

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Red Tape Reduction

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 346

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

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?
 1. 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. A deregulation unit for the Department's portfolio has been established within the Programme and Support Division, with responsibility for coordinating and implementing the Government's deregulation agenda within the PM&C portfolio.
 1. Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister the Hon Josh Frydenberg outlined the Department's progress against the red tape reduction target to Parliament on 19 March 2014.
 2. Staffing numbers for the unit vary at any one time according to specific workload requirements. Current staffing for the PM&C Deregulation Unit

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

comprises: 1 x SES1 at 25 per cent full time equivalent; and 2 x EL2, 3 x EL1, 1 x APS6 and 1 x APS4, all full time. Staffing is higher at this time as substantial deregulation work is being completed to ensure the new Indigenous Advancement Programme has significantly less red tape.

- 3-4 Deregulation Unit staff transferred to the Department following the September 2013 machinery of government changes.
5. The Deregulation Unit is resourced from existing Departmental funds.
6. The estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit as at 6 June 2014 was \$178,700, noting that the Deregulation Unit was first established in December 2013 and that not all officers have been in the Deregulation Unit since that time.

7-8 Yes.

Officer Level	Security Classification	Date Issued
SES1	Baseline/ Protected	28 Jan 2009
EL2	Baseline/ Protected	24 March 2010
EL2	Baseline/ Protected	10 September 2013
EL1	Baseline/ Protected	14 April 2008
EL1	Baseline/ Protected	30 June 2012
EL1	Baseline/ Protected	23 April 2012
APS6	Baseline/ Protected	24 October 2008
APS4	Baseline/ Protected	01 April 2014

9. The formal name of the unit/taskforce/team/workgroup within the department is the Deregulation Unit.