

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Protective Security Policy Framework

Question reference number: HS 123

Senator: Boyce

Type of question: Written question

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Provide an update for your department/agency, including what is your current compliance level, what are you doing to manage risk, what is being done to comply with the mandatory requirements and details of any department/agency specific policies and procedures.

Answer:

The Department is well placed to meet its obligations under the Protective Security Policy Framework. A work schedule is in place to ensure compliance with the mandatory requirements by the first reporting date in August 2013.

On 1 August 2012, the new Information Security Classification System was implemented in the Department – a single streamlined system across government. An e-learning module was developed for staff to assist them transition to the new system. This implementation also required some ICT upgrades to incorporate the new classification markings.

The Department continues to develop the Agency Security Plan and supporting security policies and procedures, which are being implemented progressively.

The Department has a number of strategies and security measures in place to manage security risks. These strategies and measures are based on the assessment of security risks and the business requirements at individual sites and encompass a number of elements, some of which include:

- the Corporate Security Team has input into the design of all new and refurbished Service Centres, embracing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles;
- customer aggression training for employees involved in face to face service;
- electronic security measures such as duress alarms, CCTV and passive infrared detectors;
- the engagement of static security guard services if required; and
- regular security audits.