

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

**Outcome Number:** Cross Outcome - Across Programs

**Question No:** 194

**Topic:** Red tape reduction

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Ludwig** asked:

- a) How many officers have been placed in a unit or taskforce dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets, and at what level?
- b) How have they been recruited?
- c) What process was used for their appointment?
- d) What is the total cost of this unit?
- e) Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
- f) 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.

**Answer:**

- a) As at 11 December 2013, the Department of Social Services (DSS) Deregulation Unit is led by an SES Band 1 who is supported by 3.5 FTE – a part-time SES Band 1, an EL1 and two APS6 staff.
- b) DSS officers with suitable skills who expressed interest in joining the unit were transferred to the unit.
- c) The officers were transferred to the unit in accordance with section 25 of the Public Service Act 1999.
- d) The total cost of the unit is yet to be defined as the Government is still considering its requirements for implementation of the deregulation agenda.
- e) Members of the unit have access to Cabinet documents that are relevant to their responsibilities.
- f) The security classifications of staff in the unit are as follows:

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|             | <b>Security classification</b> | <b>Date classification issued</b> |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| SES officer | Baseline                       | 8 January 2009                    |
| SES officer | Negative Vetting Level 1       | 29 June 2007                      |
| EL officer  | Baseline                       | 18 December 2008                  |
| APS officer | Baseline                       | 6 April 2009                      |
| APS officer | Baseline                       | 10 July 2012                      |