

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 11 FEBRUARY 2016 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Red tape reductions

**Question reference number:** HS 64

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 4 April 2016

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

- a) Please detail changes to structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
  - 1) 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) What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.
- g) Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
- h) 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.
- i) What is the formal name given to this unit / taskforce / team / workgroup or agency within the department?

#### **Answer:**

- a) There has been no change.
  - 1) The department's deregulation measures are included in the *Annual Red Tape Reduction Report 2015* on the [cuttingredtape.gov.au](http://cuttingredtape.gov.au) website.
- b) The branch is headed by an SES officer, supported by six staff members (as at 31 January 2016): one at Executive Level 2; three at Executive Level 1; one at APS 5 level; and one at graduate level.

Resourcing for the branch, including staffing levels and classifications, will vary from time to time.
- c) Not applicable.
- d) Not applicable.

- e) The current total cost for the Deregulation Unit from 1 September 2015 to 31 January 2016 is estimated at \$290,812.
- f) The total salary cost for the six staff in the Deregulation Unit from 1 September 2015 to 31 January 2016 is estimated at \$290,512 (including superannuation and long service leave on-costs).
- g) Access to Cabinet documents is consistent with the Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Cabinet Handbook.
- h) Access to classified material is consistent with departmental guidelines and the Australian Government's Protective Security Policy Framework.
- i) Deregulation and Portfolio Advice Branch.