

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

**Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0477\_15**

**Senator Ludwig provided in writing.**

**Question**

***Dept & All Agencies: Red tape reduction***

1. Please detail what 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
2. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
3. How have they been recruited?
4. What process was used for their appointment?
5. What is the total cost of this unit?
6. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.
7. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
8. 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.
9. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

**Answer**

- 1. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?**

The Department has established a Deregulation Unit reporting to an SES Officer. A Deregulation Committee, a sub-committee of the department's Executive Board has also been set up to support the agenda within the department.

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

As part of the Government's deregulation agenda, the Department of Education has contributed towards the total net deregulatory savings to date of over \$2.1 billion announced by the Government on Spring Repeal Day. The Department of Education will, along with other portfolios, provide an annual report on deregulation early in 2015.

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

As at November 2014, there are 7.4 officers in the Deregulation Unit. The levels of staff within the Unit range from Australian Public Service (APS) level 5 to Executive Level (EL) 2.

**3. How have they been recruited?**

Existing staff were used to form the Deregulation Unit.

**4. What process was used for their appointment?**

Staff were assigned to the Unit from both corporate and line areas.

**5. What is the total cost of this unit?**

The estimated annual salary cost of the Unit is \$780,000. This cost has been absorbed within the Department of Education's existing resources.

**6. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit?**

As per answer 5.

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

Yes, on a need to know basis.

**8. 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.**

All Unit staff have current security clearances ranging from baseline to negative vetting level 1.

<b>Level</b>	<b>Security Classification level</b>	<b>Date issued</b>
EL 2	Baseline	16/02/2003
EL 2	Baseline	5/10/2005
EL 1	Negative Vetting Level 1	30/10/2014
EL 1	Baseline	2/04/2008
EL 1	Baseline	27/09/2011
EL 1	Baseline	13/10/2006
APS 6	Baseline	16/10/2009
APS 5	Negative Vetting Level 1	16/12/2011

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

The Deregulation Unit.