

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 21 NOVEMBER 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Ministerial office security classifications

Question reference number: HS 28

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 January 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) What is the policy for ministerial staff security clearances?
- b) How many staffers employed by the government under the MOPS Act have security clearances?
 - i) At what level?
 - ii) If not, why not?
- c) How many seconded departmental officers acting in ministerial offices, including DLOs have security clearances?
 - i) At what level?
 - ii) If not, why not?

Answer:

- a) and b) The Department of Finance is responsible for security clearances for ministerial staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*.
- c) The two Departmental Liaison Officers in the Minister's office are currently in the process of upgrading their security clearances.
 - i) Negative Vetting Level 1.
 - ii) Not applicable.