

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2013-2014

#### Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM0339\_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

#### Question

##### Freedom of Information - Designated decision makers

1) How many officers are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the department? a. How does this differ to the number of officers designated as at 6 September 2013? 2) How many officers are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Minister's office? a. How does this differ to the number of officers designated as at 6 September 2013? 3) Of the officers that are designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Ministers office, how many are seconded officers from the department? 4) What training does the department provide to designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act who work within the department? a. Of the officers designated as decision makers within the department, how many have received formal training? b. Of the officers designated as decision makers within the department, how many have received informal training? c. How long after each officers appointment as a designated decision maker did they receive formal training? d. What did the training involve? e. How long was the training? f. By whom was the training conducted? 5) What training does the department provide to designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act who work within the Minister's office, excluding those officers on secondment from the department? a. Of the officers designated as decision makers, how many have received formal training? b. Of the officers designated as decision makers, how many have received informal training? c. How long after each officers appointment as a designated decision maker did they receive formal training? d. What did the training involve? e. How long was the training? f. By whom was the training conducted?

#### Answer

Officers at all levels from Graduate Lawyer to EL2 (Principal Government Lawyer) within the Corporate Legal area of the Department of Employment, and all SES officers in the department, are currently authorised to make decisions under the FOI Act.

The relevant officers have received appropriate formal and informal FOI training. This training varies in length and content and is provided to officers on an as needs basis.

The Chief of Staff, Senior Advisers and Advisers in the portfolio Minister's office are also currently authorised to make decisions under the FOI Act as the Minister's delegate, where necessary. None of these officers are on secondment from the Department of Employment.

Senior staff in the Information Law Team provide FOI training and assistance to relevant staff in the Minister's office, if required and as appropriate.