

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/436) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

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
- b. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
- c. How have they been recruited?
- d. What process was used for their appointment?
- e. What is the total cost of this unit?
- f. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?

Answer:

The Department has established a portfolio deregulation unit led by a Senior Executive Service Band 1 officer and managed by an Executive Level 2 officer. The Department has also established a deregulation working group to share information and discuss opportunities for red tape reduction.

- a. As shown on the government's cutting red tape website, the value of announced red tape reduction since September 2013 is \$700 million. The department's contribution to this reduction includes:
 - making changes to improve access to the APEC Business Travel Card
 - introducing a three year multiple entry visa for Chinese business visitors
 - removing the English language proficiency requirement for re-registering migration agents
 - no longer automatically precluding student visa holders who have unintentionally breached a condition of their Student visa from obtaining a subsequent Student visa onshore
 - extending streamlined student visa processing to a number of low risk non-university higher education providers
 - adjusting and streamlining the labour market testing requirements in the 457 programme to reduce costs and delays to business.

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) Deregulation Unit coordinates deregulation activity within the Service and contributes to portfolio efforts through the DIBP Deregulation Section.

- b. The DIBP Deregulation Section is staffed by a Senior Executive Service Band 1 officer, an Executive Level 2 officer, three Executive Level 1 officers, and a graduate (APS4) officer on first rotation (i.e. on a temporary basis). Two more officers will be added.

The ACBPS Deregulation Unit is staffed by an Executive Level 2 officer and one Executive Level 1 officer.

- c. Staff were recruited internally.
The ACBPS deregulation unit staff were recruited internally.
- d. Initial staff allocations to the portfolio deregulation unit were made from existing resources in the designated work area. Additional staff were recruited through an internal Expression of Interest process.

The ACBPS deregulation unit staff were appointed by internal reassignment of existing resources in the Service.

- e. The anticipated cost of the DIBP Deregulation Section for the six months to July 2014 will be around \$320 000.

The anticipated cost of the ACBPS Deregulation Unit for the six months to July 2014 is approximately \$172 000.

These costs will be absorbed.

- f. Yes.