

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE SOCIAL SERVICES – 2023-24 BUDGET ESTIMATES - INDEX OF QUESTIONS ON
NOTICE – 30 and 31 MAY 2023**

QoN No.	Department/Agency	Senator	Subject	Question	Hansard page/Written	Hearing date/Date received
AIFS SQ23-000293	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Larissa Waters	Reproductive Coercion: Practice Guide	<p>SENATOR WATERS...Thank you. Yes, and I hope it will prove useful. I'm sure it will. Is there any interaction between the practice guide and the PHNs, the primary healthcare networks? Is there any intention to supply them to those? Or will those PHNs just find them and possibly use them?</p> <p>DR KASPIEW...There was expert input into that resource. I would anticipate that they would be connected with primary health networks. However, I can take that question on notice and provide further detail if required.</p> <p>SENATOR WATERS...Thank you. That would be great.</p>	Page 35	30-May-23
AIFS SQ23-000294	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Lidia Thorpe	Categories of Abuse	The Australian Child Maltreatment study clearly reflects that Family Domestic Violence is hugely prevalent in society and requires a separate consideration. How many states/territories specifically identify family domestic violence as an abuse category?	Written	5-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000295	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Lidia Thorpe	Child Maltreatment - Online Resources	One of the main categories of the AIFS' work is child abuse and neglect, yet the resources on your website are quite dated. What work are you currently doing on child maltreatment?	Written	5-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000344	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Lidia Thorpe	Family and Domestic Violence - Abuse Categories	What would be the implications for policy development and implementation of recognising FDV as a separate category?	Written	5-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000345	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Lidia Thorpe	Family and Domestic Violence - State and Territory Recognition Abuse Categories	Is the Department aware of any explanations that have been provided by states and territories as to why they have not recognised FDV as a separate category, whether in public statements, in correspondence	Written	5-Jun-23

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				with the Department, or otherwise? Please provide any supporting documentation available.		
AIFS SQ23-000422	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Slade Brockman	Gambling Harm	Has the AIFS had any interaction with Government regarding the impacts of gambling in indigenous communities following the abolition of the CDC? If not, why not?	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000525	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Ministers Offices Briefs turnaround timeframes	1. Since 1 July 2022, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister? If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide: a) the previous turnaround requirement; and b) the date the change was requested.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000526	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Ministers Offices - Hospitality policy	2. Since 1 July, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality. Since 1 July 2022, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000527	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Department Liaison Officers	3. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio? Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.	Written	19-Jun-23

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				Please denote any change in this allocation since February 2023		
AIFS SQ23-000528	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Departmental staff in Ministers offices	4. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer? Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister. Please denote any change in this allocation since February 2023.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000529	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Portfolio Minister meetings with Secretary	5. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000530	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Non-Portfolio Minister meetings with Secretary	6. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000531	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Department Briefs provided to Ministers Office	7. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs by Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000532	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals to Ministers Office	8. How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	19-Jun-23

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				Please denote where these New Policy Proposals have been provided since February 2023.		
AIFS SQ23-000533	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Paper Usage	9. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000534	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Committees and Taskforces	10. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2023. 11. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2023.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000535	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Budget Savings	12. In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses. a. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? b. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: i. External labour hire ii. Consultancy iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses c. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to?</p> <p>d. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates?</p> <p>e. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas:</p> <p>i. External labour hire</p> <p>ii. Consultancy</p> <p>iii. Advertising campaigns</p> <p>iv. Travel</p> <p>v. Legal expenses</p> <p>f. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>g. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>h. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>i. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
AIFS SQ23-000536	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Functions hosted by the Department	<p>13. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, please provide the following:</p> <p>a. List of functions;</p> <p>b. List of attendees;</p> <p>c. Function venue;</p> <p>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.		
AIFS SQ23-000537	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Functions hosted by the Ministers	14. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, please provide the following: a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000538	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Executive Staff office refurbishment	15. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000539	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Travel Costs	16. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation. 17. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation. 19. What was the total cost of staff travel for	Written	19-Jun-23

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				departmental/agency employees in financial year 2022/23 to date?		
AIFS SQ23-000540	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Department premises upgrades	18. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide any photographs of the upgraded facilities.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000541	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Media Monitoring and Advertising campaign costs	20. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2022/23 to date? 21. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000542	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Promotional merchandise costs	22. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs. Please provide examples of the merchandise purchased.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000543	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Credit Cards	23. In relation to departmental use of credit cards: a. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? b. What was the value of the largest reported	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>purchase on a credit card in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was it for?</p> <p>c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>e. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</p> <p>g. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2022/23 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</p> <p>h. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2022/23 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>i. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>j. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p>		
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				k. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023		
AIFS SQ23-000544	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Comcare Referrals	24. In relation to department/agency: a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? b. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. c. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? d. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000545	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Fair Work Commission referrals	25. In relation to the department/agency: a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? b. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000546	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Departmental Reviews	26. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide: a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review;	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed.</p> <p>27. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide: a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office.</p>		
AIFS SQ23-000547	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Interdepartmental Committee Representation	<p>28. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide: a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000548	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	New Entities within portfolio	<p>29. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>created.</p> <p>30. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased or disbanded since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>		
AIFS SQ23-000549	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Electorate brief request	<p>31. Since 1 July 2022, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate? a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided. b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000550	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Staffing	<p>32. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 May 2023. Please provide: a. a breakdown of this ASL by APS classification; b. the number of ASL, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and c. the number of ASL, by classification, that are currently not filled.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000551	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Market Research	<p>33. Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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AIFS SQ23-000552	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications	<p>34. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown of the number including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications withdrawn;</p> <p>b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</p> <p>c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</p> <p>d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</p> <p>e. the number of applications subject to internal review;</p> <p>f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC;</p> <p>g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT;</p> <p>h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and</p> <p>i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000553	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications	<p>35. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications by Minister,</p> <p>b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided;</p> <p>c. the number of applications refused; and</p> <p>d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000675	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Kerrynne Liddle	Family and Domestic Violence	What quantum of funding is allocated to research on family and domestic violence?	Written	16-Jun-23

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AIFS SQ23-000676	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Kerrynne Liddle	Impact of fathers on the development of children	What research has been undertaken on the role and impact of fathers on the development of children and in particular boys in Australia?	Written	16-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000677	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Kerrynne Liddle	Prevention/Intervention programs that targets boys and men	Similar to the recent research published by the Institute of Family studies (USA) titled "Life Without Father': Less College, Less Work, and More Prison for Young Men Growing Up Without Their Biological Father" Has data been gathered from prevention/intervention programs that targets boys and men that provides evidence of success in preventing violent behaviours?	Written	16-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000678	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Kerrynne Liddle	Assist children to recovery from a violent family	Current research into how best to assist children to recovery from a violent family.	Written	16-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000679	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Kerrynne Liddle	Changing dynamics of Australian families	Have there been any recent studies that relate to the changing dynamics of Australian families, relating to the past few years or decade?	Written	16-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000680	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Slade Brockman	Budget Process - Responsibility	1. Can you provide a list of responsibilities which the Department/Agency had on 1 July 2021 which are no longer an area of responsibility for the Department/Agency? 2. Can you provide an updated list of responsibilities which the Department/Agency has acquired since July 2022?	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000681	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Fraud	1. Has there been any incident of fraud or the misuse of public funds since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a list outlining: a) The number of incidents per portfolio agency b) A description of each incident, including the amount of money involved c) The steps were taken to address the matter d) Whether the person involved is still employed by the agency	Written	19-Jun-23

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AIFS SQ23-000682	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Mismanagement	2. Has any APS employee, staff member, or contractor been fired or had their contract terminated since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a) The name of the portfolio agency b) The reason their employment/contract was terminated	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000683	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Bullying and Harassment	3. Have there been any reports, formal or otherwise, of bullying or harassment of staff in portfolio agencies since the election? If so, please provide a list outlining: a) The number of incidents per agency b) A description of the incident c) The steps taken to address the matter	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000684	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Security Incidents	5. Have any security incidents been reported 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a list outlining: a) The number of incidents per agency b) A description of the incident c) Whether the incident involved classified material (and if so, the security classification of the documents) d) The steps actively taken to address the matter.	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000685	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Employment	1. Has the Minister or the minister's office requested information, verbally or in writing, regarding terminating or amending the employment contract of any employee within a portfolio agency? 2. If so: a) When was the information requested? b) How was the request made (email, phone call, WhatsApp messaging etc)? c) When was the information provided? d) What level (e.g. SES band 1) was the individual in question employed at? e) Is the individual still employed by the Department?	Written	19-Jun-23
AIFS SQ23-000686	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance (Energy)	1. What is the carbon footprint of each portfolio agency?	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>2. What percentage of the portfolio agency's electricity usage is from renewables?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of each agency's plan outlining how they will reduce their emissions to net-zero by 2030.</p>		
DFSVC SQ23-000343	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Larissa Waters	Advisory council	<p>Senator WATERS: Who was involved in that consultation? What was the outcome, and have you developed a work plan for engaging with victims-survivors, with services and with the community more broadly?</p> <p>Ms Cronin: We went through a procurement process to engage an organisation to conduct some developmental research for us, and one of the questions that we asked them to give us some recommendations and advice about was victim-survivor advisory processes and mechanisms. It was the research group who conducted those workshops on our behalf, not the commission directly. They have just recently given us their final report on the basis of that. Yes, workshops were held. I can't tell you exactly who was in those workshops. I can take that on notice.</p>	Pages 72-73	30-May-23
DFSVC SQ23-000387	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Kerryne Liddle	National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	<p>1. What is the year-by-year breakdown of funding?</p> <p>2. What work has been undertaken by the Commission from July to date?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23-000388	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Kerryne Liddle	National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission - Ministerial Meetings	<p>1. How many times has the new Commissioner met face to face with the Minister?</p> <p>2. How many and or how often are written briefings provided by the Commissioner to the Minister?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23

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DFSVC SQ23- 000389	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Kerryne Liddle	National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission - Action Plans	<p>1. What engagement has the office of the Commission and the Commissioner had in the development of the 5-year Action Plans – the first one was due for release early 2023? (The National Plan outlines that 2 x 5-year Actions Plans will detail the steps the Government will take to reduce violence).</p> <p>a. What about the other Action plans?</p> <p>b. How much has been spent on the administration of Commission to date?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000390	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Kerryne Liddle	Domestic Violence Commissioner Report to Parliament	<p>The Department's portfolio budget statement page 117 of PBS states that the domestic violence commissioner will provide a report to Parliament regarding the implementation of the National Plan.</p> <p>1. When will the first report be made?</p> <p>2. What will be in the first report?</p> <p>3. How often will this report to parliament be made, annually?</p> <p>4. What will the content and scope of the report be, considering that there is currently no Action Plan in place yet?</p> <p>5. Will the report cover the progress made in other areas of Government, beyond DSS, related to ending violence against women and children like measures being led by AGD of NIAA?</p> <p>6. Will the report cover off on progress towards eliminating domestic violence, within a generation or 20 years?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23

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				<p>7. Will the Minister or her office be provided with an advance copy of the report?</p> <p>8. Will the Commissioner be required to have her report to Parliament approved by the Minister before it is tabled?</p>		
DFSVC SQ23- 000496	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Ministers Offices Briefs turnaround timeframes	<p>1. Since 1 July 2022, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>If so, when was this advice provided to the Department?</p> <p>Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide: a) the previous turnaround requirement; and b) the date the change was requested.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000497	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Ministers Offices - Hospitality policy	<p>2. Since 1 July, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices?</p> <p>Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>Since 1 July 2022, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices?</p> <p>If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000498	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Department Liaison Officers	<p>3. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p> <p>Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				Please denote any change in this allocation since February 2023		
DFSVC SQ23- 000499	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Departmental staff in Ministers offices	4. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer? Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister. Please denote any change in this allocation since February 2023.	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000500	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Portfolio Minister meetings with Secretary	5. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000501	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Non-Portfolio Minister meetings with Secretary	6. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000502	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Department Briefs provided to Ministers Office	7. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs by Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000503	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals to Ministers Office	8. How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	19-Jun-23

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				Please denote where these New Policy Proposals have been provided since February 2023.		
DFSVC SQ23- 000504	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Paper Usage	9. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000505	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Committees and Taskforces	10. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2023. 11. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2023.	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000506	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Budget Savings	12. In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses. a. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? b. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: i. External labour hire ii. Consultancy iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses c. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to?</p> <p>d. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates?</p> <p>e. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas:</p> <p>i. External labour hire</p> <p>ii. Consultancy</p> <p>iii. Advertising campaigns</p> <p>iv. Travel</p> <p>v. Legal expenses</p> <p>f. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>g. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>h. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>i. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
DFSVC SQ23- 000507	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Functions hosted by the Department	<p>13. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, please provide the following:</p> <p>a. List of functions;</p> <p>b. List of attendees;</p> <p>c. Function venue;</p> <p>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.		
DFSVC SQ23- 000508	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Functions hosted by the Ministers	14. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, please provide the following: a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000509	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Executive Staff office refurbishment	15. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000510	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Travel Costs	16. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation. 17. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation. 19. What was the total cost of staff travel for	Written	19-Jun-23

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				departmental/agency employees in financial year 2022/23 to date?		
DFSVC SQ23- 000511	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Department premises upgrades	18. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide any photographs of the upgraded facilities.	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000512	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Media Monitoring and Advertising campaign costs	20. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2022/23 to date? 21. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000513	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Promotional merchandise costs	22. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs. Please provide examples of the merchandise purchased.	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000514	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Credit Cards	23. In relation to departmental use of credit cards: a. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? b. What was the value of the largest reported	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>purchase on a credit card in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was it for?</p> <p>c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>e. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</p> <p>g. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2022/23 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</p> <p>h. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2022/23 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>i. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>j. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p>		
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				k. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023		
DFSVC SQ23- 000515	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Comcare Referrals	24. In relation to department/agency: a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? b. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. c. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? d. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000516	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Fair Work Commission referrals	25. In relation to the department/agency: a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? b. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator.	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000517	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Departmental Reviews	26. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide: a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review;	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed.</p> <p>27. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide: a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office.</p>		
DFSVC SQ23- 000518	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Interdepartmental Committee Representation	<p>28. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide: a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000519	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	New Entities within portfolio	<p>29. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>created.</p> <p>30. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased or disbanded since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>		
DFSVC SQ23- 000520	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Electorate brief request	<p>31. Since 1 July 2022, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate? a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided. b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000521	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Staffing	<p>32. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 May 2023. Please provide: a. a breakdown of this ASL by APS classification; b. the number of ASL, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and c. the number of ASL, by classification, that are currently not filled.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000522	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Market Research	<p>33. Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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DFSVC SQ23- 000523	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications	<p>34. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown of the number including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned. 	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000524	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications	<p>35. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue. 	Written	19-Jun-23

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DFSVC SQ23- 000694	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Slade Brockman	Budget Process - Responsibility	1. Can you provide a list of responsibilities which the Department/Agency had on 1 July 2021 which are no longer an area of responsibility for the Department/Agency? 2. Can you provide an updated list of responsibilities which the Department/Agency has acquired since July 2022?	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000695	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Fraud	1. Has there been any incident of fraud or the misuse of public funds since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a list outlining: a. The number of incidents per portfolio agency b. A description of each incident, including the amount of money involved c. The steps were taken to address the matter d. Whether the person involved is still employed by the agency	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000696	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Mismanagement	2. Has any APS employee, staff member, or contractor been fired or had their contract terminated since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a. The name of the portfolio agency b. The reason their employment/contract was terminated	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000697	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Bullying and Harassment	3. Have there been any reports, formal or otherwise, of bullying or harassment of staff in portfolio agencies since the election? If so, please provide a list outlining: a. The number of incidents per agency b. A description of the incident c. The steps taken to address the matter	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000698	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Security Incidents	5. Have any security incidents been reported 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a list outlining: a. The number of incidents per agency b. A description of the incident c. Whether the incident involved classified material	Written	19-Jun-23

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				(and if so, the security classification of the documents) d. The steps actively taken to address the matter.		
DFSVC SQ23- 000699	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Employment	1. Has the Minister or the minister's office requested information, verbally or in writing, regarding terminating or amending the employment contract of any employee within a portfolio agency? 2. If so: a. When was the information requested? b. How was the request made (email, phone call, WhatsApp messaging etc)? c. When was the information provided? d. What level (e.g. SES band 1) was the individual in question employed at? e. Is the individual still employed by the Department?	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000700	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance (Energy)	1. What is the carbon footprint of each portfolio agency? 2. What percentage of the portfolio agency's electricity usage is from renewables? 3. Please provide a copy of each agency's plan outlining how they will reduce their emissions to net-zero by 2030.	Written	19-Jun-23
DFSVC SQ23- 000719	Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Kerryne Liddle	Budget	Senator LIDDLE: Ms Cronin, I note that you've talked about your corporate plan and that it will be released in July this year, which seems like a lot of work within a very short time frame. There was \$27.4 million allocated for five years for your work. Can you tell me what the breakdown of that funding will be over those five years? Will we see it in the corporate plan? Ms Cronin: Yes, it will be in the corporate plan and what the breakdown of that will be. It's actually \$28.38 million-so including indexation; that might be the difference. The original funding from the 2021-22 budget was \$22.4 million. A further \$5 million was	Page 75	30-Jun-23

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				<p>committed in the 2022-23 budget to ensure that the commission was able to undertake trauma informed accessible engagement with victims-survivors and track the progress of the national plan. The breakdown of that funding over the financial years up to 2025-27 is-do you want me to give you those figures?</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: Yes, just give an indication.</p> <p>Ms Cronin: It's about \$5 million a year. It's a bit under, but then it's increasing. I'm happy to provide you with the detailed numbers.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000199	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee legislation	<p>Senator RICE: Okay. So drafting instructions have been prepared. Are you proposing to have an exposure draft of that legislation, consulting with the sector on what that final committee looks like?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: That's something that I think, in terms of the timing, is really best answered by the minister, so I might take that on notice to consult with her on that.</p> <p>Senator RICE: But at this stage can you go back to this: in terms of that timing, if drafting instructions have been prepared, when do you expect to have a draft of that legislation?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I will take that on notice.</p>	Page 11	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000200	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Minister's Office Drafted Questions on Notice - Minister Rishworth	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Mr Hetherington, do you keep statistics on how many questions the minister takes carriage of?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: I don't have it with me, but we would certainly have a record of the questions that the minister has determined they want to respond to.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Can we have on notice a log of how many questions and which questions, by the QON category, the minister has taken carriage of?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: We can take that on notice.</p>	Page 14	30-May-23

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DSS SQ23-000201	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Responses to Questions on Notice	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Minister Shorten's office provided the answer to the committee several weeks after the due date. Were there any discussions with the minister's office about the fact that that answer had not been provided in a timely fashion?</p> <p>Mr Griggs: I would have to check and take that on notice, but in the 13 years I've been closely associated with this process it's not unusual for responses to be provided late.</p>	Page 14	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000202	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Machinery of Government Change	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: ... Were there any MOG changes that impacted this department in terms of movement of funds?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: No material ones. We set up the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission, so there's a small transfer of about \$3 million to \$4 million across to them per year. That's just an administrative-</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Was that a MOG change?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Movement of funds is different to machinery-of-government changes.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Let's start with machinery of government. Was that was a MOG change?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: That was a MOG change.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: They came over from?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: It's more administrative. They were set up through one of the last two budgets. The appropriation was provided to the Department of Social Services. Once we established the agency, we moved the funding from us to them.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: It began around 1 July last year, Senator-the commission.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Okay. Where would those MOG change movements be reflected in the PBS? I think I know my way around budget papers reasonably well</p>	Pages 19-20	30-May-23

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				<p>and I couldn't locate them.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: I'm trying to remember if that appears anywhere. It's a relatively small amount that we transferred across. It would be disclosed as part of our financial statements process at the end of the year. It will be disclosed in the financial statements.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: So it will be in the financial statements, not in the PBS?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: I don't believe so. I could double-check that.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: When are the financial statements published?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: September/October.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Once that information is available, could we get that to the committee on notice?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: I can provide it on notice now.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: If you can provide it now, that would be great as well.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Sorry, I was just seeing if I could see that machinery-of-government change, but I can't.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000203	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Movement of Funds	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Movements within administered funding.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Are there movements of funds?</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Yes, there are. You can find them in our portfolio budget statement at page 51, where we've disclosed movement of funds in outcome 2.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: So that's all of the funds?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: You'll also see, again-we've got four outcomes. There's some movement of funds on page 51 for outcome 2, there's also movement on page 62 for outcome 3, and-I'm not sure-there might be some</p>	Page 20	30-May-23

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				<p>for outcome 4 as well.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Has there been a change in the practice accounting there? Maybe I'm just misremembering this, because it goes back a few years, but I thought movements of funds used to be reported in a consolidated way.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: It probably just varies from agency to agency. Some agencies might only have a single outcome. Maybe that's why.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Okay. So this is standard practice?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: This is our standard practice, to disclose it this way.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: On notice, could you give us the previous and revised four-year profiles for these changes?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: We've disclosed the movement here, but you'd like to see what the profile was before and after?</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Yes, we can do that.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000204	Department of Social Services	David Pocock	Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee funding	<p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: I'm keen to ask a few questions about the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee, on the back of Senator Rice's questions. I'm just looking at the budget and the \$8.7 million that's been allocated to the department for ongoing support for the committee. How many FTE staff will this funding support in the department to work as the secretariat?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I might get one of my colleagues on that particular one. In terms of the funding, there are two components to it. One is for staff for the department. The other is some funding for the committee itself, to</p>	Page 21	30-May-23

