

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 189

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

What training does the department provide to designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act who work within the department?

- a. Of the officers designated as decision makers within the department, how many have received formal training?
- b. Of the officers designated as decision makers within the department, how many have received informal training?
- c. How long after each officers appointment as a designated decision maker did they receive formal training?
- d. What did the training involve?
- e. How long was the training?
- f. By whom was the training conducted?

Answer:

The decision-makers in the Public Law Branch are responsible for making all Freedom of Information (FOI) decisions in the Department. The Department provides formal and informal training to all the decision makers in the Public Law Branch. There are 13 designated decision makers in Public Law Branch.

The Australian Government Solicitor conducts formal training consisting of three full days and covering all aspects of the FOI process. Members of the FOI Team in Public Law Branch with day to day responsibility for FOI decision making undertake this training as soon as possible after commencing in the team.

In addition, the Public Law Branch, has conducted a full day in-house course provided by external lawyers, for officers of the Legal Practice who may be called upon to make FOI decisions during peak periods.