

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: All
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Red tape reduction

Senator: Ludwig
Question reference number: F66
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Wednesday, 31 December 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?
 - 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:

Department/ Agency	Response
Finance	<p>1. Responsibility for Finance's Deregulation Unit has been absorbed within the Procurement Policy Branch. The Branch provides a coordination role for a range of initiatives underway in the Finance portfolio that will contribute towards reducing red tape for business and the not-for-profit sector, predominantly through changes to the overarching whole-of-government procurement, grants and cost recovery frameworks.</p> <p>The Deregulation Unit uses existing resources and also has access to resources from across the Department as required to pursue the deregulation agenda.</p> <p>a) The Deregulation Unit has identified \$72.3 Million in red tape reduction,</p>

Department/ Agency	Response
	<p>which comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$69.19 million in savings from grant and procurement administration reform; and • \$3.11 million in savings from exempting Defence Housing Australia from provisions under the <i>Public Works Committee Act 1969</i>. <p>2. – 6. Refer to answer 1.</p> <p>7. Yes, where required.</p> <p>8. The specific resources, including staffing levels, and security clearances will vary from time to time depending on the volume and nature of the material the unit is required to action.</p> <p>9. Deregulation Unit, Procurement Policy Branch, Business, Procurement and Asset Management.</p>
Australian Electoral Commission	<p>1. - 6. The AEC has nominated one person at the EL2 classification within each of the four functional areas identified as potentially having savings generated through the reduction of regulation. The red tape reduction work conducted by the EL2s is overseen by an SES officer. All officers undertake red tape reduction activities as part of his or her usual duties. Officers have finalised the data entry in the Department of Finance's Regulatory Stocktake Tool.</p> <p>7. - 8. Only Cabinet documents that relate to the functions of the AEC. Two EL2s have a Baseline Vetting classification and the SES officer is cleared to Negative Vetting Level 1.</p> <p>9. There is no formal name.</p>
ComSuper	1. – 9. N/A.
Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation	1. – 9. N/A
Future Fund Management Agency	1. – 9. N/A