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				<p>commission its own research. So it's not all money for the Department of Social Services. Obviously, it will be appropriated to us because any contracts that the committee wants to undertake-for instance, for research-will need to be taken out by the department.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Can you give me the split between secretariat and research?</p> <p>Mr Griggs: It's \$3.2 million for research and \$5.5 million for the secretariat support, over the forwards.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Thank you.</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'm not sure that I've got the FTE, but I'll just have a look. I'll have to take the FTE on notice.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: It's around five people.</p> <p>Ms Evans: It is, yes.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Can you come back to us with the FTE and the APS level that will be allocated? Has the recruitment of these staff commenced yet?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes, we've advertised internally within the APS.</p> <p>Mr Flavel: Senator Pocock, I understand from discussions with our CFO that it's eight ASL.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000205	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Estimates Variations	<p>Senator ASKEW: Was there increased departmental funding?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: No. Just to be clear, there are always parameter adjustments, like indexation and efficiency dividends, but there were no unique ones that I can think of.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Are you able to provide us with a full list of all estimate variations relating to the department's responsibilities for the budget process above \$20 million?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Will that include previous and revised</p>	Page 23	30-May-23

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				<p>four-year profiles for those funds? Mr Harvey: Yes. Senator ASKEW: Will it include where those movements can be shown in the budget papers? Obviously, we've got some clarity around that, but if you could just provide that on notice, that would be wonderful. Mr Harvey: We can do that. Senator ASKEW: Excellent.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000206	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Consultancies - PwC	<p>Senator RICE: I want to go to consultancies that the department has with PwC. How many contracts does the department currently have with PwC, and what do they cover? Mr Hetherington: At the moment, we have three active contracts with PricewaterhouseCoopers. One of those was with Price Indigenous, which is ending 30 June. One of those is as one of two audit partners and is ending 30 June. We have a small, third contract ending 30 September. Senator RICE: If you could take it on notice to give us the details of those, I'd appreciate that.</p>	Page 23	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000207	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Indexation	<p>Senator RICE: Can I go to the changes that were announced in the federal budget about the change to indexation arrangements for Commonwealth grants where there's a wage component. Budget Paper No. 1 forecasts that the change to the wage cost indices will provide an additional \$4 billion to impacted programs over four years. I want some clarity as to how service providers contracted by the department will directly benefit from the changes. [...] Mr Harvey: For our portfolio, of that \$4 billion number announced, the Department of Social Services has</p>	Page 25	30-May-23

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				<p>increased appropriations of \$315 million across four years, with \$24.8 million in 2023-24. \$9.5 million of that goes to the national housing agreement with the states and territories. \$15 million is allocated to our programs across outcomes 2, 3 and 4.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Is that information in the budget papers?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: No.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Could you give me that breakdown across the forwards? You've just given me the numbers for 2023-24.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: I could do that now, or is it easier on notice?</p> <p>Senator RICE: Just take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: By outcome?</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes. How detailed is that going to be?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: I can go down to program level.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Program would be great, if you could.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000208	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	First Nations Employees	<p>Senator RICE: Do you know how many First Nations employees are employed?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: We have about 150 First Nations people, headcount wise.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Do you know how many First Nations people are working as policy advisers or advisers in the minister's office?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: I do not know that off the top of my head. I'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Okay. Thank you.</p>	Page 26	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000209	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Contracts - National Mailing & Marketing	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: A contract with National Mailing & Marketing listed on the AusTender website, \$1.2 million: can you identify where we will discuss that one, please?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: That's now.</p>	Page 28	30-May-23

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				<p>Senator BROCKMAN: What services are meant to be provided and what has been provided to this date? [...]</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: I would assume that more people are reading digital documents than in the past. Are we tapering slowly? Is this a service that is being assessed as to needs? Is it reducing in cost over time or because lower volumes mean higher price or is it just staying roughly the same?</p> <p>Mr Baumgart: I might have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: Senator, we might take that on notice, but I think, in general terms, we'd say we do review business practices, and so, to the extent to which we saw things tapering off over time, we'd build that into our approach to market. But we can take the specifics of that one on notice.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000210	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Contracts - Photographic and Recording Media	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: So if you have an event and you need a photographer, you contract a service. How much has DSS spent on creative control and editorial services since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: Is that a category or an organisation?</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: It's a category.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: We'll take that on notice.</p>	Page 29	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000211	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Contracts - Celebrity sponsorship	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: On AusTender there are five expenditures under the category 'sponsorship of event or celebrity'. Again, there is a range of contract amounts. Have any celebrities been sponsored by the department since 1 July 2022? If so, who and in what capacity?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: Again, can we take that on notice, Senator? We'll come back to you with a comprehensive answer.</p>	Page 29	30-May-23

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DSS SQ23-000212	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Event Sponsorship	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Can we have a list of events that were sponsored and the amount of sponsorship? I'm happy for you to take that one on notice, unless you've got that really easily to hand. I assume it's not a huge list.</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: No, I don't imagine it will be a huge list, Senator. We can come back to you as quickly as we can on that one.</p>	Page 29	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000213	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Redundancy to Contracting	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: ... Are former DSS staff who've received redundancy payments or incentive-to-retire payments eligible to be re-employed under these kinds of temporary arrangements? Sorry; I should ask it the other way: are there any barriers?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: I don't believe so. There are barriers and time frames associated with coming back into the service, but, to the extent to which you work for a contracting company, I'd have to go away and have a look. But I don't believe there are any barriers.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Would you track how many people would be in that category? Would you have any ability to track?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: I think we can go the other way relatively easily. If someone has been a contractor and they then join the department, I think we have visibility of that. But I would have to take on notice whether we can readily track down numbers for you.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: If you could-and can you take on notice how many people would fall into that category.</p>	Page 30	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000214	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Staff Development	<p>Mr Hetherington: In terms of staff development, we run a range of things in-house. We run a range of things in conjunction with the Public Service Commission's academy, so we leverage a lot of the</p>	Page 31	30-May-23

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				<p>coursework that they develop. For example, building better policy skills is a Public Service Commission program that they run, and we would run a lot of people through those sorts of programs in addition to these sorts of grad cert things that you see here.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Do you split out the total amount that the department would spend on staff development?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: We could go away and look at L&D costs, and provide you a figure on that, if you like.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Could you come back on notice with that.</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Baumgart: We can provide the ones that are all centrally funded. I just need to be clear: some of the branches or areas may undertake very small courses, or someone may undertake a \$100 thing, and that wouldn't be funded centrally.</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: In terms of expenditure, there'll be a L&D-learning and development-general ledger code. We can go and have a look at we've spent across the department, as well as identify centrally-funded marquee programs.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: We'll break it down by those that we run and those that we participate in. The grad cert in management with ANU is actually administered by the NIAA and we contribute students to it. We obviously pay per head for that.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: When you break that down into that table, could you also include how many staff have gone through each program? Thank you very much.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000215	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	SG Fleet	Senator BROCKMAN: ...How many vehicles does the \$300,000 for SG Fleet cover?	Page 31	30-May-23

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				<p>Mr Harvey: I think it's 25 or 26, something like that.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: If it's not 25 or 26, you can come back to us. And could we have a breakdown of the vehicles leased by type.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Yes. Roughly, it's 16 cars and seven or eight-that gets close to 25-that are medium vans or something like that.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Can we have the make and model? Who's eligible for one of these 25 cars, Mr Harvey?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: They're not for individuals. They're for offices, so we have 10 or 14 offices around the country and in Canberra, so there's-</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: So there'd be a car based at the Perth office?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Exactly.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: It's a pool vehicle.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Has that number changed-over the last three financial years, say?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: I'm sure it's varied a little, but I'd have to come back to you with that.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Can you come back to us on notice with, say, the last three financial years. Thank you very much.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000216	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	Fraud investigations	<p>Senator RUSTON: Have there been any fraud incidents or misuse of public funds since 1 July last year?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: We always have a number of fraud investigations on the go. At the moment I think we have about nine investigations, and they span different parts of the department. I don't want to get into the detail of what those investigations are, but we take each of those very seriously and investigate to the extent we possibly can.</p>	Page 32	30-May-23

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				<p>Senator RUSTON: What would be great would be-and I don't expect you to do it now-as much information about those nine as is appropriate for you to be able to provide, given the circumstances.</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: I'll do my best.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000217	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	Staffing	<p>Senator RUSTON: Has any APS employee, staff member or contractor been fired or had their contract terminated since 30 June last year?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: I don't believe so, but I will take that on notice and just make sure I have the right response.</p>	Page 32	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000218	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	Complaints against Ministerial staff	<p>Senator RUSTON: ... Have any complaints, verbal, written or otherwise, been made against any ministerial staff member to your knowledge?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Minister, you might be able to take that on board and see if you can get the answer.</p> <p>Senator Farrell: On notice?</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Farrell: Sure.</p>	Page 32	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000219	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	Cost of supplementary payments	<p>Senator RUSTON: [...] Obviously JobSeeker is the payment that's provided to Australians who are unemployed, but there's a range of other concessions and supports, as we know, that are available to people on these payments. I'm just wondering if it would be possible to outline-you may need to take it on notice-what those concessions and supports are and the value of them as estimated by the department.</p> <p>Mr Flavel: The value we'd definitely need to take on notice. On the main one, firstly, anybody who's on income support may be eligible for supplementary payments, which are over and above the basic rate of payment. That will include things like Commonwealth</p>	Page 33	30-May-23

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				<p>rent assistance, the energy supplement and, for some payments, things like pharmaceutical allowance and telephone allowance. It's called a supplementary payment, but obviously parents who are on income support would generally be eligible for family tax benefit part A and B, potentially. Outside of direct payments, the other main form of concession is the concession cards, of which there are, I think, between five and six million, for everybody who's on payment, as well as categories like the Commonwealth seniors health card, which is available for self-funded retirees. The value of that, as I said, I'd need to take on notice. It's actually something that would be for the Department of Health and Aged Care in any case, because the concession is obviously in relation to the PBS and MBS, primarily, so the costings of that are probably questions that would be best directed to them anyway.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Yes, but I am interested in the ones that sit within your portfolio area, if it's possible to get a breakdown.</p> <p>Mr Flavel: The supplementary payments?</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Flavel: Yes, we can do that.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000220	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Parenting Payment Single costs	<p>Senator RICE: Thank you for the information that you provided to me in terms of the people who will be affected who won't be getting the increased parenting payment single. I'd like to go first to those who are left out-those whose child is aged 14 or 15 and who won't be included. You've told me that there are 18,290 single principal carer JobSeeker payment recipients with a youngest child aged 14 or 15.</p> <p>[...]</p>	Pages 35-36	30-May-23

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				<p>Senator RICE: ... Can I ask you how much money was saved or not expended by having the cut-off at 14 rather than at 16?</p> <p>Senator Farrell: I don't know that off the top of my head, but I'll get the answer for you.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000221	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee	<p>Senator RUSTON: In a press release on 12 December, when they were announcing the members of the committee, the minister said: We need to look at addressing complex social problems and entrenched disadvantage in new and innovative ways. She said that this committee would help bring some of those creative solutions to deal with the systems and structures that are barriers for those facing disadvantage. Once again, how is this \$40 an innovative solution to address complex issues and social problems? [...]</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: On the back of your previous answer, something I'd be really keen to understand in a bit more detail-and you don't need to go into it now, but you can provide it to me in writing-is that the minister said that this particular committee was going to be designed to bring creative solutions to deal with systems and structures that are barriers for those facing disadvantage. I would be really keen to understand what the creative solutions that are being put forward are. In relation to place based, we already know that it's on the table, so what's new and creative in terms of these solutions and what's been put forward by the committee? What's been accepted? What hasn't been accepted? I would be interested to know what some of those creative solutions might be.</p>	Pages 38-39	30-May-23

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DSS SQ23-000222	Department of Social Services	Louise Pratt	Income Support Payments - Budget Measures	<p>Senator PRATT: In terms of people on income support who have access to a healthcare card, for example, I can see that, in terms of the government needing to work through the recommendations of the economic inclusion committee, medicines et cetera were part of the costs faced by people. I think the government has chosen to deal with that in a different way, through things like bulk billing incentives and the costs of prescriptions. So how do those things interrelate? On one hand, you could increase payments to pay more for medicine, but, on the other hand, you could actually just make those medicines cheaper, couldn't you?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: That's correct. It operates through both of those channels. When you look at various measures, for instance, around poverty or wellbeing, they typically include direct payments. So they'll look at income support payments. What they don't always take into account are those in-kind benefits, and in Australia that would particularly be things like subsidies for pharmaceuticals and doctors-and the value of those can be not insignificant. So, yes, it's the case that it's not only the direct payments through the income support system as well as indirect subsidies and other benefits that can be targeted towards those on lower incomes.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: In that context, how many income support recipients are projected to be better off by more than \$40 a fortnight?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: To take into account those other measures that you mentioned? I'd need to take that on notice. It involves measures outside our portfolio.</p>	Page 45	30-May-23
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DSS SQ23-000223	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Paid Parental Leave Takeup	<p>Senator ASKEW: Okay. How many families have benefited from the PPL scheme over each of the past five years, and what data do you have on hand for PPL uptake?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: We might have to take that bit on notice. We've got data for the last two or three years, but not going back five years, on hand.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Okay. Can I just have the last two years then, if you've got those?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Sure. The parental pay leave population from 2019-20 was 171,710, for 2020-21 it was 169,030, and for 2021-22 it was 178,780. I've also got, separately, the dad and partner pay for those years as well.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Okay, that would be great.</p> <p>Ms Evans: Dad and partner pay for 2019-20 was 92,345, for 2020-21 it was 89,785, and for 2021-22 it was 97,865.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Would you be able to provide, on notice, the two years before that as well?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes.</p>	Page 47	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000225	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Paid Parental Leave Modelling	<p>Senator ASKEW: That would be great. The Minister for Social Services has said recently:</p> <p>Modelling from Impact Economics and Policy showed that the establishment of the Paid Parental Leave scheme in 2011 resulted in nearly 75,000 more mothers joining the workforce and ... \$8.5 billion to our GDP. Can you provide a breakdown of the annual increase to our GDP that can be attributed to the scheme? Is that possible?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I'm not sure that it will be possible, but we will certainly look at what is available in order to go to that point.</p>	Page 47	30-May-23

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				Senator ASKEW: That would be great. Can you also outline the expected increase to our GDP from the PPL reforms due to commence on 1 July, so what the comparison would be, if you can just look into that- obviously on notice.		
DSS SQ23-000226	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	WEET feedback regarding Paid Parental Leave recommendations	<p>Senator WATERS: Do you have any feedback from the WEET about their level of contentment with your selective adoption of their recommendations?</p> <p>Senator Farrell: Have I personally?</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Has the government-you as representing minister or perhaps the department?</p> <p>Senator Farrell: I have been out of the country for most of the time since the budget and they haven't made any contact with me. But I am happy to talk with the ministers directly and see whether or not there has been any response and come back to you.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you very much, Minister. I am interested because I'm sure they put a lot of thought into the recommendations they proposed and I'm sure that they too were hoping that there would be full implementation of the recommendations. They were perhaps expecting that in the most recent budget, but I'm sure they are hoping for it, at the very least, in the next instalment.</p>	Page 49	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000227	Department of Social Services	Ross Cadell	Assistance for Isolated Children	<p>Senator CADELL: On these matters, not just isolated parents but also stakeholders are coming to us-the Nats-saying the gap between the real cost and the subsidies are increasing. Are we modelling the gap between subsidies and the real costs of education for isolated families? Is that being looked at by the department?</p> <p>Mr Abel: That is something that we do keep an eye on in terms of the changes associated with boarding and</p>	Page 51	30-May-23

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				<p>the like in the payments that are made through AIC. We have also had a look at differences in the CPI versus other indexation factors.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Would you be able to table the results of those studies, on notice?</p> <p>Mr Abel: We could take that on notice.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000228	Department of Social Services	Ross Cadell	Assistance for Isolated Children	<p>Senator CADELL: Is the number of people on AIC generally increasing or decreasing at the moment?</p> <p>Mr Abel: I would have to take that on notice-actually, we can probably get that for you today, rather than taking it on notice.</p>	Page 51	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000229	Department of Social Services	Ross Cadell	Assistance for Isolated Children Movement of Government from DSS to Education	<p>Senator CADELL: Okay, if you would. Many moons ago, well before I had knowledge of it, apparently AIC was managed by the department of education-is that the case?</p> <p>Mr Abel: I believe so. That probably predates me by some years as well.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Have the department and minister had no discussions about potentially returning it to the department of education rather than-</p> <p>Mr Abel: That would be a machinery of government decision.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Minister? He hasn't thrown you under the bus overly hard, but a little bit. Are you aware of any government discussions to talk about the isolated parents payments and second home thing for distance education coming back into the department of education, out of social services?</p> <p>Senator Farrell: I am personally not aware, but I shall inquire if the minister is aware and come back to you.</p>	Page 51	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000230	Department of Social Services	Ross Cadell	Assistance for Isolated Children	<p>Senator CADELL: There is commentary—so slap me down on this—that, where we're seeing so many isolated problems in Indigenous and non-Indigenous</p>	Pages 51-52	30-May-23

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				<p>communities in rural stuff, education is a key driver. Has the department looked at these funds as to linking with other social services? Is expenditure on education inputs saving other social services things, long term? Is there any look at that?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: Do you mean extra spending?</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Yes—looking at early intervention on problems in education: has there been a linkage between the expenditure for education, for Indigenous and non-Indigenous remote Australians, versus other—</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I might have to take that on notice, because it's pretty broad. Certainly, from time to time, there have been studies looking at early intervention generally and what sorts of pay-offs there are, but, if your question is more in relation to remote or isolated students—</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Yes.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000231	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Assistance for Isolated Children	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: I have some follow-up questions in this area. Senator Cadell has piqued my interest. When was the last time that the payments to isolated children were systematically reviewed in the light of things like the fact that the amount of compulsory education has been creeping and demands have changed in terms of technology and probably materials? When was the last time there was a systematic review and look at how fit for purpose the payments are?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I'm not aware that there has been one. There may well have been one; I just can't recall one. You're talking about system wide as opposed to some of the issues Senator Cadell raised, which were more about individual components. I will take it on notice.</p>	Page 52	30-May-23

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				<p>Senator BROCKMAN: No, no. I'm not trying to trick anyone.</p> <p>Mr Flavel: The reason I'm hesitating is that there have been various reviews of boarding schools and the broader policy settings, so it may well have been picked up in that context. I'm just not aware of a recent review of AIC and the fit-for-purpose nature of it.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000232	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Assistance for Isolated Children	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: There are a few different smaller buckets, as I understand it, that go to children and parents in this situation. Would you be able to quantify the average payment to someone who fits under the 'isolated' category?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: Sorry; did you say 'average'?</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: An average. I think you know where I'm heading, so if you can tell me what numbers you have available-what would be the base quantum, what would be the median and what would be the highest that an isolated child could get?</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Maybe, if we get the total amount, the number of qualifications will give us an average-how much is spent on-</p> <p>Mr Abel: We could certainly take on notice what the average is of payments for AIC recipients, bearing in mind that that will vary</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Could you start with the base payment?</p> <p>Mr Abel: The basic boarding allowance that we pay is \$9,396 a year. There is an additional boarding allowance which is available which is subject to parental income testing as well. Some people will be eligible for this; others won't. It is \$2,695 a year.</p>	Pages 52-53	30-May-23

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				<p>That's a total of \$12,091 for those who are boarding. As I mentioned, depending on the circumstances of the families, the payment rates vary, so people who are doing distance education are eligible for a per student payment of \$4,698. Second home allowance- as Senator Cadell talked about before-per student, up to three students in a family-</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Sorry; what was this one?</p> <p>Mr Abel: This is the second home allowance.</p> <p>Mr Abel: Second home allowance is a per student payment, for up to three students per family, of \$273.71 per fortnight. We would have to give you some numbers about average numbers of students getting paid second home allowance who are getting the basic and additional. We can take that on notice and get that for you.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000233	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Family Tax Benefit	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Of those receiving B, can you break that down into how many are on income support and how many are not?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: Yes, we can. On B, it's roughly fifty-fifty based on recipients. For FTB B, 50.5 per cent receive income support.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: That's 50.5 per cent of that 1.019 million?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: Yes, and 49.5 per cent do not receive income support.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Flavel: Yes. In other words, people getting FTB B will mostly, with the rare exception, also be getting FTB A. So those percentages will give you a good approximation.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: If there is variation between the two, can you give it to us on notice?</p>	Pages 54-55	30-May-23

