

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-001433

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Freedom of Information Requests

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Ludwig, Joe

**Question:**

1. Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014 how many requests for documents under the FOI Act have been received?
  - a) Of these, how many documents have been determined to be deliberative documents?
  - b) Of those assessed as deliberative documents:
    - i. For how many has access to the document been refused on the basis that it would be contrary to the public interest?
    - ii. For how many has a redacted document been provided?

**Answer:**

1. The Department of Health received 77 requests for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* during the period 1 July 2014 to 30 September 2014.
  - a) The Department does not maintain statistical records about the number of documents determined to be deliberative documents. Our records show however that six of these 77 requests involved refusal of access in whole or in part on the basis these were deliberative documents.
  - b)
    - i. All deliberative documents to which access was refused were refused on the basis that disclosure would be contrary to the public interest.
    - ii. The Department does not have a record of the number of redacted documents that have been provided.