

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000689

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Red Tape Reduction

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

1. 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?
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:

1. A Deregulation unit has been established within the Department of Health. A Ministerial Advisory Council for deregulation and related policy matters has been established.
2. The number of officers placed in the Deregulation Unit to date are:

Australian Public Service (APS) Classification	Average Service Level (ASL)
Senior Executive Service (SES) Band 1	1.0
Executive Level (EL) 2	3.0
Executive Level (EL) 1	5.6
APS 6	3.4
APS 5	1.0
APS 4	2.0
Graduate	1.0
TOTAL	17.0

3. Officers were recruited by internal departmental transfer.
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 during 2013-14 was \$1.099 million.
7. Deregulation Unit officers with the required security classification may have access to Cabinet documents as required.
8. All current officers of the Deregulation Unit hold a security classification, or have applied and are awaiting clearance. Clearances were granted over a period of years from 2006-2014 according to the work requirements of the officers at the time. Classifications range from Baseline to Negative Vetting (NV) 1, with the average level being NV 1.
9. Health's Deregulation Unit is formally known as the Deregulation Branch.