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				Mr Flavel: Sure. Senator BROCKMAN: If they're very close, I'm happy for you to not provide it, but if there is a difference please do.		
DSS SQ23-000234	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Payment Accuracy Assessments	Senator BROCKMAN: Is the overpayment risk currently for FTB, which we've been talking about, that 94 per cent? Was that reflective of FTB, or do you have different numbers for different payments? Ms Evans: Correct. Different payments would have a payment accuracy assessment done; there'd be a survey of recipients. You'd have a FTB payment accuracy risk, you'd have a JobSeeker payment accuracy assessment—you'd have different payments. I can provide to you on notice the current levels of payment accuracy against the various income support payments.	Page 56	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000237	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Student Payments	Senator BROCKMAN: I'm happy for you to take this one on notice as well. Could you give me the proportion of Austudy, youth allowance student and Abstudy recipients who not receiving income support 12 months after exiting student payments? Mr Flavel: We'll take that on notice. Senator BROCKMAN: Did that make sense? Mr Flavel: It does. For clarity, do you want- Senator BROCKMAN: The changes in the exit rates. Mr Flavel: In aggregate, or for each of those payments? They're all individual payments. Senator BROCKMAN: For each of the payments.	Page 58	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000238	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Rent Assistance	Senator BROCKMAN: Okay. Do you keep figures—I'm not sure on what basis you would keep them in terms of regularity—on rent assistance recipients living in community housing, Defence housing or in a retirement village?	Page 59	30-May-23

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				Mr Flavel: No. For that breakdown, particularly the latter two categories, we'll have to take that on notice.		
DSS SQ23-000239	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Commonwealth Rent Assistance	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Do you track actual rental costs? Does the department track actuals? I know that in my home state of WA it's been extremely volatile in the upwards direction.</p> <p>Mr Sloan: I suppose I'd answer this in two ways, putting both my hats on. From the point of view of CRA recipients, we get average and median incomes paid by CRA recipients, so, obviously, we've got that over time.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Sorry?</p> <p>Mr Sloan: We get both the average and the median rent paid by CRA recipients.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Do you break that down by state?</p> <p>Mr Sloan: We would be able to. I don't think I've got that on me.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Could you take that on notice please?</p> <p>Mr Sloan: Yes, I can. I've certainly got on me, by state, those on the maximum rate, if that is helpful. As I said, if I put on my second hat in my housing and homelessness role, we look at a range of housing data and rent over time. Vacancy rates, housing prices et cetera-we look at all of that.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: In terms of what you believe the market is currently doing, by state, could you give that to the committee, on notice, in terms of averages? Can you also give the averages for those receiving CRA?</p> <p>Mr Sloan: Yes, I can take that on notice.</p>	Page 61	30-May-23

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DSS SQ23-000240	Department of Social Services	Sarah Henderson	500 domestic violence support workers	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to provide the committee with the relevant correspondence and briefing notes and draft agreements for both New South Wales and Victoria, and also the final executed contracts with the other states and territories so we can have greater insight into how this program has gone off the rails? I say that because it's clear from your evidence-and correct me if I'm wrong-that there's been no engagement of any worker under this program at all-any frontline domestic violence worker. [...]</p> <p>Senator Ayres: Secondly, if I can just conclude, I know that you sought some information about the state of negotiations between the states and the Commonwealth in terms of documentation. We will take that on notice, and we will provide as much information as we can. I am not optimistic about the provision of information that goes to Commonwealth state relations, which would normally be confidential, but we'll assist you to the extent that we can.</p>	Pages 81-82	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000241	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Special Account	<p>Senator WATERS: [...] There is a reference in the portfolio budget statement for DSS that refers to a special account to support the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children. It's got just shy of \$9 million for 2022-23, \$4.1 million for 2023-24 and essentially \$3.4 million for 2024-25. What is that for and why does it reduce as the years roll on?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: The special account is primarily established as our funding mechanism for Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety. That's one of its functions. Because ANROWS is jointly funded by Commonwealth and state and territory governments, we need a place for their money to sit</p>	Page 86	30-May-23

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				<p>so that it can then be allocated. In the 2021-22 budget, core funding for ANROWS of \$2 million a year from the Commonwealth was committed, and then states' and territories' contributions also topped that up in that special account. The funding is only put in the special account when it needs to be allocated to ANROWS, and that's why it drops off after 2024-25. There are also a couple of other little buckets, including some joint funding that was provided from states and territories for national campaigns under the fourth action plan. It's a specific-purpose special account.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Could you please, on notice, provide me as much detail as you can of the breakdown of that money? I know you've given me some of the highlights there, but I'm keen to understand a little bit more. And could you compare it, please, with the previous ANROWS funding? I think you just mentioned \$2 million in the immediately preceding year, but the figures don't add up for me, so I'm keen to know, on notice, a bit more.</p> <p>Ms Doherty: Sure.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000242	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	500 New Community Services Workers	<p>Senator LIDDLE: In terms of numbers of people, there are zeros across the top line. Next year you'll basically see a doubling of those numbers because it should incorporate 2022-23 and 2023-24.</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: Yes.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: The numbers of people-everyone will have to double up their numbers based on whatever the plan is that they've negotiated with you.</p> <p>Ms Doherty: It's possible with the time left this financial year that some jurisdictions might be able to</p>	Pages 88-89	30-May-23

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				<p>engage.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: I want to talk to you about the critical role of frontline workers.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Can I ask a question on that. Firstly, what is your expectation on that, in relation to some jurisdictions actually getting any numbers in the next five weeks? I'd be very keen to understand what you think that's likely to look like, given that you've chosen to make that comment. Secondly, is it possible to get the weightings in relation to remoteness, LGBTQIA+, disability et cetera, in terms of the matrix on the allocation of those particular numbers that you've just given Senator Liddle?</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: I can take that on notice and get you the details.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000243	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	500 New Community Services Workers	<p>Senator LIDDLE: Okay. My next question is based on the table you could give us, which might be updated. Can you also give us a breakdown of what your plan is on the question which I raised in the previous session about Ceduna and the incredible focus on that area- and the demand in Port Augusta and Whyalla- to ensure that there's an appropriate spread, perhaps even by electorate or region?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: We won't ask the states and territories to report by electorate. States and territories need to demonstrate that they're meeting the requirements in relation to, say, the number of workers who are there to support women and children in regional and remote areas or who are there to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children. But our reporting won't go down to the electorate level. [...]</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Are you able to table the election</p>	Page 89	30-May-23

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				<p>commitment component of this and the locations that are related to it? You made some comment earlier that it was an election commitment. That would be the numbers in which states in which areas. If you're not breaking them down by electorate, are you at least breaking them down by LGAs?</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: We can take that on notice.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000244	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Waitlist for Temporary Visa Holders financial support	<p>Senator WATERS: Yes; I can see the sense of that. Thank you. I want to briefly segue back to the escaping violence payment and ask how many people received support under the Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot, and what were the wait times for that particular program?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: There are two streams of support available through the Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot. There's the financial assistance of up to \$3,000, which is provided through the Australian Red Cross, and then there's also migration, family and other legal advice, which is provided through a network of community legal centres. As at 31 March 2023, 2,716 individuals have been approved for payment for the financial component; 2,141 advices have been issued under the legal component-I probably don't have a breakdown beyond that. A client might receive several advices, but the total number of advices is 2,141.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, I understand. Thank you. Just on that CLC advice, did they receive extra funding to deliver that advice, or not?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: Yes, so the department has funding agreements with the Red Cross as well as each of the nine community legal centres.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Separate to the national partnership</p>	Page 92	30-May-23

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				<p>agreement-what do they call that now? Ms Doherty: Outside of the NLAP, that's correct. Senator WATERS: What is the waitlist? Is there a waitlist for that temporary visa holders financial support? Ms Doherty: As at 31 March, there were 127 applications under assessment. Senator WATERS: What's the average time, shortest time and longest time for assessment? Ms Doherty: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000245	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	1800RESPECT - Referrals to support services	<p>Senator WATERS: Sexual assault trauma counselling—I understand the feds fund 1800RESPECT, but we consistently hear from frontline services that 1800RESPECT simply refers women on and they're put on months long waiting lists to access specialist sexual violence trauma counselling and that some of the waitlists are up to 18 months. I'd like to know the latest data on the annual number of contacts received by 1800RESPECT. Do you keep data on how many referrals are made to frontline services and on how many people have to keep coming back to 1800RESPECT because they can't get timely assistance from the referral service, precisely because of the funding conundrum we discussed with the minister earlier? Ms Doherty: The latest full financial year data that we have indicates that 14,950 individuals accessed support from 1800RESPECT specifically for sexual assault. It's possible that the sexual assault was experienced in conjunction with other forms of violence, but that's the reporting mechanism that we have. So about five per cent of the contacts to the service were specific to sexual assault.</p>	Pages 92-93	30-May-23

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				<p>Senator WATERS: Do you keep data on how many referrals are made? Ms Doherty: To the services? Senator WATERS: Yes. Ms Doherty: I don't have that data. I think we do, but I'd have to take that on notice.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000246	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	1800RESPECT - Wait times for an appointment	<p>Senator WATERS: ... Best practice is to provide sexual assault survivors who contact a service to receive counselling within one week of contact. Is there any process to measure whether sexual assault services that 1800RESPECT refer to have the capacity to assist in that time frame? Do you track that? Ms Doherty: No, I don't think we would have performance metrics for the onward referral services. Senator WATERS: Are there any records maintained of the time that people who are referred have to wait for an appointment? Ms Doherty: Referred on to other services? Senator WATERS: From 1800RESPECT to a specialist service. Ms Doherty: I don't think we would keep that data, but I'm happy to take it on notice.</p>	Page 93	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000247	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Funding for sexual violence services over the past five years	<p>Senator WATERS: What funding is being provided to frontline sexual violence services to meet demand? Ms Doherty: In the May budget just past, government included funding to extend the current National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses. That's funding to the states and territories specifically to meet service demand in frontline services. Senator WATERS: Is that the \$2.23 million over five years that we talked about earlier, or is that a separate amount?</p>	Page 93	30-May-23

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				<p>Ms Doherty: No, it's \$159 million over the next two years. Within the scope of that national partnership agreement, states and territories are able to fund specialist sexual assault and sexual violence response services.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I'm conscious the chair needs to hand over the call. On notice, could you provide, going back, say, five years, the funding trajectory for sexual violence services and how that's changed over the last five years?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: Yes, we can provide some data in relation to specific services that the Commonwealth funds.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000248	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	Income Management Data	<p>Senator RUSTON: I'd like to talk to some people about income management. How many people in Australia are on income management today?</p> <p>Mr Burford: As at 31 March 2023, a total of 24,943 people were on income management.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: How many people were on income management at the same time last year?</p> <p>Mr Burford: That data's published so I will see if I can locate it before the end of the hearings. Otherwise, I'll take it on notice.</p>	Page 93	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000249	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	Income Management Costs	<p>Senator RUSTON: I'm interested to understand the cost per participant in income management, and how that's changed over the last 12 months. Would you have that information?</p> <p>Mr Burford: We would have to take that on notice, noting that the cost for income management is through Services Australia. So part of that question would be best placed to Services Australia.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: I can certainly ask them that tomorrow, but I'm interested in your costs as the Department of Social Services, in relation to the</p>	Pages 93-94	30-May-23

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				<p>administration of existing activities of the department in relation to income management.</p> <p>Mr Burford: I will have to take that on notice because, again, there's no current operational business-as-usual spend on income management by our department. The actual cost of income management delivery is with Services Australia.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Would you be able to tell me what your current expenditure from the department in relation to non-business-as-usual income management is since 1 July?</p> <p>Mr Burford: I'll have to take that on notice. The only aspect of our ongoing costs, business-as-usual and otherwise, relates to some of the early consultation work we're doing on the future of income management. That's distinct from legislation that has been introduced to provide choice for people to move over from income management onto enhanced income management-just to make sure that's clear, that that is part of what we're working on, and we've had staff working on those pieces of legislation. But in terms of the existing historical income management, that's not part of our normal operational costs in the department; that's actually through Services Australia.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000250	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	Income Management - Costs	<p>Senator RUSTON: In the October budget last year, there was a provision of \$217.7 million to abolish the cashless debit card and expand support services for recipients transitioning off the card. Was that in your budget?</p> <p>Mr Burford: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: How much of that's been spent?</p> <p>Mr Burford: We're still finalising the last invoices that have come in. I'll tell you what's expected to be spent</p>	Page 94	30-May-23

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				<p>by the end of the financial year. Senator RUSTON: I'd be really keen to understand what actually has been spent, not what you think might be spent. Mr Burford: Certainly. As at 30 April, the year-to-date spend in the financial year 2022-23 is \$15.28 million. But that's at 30 April. We could update that on notice.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000251	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	Income Management - Costs	<p>Senator RUSTON: Of the \$217.7 million that was allocated in the October budget, how much was allocated for the 2022-23 financial year? Mr Burford: A total of \$27.9 million. Senator RUSTON: So you've just done better than half. Mr Burford: As at 30 April. In terms of legal commitments, there's another \$1.58 million of legal commitments that will absolutely have to be paid, and soft commitments, which is finalising agreements, would be another \$7.41 million to be paid by the end of June. Senator RUSTON: Is that the only money that the Department of Social Services has expended in relation to the transferring away from the cashless debit card to the SmartCard and the associated actions in relation to that particular measure that was legislated? Mr Burford: That is the administered parts of the support services. Senator RUSTON: No, that wasn't my question. I said: is that the only money that has been allocated or spent in relation to the transitioning? There's been no money spent on advertising. There's been no money spent on outside contracts. I'm obviously not talking about the money for the administration of the payments themselves. I get that that's with Services</p>	Pages 94-95	30-May-23

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				<p>Australia. I just need to understand: is the \$27 million that was allocated out of the \$217.7 million the only funding that has been allocated or expended in relation to this particular election commitment initiative?</p> <p>Mr Burford: For support services, yes. The \$217 million also includes some card costs that relate to the finishing of the CDC, but part of that also includes assistance from the card provider to help transition people off the card and move them over to enhanced income management. It also includes departmental costs, which includes our department staff to also finish off the old program, support people transitioning off and provide guidance onto the new enhanced income management.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Is that all included in the \$15.28 million and the other contracted stuff that you just referred to, or does that come from elsewhere?</p> <p>Mr Burford: No, the \$15.28 million is just that portion that relates to support services.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Okay. I'm keen to understand, if I'm not making myself clear here-</p> <p>Mr Griggs: We'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Burford: Yes.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: So you're saying you don't know? Okay. Fine. Basically, what I'd really like to know is exactly how much money the department has spent in relation to the totality of the measure since it was announced until now-all aspects of it as it relates to the department. I'd also like to know how that relates to the cost per participant, given that you're going to get me the figures in relation to how many people</p>		
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				were on any form of income management in 2022 as opposed to 2023.		
DSS SQ23-000252	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	Income Management - Former Cashless Debit Card sites	<p>Senator RUSTON: I'm happy to leave it there, but it would be great if the department could provide an overall snapshot of what you think has happened in each of the four sites. Now that we've got the weekly transition dashboard, it shows, from a quick glance, having a look here, that there are significant spikes across all of the sites, particularly the two in Western Australia and South Australia, in social harm activities, police reports, crime statistics, domestic violence et cetera. I'm keen to understand how long that monitoring will be going on for and what the actions of the department are in relation to additional services that have been put into these communities and whether they are actually working. Well, maybe I could ask the question: what additional services promised by the government are up and running at the previous cashless debit card sites to support those communities in relation to what you've obviously already identified as being some significant changes in behaviour?</p> <p>Ms Hope: On the support services, we can actually answer some of that for you now.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Sure.</p> <p>Mr Burford: There's been an expansion for another 12 months of around 40 current services for which funding was to cease in the middle of this year. They are quite a broad range of support services, but that was one of the key pieces of feedback-that some continuity and certainty for those support services were critical. They cover everything from youth diversionary programs or activity-type programs to</p>	Pages 97-98	30-May-23

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				community buses to men's and women's wellbeing programs. I can provide the detail of the full list of those as well. Senator RUSTON: Sure.		
DSS SQ23-000253	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	Income Management - support for former Cashless Debit Card sites	Senator RUSTON: No. Are there additional—as in, are there new—services over and above what was being provided on the ground? Bearing in mind, I accept what you're saying—that they've been extended past 1 July. Mr Burford: No problems. There has been local partnership funding as well. Under the former card provider, there were subcontracted staff helping with card logistics. Without that program existing anymore, there was a desire for new grants to be established to have similar types of positions operating in those regions, so they are authentically new. That's \$3.8 million over 2022-23 and 2023-24. On notice, I can give you that breakdown by each location.	Page 98	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000254	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	Support Services	Mr Burford: ...The last element, which is not actually part of the \$217 million but which is being preserved, is the \$49.9 million for alcohol and other drug treatment services. Grant design work and grant design guidelines are being consulted on in committees at the moment. They're in the field right now. That's with the department of health. So we can probably take it on notice, but it might be best directed to them about where they're up to with that part. That will be targeting those four regional sites. Senator RUSTON: On that point: we've taken out the cashless debit card from these sites. Because of this drug and alcohol funding that's been made available and is currently being scoped out by the department of health, we've recognised that there was clearly an	Page 98	30-May-23

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				<p>understanding that there would be an issue in relation to alcohol abuse when the card was taken out, and yet we took it out before we had actually scoped it out and put the services into the communities. Was there any advice given by the department to the minister or the government that suggested that maybe these services should have been put in place before the card was taken out of the community?</p> <p>Mr Burford: I don't think the \$49.9 million is to respond to the removal of the card. It is to respond to the actual needs of actual communities in terms of the priorities for them in terms of gaps in services.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Ruston, I will be seeking to pass the call on shortly.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Sure. Could you please provide me, then, with a detailed breakdown of what work the department is doing in relation to monitoring what was the baseline for the changes in behaviour in community for the removal of the card and then what initiatives are in place to tackle alcohol abuse in those communities-in those CDC sites-and what other services are in place? If you could give me a breakdown of that, that would be really helpful. Thank you, Chair.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000255	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Income Management Data	<p>Senator RICE: I want to go to the BasicsCard and BasicsCard data. I'm wondering why the Income management data summary for the BasicsCard and the cashless debit card hasn't been updated since December last year.</p> <p>Mr Boneham: My team, in being the data team, is focused on transition data from the CDC up until March, and we are yet to do that. We're expecting that they will be updated soon.</p>	Page 100	30-May-23

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				<p>Senator RICE: When do you mean? What's soon? Mr Boneham: We'd hope that it would in the next few weeks, and that will be from December. Senator RICE: Could you provide that data summary for January, February, March and April by location and Indigenous indicator as soon as you possibly can? Mr Boneham: Yes. Mr Burford: I'll just clarify that with CDC, the number of people on income management will be zero as of 6 March. I do have the 31 March data here as well, if that's of use, but I'm happy to take that on notice. Senator RICE: If you've got it there, could you just table it, rather than calling it out? That would probably be easier.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000256	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Gambling	<p>Senator RICE: That's the industry, media and people who are benefiting from money from the gambling industry. Mr Burford: That's right. We've had several meetings with the Alliance for Gambling Reform as well over the last 12 months. I can take on notice the precise dates and meetings as well.</p>	Page 100	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000257	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Stronger People, Stronger Places - Initiative	<p>Senator RICE: Thank you. The Stronger Places, Stronger People initiative is a package worth \$199.8 million over six years, including for a social impact investment outcomes fund to make contractual arrangements with states, territory and service providers, and \$64 million to extend the Stronger Places, Stronger People program to deliver place based initiatives in local communities. Can you outline how the government intends to engage community organisations from the outset in designing and delivering these measures? Mr D'Souza: There's a number of consultation</p>	Page 101	30-May-23

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				<p>mechanisms in place already. We have the National Leadership Group set up already under Stronger Places, Stronger People, as well as gatherings within those communities. We also have IDCs set up for officials. There are official mechanisms set up now, but those will be strengthened. Through those, we'll also work out the stakeholders to engage-</p> <p>Senator RICE: These are specific, place based initiatives and you haven't yet worked out who you're going to consult with in each of these places? Is that what you're saying?</p> <p>Mr D'Souza: We have the initial 10 sites that we'll look to strengthen. And-</p> <p>Senator RICE: In each of those 10 sites, what consultation are you going to do? How are you going to consult with civil society organisations within those 10 sites?</p> <p>Mr D'Souza: At the moment we'll consult through the NLG, the National Leadership Group. But we should probably still have further work to do to work out exactly how we go beyond-</p> <p>Senator RICE: That sounds pretty vague: 'further work'.</p> <p>Mr D'Souza: That's another-</p> <p>Senator RICE: When is this work going to start in each of these 10 sites?</p> <p>Mr D'Souza: The existing site arrangements don't finish until 30 June 2024, so we still have some time to organise the consultation process for those.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Do you intend to consult with community organisations on the ground in those 10 sites before work starts?</p> <p>Mr D'Souza: Correct.</p>		
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				<p>Senator RICE: Perhaps you could take notice then what work you're doing towards developing the consultation process and how you're going to do that. Mr D'Souza: We'll take that on notice.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000258	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Grants for Community Sector Organisations	<p>Senator RICE: Can I get an update, please, to a question that I asked in October estimates about funds for grants for community sector organisations? The question from budget estimates last year was SQ22-000310. It was about the grants programs. Mr D'Souza: I'll have to take that on notice. Senator RICE: I'm happy for you to take that on notice; I'd like an update on the information you gave me for that question. That would be great, thank you.</p>	Page 101	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000259	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	National Coordination Group	<p>Senator ASKEW: Going back to the National Coordination Group, did they request further funding prior to the budget? Mr Burford: I'd have to take that on notice. Their remit is to provide advice regarding the need for emergency relief. They're also organisations in their own right, and some of them would make pre-budget submissions. But, again, as a group, I'm not aware that they put a submission regarding further funding, only that they continue their work and they can provide advice regarding use of that flexible pool. Senator ASKEW: I'm just considering whether the fact that the \$25 million had had other additional funds added to that was part of a specific request or whether it was just something that has been done in the process. But, if you do take that on notice, can you also just provide whether or not the minister was aware and whether that had been provided to the minister as well if they had put in a formal request? Mr Burford: We can, yes.</p>	Page 102	30-May-23

