

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 883

Topic: Red tape reduction

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
2. How have they been recruited?
3. What process was used for their appointment?
4. What is the total cost of this unit?
5. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the 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 at 31 May, the Department of Social Services (DSS) Deregulation Unit is led by an SES Band 1 who is supported by 5.5 FTE – a part-time SES Band 1, an EL2, three EL1s and one APS6 staff.
- 2) Existing DSS officers with suitable skills who expressed interest in joining the unit were transferred to the unit.
- 3) The officers are existing staff transferred to the unit in accordance with departmental internal practices.
- 4) As at 31 May, the expenditure for the Deregulation Unit was \$706,302. This excludes some Supplier costs, which are aggregated at the Branch level (totalling \$41,241). It would not be an efficient use of resources to dis-aggregate these Branch-level Supplier costs.
Note that this figure (\$706,302) includes the full salary and leave costs of the Branch Manager and Executive Assistant, who work across the whole Project and Deregulation Office.
- 5) As at 31 May, the total Employee cost of officers assigned to the unit was \$616,830. This is comprised of Salary costs (approx. \$539,800) and Leave costs (approx. \$77,000). As above, these figures include the full salary and leave costs of the Branch Manager and Executive Assistant who work across the whole Project and Deregulation Office.
- 6) Members of the unit have access to Cabinet documents that are relevant to their responsibilities.

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- 7) The security classifications of staff in the unit are as follows:

	Security classification	Date classification issued
SES officer	Baseline	8 January 2009
SES officer	Negative Vetting Level 1	29 June 2007
EL2 officer	Baseline	18 December 2008
EL officer	Negative Vetting Level 1	21 June 2012
EL officer	Baseline	26 June 2007
EL officer	Baseline	19 April 2011
APS officer	Baseline	10 July 2012

- 8) The formal name given to this team is the Project and Deregulation Office.