

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-082

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Red Tape Reduction

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

- a) Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
- b) What is the progress of that red tape reduction target?
- c) How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
- d) How have they been recruited?
- e) What process was used for their appointment?
- f) What is the total cost of this 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.

Answer:

- a) As required, a Deregulation Unit has been established within the Department of Health. A Ministerial Advisory Council for deregulation and related policy matters is also being established.
- b) Deregulation opportunities are being provided for consideration by the Government.
- c) The number of officers placed in the Deregulation Unit to date are:

Australian Public Service (APS) Classification	Average Service Level (ASL)
Senior Executive Service (SES) Band 1	1.0
Executive Level (EL) 2	3.0
Executive Level (EL) 1	1.8
APS 6	1.8
APS 4	1.0
TOTAL	8.6

- d) Officers were recruited by internal departmental transfer.
- e) A merit based expression of interest process was used for appointment.
- f) The unit is being funded within existing resources.
- g) Deregulation Unit officers with the appropriate security clearance may have access to Cabinet documents.
- h) All current officers of the Deregulation Unit hold a security clearance, these were granted over a period of years from 2006-2013 according to the work requirements of the officers at the time. Clearances range from Baseline to Negative Vetting (NV) 1, with the average level being NV 1.