

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 21 NOVEMBER 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Red Tape Reduction

Question reference number: HS 44

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 January 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) Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
- g) 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.

Answer

- a) The department has assigned an SES officer to head the deregulation unit and is in the process of determining resourcing for the unit.
 - i) The Government is currently considering arrangements for the implementation of the Deregulation Agenda.
- b) 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. The department has assigned an SES officer to head the deregulation unit.
- c) No additional staff members have been recruited to the department. Resourcing of the unit will occur from internal staff movements.
- d) No additional staff members have been recruited to the department. Resourcing of the unit will occur from internal staff movements.

- e) The department has assigned an SES officer to head the deregulation unit and is in the process of determining resourcing for the unit.
- f) Access to Cabinet documents is consistent with the Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Cabinet Handbook.
- g) Access to classified material is consistent with departmental guidelines and the Australian Government's Protective Security Policy Framework.