

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: ABS

Question: AET 991-999

Topic: Red tape reduction

Reference: written - 19 February 2016

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

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

991. 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?

a) What is the progress of that red tape reduction target

992. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?

993. How have they been recruited?

994. What process was used for their appointment?

995. What is the total cost of this unit?

996. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.

997. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?

998. 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.

999. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer:

[insert response, referencing relevant question numbers above]

991. The ABS continues to have an SES officer coordinating red tape reduction efforts and another officer who directly assists in this role. However, while these two officers have direct responsibilities with respect to red tape reduction, the ABS expects all those staff involved in the collection of data (i.e. the imposition of burden or red tape) to minimise the red tape imposed in fulfilling the ABS roles and functions.

992. The two officers with direct responsibilities are at the SES/B1 and APS6 levels.

993. Recruited internally - identified as having the appropriate expertise and positions to fulfil the role and influence effective red tape reduction.
994. Consideration by senior ABS management.
995. As the red tape reduction in the ABS is a shared responsibility across a large number of staff, it would be inappropriate to estimate the total cost (or investment) the ABS makes to this effort. But it would certainly be at least many FTE staff.
996. See response to 995.
997. No.
998. SES/B1 –the minimum SES security clearance
APS6 – no security clearance.
999. No formal name, but part of the Statistical Standards and Infrastructure Section.