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DSS SQ23-000260	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Cost of Living - Emergency Relief and Food Relief	<p>Senator ASKEW: During the cost-of-living crisis, how many more people are presenting to emergency relief or food relief for support compared to, say, 12 months ago?</p> <p>Mr Burford: We'd have to take that on notice. I'm not sure if we've got the latest data in on those accessing. There's a bit of a delay.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: But you do have that sort of specific data?</p> <p>Mr Burford: Yes, we should have it.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: If you could take that on notice, that would be great. Also, once again, any additional funding, but we probably touched off on that. Just whatever information you have with regard to that statistic comparative to 12 months ago would be great.</p> <p>Mr Burford: Can do.</p>	Page 103	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000261	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Men's Behaviour Change Program	<p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. Senator Liddle was asking about the men's behaviour change program. I'm interested in that as well. Advocates have called for an investment in a national prevalence study to better understand the rates and the nature of perpetration of gender violence. What data does the government have already about the prevalence and the demographics of people using violence against an intimate partner or family member?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: Probably the key source of data that we have is the Australian Bureau of Statistics's recorded crimes data, which has demographic information on people who are perpetrating violence. I'm scrolling as quickly as I can find this.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Perhaps in the interest of time, without meaning to rush you-</p>	Page 105	30-May-23

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				Ms Doherty: Yes. We can certainly provide some statistics on notice around the characteristics of people who use family domestic and sexual violence. Senator WATERS: Thank you. I'm also interested in the scope of the data collected and how regularly that data source is updated.		
DSS SQ23-000262	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	National Perpetrator Referral Database	<p>Senator WATERS: ...In relation to the funding of a national perpetrator referral database, which Senator Liddle was asking about earlier, what data does the government currently have on the number of perpetrators using perpetrator support services or men's behaviour change programs?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: Specific to the national perpetrator intervention and referral service, the latest data as at March 2023 is that the men's referral service has delivered 7,644 sessions for the whole of financial year 2021-22. To date in 2022-23, there have been 5,657.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Were they sessions or were they people?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: They were sessions.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Can you take notice for me the number of people if you keep that?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: Sure.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Is that the only men's behaviour change program that you're keeping data on or are responsible for?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: In addition to the men's referral service, No to Violence also runs the Brief Intervention Service, which is an online and telephone counselling service for people on a waitlist.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Do you track data for the use of their services?</p>	Page 106	30-May-23

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				<p>Ms Doherty: Yes, we do. Senator WATERS: On notice, could you please let me know how many men seeking referral to either of the two programs you've just outlined are put on waitlists and what the average wait time is? I'm also interested in how you plan to track the success of men's behaviour programs against the goal of reducing violence. Have you done any policy work to scope? It's a very difficult thing to measure.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000263	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Sexual Violence Prevention Campaign	<p>Senator WATERS: I have one last line of questioning about the \$1.5 million to Universities Australia in the October budget to roll out a sexual violence prevention campaign. [...] Senator WATERS: So sometime before July. In response to your question on notice SQ23-000051, you provided a list of members that were on the advisory group working with Universities Australia. On notice, can you please provide to me a bit more detail about the experience and expertise of those members in designing and implementing sexual violence prevention programs?</p>	Pages 106-107	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000264	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	End Rape on Campus - Scope and Design	<p>Ms Doherty: End Rape on Campus was a part of the advisory mechanism that was set up in the initial scoping and design phase of this piece of work. That was the point at which it was thought that the end product would be a campaign focused on students. When the decision was made to switch from a student-focused campaign to a staff focused community of practice and staffing resource piece of work, they were able to build on the expertise that had been developed through the early phase but the advisory group then consisted of those people in</p>	Page 107	30-May-23

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				<p>universities whose job it is to lead sexual violence prevention work on campus. That's why there was a shift in the scope of the project itself, and that facilitated a different advisory group mechanism.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Why was there such a shift? Was that in relation to feedback? What was the cause of that change of scope?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: I don't have that level of detail in relation to those advisory group deliberations. I am aware End Rape on Campus was advised by Universities Australia around the shift in focus but I couldn't speculate as to what advice might have been provided to Universities Australia through that initial process.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Because it would be concerning to me if there was an advisory group that was set up which included student reps and folk like End Rape on Campus and they then weren't involved in the decision to make a pretty big direction change. Could you take on notice for me to the best of your ability to find out a little bit more of who was involved in that decision to change course.</p> <p>Ms Doherty: Yes.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000265	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	End Rape on Campus - Deliverables	<p>Senator WATERS: Can I confirm that it has lost all kinds of prevention focus and it is merely now important but not preventative work anymore; it is work to ensure support folk at unis know how to help students who have been sexually assaulted on campus?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: No. It's does still have a prevention focus. The objective is to create good practice guidance and a community of practice to support member universities in the development of their own sexual</p>	Page 108	30-May-23

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				<p>violence prevention resources. So it is providing universities with standards and approaches that they can then tailor to roll out prevention initiatives on-campus. That focus around prevention has stayed. It is just that it is a university-led process as opposed to a campaign that is generic across campus.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I will come back on notice because I do have some concerns that the universities are still in charge of doing the resources given there has been a litany of examples where they have failed their obligations. It is concerning to me that they are in charge of fixing the problem that they presided over-ignoring-for so long. Does the department have any kind of quality control role anymore about what resources are developed with the public money?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: We review the resources and obviously through the funding agreement make sure that the deliverables, like the community-of-practice event, are happening. So we have controls and I guess visibility in terms of delivery and then implementation.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Could you provide on notice what the deliverables are and the input the department has into any of that quality control? Thank you.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000266	Department of Social Services	Matt O'Sullivan	Income Management - Goldfields	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: ... I want to go quickly to the northern goldfields. Earlier this year, we had the shire presidents of Laverton and Leonora here, as you know, Mr Patrick Hill and Peter Craig. They were able to meet with the Prime Minister-which they were grateful for-and they appealed directly to him for help. What undertaking did the government provide to these local communities in that meeting?</p> <p>Senator Ayres: I'm not in a position to answer that.</p>	Page 112	30-May-23

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				<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Could you take it on notice? Senator Ayres: Yes, of course.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000267	Department of Social Services	Matt O'Sullivan	Income Management - Local Support Plans	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Was there any commitment to fund any new initiatives in these communities at all? Are you aware of that? Mr Griggs: We have been and we can give you detailed advice on those. Senator O'SULLIVAN: Thank you. Could you provide an update on these projects? Regarding the \$16 million that's been earmarked for community-led solutions and programs, can you provide us a list of the organisations that have been invited to apply? Mr Burford: That relates to funding to support the implementation of local support plans. We're still finalising the method of delivery for that, but the proposal will be to go through a key backbone organisation that will then work with local partners on proposals that are linked to the local services plan that Mr Griggs just mentioned. What that will look like is that a flexible pool will be made available, for example to the Goldfields, and they'll work up proposals with us. For example, one of the initiatives they did under the first bit of brokerage funding was around extending a bus service to help people repatriate back to home communities. But under the services plan there are proposals that will come up through those central organisations. We'll run through our checks and balances to make sure it meets our guidelines. We can expedite some investment in that space-\$16 million was announced but we have provision for up to \$20 million for that fund. Without saying it's a specific amount nominated for each region. That's in the four previous CDC sites.</p>	Page 112	30-May-23

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				<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you provide us with the criteria used to determine which organisations will be invited to apply? Mr Burford: We could take that on notice.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000268	Department of Social Services	Matt O'Sullivan	Income Management - Local Support Plans	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: What was the criteria used for the selection of the four? What was the term you used. Ms Hope: Backbones Mr Burford: Backbone. Senator O'SULLIVAN: You've selected three already. Overall, what's the criteria? Mr Burford: I'll have to take the specific criteria on notice, but it's organisations that we've tried and tested in the original brokerage fund. For Ceduna it's the far west leadership group that allows to work with other providers. We've got one of the shires in the Goldfields. It's about demonstrable ability to work with local community to reflect what the priorities are. But I'll take it on notice to provide a bit more specific detail about the criteria.</p>	Pages 112-113	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000269	Department of Social Services	Matt O'Sullivan	Income Management - Local Support Plans	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Will that organisation then have a role in the selection of other programs and projects that will operate? Mr Burford: Yes, they'll have a role. The department will as well. Senator O'SULLIVAN: What is the decision-making. Who's the delegate? Is it still the department? Mr Burford: Yes, the department still has to sign off on the proposal put forward, but the delegates also made the decision to pay the brokerage amount based on a range of proposals. Part of the criteria is to make sure it aligns with the priorities outlined in the local services plan as well.</p>	Page 113	30-May-23

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				<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay, so they don't make the final decision. The final decision will be made. Can they work with proponents? How do you make sure that it's a very open and transparent procurement and that there's no nepotism or favouritism in the organisations that are supported to put applications in?</p> <p>Mr Burford: I'll take it on notice, but there is certainly a mechanism in place to ensure a level of transparency and due process. We will still retain the right to review any proposals to ensure they meet our guidelines of the fit and proper organisation to undertake the work. Organisations have to manage conflict of interest and declare that when they make decisions and put forward proposals and promote proposals. That's been part of what we've selected in terms of the organisations. But I'll provide a bit more detail on that.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000270	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Income Management - Cashless Debit Card transactions	<p>Senator ASKEW: Since the cashless debit card commenced in 2016 until it was abolished on 6 March this year, how many transactions in total were declined, and what was their value?</p> <p>Mr Griggs: We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Okay. Since the commencement of the cashless debit card in the East Kimberley region as of 6 March 2023, what's the total value of transactions declined at stores in the region with a merchant category code identifying that the store primarily retails items such as alcohol, gambling or cash-like products?</p> <p>Mr Griggs: I think we'll have to take this line of questioning on notice.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Okay. I'll go through them and put</p>	Pages 113-114	30-May-23

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				<p>them on the record. That was for East Kimberley. Also what is the total value of transactions declined in the region per merchant category code? And, as of 6 March, what percentage of cashless debit card participants in the East Kimberley region had voluntarily transitioned off the cashless debit card? If you can repeat that also for the Goldfields and Ceduna, that would be good-with the exception of voluntarily transitioning off for the Northern Territory and the Cape York and Doomadgee regions.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: Did you want Bundaberg and Hervey Bay as well? You haven't mentioned them.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Yes, please. They were over the page, sorry. If we can take all that on notice, that would be great. Also, did the department advise the Minister for Social Services that an increase in crime in Kununurra was associated with the floods in the area? If so, what led the department to this conclusion?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000271	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Income Management - Extension of support services	<p>Senator ASKEW: Can you list the extended and expanded support services for participants transitioning off the cashless debit card within the East Kimberley region?</p> <p>Mr Burford: Certainly. Existing support services were expanded-I've done the high-level readout of these, but I'll give you the East Kimberley numbers. I'm more than happy to take on notice the other specific regions, if that's helpful.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: That would be great if you could provide that.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: If you take it on notice with regard to all the different ones and also where they're at, that would be great.</p>	Pages 114-115	30-May-23

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DSS SQ23-000272	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Income Management - Cashless Debit Card Transactions	<p>Senator ASKEW: In October we were able to get answers to these questions, so I thought I'd get an update. Before the year 2022 can you provide the declined transactions of restricted merchant category codes per code, total per code and as a percentage. We got these in the pack last year. I'm not sure if you have it. Can you take it on notice?</p> <p>Mr Burford: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: The other one was for the year 2023, so 1 January to 6 March. Similarly, please provide declined transactions of restricted merchant category codes, per code with percentages.</p> <p>Mr Burford: Can do.</p>	Page 115	30-May-23
DSS SQ23-000273	Department of Social Services	Sarah Henderson	Feed Me Bellarine	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Minister, I just wanted to ask you about a discussion that you and I had on election night, when we were appearing on ABC radio together. You might remember that, after the result of the election was announced, I asked you whether the Albanese government would deliver a very important local commitment in the electorate of Corangamite for Feed Me Bellarine. It was a commitment made by the Liberals but not matched at the time by the Labor Party and the local member, Ms Coker. Feed Me Bellarine is a really incredible organisation. It's been going for a number of years, and the demands on its services, like the demands on many food relief services, are growing exponentially. It services not just the Bellarine but the Surf Coast and the broader Geelong region. We made a multimillion-dollar commitment to deliver a new purpose-built building, including a commercial kitchen. You were well intentioned in that you said you would take it in good faith to your government to consider. I'd like to</p>	Page 120	30-May-23

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				ask if there's any update from that discussion, appreciating, of course, that it was on election night and we were having a good-faith discussion. But I'll just say, in no uncertain terms, that this is an amazing organisation-just changing lives. I'm really imploring your government to consider the merits of this very important proposal. If you're able to now provide me with any sort of update, to the best of your recollection, that would be wonderful. Senator Ayres: It was, as you'd remember, quite a night! I do remember the discussion; I am very happy to take that question on notice.		
DSS SQ23-000274	Department of Social Services	Jordon Steele-John	Budget Measure Blended Payments	Senator STEELE-JOHN: But did DSS propose it to be included in the package? Mr Griggs: I can't recall who exactly proposed it. There was a lot of discussion around the package of measures. I can check that, but I- Senator STEELE-JOHN: Can you check that and come back to us? Mr Griggs: Yes, I can come back to you on that. Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you. Mr Schafer? Mr Schafer: I'll echo what the secretary said: we'll have to check, because it was a rather large package, as you know, and I can't recall exactly which element came from where. [...] Senator STEELE-JOHN: The budget states that the purpose is to improve outcomes. Can you share with me what those improved outcomes are, specifically? Mr Schafer: Broadly speaking, the plan is to trial the move from strictly enrolment payment to a blend of enrolment payment and outcome payment. The plan to get to that position is to actually co-design with	Pages 88-89	31-May-23

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				<p>both providers and participants. So, it would be premature to say exactly how we're going to do it or exactly what splits we'd be talking about. We're looking broadly in two categories to do that: SLES, the School Leaver Employment Supports program, and supported independent living-specifically, younger people in residential aged care.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Schafer: They're the two areas we've identified as the most likely trials. We're not set 100 per cent on those two programs. They're the ones we've identified as the leading candidates.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Alright. We'd all support better outcomes in those spaces. In terms of the process, though, for selecting those two to be proposed as part of the trial, how did that come about?</p> <p>Mr Schafer: That was a consideration by government through the budget process.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Did DSS propose those two areas?</p> <p>Mr Schafer: I'll check, as part of the secretary's earlier comment about the source.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Mr Griggs, do you know?</p> <p>Mr Griggs: I understand it was our suggestion that they're the most likely candidates. Rather than trying to do a broad spray trial, it was a targeted trial in a couple of areas.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes. But you could've picked anywhere.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: As Mr Schafer said, we'll check the detail.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: If you could ID for us precisely why those two areas were proposed as well, that would be very useful.</p>	
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DSS SQ23-000275	Department of Social Services	Jordon Steele-John	Budget measure Evidence-based Assistive Technology and Supports	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: I will start with Ms Shannon, in relation to DSS's role around the independent advisory panel for assistive technology.</p> <p>Ms Shannon: As Ms McKenzie said earlier, there are two elements to the measure. The measure that DSS is working on is to establish an expert advisory panel to identify evidence based assistive technology and other supports. The idea is to make it easy for participants to get access to evidence based assistance. It could be where there's a new piece of technology, but it very much goes to wanting to make sure that access to assistance is underpinned by a sound evidence base. The way that the department will implement that, again, will involve co-design with participants and other stakeholders to set up the expert advisory panel.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: When will it be established?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I think that we'd be looking to set it up in the new financial year. I might just defer to my colleague on some of the timing if that's okay.</p> <p>Mr Schafer: We're commencing set-up work now. Officially the measure starts on 1 July. We hope to have that-I can't commit to a start date, but we'll be working actively on it from that period.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Was this initiative suggested by DSS? It's being led by you, but, in terms of its inclusion in the package of measures, was this a DSS initiative?</p> <p>Mr Schafer: We were actively involved, but it was part of that package. I'll have to take it on notice with the earlier question.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: If you could, that would be useful.</p>	Pages 96-97	31-May-23
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DSS SQ23-000276	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Autism Support Funding	<p>Senator ASKEW: Continuing on with the autism topics, the cost for the support of people with autism-\$27 million over four years from 2023-24-will be met by reprioritising funding from the DSS program Disability and Carers. Can you outline what programs or grants or services are going to be cut or amended to fund the measures?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: The question that you asked was around whether there were going to be any cuts associated with the reprioritisation within Outcome 3.1. I can confirm that the answer is no. There are different elements of Outcome 3.1 that are demand-driven, if you like, driven by different levels of demand for particular types of services. That leads to scenarios where there are lower utilisation of services, and there is an underspend. So the reprioritisation associated with the autism measure was associated with those underspends in the areas of 3.1 that were not being utilised. The other component related to the information linkages and capacity-building program, where there were uncommitted funds that contributed to that reprioritisation.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Would you be able to provide me, even on notice, what those underspends were that have been redirected that way?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: We can take that on notice.</p>	Page 118	31-May-23
DSS SQ23-000277	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Information, Linkages, and Capacity Building	<p>Senator ASKEW: ... You also mentioned the ILCs for uncommitted, so could you give me the details on those as well?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: I can give that detail to you on notice, if you'd like.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: That would be good.</p>	Page 118	31-May-23

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DSS SQ23-000278	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Annual Administered Funding - Programs and Grants	<p>Senator ASKEW: ... Since the October 2022 budget, which seems like a long time ago, what annual administered items or programs and grants have been discontinued or not renewed in Outcome 3?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: I think we would have to take that on notice, given the breadth of what you've asked. There are time limited grants that are due to cease normally because the activity is time limited. There are other programs where there are changes. But we could take on notice the detail outside of the normal parameters of a grant ceasing because the activity has finished. We can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: When you do that, can you also include any cuts or amendments across the forward estimates, if that applies for those as well?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: We'll take that on notice.</p>	Page 118	31-May-23
DSS SQ23-000279	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	National Autism Strategy - Consultation	<p>Senator ASKEW: You mentioned earlier the \$3.7 million being provided for the co-design national consultation engagement process in the National Autism Strategy. Can you give me a bit of an update on that, including when consultation is likely to commence?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: Certainly. In terms of the progress to date, it was announced in February that a national autism oversight council would be established, and indeed that has now been established. The council has met twice now, and it, in its most recent meeting, heard from a survey process that sought to draw out the particular views of different parts of the autistic community and people with autism and some of the ways that they expected to be engaged as part of the national consultation process. The intention is that the consultation process will start later this calendar</p>	Page 119	31-May-23

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				<p>year. There is a co-design process around the consultation, and then that will come to the Oversight Council for consideration and ultimately decision by the minister around that consultation. The intention is that it will be a very broad based consultation, reaching all parts of Australia and particularly trying to ensure that it reaches those hardest to reach who may not have been consulted through other processes, particularly as part of the disability strategy or other processes around autism.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: You mentioned they heard from the survey process, was that somebody coming to give a presentation on types of things that could be done?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: Yes, it was. It was a piece of work that Autism CRC was commissioned to do. I can provide the detail of the level of engagement with the autistic community around it on notice. The presentation was delivered to the oversight council by three autistic people talking through the experience and approach that they took to that process.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: That would be really handy if you could provide that.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000281	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Selection of the members of the National Autism Strategy's oversight council	<p>Senator ASKEW: Members of the National Autism Strategy's oversight council were selected through an open expression of interest process which closed in March. When did the EOIs open?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: I should know that in terms of the date, but I may need to take on notice the specific date. You are right that the process was run by the autistic community itself. It was during March and April. I'll take on notice the specific date. It was conducted by a number of disability representative organisations and others in the autistic community and sector. They ran</p>	Page 120	31-May-23

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				<p>their own nomination process and put forward nominations for consideration by the minister, the minister chose from the list that was provided by the autistic community and now we have eight autistic community members on that oversight council, two researchers and six Australian government officials. One of the co-chairs is autistic, and I am the other co-chair.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: That's interesting. This might be something else you'll need to take on notice, especially if it was run independently, but how and where were they advertised? How were they managed, and how many expressions of interest were received? Could I get a summary of what happened in the process?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: I'll take the details on notice.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: And then who made the final decision on the successful members? How was that applied, if there was more-</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: The final decision was made by the Minister for Families and Social Services, Minister Rishworth. The advice provided to Minister Rishworth reflected the nominations that were put forward by the community. There was, if you like, a longlist of around 20 people-</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: I was going to say, 'Was there a lot of interest?'</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: There was a lot of interest. My understanding is that there were hundreds-from memory, there were 300-odd-but I'll take on notice the specific details.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000282	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Members of the National Autism	Senator ASKEW: ...The next question I had was how many people with autism run the council. You've just	Page 120	31-May-23

