

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

#### **Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000359**

**Senator Ludwig provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **Red tape reduction**

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. The Department of Employment has renamed the Deregulation Unit as the Regulation Reform Section to reflect the new Regulation Reform agenda.

a) In addition to the measures listed in Question No. EM0344\_14 and Question No. EM1176\_15, the Employment portfolio has:

- implemented jobactive, the government's employment service
- introduced a wider range of online forms and a simpler claims process for employees covered under the Comcare scheme
- reduced administration costs for self-insurers under the Comcare scheme
- improved reporting processes for companies who interact with the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner and the Workplace Gender Equality Agency
- streamlined gender reporting under the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012*
- simplified administrative requirements under the *Seasonal Workers Programme*.

2. Please refer to our previous response to Question No. EM0065\_14.

3. Officers in the section have been recruited through the Department's standard recruitment processes.

4. Officers in the section are selected based upon a competitive merit process during recruitment.
5. Please refer to our previous response to Question No. EM0065\_14.
6. Please refer to our previous response to Question No. EM0355\_15.
7. Please refer to our previous response to Question No. EM0065\_14.
8. Please refer to our previous response to Question No. EM0065\_14.
9. The formal name of the team is the Regulation Reform Section.