

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 8

**Question No:** 528

**Topic:** Pricing Assessor Manual

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Polley** asked:

Please provide the instruments/tools used to measure red tape reduction when developing the Pricing Assessor Manual, provider forms and requirements.

**Answer:**

The Assessor Manual is for internal use only but is published to enhance understanding of the approach taken by assessors. While all effort has been made to provide a clear process for assessors, there are no red tape implications for providers.

In respect of the Application Form for applying for prices above the maximum amount determined by the Minister, the principle used in the development of the form was to reduce the burden on providers of prescriptive requirements and was developed to allow providers in most instances to produce a range of information and narrative to support their proposed price. This is within the context of a price being supported as “to a reasonable degree reflective of cost”. A public consultation was conducted with providers and other stakeholders on a draft Application Form to seek comment on these requirements.