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			Strategy's oversight council with Autism	<p>answered that.</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: It's eight from the autistic community and two researchers, and I'm aware that at least one of those researchers is also autistic. I'm not aware of the status of the government members.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Are the members remunerated?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: They'll be remunerated for their time, yes, in accordance with the normal Remuneration Tribunal arrangements for sitting fees.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Can you include the details of what that would be when you take it on notice regarding the others?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: I can.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000283	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Grant expenditure - Outcome 3	<p>Senator ASKEW: Okay. I haven't got too many more. Mine are going to be more generally in outcome 3, particularly regarding coding errors. My first question is a very similar question to what we had earlier. What is the total expenditure of grants in this year's budget and across the forward estimates for annual items administered by DSS in outcome 3? It's a much broader question.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: You can see that in our portfolio budget statement. I'd probably have to take away exactly what the number is, but you can see at page 61 that we spend, in the disability and carers space, \$1.673 billion on administered expenditure and in program 3.2 a further-I'm adding it up in my head-about \$180 million. That's not necessarily all on grants, but the majority of that will be on grants.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Would you be able to provide, on notice, the annual breakdown for the next four years as well?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Yes.</p>	Page 121	31-May-23

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DSS SQ23-000284	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Disability Employment Services	<p>Senator ASKEW: ...For the current year, the performance measure for disability employment services is the 'extent to which people with disability are supported to find and maintain employment through disability employment services', with the expected planned performance result 'at least 40 per cent of job placements sustained to 13 weeks'. According to the Social Services PBS, the expected performance result is 'partially on track'. How many people with a disability are currently seeking employment through disability employment services?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: The current case load is approximately 274,000 people in the disability employment services program.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: And what percentage of job placements are currently sustaining to the 13 weeks?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: As you indicated, there are a number of different measures. Job placements sustained to 13 weeks in 2021-22 was 44 per cent, so the target was met.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Have you got the year-to-date figure for this year?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: No. That's still under calculation.</p> <p>Ms Chatham: Yes. We'd have to take that on notice.</p>	Pages 121-122	31-May-23
DSS SQ23-000285	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Disability Employment Services - duration of placements	<p>Senator ASKEW: ...How many weeks, on average, are DES jobseekers remaining in their job placements?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: We would have to take that on notice. The way that the program works is providers receive outcome payments based on employment that's sustained to 13 weeks, 26 weeks or 52 weeks. Most of the data that we would capture in the administrative system is really based around those payments. But we can take on notice whether or not we're able to</p>	Page 122	31-May-23

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				provide further detail. Senator ASKEW: If you could give us, say, the last three or four years of that at the same time, that would be great.		
DSS SQ23-000286	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Disability Employment Services	Senator ASKEW: ...How many Australians are using disability management services and employment support services-the two? Ms Shannon: That's right: there are two subprograms in the DES program. As I indicated earlier-I rounded up the total-the total figure for the whole program is 273,611 participants. Of those, 112,900 people participate in disability management services, DMS, and for the employment support service, ESS, the other component of the program, it's 160,711 participants. Senator ASKEW: What appropriation was provided in the budget over the forward estimates for DMS? Ms Chatham: I don't have the breakdown by the two subcomponents. I'll have to take that on notice. Senator ASKEW: If you could take it on notice for each of the years of the forwards as well, that would be great.	Page 122	31-May-23
DSS SQ23-000287	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Disability Employment Services	Senator ASKEW: ...Since February 2023, have any disability employment services had their funding cut or terminated due to noncompliance? Mr Griggs: I think the answer is no, but if it's not, we will provide it on notice. Senator ASKEW: If there are any, please provide the details around that-what the noncompliance was, the number of participants that would be affected and the alternative arrangements that would be put in place.	Page 122	31-May-23
DSS SQ23-000288	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Grant Expenditure - Outcome 3	Senator ASKEW: ...This might be one that you want to take on notice. What's the total expenditure of grants	Page 123	31-May-23

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				<p>in this year's budget and across the forward estimates for programs with DSS in outcome 3, with an annual breakdown for the forwards? Mr Hetherington: We might take that on notice. Mr Griggs: Given that it crosses a number of parameters- Senator ASKEW: Yes, it will. That's right. Mr Griggs: we'll take that on notice. Senator ASKEW: Also, how many grant programs are administered in DSS within outcome 3? Could you take that one on notice?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000289	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Disability Services Act	<p>Senator ASKEW: ...In October the government announced it would open consultation on modernising the Disability Services Act 1986, seeking to put people with disability and their views at the centre of policy design. That was a media release from the minister. Could you provide an update on this consultation process and the work underway to strengthen employment services for Australians with a disability? Mr Griggs: Mr Mansfield will take that one. Mr Mansfield: There has been a public consultation on potential changes to the Disability Services Act, which was conducted from November 2022 to February 2023 and received almost 200 responses, including written submissions and responses to a survey. There were 255 individuals that attended online seminars targeted at organisations who received funding from the department that relates to the Disability Services Act. You're right to point out that Disability Employment Services is one of the services that are covered under that act, in addition to things like advocacy services, for example. In terms of decision-</p>	Pages 123-124	31-May-23

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				<p>making around the future design of the act, we're continuing to work on the development of a draft bill, and matters around timing and next steps associated with that are a matter for government.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: I was going to ask whether you have a time frame on that, but you may not have that.</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: That's a matter for government.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: That's fine. Minister, you haven't got any update?</p> <p>Senator Ayres: I don't have any further updates, no.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: If there is anything that you can provide on notice, I'd appreciate that.</p> <p>Senator Ayres: Of course.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000290	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Disability Employment Services - Quality Framework	<p>Senator ASKEW: What is the time frame for the outcome?</p> <p>Ms Chatham: We're looking at commencing from 1 July. We are needing it to be a bit of a phased-in transition, recognising that-</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: That's only few weeks away. I just realised that.</p> <p>Ms Chatham: We know, yes. But recognising the impact on both providers and participants, we'll need to phase that in.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Who's managing it? Is it being managed within the department?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: So they will look after engagement. Once you've got a plan in place, would you be able to provide that on notice, with regard to what the consultation will look like going forward?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: We can do that, yes.</p>	Page 124	31-May-23
DSS SQ23-000291	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Student Payments	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Do you have the up-to-date expenditure for 2022-23?</p>	Page 58	30-May-23

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				<p>Mr Flavel: For which payments, sorry? Senator BROCKMAN: For each of those. Mr Flavel: We will. Ms Evans: Youth allowance student and apprentices, for 2022-23 was \$1,793,000,000. Senator BROCKMAN: Is this to 30 March? Ms Evans: Correct; 31 March. Senator BROCKMAN: Could you start that figure again? Ms Evans: So \$1,793,000,000. Mr Flavel: Which year were you after? Senator BROCKMAN: It was the most recent figures, year to date. Mr Flavel: What we publish in the portfolio budget statement is the estimated actual. Senator BROCKMAN: Was that first number an estimated actual or year to date? Mr Flavel: It was estimated actual. Senator BROCKMAN: Sorry; I wrote it down as year to date. Mr Flavel: Apologies; the numbers in the portfolio budget statement when it's published in May are the estimate for the entire year based on actuals to that point. Senator BROCKMAN: If these numbers are in the post budget statement, I'm happy to look there. Ms Evans: They are on page 40. There you've got youth allowance student, Austudy, ABSTUDY, student start-up loans et cetera. Senator BROCKMAN: Do you know roughly how we're tracking year to date versus those projections? Mr Flavel: I don't think we have it to hand. Senator BROCKMAN: Can you take that on notice</p>		
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				please? Mr Flavel: Yes.		
DSS SQ23-000292	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	NDIS funding arrangements	<p>Senator ASKEW: Excellent. As the review is going ahead and the report is released, almost certainly there are going to be renegotiations with states and territories regarding the costing of this scheme. With the financial sustainability trajectory happening, does it mean the Commonwealth waiting until 2025 to 2028 to renegotiate them, or are there going to be big discussions? Obviously we announced recently, after the National Cabinet meeting, where we're going. Where are things at in regard to relationships with the states and territories regarding the renegotiating of the agreements?</p> <p>Senator Ayres: I have to confess that I was distracted by a discussion with the secretary. If you could start that question again for me, I'd be very grateful.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: With regard to the fact that the report is going to be released, and there will be renegotiations required with the states and territories on their contributions to the funding of the NDIS, and, obviously, I'm aware that National Cabinet met recently and made the announcement that they have, can you give me an update on where things are at in relation to those discussions and agreements?</p> <p>Senator Ayres: I don't have any additional information to provide than the headline outcome of the National Cabinet.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Could you take on notice giving us an update, especially with time lines on when things are expected to happen?</p> <p>Senator Ayres: If there's something additional that I</p>	Page 117	31-May-23

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				can provide in terms of any developments or engagements, I will.		
DSS SQ23-000296	Department of Social Services	Hollie Hughes	Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremonies	In the last financial year; a. How much departmental funding has been allocated to Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremonies? b. How much departmental funding has been spent? c. How many ceremonies/events have been held? d. Was this a specific Albanese government provision, or was this an independent departmental decision?	Written	5-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000297	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Food Insecurities in WA	1. I understand some funding is provided to national organisations for food relief, can you provide a breakdown of funding among states? a) What funding was included in the 2023-24 Federal Budget for funding for national food relief organisations? b) Did this include extra funding? 2. Does the Department of Social Services have discussions or meetings with the Western Australian Government about food insecurity?	Written	5-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000298	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Food Insecurities in WA	Does the Minister for Social Services hold discussions or meetings with State Ministerial counterparts about food insecurity and how more help can be provided to people? a) If so, can you provide dates of these discussions since May 2022?	Written	5-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000299	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Family Domestic Violence	What conversations have been had, either through the government or the department, with	Written	5-Jun-23

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				state/territories about how they manage Family Domestic Violence as a form of abuse?		
DSS SQ23-000300	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS)	Prior to its release, what briefings did Minister Rishworth receive on the Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS) and when did these occur? a. What did these briefings consist of?	Written	5-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000301	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS)	On 3 April Minister Rishworth issued a media release with Attorney General Mark Dreyfus. In this release she commented on looking carefully at the findings of the report, and using the data to inform better and more targeted policies. What conclusions has the government come to given you've had over a month to absorb this data (and potentially longer if you received a briefing)?	Written	5-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000302	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS)	What gaps has the government identified in current policy provisions arising from the study?	Written	5-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000303	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS)	What conversations have the government and the department had with state and territory counterparts about the study?	Written	5-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000304	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS)	How has the study driven reassessment of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031?	Written	5-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000305	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Australian Child Maltreatment Study	The National Children's Commissioner, Anne Hollonds, stated that 'if the shocking findings from the Aust Child Maltreatment Study do not lead to urgent action by governments, then the question is: What will it take to make child wellbeing a national priority in this country?' and 'In a rich and developed country like Australia, high rates of child maltreatment are a sign of failed public service systems: poorly designed,	Written	5-Jun-23

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				<p>fragmented, and lacking co-ordination across health, mental health, education, and social services.'</p> <p>The government clearly cannot just refer to state and territory responsibility anymore. What urgent action is your government going to take?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000306	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Women's Budget Statement	<p>On page 22 of the Women's Budget Statement, the different programs that will be supported are detailed. Can you please provide a breakdown of the funding profile for each program or piece of the following work?</p> <p>a. establish a Child Support Stakeholder Consultation Group to provide a strong voice to Government on issues impacting families</p> <p>b. commission expert research on the costs of raising children in Australia and consider whether changes are needed to the child support formula to ensure child support payments provide children with an adequate level of financial support</p> <p>c. review compliance in the child support scheme, with a focus on collection and enforcement</p> <p>d. review the interaction between the child support scheme and Family Tax Benefit to ensure vulnerable single parent families are financially supported after separation</p> <p>e. undertake an evaluation of separated families to understand what can be done to support parents with caring responsibilities where private collect arrangements have broken down.</p>	Written	6-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000307	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Women's Budget Statement - Child Support Stakeholder Consultation Group	<p>With regards to the establishment of a Child Support Stakeholder Consultation Group, can you please detail the following:</p>	Written	6-Jun-23

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				<p>a. When you expect the group to be established</p> <p>b. How members of the group will be appointed</p> <p>c. The timeframes for these members appointments</p> <p>d. Whether there will be a terms of reference, and if so what this will include.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000308	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Women's Budget Statement - Child Support Formula	<p>With regards to the commissioning of expert research on the costs of raising children in Australia and consider whether changes are needed to the child support formula, can you please detail the following:</p> <p>a. Who will the Department engage to undertake this research?</p> <p>b. When do you expect this research to begin?</p> <p>c. When do you expect this research will be provided to the Department?</p>	Written	6-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000309	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Scheme Improvements	<p>Labor strongly supported the amendments contained within National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Amendment (Technical Amendments) Bill 2020 to fix major structural shortcomings of the scheme which was voted down. Why is the government now, under power, not trying to improve on the existing scheme in this way, namely, increasing the caps on payments from 150k as recommended by the royal commission?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000310	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Civil Settlements	<p>When pursuing civil settlements, the courts find much larger entitlements are owed to survivors of abuse, with one stakeholder advising that his offer under the redress scheme was just 10% of the civil Court order. What is on average the difference between settlements under the redress scheme compared to civil settlements?</p> <p>a. How long is the average processing time for a redress application compared to a civil settlement?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23

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DSS SQ23-000311	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Assessment Framework Policy Guidelines	Why has the government now rejected the idea of publicly releasing the "assessment framework policy guidelines" when it previously supported releasing these?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000312	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Legislative Changes	Minister Rishworth has proposed Scheme improvements are subject to legislative change, to be agreed with state and territory governments. How long until this is finalised? a. Do you have projections forecast for how the changes being pursued by the government will improve procedural waiting times?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000313	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Management of Case Backlog	Will there be increased funding staffing and resources available for the scheme to deal with the influx of cases that have been seen, and the backlog?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000314	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Staff Cap	What is the current staff cap on the scheme, and how reliant is it on contract staff?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000315	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Successful Applications	What percentage of applications are successful?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000316	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Average Payments	What is the average payment to an applicant who is successful?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000317	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Transparency	The lack of transparency and inconsistency in its application (including consideration of prior payments) and the lack of reasons being provided for decisions is a major concern amongst stakeholders. What plans are in place to ensure these concerns are addressed?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000318	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Institutions	Churches and other institutions are prolific for using tactics to prevent those who have been abused from seeking justice. Is there any plan in place to compel institutions to join the scheme so that they can be held to account? For example, levy on such institutions in order to cover the cost of redress and collect funds from these institutions through the tax	Written	8-Jun-23

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				system? What is the impact on an application if the named institution has not signed up, folded, does not exist anymore or simply cannot afford to pay, and how many applications are on hold due to such reasons?		
DSS SQ23-000319	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Payment Liability	While it is decided who is liable for payments, does the applicant have to wait for the payout, or can the government pay upfront and be compensated by the relevant institution later?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000320	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Funder of Last Resort	In situations where the government is the 'funder of last resort' are they responsible for the full amount claimed? a. What is the average payment the government pays as a funder of last support? b. What is the highest payment the government has made as a funder of last support?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000321	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress	Why is the government not acting as the funder where institutions that have the capacity to join the Scheme but chooses not to, when this punishes the applicant?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000322	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Reassessment	Under the new proposals, survivors have the option of having their finalised application reassessed, where an institution identified through their application later joins the Scheme or where a government later agrees to be the funder of last resort for the institution. How many would be eligible for reassessment, and why is the government not stepping in as a funder of last resort and instead they have to reapply? a. Is there a guarantee that a review of an offer of redress will not result in the offer being reduced?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000323	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Age Eligibility Criteria	The government cited reasons of not creating inequities between survivors for not changing the age-	Written	8-Jun-23

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				related eligibility criteria - yet this creates barriers and inquiry for those who cannot apply for the scheme at all because of different legislation. How is that fair and what alternative avenues are available for those who fall between those gaps?		
DSS SQ23-000324	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Face to Face Application Processes	The availability Face-to-face application processes for First Nations, CALD and disability communities were a key recommendation. Has this been implemented effectively and what measurable outcomes do you have to show this?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000325	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Legal Services Funding	The Government has stated it funds Legal Services to deliver dedicated legal support and financial counselling services for redress applicants. What legal services receive this funding, and how much in total is this funding, and how many applicants do they anticipate they can help through this?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000326	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Review Recommendations	In response to the Review Recommendation, 3.7 the government stated it has increased its network of Redress Support Services which includes 12 First Nations specific organisations, providing improved services for First Nations Australians. Are these 12 organisations receiving specific support, funding or staff to handle these redress applications?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000327	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Indexation of Payments	How many of the payouts have been subject to indexation of prior payments and the deduction of unrelated prior payments, including stolen generations payments?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000328	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Housing - Victoria's Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework	Are you aware of Victoria's Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework, Every Aboriginal Person Has a Home? What do you think are the key lessons the federal government can learn from this successful work in Victoria?	Written	8-Jun-23

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DSS SQ23-000329	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Housing - First Nations Housing Plan	<p>What work is being done to develop a National First Nations Housing and Homelessness Plan, drawing from Victoria's Plan?</p> <p>a. Given the unique challenges First Nations people in this country face in securing adequate housing, wouldn't following Victoria's lead in this space be a positive next step as a framework to guide a national plan already exists?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000330	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Housing - National Housing and Homelessness Agreement	<p>The Government is committing \$67.5 million in 2023-24 for a one-year extension to the National Housing and Homelessness agreement. What is this funding for?</p> <p>a. Will states and territories receive the full \$1.6 billion in 2023-24 as outlined in the NHHA?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000331	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Housing - State and Territories Agreement	<p>1. I understand the government is undergoing negotiations with States and Territories for a new agreement. What are the priorities in negotiating an agreement with states and territories to address our housing crisis?</p> <p>a. Are the policy priorities the same as in the existing Agreement?</p> <p>b. One of the measures in the existing Agreement is tenancy reform. What has been achieved in this priority?</p> <p>c. What is the progress of negotiations with the States and Territories?</p> <p>d. How much public housing has been sold by States and Territories in the past five years, since the Agreement began? (can provide on notice)</p> <p>e. How often are Housing Ministers meeting, and how</p>	Written	8-Jun-23

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				<p>often is the Department meeting with its counterparts in the States and Territories?</p> <p>f. Is it possible within these negotiations for the Government to develop a National Plan for First Nations Housing and Homelessness?</p> <p>g. Is there any consideration for getting an agreement with states and territories to put a cap on rent rises?</p> <p>h. Will you push for the expansion of funding to deliver and expand programs designed to address First Nations housing and homelessness?</p> <p>i. There is a lack of culturally safe tenancy programs in all states and territories, contributing to difficulties in tenancy retention for First Nations peoples. Will this government work to expand tenancy support programs nationally that have proven to sustain First Nations tenancies, like Aboriginal Housing Victoria's 'More Than a Landlord Program' and other similar proven services?</p> <p>j. How might this be achieved through a renegotiated NHHA?</p> <p>k. Will there be any consideration of housing conditions and renters' rights at a federal level e.g. establishment of minimum standards to be enforced by States and Territories?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000332	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Housing Policy Partnership	<p>\$9.2 million was allocated in October over 3 years from 2022-23 to establish the Housing Policy Partnership, which was to be co-chaired by NATSIHA. How much of this money has been spent?</p> <p>a) How much money has NATSIHA received to lead this project?</p> <p>b) The first meeting was supposed to happen in early 2023. Has this happened yet?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23

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				<p>c) Regarding the Indicators of the partnership, if the groups agree that these aren't sufficient and need to be changed, will you commit to doing this?</p> <p>d) How is this partnership going to interact with the National Housing Supply and Affordability Council?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000333	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Universities Australia Funding - Sexual Assault Resources	<p>During estimates, the Department advised that Universities Australia changed the focus of the funding agreement to produce sexual assault resources from student focussed materials to a "staff-focused community of practice".</p> <p>1. Please outline the parameters of the initial funding agreement with Universities Australia, and the changes that have subsequently been agreed to</p> <p>2. When was the decision made to change the scope of the project?</p> <p>3. Who was responsible for the decision to change the scope of the project?</p> <p>a. How was the independent advisory committee consulted about the decision?</p> <p>b. Was the Department provided with any information about which members supported or did not support the proposed change?</p> <p>c. On what basis did the Department support the change of scope and agree to vary the funding agreement?</p> <p>d. What oversight will the Department provide in the development and distribution of the "community of practice" materials?</p>	Written	13-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000334	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Universities Australia - Research	We understand that Universities Australia advised that its research "indicated that a broad, homogenous campaign for the entire sector would unlikely have the cut through required to be effective in shifting	Written	13-Jun-23

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				<p>behaviours and attitudes regarding consent and respectful relationships."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who conducted that research? Was the Department provided with a copy of the research? • Was that research shared with the independent advisory committee? Did the independent advisory committee support the change in approach to the funding agreement? 		
DSS SQ23-000335	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Universities Australia - Campaign Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much progress had been made by Universities Australia on developing the campaign materials and resources to distribute on campuses prior to the decision to change the scope being made? • Had an advertising agency been briefed? • Had any ads and resources been developed? Was the independent advisory committee or the Department briefed on those resources? • How much of the \$1.5M had been spent on the development of the ads and resources before the decision to change scope? Will those expenses come from the \$1.5M funding? • Have new deadlines been set for fulfilment of the funding agreement? 	Written	13-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000336	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Escaping Violence Payment	<p>The Department confirmed during estimates that the evaluation of the Escaping Violence Payments (EVP) is ongoing, however the program was extended in the May Budget, using the same providers as currently administer the program.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will the evaluation review the selected providers for the program? 2. Have any quality assurance issues been raised regarding any EVP provider during the past 12 	Written	13-Jun-23

