

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000138

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Red Tape Reduction

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. Please detail changes to 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

2. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?

3. How have they been recruited?

4. What process was used for their appointment?

5. What is the total cost of this unit?

6. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.

7. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?

8. 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.

9. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. A regulatory reform unit (formerly known as a deregulation unit) has been established within the Department of Health.
- 1.a). Progress against the red tape reduction targets is reported on a calendar year basis. In 2015, Health achieved red tape savings of \$96.8 million.
2. The number of officers placed in Health's units dedicated to red tape reduction agenda are shown in the table below:

Australian Public Service (APS) Classification	Equivalent Full Time Staff, (February 2016)
Senior Executive Service (SES) Band 1	0.6
Executive Level (EL) 2	3.1
Executive Level (EL) 1	6.9
APS 6	3.9
APS 5	1.8
APS 4	1.6
TOTAL	17.9

3. Officers were recruited by internal and external departmental transfers.
4. A merit based expression of interest process was used for appointment. A small number were directly transferred.
5. The unit is being funded by reallocation of existing Departmental resources.
6. The total salary cost of the unit from September 2015 to February 2016 was \$0.836 million.
7. Staff with the required security classification may have access to Cabinet documents on a need to know basis.
8. All current officers hold a security classification, or have applied and are awaiting clearance. Clearances were granted over a period of years according to the work requirements of the officers at the time. Classifications range from Baseline to Negative Vetting (NV) 2.
9. The formal name of Health's unit dedicated to meeting the Government's red tape reduction targets is Regulatory Reform Section.