

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Department of Human Services**

**Topic:** Red Tape Reduction

**Question reference number:** HS 96

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 12 December 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) What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit?
- g) Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
- h) 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.
- i) What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

#### **Answer:**

- a) The department has established a branch, the Deregulation and Red Tape Reduction Branch, which is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the government's deregulation agenda.
  - i) The department's deregulation measures are included in *The Australian Government Spring Repeal Day October 2014* document on the [cuttingredtape.gov.au](http://cuttingredtape.gov.au) website.
- b) The branch is headed by an SES officer, supported by eleven staff members (as at 30 September 2014): three at Executive Level 2, two at Executive Level 1, two at APS 6 level, one at APS 5 level, one at APS 4 level and two graduate level staff.

The branch also has three staff members temporarily seconded from business areas. Resourcing for the branch, including staffing levels and classifications, will vary from time to time depending on the volume and nature of the material the branch is required to action.

- c) Staff have been recruited through internal expressions of interest, and one staff member transferred from another department.
- d) Resourcing has occurred from internal staff movements and one transfer under section 26 of the *Public Service Act 1999*.
- e) The current total cost for the Deregulation and Red Tape Reduction Branch (as at 30 September 2014) is estimated at \$1,345,278 per annum.
- f) The current total annual salary cost for the twelve staff in the Deregulation and Red Tape Reduction Branch (as at 30 September 2014) is estimated at \$1,345,278 (including superannuation and long service leave on-costs).
- g) Access to Cabinet documents is consistent with the Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Cabinet Handbook.
- h) Access to classified material is consistent with departmental guidelines and the Australian Government's Protective Security Policy Framework.
- i) Deregulation and Red Tape Reduction Branch.