

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000329

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Freedom of Information

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig Joe

Question:

How many officers are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the department?

a) How does this differ to the number of officers designated as at 6 September 2013?

Answer:

At 28 February 2014 there were 663 officers authorised to make decisions under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) within the Department of Health. The FOI Act provides for different types of decisions that can be made by Departments and Agencies. Not all of the Department's decision makers are authorised to make all types of decision.

a) The Department does not have a record of the number of authorised decision makers as at 6 September 2013. At 30 November 2013 there were 710 authorised decision makers. The reduction in the figures by 28 February 2014 is largely as a result of the machinery of government changes.