

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Cross Portfolio - Corporate

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000221

Senator Ludwig, Joe provided in writing

Also refer to previous hearing Question No. ED0477_15

Red tape reduction

Question

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. Please detail changes to 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. On 9 February 2016 the Hon Minister Hartsuyker MP, then Minister for Vocational Education and Skills, decided to cease the Deregulation Ministerial Advisory Council and use existing stakeholder engagement bodies in the portfolio to provide advice on regulatory reform.
 - a. The department has continued to contribute towards the total net deregulation savings of over \$4.5 billion announced in November 2015 on Spring Repeal Day. Details of the department's contribution will be included in the whole of government 2015 annual red tape reduction report.
2. As at 29 February 2016 there were 5.6 staff in the Deregulation Unit, ranging from Australian Public Service level 5 to Executive level 2.
- 3-4. There has been no recruitment to the unit since 14 September 2015. Staff were previously assigned to the unit from corporate and other areas.
- 5-6. The total estimated cost of the unit from 14 September 2015 to 29 February 2016 is \$288,177 including salary costs of \$262,015.
7. Yes, on a need to know basis.
8. No new security clearances were issued to unit staff during the period.

All unit staff have current security clearances as follows:

Level	Security classification level	Date issued
EL2	BASELINE	26/02/2003
EL1	BASELINE	30/07/2010
EL1	BASELINE	13/10/2006
EL1	NEGATIVE VETTING LEVEL 1	18/11/2009
EL1	BASELINE	08/10/2003
APS5	NEGATIVE VETTING LEVEL 1	27/07/2011

9. The name remains the Deregulation Unit.