

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014**

**Ref No: SQ14-000036**

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Red Tape Reduction

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Ludwig Joe

**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) Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
- 7) 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.
- 8) What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

**Answer:**

- 1) As required, a Deregulation Unit has been established within the Department of Health. A Ministerial Advisory Council for deregulation and related policy matters is also being established.
  - a. Deregulation opportunities are being provided for consideration by the Government.
- 2) The number of officers placed in the Deregulation Unit to date are:

<b>Australian Public Service (APS) Classification</b>	<b>Average Staffing Level (ASL)</b>
Senior Executive Service (SES) Band 1	1.0
Executive Level (EL) 2	3.0
Executive Level (EL) 1	4.6
APS 6	2.6
APS 4	1.0
Graduate	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.2</b>

- 3) Officers were recruited by internal departmental transfer.

- 4) A merit based expression of interest process was used for most appointments. A small number were directly transferred.
- 5) The unit is being funded within existing resources.
- 6) Deregulation Unit officers with the required security classification may have access to Cabinet documents as required.
- 7) All current officers of the Deregulation Unit hold a security classification, or have applied and are awaiting clearance. Clearances were granted over a period of years from 2006-2013 according to the work requirements of the officers at the time. Classifications range from Baseline to Negative Vetting (NV) 1, with the average level being NV 1.
- 8) Health's Deregulation Unit is formally known as the Deregulation Branch.