

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0599_15

Senator O'Neill asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 12

Question

Deregulation unit

Senator O'NEILL: So all of this moving back and forth costs some money. What is the total cost of running the unit?

Ms Paul: We spelt that out both in the QON and here. It is just the cost of the people. But we have absorbed it. It is just the cost of the existing staff. It is the seven people.

Senator O'NEILL: And what is that?

Ms Paul: I'd have to add at what levels they are. I am happy to take that on notice. It is a small unit. It is part of a section.

Senator KIM CARR: It is the seven salaries.

Senator O'NEILL: On average, what are the salaries?

Ms Paul: I don't know. But as I say, we have absorbed it within our existing resources at any rate.

Senator O'NEILL: The department of social security has a unit.

Ms Paul: Sure, they would.

Senator O'NEILL: They are spending about \$700,000 to \$1 million on this unit.

Ms Paul: We will be getting a lot more than that back. That is a bigger department than ours. We simply have the cost of the seven people, but we have absorbed it anyway so it is really no cost overall.

Senator O'NEILL: If you could provide us with the cost of this unit.

Ms Paul: Sure. But the point is that we have absorbed it. There is no new costs.

Answer

The estimated annual cost of the Deregulation Unit is \$780,000. This is the salary of 7.4 officers assigned to the unit. This cost has been absorbed within the Department of Education's existing resources.