24 April 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

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?
- b) How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
- c) How have they been recruited?
- d) What process was used for their appointment?
- e) What is the total cost of this unit?
- f) Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
- g) 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.
- h) What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

#### **Answer:**

The department has assigned an SES officer to head the Deregulation and Red Tape Reduction Branch (the deregulation unit), currently supported by five staff members.

- a) Deregulation activity is predominantly aimed at reducing procedural and administrative red tape for those that interact with the department.
- b) Resourcing for the unit, including staffing levels and classifications, will vary from time to time depending on the volume and nature of the material the unit is required to action. Currently, the department has assigned an SES officer to head the deregulation unit, supported by five staff members: two at Executive Level 2; two at Executive Level 1; and one APS 5.
- c) Resourcing of the unit has occurred from internal staff movements.
- d) Resourcing of the unit has occurred from internal staff movements.

- e) Refer to answer (b).
- f) Access to Cabinet documents is consistent with the Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Cabinet Handbook.
- g) Access to classified material is consistent with departmental guidelines and the Australian Government's Protective Security Policy Framework.
- h) Deregulation and Red Tape Reduction Branch.