

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 118

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) I refer to HS 44 concerning red tape reduction. What definition of red tape reduction or deregulation is DHS using?
- b) What red tape reduction or deregulation expenditure savings target has been set for the DHS. What are the DHS staffing implications of the red tape reduction?
- c) What areas of the DHS have been identified for red tape reduction or deregulation?

Answer:

- a) The definition of 'regulation' set out in *The Australian Government Guide to Regulation* is 'any rule endorsed by government where there is an expectation of compliance'.
- b) The Government has not publicly announced targets for individual portfolios. 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. 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.
- c) Deregulation activity is predominantly aimed at reducing procedural and administrative red tape for those that interact with the department.