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				<p>months? If so, what has the Department done in response to those issues?</p> <p>3. Have any variations been made to agreements with EVP providers to address any concerns, such as additional compliance conditions or requirements around documentation or responding to inquiries?</p> <p>4. Does the government intend to review the EVP providers as part of any decisions relating to further extension of the program?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000337	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Escaping Violence Payment - Wrap Around Care and Referrals	<p>People who contact EVP providers regarding the payments are likely to be very vulnerable. What procedures are in place to ensure that people who contact the service provider receive trauma-informed, wraparound care and appropriate referrals?</p> <p>What oversight does the Department have of whether those procedures are implemented? What does the Department do to assure itself that EVP providers are meeting service expectations?</p>	Written	13-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000338	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Redress - Eligibility Criteria	<p>Second Year Review of the National Redress Scheme Recommendation 3.2 states that a single application process should be used for all applications, including those with serious criminal convictions. The government has rejected this. Recognising the intersection between child sexual abuse and the pathway into the carceral system - why is there lines being drawn between those who are more and less deserving?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000339	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Perpetrator Programs Delivered in Prisons	<p>Senator LIDDLE: Does any of the Commonwealth money fund perpetrator programs delivered in prisons?</p>	Page 104	30-May-23

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				<p>Ms Doherty: I'd have to take that on notice. I don't think so.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: Because they're not a priority cohort?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: Mandated men's behaviour change programs and other perpetrator interventions that come through a court system, so they might apply to people who are incarcerated, are a state and territory responsibility.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: But none of those programs are funded by Commonwealth funds to the states or territories?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: They could be through the national partnership potentially, but there's no Commonwealth led program in relation to delivery of perpetrator programs in prisons.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: So, we're relying completely on the states and territories to deliver perpetrator programs for people in prisons who are effectively coming back into the community?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: That's consistent with the split of responsibilities between the Commonwealth and states, where the states are generally responsible for frontline service delivery and also for the operation of criminal justice systems and prisons.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000340	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	ANROWS Research Reports Status	<p>Senator LIDDLE: Can I ask you a couple of questions about funding for ANROWS. I'm interested to know about the programs. From the previous estimates, ANROWS had two research projects funded by DSS. One was about service system responses in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children exposed to domestic violence, and the other one was about healing programs related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. One of those deadlines has</p>	Page 104	30-May-23

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				<p>passed, and the other one has got a due date of June 2023. Can you tell me where they both are at and what the expectation is? Have they been extended, will they continue to be funded, have they come to an end, when are their reports are due?</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: Can I just get the name of the reports again?</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: This one is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children exposed to domestic and family violence, a report due February 2023. This is an ANROWS project. And the other one is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healing programs that respond to domestic and family violence and sexual assault.</p> <p>Ms Doherty: In relation to the research into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healing programs, that piece of research is still being delivered. It has been delayed, and it was significantly delayed due to COVID-19. The research was undertaken through yarning circles, so they couldn't be conducted online and the researchers have had to wait until they could get back together face-to-face to deliver that one.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: What's the new date if the due date for the family violence one was June 2023?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: The next milestone for that piece of research is August 2023.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Liddle, I need to pass the call soon.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: Was the other one due in February 2023?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: I am just looking for it.</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: Can you name the second one again, sorry?</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: That was the first one, and that was the service system responses and culturally designed</p>		
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				<p>practice frameworks.</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: I can see that one. I don't have the status on that, though it was forecast for February 2023. I need to check if that was released or what the status of that is. I can get that to you on notice.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000341	Department of Social Services	Sarah Henderson	500 Workers Locations	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I note both the member for Ballarat, Ms King, and the member for Bendigo, Ms Chesters, made a commitment for five workers each to be delivered in the Ballarat and Bendigo electorates. Is there any requirement for the states and territories to deliver these workers within a specific area?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: Yes. The requirements are consistent with those announced through the election commitment process, and some of those are specific to locations.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: In your funding agreements, you've determined by agreement where the workers should be based; is that right?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: We were guided by announcements.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: By election commitments. Are you able to detail any other election commitments that have been made in relation to where workers will be based? I realise it's a big country, but are you able to the extent that you can? I'm looking specifically at Victoria, but what other locations have been designated under these agreements?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: There are a range of locations and also a range of broader commitments. For example, 250 workers will be located in areas to support women and children who are in regional and remote areas, and, as we provided advice on previously, there have also been commitments in relation to the number of</p>	Page 109	30-May-23

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				<p>workers who will be located in services providing support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children, or women and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. So there are a range of commitments in terms of-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Obviously, we've seen the election commitment in relation to Bendigo and Ballarat. Are there any other designated locations that the now government committed to that are part of a funding agreement?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: Yes, there are. I don't think I have those listed, but there were a number of locations announced through the election process.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to provide that list on notice?</p> <p>Ms Doherty: Yes, we can provide it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you-and including all of the other requirements under the program, including some of the terms that you mentioned.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000342	Department of Social Services	Wendy Askew	Safe Places	<p>Senator Askew: Where's the round table on 6 June being held?</p> <p>Mr Sloan: That's in Canberra</p> <p>Senator Askew: And who has been invited to participate - what stakeholders?</p> <p>Mr Sloan: Sorry - we're just -</p> <p>Senator Askew: Even if you could just table a list of who will be invited and who will be attending -</p> <p>Mr Sloan: We can absolutely table who was invited and who will be attending.</p>	Page 65	31-May-23
DSS SQ23-000346	Department of Social Services	Jordon Steele-John	Information, Linkages, and Capacity Building - Funding Breakdown	<p>The Social Services Portfolio Budget Statements for expenditure on ILC is \$145,151,000 (2023-24), \$131,646,000 (2024-25) and \$140,340,000 (2025-26).</p> <p>a. What is the expected breakdown of this future</p>	Written	13-Jun-23

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				<p>funding by ILC streams? b. How does the Department determine the proportion of investment to be allocated to each of the five ILC streams?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000348	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Budget Statement of Risks	<p>The NDIS has again been included in the 2023-24 Budget's Statement of Risks in Budget Paper No.1. Can you confirm this only the second time the NDIS has been included, including the previous Budget before this one? a. Can you outline the reasons why the NDIS has been included as a 'Financial Risk' for the past two years? b. What factors have contributed to the addition?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000349	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Budget Statement of Risks - Future Sustainability	How does the inclusion of the NDIS as a 'Financial Risk' impact future funding and sustainability of the NDIS?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000350	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Budget Statement of Risks - Changes to Risk Level	Has the risk of the NDIS changed since the last Budget, ie more or less risk?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000351	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Budget Statement of Risks - Removal of Risk Status	What factors or circumstances would be required for the NDIS to be removed from the Statement of Risks?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000352	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Budget Statement of Risks - Rights of Participants	How will the government ensure that the inclusion of the NDIS as a financial risk does not compromise the rights and well-being of Australians with permanent and significant disabilities who rely on the Scheme for essential support?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000353	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability Framework	<p>What is the Government's proposed 'Financial Sustainability Framework'? a. Has it been created yet? b. What actuarial data was used to underpin this Framework? c. How will the Framework provide reassurance that the Scheme will be financially viable?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23

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DSS SQ23-000354	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability Framework - Annual Growth Target	<p>I quote from page 18 of Budget Paper No.1: "The framework will provide an annual growth target in total costs of the Scheme of no more than 8 per cent by 1 July 2026, with further moderation of growth as the Scheme matures. The NDIS will remain demand driven and the fastest growing Commonwealth payment." a. Where has this 8% come from? b. What actuarial data was used to come up with this number? c. How will the Government's proposed growth target of "no more than 8%" be achieved? d. What impact will the 8% growth target have on the accessibility and quality of supports and services for NDIS participants? e. How can the NDIS remain as a demand-driven Scheme if there is a cap on annual growth? f. How can the NDIS fully fund the demand with this cap? g. What does 'further moderation of growth as the Scheme matures' mean in this context?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000355	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability	What specific actions has been taken since the 2022 Election to address the NDIS' sustainability?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000356	Department of Social Services	Louise Pratt	Community Services and Child Protection Workforce	What workforce issues have been identified within community services and child protection?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000357	Department of Social Services	Louise Pratt	Community Services and Child Protection - Social Workers	<p>Particularly in the context of the supply of social workers needed to meet the needs of state government, community organisations and bodies with legal responsibilities for the protection of children? a) Has a shortage been identified? b) If so who identified this shortage?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23

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				<p>c) What is being done to address a need for more social workers in the profession?</p> <p>d) What is being done to retain these social workers?</p> <p>e) What is the extent of the shortage across all jurisdictions?</p> <p>f) Is there any national coordination across these issues?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000358	Department of Social Services	Louise Pratt	Social Worker Recruitment	What assessment has the Department of Social Services done of recruitment issues for the supply of social workers within Services Australia org who hold contracts with DSS under its various outcomes or within agencies in other portfolios who need social workers (eg health and hospitals)?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000359	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Budget Funding for Women's Safety Programs - Children	As part of the work into early intervention and prevention strategies is there a focus on ensuring children are extracted from DFSV violence environments at the earliest signs of risk?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000360	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner	<p>The functions of the Commissioner include but are not limited to- inform priorities for policy, research and data collection in cooperation with jurisdictions and relevant organisations/agencies: \$8.5 million over 4 years from 2023–24 for initiatives aimed at early intervention to prevent domestic, family and sexual violence.</p> <p>a) When will this measure be delivered?</p> <p>b) Who will maintain this database to ensure it remains up to date?</p> <p>c) How will the effectiveness of this measure be evaluated?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000361	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Delay of First Action Plan under National Plan	I am seeking an update on DSS's work relating to the first Action Plan under the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-32:	Written	16-Jun-23

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				<p>1. Can you provide an update on when the first Action Plan under the National Plan will be released?</p> <p>2. What is the explanation for the delay in the release of the Action Plan given the Minister and Government promised that it would be out early 2023?</p> <p>3. What would you define as 'early 2023'?</p> <p>4. Given we are about 5 weeks away from the beginning of July, which is well and truly into the second half of this year, can you please update the Committee on whether the Minister and Government's promise will be kept?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000362	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	First Action Plan - Draft	<p>1. How many times has the National Plan Advisory Group met since the National Plan was released?</p> <p>2. How many times have they been presented with a draft of the Action Plan?</p> <p>3. Have they provided feedback or made any recommendations during these meetings?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000363	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	First Action Plan - State & Territory Meetings	<p>1. How many times has DSS provided a draft copy of the Action Plan with the relevant departments in states and territories?</p> <p>2. How many times has the state and territory ministers responsible for addressing violence against women and children met to review the draft of the action plan?</p> <p>3. Were concerns or suggestions raised during these meetings? If so, what did they relate to?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23

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DSS SQ23-000364	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	First Action Plan - Ministerial Briefings	<p>1. How many briefings have been provided to the Minister or her office in relation to the draft Action Plan?</p> <p>2. How many briefings have been provided to the Minister or her office specifically in relation to the delay?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000365	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	First Action Plan - Targets	<p>1. Will the Action Plan include detailed targets and metrics for measuring success in addressing violence against women and children?</p> <p>2. Considering the Minister's commitment to end domestic violence within a generation, does the action plan have a specific action or target to end domestic violence within 20 years? a. If so, how is this metric defined and what strategies are proposed to achieve it?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000366	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	First Action Plan - Government Approvals	Does the Action Plan require additional approvals within government before it can be released? If yes, what is the expected timeline for obtaining these approvals?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000367	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	First Action Plan - Funding	<p>Are there any expected impacts the delay in releasing the action plan will have on the funding profiles of the \$1.6 billion investment in women's safety activities? a. Will the delay affect the allocation of funds or the implementation of programs and initiatives?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000368	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Action Plan for First Nations People to End Violence Against Women and Family Violence	<p>1. What and who has been consulted as part of the development of the Action plan? What feedback has been provided?</p> <p>2. What role is NIAA playing in the drafting of the plan?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23

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				<p>3. Given the overarching commitment made by the Government to end violence in a generation, what advice was provided by the department to the Minister on the feasibility of this within Indigenous communities?</p> <p>a. If so, what was this recommendation?</p> <p>4. Did NIAA provide advice on the commitment made by the Government to end violence in a generation?</p> <p>5. Considering the crises affecting Central Australian communities and other communities around the nation will the plan recommend implementing restrictions on the availability of alcohol and has this been an issue specifically raised during consultation?</p> <p>6. Has there been any indication from Indigenous organisations or communities that it will be possible to end violence against women and children in Indigenous communities within a generation? If so, who are they and what was their advice? Has the Minister for Indigenous Australians or her office been consulted?</p> <p>7. Does any of the funding for the Action Plan form part of the \$250 mill commitment in Alice Springs/Central Australia services in response to the violence crisis?</p> <p>8. What quantum of funding does the department expect it would need to implement this specific Action</p>		
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				Plan? Is the current funding sufficient to implement and maintain an effective action plan?		
DSS SQ23-000369	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Temporary Visa Holders - Experiencing Violence Pilot to January 2025	In the October 2022 budget BP 2 pg. 186 it was outlined that \$39.6 mill in 2022–23 to meet increased demand for the Escaping Violence Payment - is this funding separate to the \$38.2 mill allocated in the May 2023 Budget (pg.88 BP2) to extend the current Escaping Violence Payment (EVP) and Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot (TVP) to January 2025?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000370	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Temporary Visa Holders - Experiencing Violence Pilot to January 2025	In the October 22 Budget in BP 2 on pg. 186 \$12.6 million was allocated over two years from 2022–23 for a pilot program to assist Temporary Visa Holders who are experiencing domestic violence. Is this funding part of the \$38.2 mill allocated tin the May 2023 budget to extend the current Escaping Violence Payment (EVP) and Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot (TVP) to January 2025'? a) Is the Red Cross still delivering this programme? b) What is the breakdown of funding to 2025? c) How many people have to date been supported by the pilot programme? d) When will it cease? e) How are the programmes being assessed? f) Who is undertaking that assessment?	Written	16-Jun-23

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				g) When will the assessment be completed and will the findings be made public?		
DSS SQ23-000371	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Budget Funding for Women's Safety Programs - Performance	<p>1. What are the initiatives that are not currently on track?</p> <p>2. Can you please provide a detailed list of the programs and initiatives that are not on track and those that are on track?</p> <p>3. What outcomes will these delays impact?</p> <p>4. What evaluation has been undertaken to determine the effectiveness/benefits of these programs?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000372	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Budget Funding for Women's Safety Programs - Funding	Can you please outline how the additional \$589.3 million will be invested?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000373	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Budget Funding for Women's Safety Programs - National Perpetrator Referral Database	<p>As part of this investment in BP 2 pg. 89 it outlines that as part of this is \$8.5 mill over 4 years for initiatives aimed at early intervention to prevent DFSV, including developing a perpetrator risk assessment framework for frontline service providers, extending the Mensline Changing for Good Service and developing a national perpetrator referral database".</p> <p>1. What quantum of the \$8.5 m will be allocated to the database?</p> <p>2. What quantum of the 8.5m will be allocated to Mensline Changing for good service?</p> <p>3. Have all states and territories agreed to provide data for the national data base?</p> <p>4. If so, has that work begun?</p> <p>5. Will the federal Minister have oversight of the</p>	Written	16-Jun-23

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				data? 6. Who will maintain the database?		
DSS SQ23-000374	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Budget Funding for Women's Safety Programs - Perpetrator Risk Assessment Framework	1. How much work has been completed/in progress on the perpetrator risk assessment framework? 2. Will this be rolled out across all frontline service providers? 3. How will this framework contribute to prevention and early intervention programs?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000375	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Budget Funding for Women's Safety Programs - Children	1. The \$3.3 mill over 3 years from 2023-24 to review emergency accommodation serves and their suitability for children and to conduct an independent evaluation of the 1800RESPECT service. Has the review into emergency accommodation begun? Who has been reviewed? Surely, DSS would be aware of suitable accommodation serves already? What will the review be focussing on for the needs of children fleeing violent situations? 2. Will accommodation serves include other service provisions for children e.g., trauma counselling? What is the shortest timeframe the review can be conducted, and recommendations provided?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000376	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Australia's National Research Organisation on Women's Safety - Funding	In the October 22/23 Budget ANROWS had funding allocated through to 2023-2027 = \$23.3mill – ANROWS does not appear in the May 2023-24 BP's 1. Has this funding been absorbed into another programmes? 2. If funding has been re-directed to other programmes, which programme/s?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000377	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Australia's National Research Organisation on Women's Safety - Research to Date	1. What work has been completed to date by ANROWS? 2. When will these two research reports be released? 3. To date how much money had been spent?	Written	16-Jun-23

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DSS SQ23-000378	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Australia's National Research Organisation on Women's Safety - Forward Research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the forward research agenda for DSS by ANROWS? 2. Will there be a forward National research Agenda by ANROWS be released? 3. What consultation has been undertaken to develop this forward program and with whom? 4. Will it include research into positive masculinity, men as allies, positive role of fathers in raising children as a priority area, as indicated in the previous research agenda? 5. What research has been undertaken under the last research plan in this area? 6. How has that informed policy for the Action Plan under the National Strategy? 	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000379	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Helping Children Heal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the program funding been terminated, further reduced or delayed? 2. Is this program part of the Safe and Supported National framework? 3. Has this program been commenced? If so, when? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, where and what is the model? b. If not, where has the money been reallocated? 4. Where is it or will be delivered? 5. How has where it will be delivered been determined? 6. How much has been invested in this programme to date? 7. How many children will the pilot be able to support? 8. How is the effectiveness of the pilot to be assessed? 9. What other programs is the department funding to assist children involved in Family or domestic violence? 	Written	16-Jun-23

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DSS SQ23-000380	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Adolescent Boys at Risk Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What quantum of funding has been spent on this program to date and where? 2. What is the status of the program to date? 3. When will the trial commence and where? 4. Has a contract for the trial been sent to tender? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Does this trial involve funding and cooperation with the States and Territories? 5. When will it be completed? How many young men and adolescent boys are expected to participate in the trial? 6. How is the intervention trial being assessed and by who? 7. Can the department explain the delay in conducting the trial and why it cannot proceed earlier? 8. This is a new program introduced in the October 2022 budget, why will it take until 2024-25 for the trial to commence? 9. What other increased supports and programs will be available for this cohort until this trial is conducted and evaluated? 	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000381	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Escaping Violence Payment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the department provide the year-on-year breakdown of funding for the EVP payment from 2022-23? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How much has been spent on EVP payments to date this financial year? b. How much has been spent on payments to victim? c. How much has been spent on capability staffing? 2. Is the addition \$38.2m announced in the 2023-24 budget for EVP payments to Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot? 	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000382	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Specialised Family Violence Services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which organisations have received the 2022/23 funding? 	Written	16-Jun-23

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				2. How much funding has been distributed to date? 3. What is the distribution of providers across the states and territories?		
DSS SQ23-000383	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Children's Policy Package - Safe and Supported	1. What quantum has been spent so far and on what? 2. What are the details of the allocations for the remaining years? 3. Will the package include policy relating to the protection of children, including those who are/have experienced Family Domestic violence? a. Can you outline the programmes within package? b. Can the funding of each programme be provide c. What organisations will receive funding through this package?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000384	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Children's Policy Package - Safe and Supported Measures	What specific measures are applicable or relate to assisting/supporting children at risk through family and domestic violence?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000385	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Children's Policy Package - Safe and Supported Action 1	What action has been undertaken under "Action 1: Early Supports" to explore partnerships for place-based initiatives?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000386	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Children's Policy Package - Safe and Supported Partnerships	Has the department entered into partnerships with any new or existing organisations to deliver these initiatives? Can the department provide those details? a. If so, will these be part of the additional 500 community service workers?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000391	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Family Tax Benefit and Reasonable Maintenance Action	What is the average fortnightly payment being missed per recipient by those FTB Part A recipients who are receiving only the base rate of FTB Part A because they have not taken a reasonable maintenance action? Please calculate this foregone income on the assumption that these individuals would have received an exemption from the maintenance action test.	Written	16-Jun-23

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DSS SQ23-000392	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Family Tax Benefit and Reasonable Maintenance Action	As of 31 December 2022, please provide: a. The number of FTB Part A recipients per payment rate per fortnight broken down by indigenous status b. Number of FTB Part A recipients in remote communities per payment rate per fortnight broken down by indigenous status c. Number of FTB Part A claimants in remote communities who have failed the maintenance action test broken down by indigenous status	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000393	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Family Tax Benefit and Reasonable Maintenance Action	1. As of 31 December 2019, how many indigenous people living in remote communities were receiving FTB Part A? How many had failed the maintenance action test? 2. For each of the calendar years of 2019 and 2022, how many exemptions from the maintenance action test were granted to indigenous people living in remote communities receiving FTB Part A?	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000394	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Family Tax Benefit	Please provide a breakdown of Family Tax Benefit recipients by the number of children they have in their care as follows: a) One child b) Two children c) Three children d) Four children e) Five or more children	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000395	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Family Tax Benefit	Provide the number of Family Tax Benefit recipients and children by payment type broken down by age of children, including children aged 0-4 years for the FY 2022-23, 2021-22.	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000396	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Disability Employment Services payment suspensions and	Please provide the following information regarding the Targeted Compliance Framework (TCF) and DES participants: 1. Number of payment suspensions by demographic	Written	16-Jun-23

