

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Red Tape Reduction

Question reference number: HS 141

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 25 July 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
 - i) 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) What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit?
- g) Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
- h) 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.
- i) What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer:

- a) The department has established a branch, the Deregulation and Red Tape Reduction Branch, which is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Government's deregulation agenda.
 - i) Deregulation activity is predominantly aimed at reducing procedural and administrative red tape for those that interact with the department. Details of progress towards the Government's red tape reduction target should be directed to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- b) The branch is headed by an SES officer, supported by four staff members (as at 31 May 2014): one at Executive Level 2, two at Executive Level 1 and one APS 5.

The branch also has seven staff members temporarily seconded from business areas. 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) Staff have been recruited through internal expressions of interest.
- d) Resourcing has occurred from internal staff movements.
- e) The current total cost for the Deregulation and Red Tape Reduction Branch (as at 31 May 2014) is estimated at \$690,999 per annum.
- f) The current total annual salary cost for the five staff in the Deregulation and Red Tape Reduction Branch (as at 31 May 2014) is estimated at \$690,999 (including superannuation and long service leave on-costs).
- g) Access to Cabinet documents is consistent with the Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Cabinet Handbook.
- h) Access to classified material is consistent with departmental guidelines and the Australian Government's Protective Security Policy Framework.
- i) Deregulation and Red Tape Reduction Branch.