

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 122

Topic: Red tape reduction

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
 - (a) What is the progress of that red tape reduction target
2. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
3. How have they been recruited?
4. What process was used for their appointment?
5. What is the total cost of this unit?
6. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.
7. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
8. 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.
9. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer:

1. The Department has established its Deregulation Unit under the direction of an SES Band 1 officer. The Unit's (the Project & Deregulation Office) work program is broader than red tape reduction.
 - a. The Department is on-track to meet its 2014 target.
2. As at 31 August 2014, the PDO is led by an SES Band 1, with 5.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff: one part-time SES Band 1, one EL2, two EL1s and two APS6s.
3. Existing DSS officers with suitable skills who expressed interest in joining the office were transferred to the office.
4. An internal expression of interest application process was used.
5. The estimated 2014-15 cost of this PDO is \$1,117,482.
6. The estimated 2014-15 salary cost of officers assigned to the unit is \$932,514.
7. Yes

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8. The security classification of PDO staff who have a security clearance is as follows:

	Security classification	Date classification issued
SES officer	Baseline	8 January 2009
SES officer	Negative Vetting Level 1	29 June 2007
EL2 officer	Baseline	18 December 2008
EL officer	Negative Vetting Level 1	21 June 2012
EL officer	Baseline	19 April 2011
APS officer	Baseline	10 July 2012

9. The formal name given to this branch is the Project and Deregulation Office.