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			Targeted Compliance Framework	<p>group and program (as per compliance data on demerit counts referred to below) for each month from December 2020 to the present</p> <p>2. Number of individuals subject to payment suspensions (broken down as above)</p> <p>3. Number of payment suspensions broken down by type of participation failure, by program, for each month from December 2020 to the present</p> <p>4. Number of payment suspensions leading to a payment delay or cancellation, broken down as in (3)</p> <p>5. Demerit and penalty counts by stage of the TCF, demographic group and program (as per data previously provided), including capability review and penalties data, for each month from December 2020</p> <p>6. Number of payment on hold messages and conversion to payment suspensions broken down as in (3) above.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000397	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	National Carers Strategy	<p>1. What activities is the Department undertaking in relation to carer policy?</p> <p>2. Will the Department develop a new National Carer Strategy?</p>	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000398	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Data on Commonwealth Rent Assistance	Provide the number of recipients receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance per payment type broken down by gender per quarterly DSS data report for FY 2022-23, 2021-22.	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000399	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Data on Commonwealth Rent Assistance	<p>The following questions refer to the increase in Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) received by households receiving income support as a result of the Budget measure:</p> <p>1. What is the estimated average dollar change for all maximum rate CRA recipients (i.e. aggregating all payment types)?</p> <p>2. What is the estimated average dollar change per</p>	Written	16-Jun-23

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				<p>fortnight for all CRA recipients?</p> <p>3. What percentage of CRA recipients will:</p> <p>a. Not experience an increase in their CRA payments?</p> <p>b. Experience an increase of less than 15%?</p> <p>4. Please provide:</p> <p>a. The total number of households receiving CRA</p> <p>b. The number of households receiving CRA currently:</p> <p>i. Paying 30% or more of their income on rent; and</p> <p>ii. Paying 50% or more of their income on rent</p>		
DSS SQ23-000400	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Data partner income test and payment reduction/suspension	<p>Please provide the following information for the past 5 years, broken down by payment type:</p> <p>- Total number of income support recipients having reported a partner income.</p> <p>- Number of these recipients who have had their payment reduced or suspended and reason for suspension/reduction.</p>	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000401	Department of Social Services	James McGrath	Voice Campaign Material - Email Signatures	<p>As of 16 June 2023, how many employees have a reference to the Voice to Parliament Referendum campaign in their email signature? How many of these implied a position in favour of the proposed referendum question? How many of these implied a position against the proposed referendum question? Please table all employee email signatures as of 16 June 2023 that had a reference to the Voice to Parliament Referendum.</p>	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000402	Department of Social Services	James McGrath	Voice Campaign Material - Workplace Displays	<p>As of 16 June 2023, how many pieces of material with a reference to the Voice to Parliament Referendum campaign were displayed in any workspace? How many of these implied a position in favour of the</p>	Written	16-Jun-23

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				proposed referendum question? How many of these implied a position against the proposed referendum question? Please table all pieces of material that had a reference to the Voice to Parliament Referendum.		
DSS SQ23-000403	Department of Social Services	James McGrath	Website Usage Request	Since the swearing in of the new ministry on 1 June 2022, please provide a breakdown of the domain usage for the 50 most utilised (by data sent and received), unique (internet) domains accessed by the minister's office. Please provide: 1. The domain name of the website being accessed (or IP address if the Domain is unavailable in the tracking system). 2. Amount of data downloaded and uploaded to the site. 3. Number of times the site was accessed.	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000404	Department of Social Services	James McGrath	Work-related Social Media	Please table all LinkedIn posts made by the Departmental Secretary, Deputy Departmental Secretaries, and the COO. Please also table any other public social media posts made relevant to their current roles	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000405	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Budget Measure - Grants and Additional Support	1. The Government is also to reprioritise \$0.4 million for an Early Learning Childcare Facilities Improvement Grant opportunity. What programmes are being cut to fund this initiative? 2. Please provide the new funding profile for that programme across the forward estimates? 3. Why is a funding profile not listed across the forward estimates?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000406	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Early Years Strategy - Member Panel	1. What was the selection criteria for membership of the 'expert' 14-member panel established to inform development of the Early Years Strategy? a. Can you provide the selection criteria to the Committee?	Written	19-Jun-23

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				2. Is the 14-member panel remunerated? a. If so, what remuneration does the panel receive and who set the rate of remuneration?		
DSS SQ23-000407	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Early Years Strategy - Summit Attendees	Around 100 attendees were invited to the Summit. How were the attendees chosen to attend? What was the selection criteria? Can you provide the Committee with the list of invitees? a. What costs of the Summit did the Commonwealth meet? (E.g travel, accommodation etc...) b. How much did the Summit cost the Commonwealth?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000408	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Early Years Strategy - Consultation	1. When will the expert roundtables commence? 2. Please outline the engagement and consultation to date with children and families? 3. What level of engagement has there been to date with indigenous communities? Please outline.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000409	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Early Years Strategy - Development Process	1. Please outline the current status of the Strategy's development process and outline key activities that will be undertaken by the Department in the months ahead. 2. Is the Strategy still on track to be completed later this year? If not, what has caused this delay? 3. Please outline the role of the Department of Education in developing the Strategy.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000410	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Playgroup Australia and Toy Libraries	With reference to Question on Notice DSS SQ22-000411, can the Department provide an update on the status of funding commitments to the following playgroups and toy libraries: - Bayswater Playgroup \$5,000 - Little Possums Playgroup \$5,000 - Gales Community House Playgroup \$5,000 - Humpty Dumpty Toy Library \$5,000 - Blue Mountains Toy Library \$15,000	Written	19-Jun-23

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				- Bayswater Toy Library \$5,000 - Wyndham Vale and Manor Lakes Toy Library \$20,000 - Wayraparattee Toy Library \$5,000		
DSS SQ23-000411	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Budget Measure – Future National Redress Scheme Funding	Since the scheme's commencement, what appropriation has been provided to the National Redress Scheme and provide a break down per financial year?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000412	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Redress Scheme - Advance Payments	1. How many applicants have sought an advance payment under the National Redress Scheme? 2. What has been the value of advance payments provided under the Scheme?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000413	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Redress Scheme - Government as Funder of Last Resort	1. How many cases has the Government provided redress as the funder of last resort? 2. What has been the value of cases that have been provided by the Government as the funder of last resort?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000414	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Redress Scheme - Applications	1. How many applicants for Redress have been received by the Scheme? 2. How many applications have been finalised? 3. How many payments have been made to applicants? 4. What has been the financial value of these payments? 5. Can you provide a break down per financial year? 6. How many applications are currently being processed?	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>7. How many offers have been made and are awaiting an applicant's decision?</p> <p>8. How many applications are with institutions to provide information?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000415	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Redress Scheme - Governance Board	How many times has the governance board met since the election?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000416	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Ensuring Robust Policy, Financial, Legislative and Governance Oversight of the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<p>1. Please outline how the provision of \$13.0 million to the Department of Social Services will provide "robust policy, financial, legislative and governance oversight" of the NDIS.</p> <p>2. What additional resources will be provided to the Department out of this appropriation?</p> <p>3. How will these additional resources interact with Commonwealth bodies and structures already established to ensure the financial, legislative and governance oversight of the NDIS?</p> <p>4. Is this to be a stand-alone unit within the Department? If so, where will it sit in the Department's organisational chart?</p> <p>5. How many DSS officials will be involved in this measure?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000417	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Disability Reform Ministerial Council	<p>1. The Disability Reform Ministerial Council (DRMC) met in Canberra on 10 February 2023. Can the Department provide the meeting's agenda?</p> <p>2. Can the Department provide a list of attendees, including public servants?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>3. The Council "agreed to accelerate a nationally consistent approach to regulatory settings around restrictive practices". Can the Department list these restrictive practices and provide details of this accelerated process? When will the national consistent approach be finalised?</p> <p>4. Has the council met since 10 February?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000418	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Overall funding for Families and Communities	<p>1. What is the total expenditure of grants in this year's budget and across the forward estimates for programmes/grants within DSS in Outcome 2? Please provide a breakdown across the forward estimates.</p> <p>2. How many grant programmes are administered by DSS in total and how many are within Outcome 2?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000419	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Overall funding for Families and Communities - Update Since October 2022	<p>1. Since the October 2022 Budget, have any of the grant programmes been discontinued or had their funding cut over the forward estimates?</p> <p>2. Since the October 2022-23 Budget, have any programmes/grant schemes ceased?</p> <p>3. If so, please outline the discontinued programme and/or the amount cut from the programme?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000420	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Volunteer Grants Programme	What appropriation was provided in the 2023-24 budget and across the forward estimates for the Volunteer Grants programme?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000421	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Overall funding for Families and Communities - Annual Administered Item	Can the Department provide an updated breakdown of the appropriation by Annual Administered Item for the 125 programmes referenced in Attachment A to QoN reference number DSS SQ22-000310? Please also include any additional programmes added since	Written	19-Jun-23

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				November 2022 and funding provided across the forward estimates.		
DSS SQ23-000423	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Freedom of Information	<p>1. How many officers are currently responsible for FOIs?</p> <p>2. How much expenditure has been spent on external legal advice for FOI's since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>3. On average how many days does it take to prepare an FOI response?</p> <p>4. Are FOI responses provided to Ministerial Offices before they are released to the applicant?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. If yes, how many days on average is it taking for each FOI request to be cleared by the Ministerial Office.</p> <p>5. From 1 July 2022, how many FOI's have been provided late?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. What was the reason for the late status?</p> <p>6. From 1 July 2022, how many FOIs have been refused?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. On what basis were they refused?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000426	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Ministers' Offices - Hospitality policy	<p>2. Since 1 July, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices?</p> <p>Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>Since 1 July 2022, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices?</p> <p>If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000427	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Department Liaison Officers	<p>3. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p> <p>Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.		
DSS SQ23-000428	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Departmental staff in Ministers offices	4. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer? Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister. Please denote any change in this allocation since February 2023.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000429	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Portfolio Minister meetings with Secretary	5. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000430	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Non-Portfolio Minister meetings with Secretary	6. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000431	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Department Briefs provided to Ministers Office	7. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs by Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000432	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals to Ministers Office	8. How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	19-Jun-23

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				Please denote where these New Policy Proposals have been provided since February 2023.		
DSS SQ23-000433	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Paper Usage	9. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000434	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Committees and Taskforces	10. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2023. 11. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2023.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000435	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Budget Savings	12. In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses. a. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? b. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: i. External labour hire ii. Consultancy iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>c. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to?</p> <p>d. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates?</p> <p>e. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. External labour hire ii. Consultancy iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses <p>f. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>g. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>h. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. If so, why and was it approved? 		
DSS SQ23-000436	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Functions hosted by the Department	<p>13. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; 	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</p> <p>e. Details of any food served;</p> <p>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</p> <p>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000437	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Functions hosted by the Ministers	<p>14. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, please provide the following:</p> <p>a. List of functions;</p> <p>b. List of attendees;</p> <p>c. Function venue;</p> <p>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</p> <p>e. Details of any food served;</p> <p>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</p> <p>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000438	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Executive Staff office refurbishment	<p>15. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000439	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Travel Costs	<p>16. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>17. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>19. What was the total cost of staff travel for</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				departmental/agency employees in financial year 2022/23 to date?		
DSS SQ23-000440	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Department premises upgrades	18. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide any photographs of the upgraded facilities.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000441	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Media Monitoring and Advertising campaign costs	20. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2022/23 to date? 21. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000442	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Promotional merchandise costs	22. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs. Please provide examples of the merchandise purchased.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000443	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Credit Cards	23. In relation to departmental use of credit cards: a. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? b. What was the value of the largest reported	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>purchase on a credit card in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was it for?</p> <p>c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>e. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</p> <p>g. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2022/23 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</p> <p>h. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2022/23 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>i. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>j. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p>		
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				k. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023		
DSS SQ23-000444	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Comcare Referrals	24. In relation to department/agency: a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? b. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. c. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? d. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000445	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Fair Work Commission referrals	25. In relation to the department/agency: a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? b. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000446	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Departmental Reviews	26. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide: a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review;	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed.</p> <p>27. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide: a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000447	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Interdepartmental Committee Representation	<p>28. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide: a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000448	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	New Entities within portfolio	<p>29. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>created.</p> <p>30. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased or disbanded since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000449	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Electorate brief request	<p>31. Since 1 July 2022, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate? a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided. b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000450	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Staffing	<p>32. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 May 2023. Please provide: a. a breakdown of this ASL by APS classification; b. the number of ASL, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and c. the number of ASL, by classification, that are currently not filled.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000451	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Market Research	<p>33. Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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DSS SQ23-000452	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications	<p>34. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown of the number including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications withdrawn;</p> <p>b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</p> <p>c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</p> <p>d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</p> <p>e. the number of applications subject to internal review;</p> <p>f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC;</p> <p>g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT;</p> <p>h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and</p> <p>i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000453	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications	<p>35. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications by Minister,</p> <p>b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided;</p> <p>c. the number of applications refused; and</p> <p>d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000454	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Budget Measures	<p>1. On 6 May 2023 the Canberra Times published an article entitled Federal budget 2023: \$4 billion to</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>cover wage increases for vital services in budget, which stated: "The budget is expected to include a measure providing extra funds to support the indexation of wages for workers on programs including Commonwealth Home Support, Veteran Home Services, community legal centres, First Nations healthcare, social housing and homelessness services, programs to reduce violence against women and chronic disease support. The budget measure will remove the five-year averaging of the wage component of indexation." a. Which measure is this policy reflected in? b. If it is not referenced in a measure, where is this policy referenced in the Budget Papers? c. Please provide a list of sectors that will be impacted by this policy. d. Has the Government formally communicated this wage increase to stakeholders in the community legal service sector? Please provide a list of organisations the Government has communicated this increase to, the date of the communications and the means of the communications (for example, letter, in person consultation session, etc.)</p>		
DSS SQ23-000455	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Ministers Offices Briefs turnaround timeframes	<p>1. Since 1 July 2022, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister? If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				a) the previous turnaround requirement; and b) the date the change was requested.		
DSS SQ23-000456	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Budget Measures - Jobseeker	1. What percentage of jobseekers exit the payment within a year? 2. Of those who do not exit within a year, what is the average time spent receiving a working age pension?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000457	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Budget Measures - Increase to Working Age Payments	1. Of the \$4.9 billion over 5 years from 2022-23 to increase support for people receiving working age payments, please provide a breakdown of this appropriation across the forward estimates for each of the following payments: a) Jobseeker Youth Allowance, b) Parenting Payment (Partnered), c) Austudy, d) ABSTUDY, e) Disability Support Pension (Youth), and f) Special Benefit 2. Of the \$4.9 billion, what appropriation has been allocated to extend the eligibility for existing higher single JobSeeker Payment rate to recipients aged 55 years and over who are on the payment for 9 or more continuous months?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000458	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	The Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee	1. The Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee had its first meeting on 16 December – where did this meeting occur? Canberra? Via Teams? Other? 2. Did all of the interim members of the Committee attend? If not, which members failed to attend? 3. The Committee was "established to provide advice in the lead-up to budgets on policies to address	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>disadvantage and boost economic participation" How many subsequent meetings has the Committee convened?</p> <p>4. Please provide dates, times, venues and meeting participants for each meeting.</p> <p>5. What services does DSS provide the Committee?</p> <p>6. How many DSS employees are involved with assisting this Committee please include APS Band Levels of each employee.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000459	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	The Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee - Report	<p>1. On 18 April 2023, the Government released the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee report – when was the finalised report provided to the Government?</p> <p>2. Was a draft copy of the Committee's report provided to the Government/Ministers' offices?</p> <p>3. If so, when was the draft(s) provided?</p> <p>4. Did the Government/Ministers' office provide any changes or have input to any draft(s) of the report? If so, outline the nature of any change made to the drafting to the Report.</p> <p>5. Were any copies provided to any other Minister's/MP's office in either draft or final form ahead of the Report's release? If so provide details of the office which received a report and the dates.</p> <p>6. What time on 18 April was the Report released?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>7. Who decided to release the Report at that time? DSS? Treasury? The Minister for Social Services? The Treasurer? Other?</p> <p>11. Apart from the advice provided by the Committee, what other consultations did the Government undertake regarding the Government's position taken on each of the report's recommendations? When did these consultations occur?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000460	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	The Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee - Base Payment Rates	<p>8. Please provide the definition of 'adequacy' the Committee used when examining base payment rates.</p> <p>9. Please provide the definition of 'poverty' the Committee used when examining base payment rates.</p> <p>10. Please provide the definition of 'wellbeing' the Committee used when examining base payment rates.</p> <p>12. The Committee looked into the adequacy of the base rates of JobSeeker Payment and related working age payments – apart from JobSeeker, what other payments' rates were looked into by the Committee?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000461	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Payments: Paid Parental Leave	<p>1. How many eligible PPL families accessed the Commonwealth's Paid Parental Scheme on 2021-2022 and are expected to access the scheme in 2022-23?</p> <p>2. Can the Department provide data (or estimates) on how many families also accessed both the Commonwealth's PPL and employer scheme?</p> <p>3. What appropriation is in the budget for the forthcoming year and across the forward estimates for</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>PPL?</p> <p>4. How many families are expected to receive the Commonwealth's PPL payments next financial year and across the forward estimates?</p> <p>5. How many families have benefited from the Government's PPL scheme over each of the past five years?</p> <p>6. Please provide the breakdown of the annual increase to our GDP that can be attributed to the PPL scheme since 2017.</p> <p>7. What is the expected increase to our GDP of the PPL reforms due to commence on 1 July?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000462	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Payments: Dad and Partner Pay	How many dads and partners have accessed dad and partner pay in each of the following years: 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000463	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Payments: Disability Support Pension	<p>1. How many Australians receive the Disability Support Pension?</p> <p>2. What has been the Commonwealth's expenditure on the Disability Support Pension for the year 2022-23?</p> <p>3. What appropriation is in the budget for the forthcoming year and across the forward estimates for DSP?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000464	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Payments: Carer Payment and Carer Allowance	<p>1. How many actual primary carers are supported by Carer Payment and/or Carer Allowance?</p> <p>2. What appropriation is in the budget for the</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>forthcoming year and across the forward estimates for Carer Allowance?</p> <p>3. When was this payment last indexed, when is it due to be indexed again and what is the current rate?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000465	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Payments: Youth Allowance (Student), Austudy and ABSTUDY	<p>1. How many students are currently receiving: a) Youth Allowance (Student) b) Austudy c) ABSTUDY</p> <p>2. What appropriation is in the budget for the forthcoming year and across the forward estimates for each of these payments?</p> <p>3. What has been Commonwealth expenditure on each of these payments to date in 2022-23?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000466	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Economic Inclusion Committee	<p>1. When was the decision taken by Government to establish the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee?</p> <p>2. How were the interim members of the committee selected? Was the Committee membership chosen by the Minister for Social Services?</p> <p>3. What input did the Department have on the membership of the Committee?</p> <p>4. What is the eligibility criteria for membership of the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee?</p> <p>5. How do each of the current members of the Committee meet the eligibility criteria?</p> <p>6. Will the Department provide the CV for each of the</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>current members of the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee?</p> <p>7. What remuneration does each of the interim members receive for their service on the Committee? Please include all additional allowances.</p> <p>8. Who set the pay and conditions for members of the Committee?</p> <p>9. The Committee was due to hold its first meeting during the week of 16 December 2022. How many times has the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee met?</p> <p>10. What were the dates of these meetings?</p> <p>11. What was the duration of each meeting?</p> <p>12. Were all Committee members present for each meeting?</p> <p>13. If not, which members have failed to attend meetings?</p> <p>14. With less than three months until the May federal budget, key stakeholders in the Social Services portfolio have yet to be contacted/consulted by the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee. As of 15 February 2023, what stakeholders has the committee met with and consulted?</p> <p>15. What are the dates in which these meetings took</p>		
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				place? 16. Will the Committee be expanded beyond 14 members when the permanent committee is legislated in 2023? 17. What date will the "high-level findings of the Committee's pre-budget review" be made publicly available.		
DSS SQ23-000467	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Payments: Multiple Birth Allowance	1. What added assistance is provided in the Government's PPL legislation that recently passed the House of Representatives for multiple births? 2. When was the Multiple Birth Allowance last indexed? 3. What is the financial impact of indexing the Multiple Birth Allowance to the Commonwealth budget over the forward estimates?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000468	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Payments	1. From 1 July 2022 to 9 May 2023, in dollar terms, how much has been paid by the Commonwealth to recipients in each of the following payments: a. Parental Leave Pay b. Dad and Partner Pay c. Age Pension d. Disability Support Pension e. Family Tax Benefit A f. Family Tax Benefit B g. Carers Payment h. Carer Allowance i. Child Disability Assistance Payment j. JobSeeker Payment	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>k. Parenting Payment (Partnered) l. Parenting Payment (Single) m. Pensioner Education Supplement n. Youth Allowance o. Austudy p. ABSTUDY (Secondary) q. ABSTUDY (Tertiary) r. Youth Allowance (Student) s. Student Start-up Loan t. Student Start-up Loan - ABSTUDY u. Rent Assistance</p>		
DSS SQ23-000469	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Targeting Entrenched Community Disadvantage - Budget Measure	<p>1. How much of this funding is new funding and how much will be met through existing resourcing? 2. Please outline how these measures will be met through existing resourcing. 3. Please provide details of the services DSS will provide under this funding measure to specifically target entrenched community disadvantage.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000470	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Targeting Entrenched Community Disadvantage	<p>1. Where are the 10 local communities located that are to benefit from the \$64.0 million over 6 years and which 6 communities will see enhanced 'place-based initiatives'? 2. How were these local communities chosen to receive funding?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000472	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Targeting Entrenched Community Disadvantage - Social Development Initiative	<p>10. What organisations will be eligible to receive grants, support and assistance through the \$11.6 million Social Development Initiative? 11. Please provide details on the eligibility criteria. 12. How was the Social Development Initiative designed and what are its metrics for success?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000473	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Cashless Debit Card - Former Site Alcohol	<p>1. What work is the Department undertaking to (a) monitor and (b) tackle alcohol abuse in former CDC sites and provide adequate services?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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			Consumption & Support			
DSS SQ23-000474	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Cashless Debit Card - Abolition Budget Measures	<p>2. In the October 2022 Budget, the Government provided funding of \$217.7 million to abolish the CDC and extend and expand support services for recipients transitioning off the card. In each of the former CDC sites, please provide the Commonwealth funding provided to date, to manage the hurt, hardship and harm caused by the removal of the CDC.</p> <p>3. What additional services as promised by the Government are up and running in former CDC sites</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000475	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	SmartCard - Former Cashless Debit Card Recipients	<p>4. Since the CDC was abolished on 6 March 2023, how many former recipients have opted in to the Government's replacement 'SmartCard'?</p> <p>5. What measures are in place to encourage people onto the new voluntary card?</p> <p>6. Has the Department undertaken any work to expand the new 'SmartCard' to any additional areas?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000476	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	SmartCard - Rollout and Transition off the Cashless Debit Card	<p>1. How many people were on income management since the CDC was repealed in October 2022, until the SmartCard was implemented on 6 March 2023?</p> <p>2. In each of the six former CDC sites, when did the SmartCard commence and how many opted in to use the SmartCard technology when it was rolled out?</p> <p>3. What measures has the Government put in place to encourage those who were on compulsory income management, to take up the new voluntary technology?</p> <p>4. Is the Department aware of any additional communities seeking to be included in the Smart Card roll-out that are currently not involved in Income Management?</p> <p>5. How many participants have been forcefully put</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>onto the new income management SmartCard, and what are the locations where this has occurred?</p> <p>6. Once the legislation passes, how many people are expected to be placed on the SmartCard?</p> <p>7. There have been claims that the SmartCard will cost less to administer/run – by how much will it be cheaper overall than (a) the Cashless Debit Card and (b) the Basics Card?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000477	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Income Management - Cashless Debit Card Contracts with Local Service Providers	<p>1. How many contracts have been cancelled with local CDC service providers/community organisations in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Northern Territory b) Cape York c) Bundaberg & Hervey Bay d) Ceduna e) Goldfields f) East Kimberley g) Out of area <p>2. How many contracts are still current for CDC service provision in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Northern Territory b) Cape York c) Bundaberg & Hervey Bay d) Ceduna e) Goldfields f) East Kimberley g) Out of area 	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000478	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Income Management - Cashless Debit Card Trigger Payments	<p>3. As of 1 July 2022, how many CDC participants were receiving the CDC trigger payments – Youth Allowance, Newstart, Parenting Payment Single, and Parenting Payment Partnered – prior to the CDC being abolished – in the following areas:</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>a) Northern Territory b) Cape York c) Bundaberg & Hervey Bay d) Ceduna e) Goldfields f) East Kimberley g) Out of area</p> <p>4. How many recipients aged 35 and below, are receiving Youth Allowance, Jobseeker, Parenting Payment Single, and Parenting Payment Partnered in the following areas: a) Northern Territory b) Cape York c) Bundaberg & Hervey Bay d) Ceduna e) Goldfields f) East Kimberley g) Out of area</p>		
DSS SQ23-000479	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Income Management - Frequency of Advance Payments	<p>5. Since the CDC was abolished, has there been an increase in requests for advances on payments in the following areas: a) Northern Territory b) Cape York c) Bundaberg & Hervey Bay d) Ceduna e) Goldfields f) East Kimberley g) Out of area</p> <p>6. If so, provide how many requests have been made for advance payments for each payment concerned.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				How does this compare to the requests when the CDC was in force?		
DSS SQ23-000480	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Income Management - Cashless Debit Card Abolition & Increase in Support Service Requests	7. Since the CDC was abolished, there been an increase for support service requests in relation to drug and alcohol services, domestic violence services, rental assistance, or housing assistance in the following areas: a) Northern Territory b) Cape York c) Bundaberg & Hervey Bay d) Ceduna e) Goldfields f) East Kimberley g) Out of area	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000481	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Income Management - Cashless Debit Card Abolition & Increase in Payment Suspensions or Cancellations	8. Following the CDC abolition, has there been an increase in payment suspensions or cancellations of people aged 35 and below on Youth Allowance, Newstart, Parenting Payment Single or Parenting Payment Partnered in the following areas: a) Northern Territory b) Cape York c) Bundaberg & Hervey Bay d) Ceduna e) Goldfields f) East Kimberley g) Out of area	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000482	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	New Income Management Service	With reference to question DSS SQ23-000043 during the last round of supplementary estimates, the department stated the new income management service 'reflects community feedback'. 1. Please detail what community feedback and research was obtained prior to the rollout of the new enhanced income management program.	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>2. Please outline the consultative/community engagement process.</p> <p>3. What medium was used for these consultations / discussions?</p> <p>4. How many discussions/rounds of engagement were had in total to inform the decision on the new enhanced income management program?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000483	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Cashless Debit Card - East Kimberley	<p>1. Since the CDC commenced in 2016, until it was abolished on 6 March 2023, how many transactions in total were declined and what was their value?</p> <p>2. Since the commencement of the Cashless Debit Card in the East Kimberley region, as of 6 March 2023, per year:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. What is the total value of transactions declined at stores in the region with a Merchant Category Code identifying that the store primarily retails items such as alcohol, gambling or cash-like products?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. What is the total value of transactions declined in the region per merchant category code?</p> <p>3. As of 6 March, what percentage of Cashless Debit Card participants in the East Kimberley region had voluntarily transitioned off the Cashless Debit Card?</p> <p>4. Did the Department advise the Minister for Social Services that an increase in crime in Kununurra was associated with floods in the area? If so, what led the Department to this conclusion?</p> <p>5. What extra flood assistance has the Department</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>provided Kununurra and surrounding areas?</p> <p>6. List the extended and expanded support services for participants transitioning off the Cashless Debit Card which are currently operational in the East Kimberley region.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000484	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Cashless Debit Card - Goldfields	<p>7. Since the commencement of the Cashless Debit Card in the Goldfields region, as of 6 March 2023, per year:</p> <p>a. What is the total value of transactions declined at stores in the region with a Merchant Category Code identifying that the store primarily retails items such as alcohol, gambling or cash-like products?</p> <p>b. What is the total value of transactions declined in the region per merchant category code?</p> <p>8. As of 6 March, what percentage of Cashless Debit Card participants in the Goldfields region had voluntarily transitioned off the Cashless Debit Card?</p> <p>9. Please list the extended and expanded support services for participants transitioning off the Cashless Debit Card which are currently operational in the Goldfields region.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000485	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Cashless Debit Card - Ceduna	<p>10. Since the commencement of the Cashless Debit Card in Ceduna, as of 6 March 2023, per year:</p> <p>a. What is the total value of transactions declined at stores in the region with a Merchant Category Code identifying that the store primarily retails items such as alcohol, gambling or cash-like products?</p> <p>b. What is the total value of transactions declined in</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				the region per merchant category code? 11. As of 6 March, what percentage of Cashless Debit Card participants in the Ceduna region had voluntarily transitioned off the Cashless Debit Card?		
DSS SQ23-000486	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Cashless Debit Card - Northern Territory	12. Since the commencement of the Cashless Debit Card in the Northern Territory, as of 6 March 2023, per year: a. What is the total value of transactions declined at stores with a Merchant Category Code identifying that the store primarily retails items such as alcohol, gambling or cash-like products? b. What is the total value of transactions declined per merchant category code?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000487	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Cashless Debit Card - Cape York and Doomadgee	13. Since the commencement of the Cashless Debit Card in the Cape York and Doomadgee region, as of 6 March 2023, per year: a. What is the total value of transactions declined at stores with a Merchant Category Code identifying that the store primarily retails items such as alcohol, gambling or cash-like products? b. What is the total value of transactions declined per merchant category code? 14. For the year 2022 please provide the declined transactions at restricted Merchant Category Codes per code (total per code and as a percentage). 15. For the year 2023 (1 January to 6 March) please provide the declined transactions at restricted Merchant Category Codes per code (total per code and as a percentage).	Written	19-Jun-23

