

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: ACNC

Question: SBT4106-4115

Topic: Red tape reduction

Reference: Written - 30 October 2014

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

4106. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
4107. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target
4108. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
4109. How have they been recruited?
4110. What process was used for their appointment?
4111. What is the total cost of this unit?
4112. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.
4113. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
4114. 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.
4115. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer:

4106. The ACNC has a Policy, Education and Red Tape Reduction (PERR) Directorate.

This is consistent with the ACNC's statutory object to promote the reduction of unnecessary regulatory obligations on the Australian not-for-profit sector (s 15-5(1)(c) *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*). The ACNC reduces red tape on the not-for-profit sector in its operation as a one-stop shop and through implementation of specific red tape reduction initiatives.

The ACNC is a one-stop shop for charities to register for and access Commonwealth tax concessions (and has the potential to be a one-stop shop for incorporated associations and fundraising legislation across the country). ACNC directorates contribute to red tape reduction by: designing appropriate tiered reporting requirements that provide benefit for the sector and the Australian public; efficiently making determinations of charitable status and speedily processing registrations; publishing guidance to explain and simplify obligations; directly supporting charities by explaining processes in clear and simple terms; and providing streamlined IT reporting and data-sharing systems.

The primary red tape reduction initiative is the Charity Passport, a dataset of charity information that is shared with other Australian government agencies to prevent charities from having to provide the same core information multiple times to different agencies. Other red tape reduction initiatives include the acceptance of financial information lodged with state/territory governments. In February 2014 the ACNC Commissioner wrote to state and territory government Ministers to advise that as a transitional measure for the

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2014 reporting period, the ACNC will accept financial reports lodged with state/territory governments under incorporated associations, cooperatives and fundraising legislation wherever possible.

The ACNC has also signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) or Exchange of Letters designed to remove duplication with ASIC, ORIC, TEQSA (Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency), and the Department of Education regarding large long day care centres.

4107. The ACNC contributed \$6 million in deregulation against a target of \$3 million set by Treasury for the ACNC for 2014.

4108. The PERR directorate consists of 7 officers (6.7 FTE), 2 (2 FTE) of whom work on policy and red tape reduction, and 4 (3.8 FTE) of whom work on guidance and education, with the Director (0.9 FTE) working across both areas. The Officers working on red tape reduction include:

- EL2.1 Director
- EL1 Manager
- APS6 Officer

4109. The ACNC already had staff contributing to red tape reduction prior to the current Government taking office and setting the red tape reduction target. No further staff have been recruited for this purpose.

4110. N/A

4111. As per question 6 below.

4112. The amount of time spent on red tape reduction work has varied over time. The ACNC estimates the following allotment of staff resourcing is dedicated to red tape reduction:

- EL2.1 – Director – 30%
- EL1 – Manager – 50%
- APS6 – Policy and Research Officer – 15%

Based on the above allocation, the ACNC estimates that the annual salary costs and on-costs are approximately \$129,161.

As outlined, staff in other directorates also make a contribution to red tape reduction through their work, but are not explicitly dedicated to red tape reduction.

4113. No.

4114. Classifications issued prior to change of Government.

EL2.1 – Baseline Vetting

EL1 – Baseline Vetting

APS6 – ATO pre-engagement check (no Australian Government Security Vetting Agency security clearance).

4115. Policy, Education and Red Tape Reduction Directorate.