

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Treasury Portfolio**  
Budget Estimates 2014  
3 June to 5 June 2014

**Department/ Agency:** ACNC

**Question:** BET 3362-3370

**Topic:** Red tape reduction

**Reference:** Written – 12 June 2014

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Question:**

3362. 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
3363. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
3364. How have they been recruited?
3365. What process was used for their appointment?
3366. What is the total cost of this unit?
3367. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.
3368. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
3369. 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.
3370. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

**Answer:**

3362. The ACNC had an existing Reporting and Red Tape Reduction Directorate before the change of government.

This was and is consistent with the ACNC's statutory object to promote the reduction of unnecessary regulatory obligations on the Australian not-for-profit sector (s 15-5(1)(c) *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*). The ACNC has deployed some of the resources in this directorate towards costing the ACNC's contribution to the government's red tape reduction targets.

The ACNC reduces red tape on the not-for-profit sector in its operation as a one-stop shop and through implementation of specific red tape reduction tools. The ACNC is a one-stop shop for charities to register for and access Commonwealth tax concessions (and has the potential to be a one-stop shop for incorporated associations and fundraising legislation across the country). The ACNC Reporting and Red Tape Reduction, Registration, Legal, Policy and Education, Advice and IT teams contribute to red tape reduction by:

- designing appropriate tiered reporting requirements that provide benefit for the sector and the Australian public

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- efficiently making determinations of charitable status and speedily processing registrations
- publishing guidance to explain and simplify obligations
- directly supporting charities by explaining processes in clear and simple terms, and
- providing streamlined IT reporting and data-sharing systems.

The primary red tape reduction tool is the Charity Passport, a dataset of charity information that is shared with other Australian government agencies to prevent charities from having to provide the same core information multiple times to different agencies.

In 2012-13, the ACNC set up two charity working parties (the Non-government School Streamlined Reporting Working Party and the Social Services Working Party), envisaged at the time as the first of up to 25 working parties that would map the regulatory and reporting requirements for specific groups of charities with the aim of eliminating duplication and streamlining reporting. This program has been put on hold, with no further groups established, due to uncertainty about the ACNC's future as a result of the Government's intention to repeal the ACNC Act.

a) The ACNC has exceeded (doubled) its deregulation target for 2014.

3363. Not all resources in the ACNC's Reporting and Red Tape Reduction Directorate are directed towards the government's deregulation agenda. The officers that mainly focus on this area of work consist of:
- EL2.1 – Director
  - EL1 – Senior Policy Officer
  - Support on an ad hoc basis from others in the business (predominantly the Policy and Education Directorate).
3364. As stated above, existing resources have been deployed to undertake this work.
3365. N/A
3366. This unit has not resulted in any additional cost to the ACNC, as the Red Tape Reduction Directorate was in place prior to the introduction of the red tape reduction targets.
3367. The ACNC estimates the following allotment of staff resourcing is dedicated to achieving the government's red tape reduction targets:
- EL2.1 – Director – 40%
  - EL1 – Senior Policy Officer – 80%
- Based on the above allocation, the ACNC estimates that the annual salary costs and on-costs are approximately \$142,000.
3368. EL2.1 – yes in the past but not since the change of government in September 2013.

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3369. Security classification by APS level:

- EL2.1 – Negative Vetting L1 (October 2012)
- EL1 – Baseline vetting (June 2011)

3370. As noted above, existing ACNC Reporting and Red Tape Reduction Directorate.