

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 21

Topic: Red Tape Reduction

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

- 1) How many officers have been placed in the units dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets and at what level?
- 2) How have they been recruited?
- 3) What process was used for their appointment?
- 4) What is the total cost of this unit?
- 5) Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
- 6) 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.
- 7) What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer:

- 1) The Department of Social Services (DSS) Deregulation Unit is led by an SES Band 1 who is supported by 6.5 FTE – a part-time SES Band 1, an EL2, three EL1s and two APS6 staff.
- 2) DSS officers with suitable skills who expressed interest in joining the unit were transferred to the unit.
- 3) The officers are existing staff transferred to the unit in accordance with departmental internal practices.
- 4) The expenditure for the unit as at 28 February is as follows:

	EMPLOYEE		SUPPLIER	
	Salary (\$'000)	Leave (\$'000)	Travel (\$'000)	Other (\$'000)
	476	44	10	3
TOTAL	\$520,000		\$13,000	

- 5) Members of the unit have access to Cabinet documents that are relevant to their responsibilities.

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6) The security classifications of staff in the unit are as follows:

	Security classification	Date classification issued
SES officer	Baseline	8 January 2009
SES officer	Negative Vetting Level 1	29 June 2007
EL2 officer	Baseline	18 December 2008
EL officer	Negative Vetting Level 1	21 June 2012
EL officer	Baseline	26 June 2007
EL officer	Baseline	19 April 2011
APS officer	Baseline	6 April 2009
APS officer	Baseline	10 July 2012

7) The formal name given to this team is the Project and Deregulation Office.