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DSS SQ23-000488	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Grants and Additional Support	<p>1. Please outline the additional Financial Wellbeing and Capability supports that are to be provided with the \$32.8 million budget measure.</p> <p>2. Who will be eligible to receive these supports?</p> <p>3. What is the new funding profile over the forward estimates?</p> <p>4. The Government is to reprioritise \$34.3 million of unspent funds to provide for appropriation. Please provide details of the unspent funds.</p> <p>5. When were these funds originally appropriated and why did these funds go unspent?</p> <p>6. \$1.5 million is to be provided to review the Financial Wellbeing and Capability sub-program. Who is to undertake this review?</p> <p>7. When will the review commence and conclude?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000489	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Australian Institute of Family Studies - Gambling Harm	<p>Following new research by the Australian Institute of Family Studies revealing the extent of the harm gambling is causing to Australians, the Government announced two new measures to help create a safer environment.</p> <p>1. Please detail how 'the Consistent Gambling Messaging measure' will be implemented?</p> <p>2. Has this implementation already begun?</p> <p>3. How much is the rollout of this measure costing the Commonwealth?</p> <p>4. How is the success rate of this strategy measured?</p> <p>5. The Government announced it will also implement</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>'the first National Self-Exclusion Register (BetStop)'. Please detail how 'BetStop' will be implemented?</p> <p>6. How will BetStop function for gamblers?</p> <p>7. How much will the implementation of BetStop cost the Commonwealth?</p> <p>8. How will the success of BetStop be measured?</p> <p>9. What incentives is the Government putting in place to encourage gamblers to stop?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000490	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Emergency Relief Funding	<p>1. As of 9 May 2023, how many individuals have accessed assistance from the following measures this financial year:</p> <p>a. Emergency Relief?</p> <p>b. Commonwealth Financial Counselling?</p> <p>c. Financial Counselling Helpline?</p> <p>d. Money Support Hubs?</p> <p>e. Counselling for Problem Gambling?</p> <p>f. Financial Resilience?</p> <p>g. National Gambling Research?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000491	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Disability Employment Services	<p>1. How many people with a disability are currently seeking employment through Disability Employment Services?</p> <p>2. What percentage of job placements are currently sustained to 13 weeks?</p> <p>3. How many weeks on average are DES job seekers remaining in their job placements?</p> <p>4. How does this compare with previous years?</p> <p>5. How many Australians are using:</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>a) Disability Management Services b) Employment Support Services?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000492	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Disability Employment Services - Funding	<p>6. What appropriation was provided in the budget over the forward estimates for: a) Disability Management Services b) Employment Support Services?</p> <p>7. Since February 2023, have any Disability Employment Services had their funding cut/terminated due to non-compliance?</p> <p>8. If so, please provide details of: a) the non-compliance b) number of participants affected c) alternate arrangements made to participants affected d) Sanctions on the DES provider"</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000493	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Disability Employment Services - Reprioritising of Funds	<p>The cost of the Supported Employment measure announced in the recent Budget, is \$57.0 million over four years. This is to be met by reprioritising funding from Social Services Program 3.1 (Disability and Carers).</p> <p>1. Please provide an outline of the reprioritising/cuts including details the programmes/grants/services which are to be cut.</p> <p>2. Please outline how the structural adjustment fund to assist supported employment organisations to evolve their business model will operate including: a) How the fund will assist businesses b) Level of assistance to be made available (in dollar terms)</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>c) Eligibility criteria to apply d) When businesses can apply e) How businesses can apply f) Expected rate of take up</p> <p>3. \$11.7 million is to be provided over four years to establish a targeted disability employment advocacy service and information program for supported employees. Please provide details of the new disability employment advocacy service, including: a) How the new service will operate b) Level of assistance to be provided by the new service c) When the new service will commence d) How people can seek assistance from the service e) Where the service will be located f) Will the service be privately operated or operated by the Commonwealth g) How many APS staff will operate the service (and their band level) h) How the new advocacy service will work with existing advocacy services.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000494	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Disability Employment Services - Evaluation of Existing Supported Employment Services	<p>\$6 million is to be provided to evaluate existing supported employment initiatives and trials, pilot jobs expos for supported employees and help organisations transition to the new award.</p> <p>4. Of this \$6 million, how much is to be provided to each of the measures (the evaluation, jobs expo, support to transition to the new award this year and across the forward estimates?)</p> <p>5. The Government is to provide funding to establish a</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>targeted disability employment advocacy service, yet at the same time also evaluating existing supported employment opportunities. Why has the government chosen to put the cart before the horse and not wait to receive the results of the evaluation of existing services before creating another service?</p> <p>6. When will the evaluation of existing supported employment initiatives commence and conclude?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000495	Department of Social Services	Andrew Bragg	Growing number of women aged 55 and older facing the highest rate of homelessness in a decade	2. How many safe or refuge homes have been built or made available since 1 July 2022?	Written	20-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000583	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Payments: Age Pension	<p>1. How many senior Australians have accessed the age pension in 2022-23?</p> <p>2. What has been the Commonwealth expenditure on the age pension to date in 2022-23?</p> <p>3. What appropriation is in the budget for the forthcoming year and across the forward estimates for the age pension?</p> <p>4. How many recipients of the age pension have accessed changes to the work bonus scheme?</p> <p>5. What measures have the Department taken to inform age pensioners of changes to the work bonus scheme?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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DSS SQ23-000584	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Increased Support for Commonwealth Rent Assistance Recipients	<p>1. As of 1 May 2023, how many recipients are receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance?</p> <p>2. As of 1 May 2023 (or latest figures), how many recipients live in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Community housing b) Defence housing c) People in a retirement village <p>3. As of 1 May 2023 (or latest figure on hand), how many income units who are recipient of Commonwealth Rent Assistance receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Age pension b) Carer Payment or Disability Pension c) Abstudy Living Allowance, Austudy or Youth Allowance d) Special Benefit e) Family Tax Benefit f) Parenting Payment g) JobSeeker Payment or Farm Household Allowance <p>4. Please provide a break down by age groups of recipients receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000585	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Increased Support for Commonwealth Rent Assistance Recipients	<p>1. As of 1 May 2023 (or latest figure on hand), how many income units who are recipients of Commonwealth Rent Assistance receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Age pension i) Carer Payment or Disability Pension j) Abstudy Living Allowance, Austudy or Youth Allowance k) Special Benefit l) Family Tax Benefit m) Parenting Payment 	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>n) JobSeeker Payment or Farm Household Allowance?</p> <p>2. Please provide a break down, by age groups, of income units receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance.</p> <p>3. How many income units currently receive the maximum rate of Commonwealth Rent Assistance?"</p>		
DSS SQ23-000586	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Increased Support for Commonwealth Rent Assistance Recipients	<p>4. Please provide the rate of rent increases (on average) in each of the following locations since 1 July 2022 that helped inform the Government to increase Commonwealth Rent Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sydney and NSW b) Melbourne and Victoria c) Adelaide and SA d) Perth and WA e) Brisbane and Queensland f) Hobart and Tasmania g) Darwin and NT h) Canberra and ACT <p>5. Please provide the average rate of rent for those receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance for each of the following locations as at 1 May 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sydney and NSW b) Melbourne and Victoria c) Adelaide and SA d) Perth and WA e) Brisbane and Queensland f) Hobart and Tasmania 	Written	19-Jun-23

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				g) Darwin and NT h) Canberra and ACT		
DSS SQ23-000587	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Increased Support for Commonwealth Rent Assistance Recipients	6. The Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee also recommended reform of the indexation of CRA to 'better reflect paid rent'. Has the Department undertaken any work to reform CRA indexation? If so, please outline all efforts made by the Department in this area.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000588	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Increased Support for Commonwealth Rent Assistance Recipients	7. Has the Government undertaken any modelling on imposing rent caps?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000589	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	National Housing and Homelessness Transitional funding	1. An additional \$67.5 million is to be provided to boost homelessness funding to states and territories for 2023-24. What funding is to be provided to states and territories in total for 2023-24 and across the forward estimates for homeless services (only)? 2. Can the Department please outline the specific measures that will be supported by this funding?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000590	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Affordable Housing - National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA)	1. Please provide an update on the status of the new Affordable Housing - National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA). 2. Outline what stage negotiations are with each of the States and Territories. 3. When is the new NHHA expected to be finalised? (there is a budget appropriation over the forward estimates as per table 2.7 in budget paper 2).	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000591	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Affordable Housing - National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA)	4. In 2020-21, \$129 million was set aside in the NHHA for homeless services. What funding has been set aside solely for homelessness services this year and in each year of the forward estimates?	Written	19-Jun-23

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				5. The Commonwealth is to provide \$1.7 billion through NHHA. Please outline how specific funding was allocated to each state and territory.		
DSS SQ23-000592	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Affordable Housing - National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA)	<p>6. Will the Department please outline the measures in place to ensure that States and Territories comply with their obligations under the NHHA and address each of the key priorities of their Housing Strategies.</p> <p>7. Will the Department please outline the measures in place to ensure States and Territories comply with their obligations under the NHHA and address each of the key priorities of their Homelessness Strategies.</p> <p>8. For the last agreement, please outline the reporting obligations of States and Territories to show actual outcomes of NHHA funding.</p> <p>9. For the last agreement, please outline the reporting obligations of States and Territories to show actual outcomes of National Partnership Payments.</p> <p>10. Have these reporting obligations been met?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000593	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	National Homelessness Plan	<p>1. As of 9 May 2023, has the initial scoping stage of the National Homelessness Plan conducted by the Commonwealth, states and territories commenced?</p> <p>2. If so, when did this commence?</p> <p>3. If not, when is it due to commence?</p> <p>4. Can the Department outline what the scoping stage involves?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>5. When will the initial scoping stage conclude?</p> <p>6. When are consultations on the Plan due to commence?</p> <p>7. Can the Department provide a copy of the consultation plan?</p> <p>8. When will the National Homelessness Plan be finalised?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000595	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Budget Process – Estimates Variations	<p>1. Were any estimates variations above \$20 million made during the budget process for the Department which resulted in decreased administered funding?</p> <p>2. Were any estimates variations above \$20 million made during the budget process for the Department which resulted in increased administered funding?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000596	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Budget Process – Estimates Variations	<p>3. Were any estimates variations above \$20 million made during the budget process for the Department which resulted in decreased departmental funding?</p> <p>4. Were any estimates variations above \$20 million made during the budget process for the Department which resulted in increased departmental funding?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000597	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Budget Process – Estimates Variations	<p>5. Can the Department provide a full list of all estimates variations related to the department's responsibilities for the budget process above \$20 million?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include the previous and revised four year profiles for these funds? • include where these movements can be shown in the budget papers and/or the PBS of the Department? 	Written	19-Jun-23

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DSS SQ23-000599	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Budget Process – Responsibilities/ Measures Decision Process (Minors, Exchange of letters, ERC)	<p>1. Can you provide a list of responsibilities which the Department/Agency had on 1 July 2021 which are no longer an area of responsibility for the Department/Agency?</p> <p>2. Can you provide an updated list of responsibilities which the Department/Agency has acquired since July 2022?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000600	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Budget Process – Responsibilities/ Measures Decision Process (Minors, Exchange of letters, ERC)	<p>3. Were any budget decisions related to the Department made through the minors process?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide a list of these decisions, and where they are shown in the budget papers? 	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000601	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Budget Process – Responsibilities/ Measures Decision Process (Minors, Exchange of letters, ERC)	<p>4. Were any budget decisions related to the Department done via an exchange of letters?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide a list of these decisions, and where they are shown in the budget papers? 	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000602	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Governance Process – Procurement Arrangements	<p>1. Has there been any change to any procurement panel since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name of any business that has been added or removed from a panel; - the name of the panel; and - The portfolio agency that owns or manages the panel. <p>2. Has any minister, assistant minister or ministerial adviser requested information or sought advice on the composition of a procurement panel since the election?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>3. Have they sought any changes to a procurement panel? If so, please provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who made the request - The date information or advice was sought - How was the request made (email, phone call, WhatsApp messaging etc. - When was the information or advice provided? 		
DSS SQ23-000603	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance – Travel/Functions	1. Have any ministers, assistant ministers, Department staff travelled first-class on a commercial aircraft since the election (please include any upgrades)?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000604	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance – Travel/Functions	2. Please provide a list of all international conferences/meetings that you expect the Australian Government to be invited to attend in 2023 and 2024. Who has represented Australia at these conferences/meetings in the past?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000605	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance – Travel/Functions	<p>1. What has been the total expenditure by the Department on catering since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>2. Of that, how many events were attended by the Minister or Ministerial Staff?</p> <p>3. Can you please provide a list of attendees for each function and their organisations?</p> <p>4. Can you please provide details of any entertainment?</p> <p>5. Can you please provide details of any alcohol served?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000606	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Functions	1. From 1 July 2022 to 30 May 2023, for any Departmental functions and official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the Social Services portfolio, please provide the following:	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>a. List of functions. b. List of all attendees. c. Function venue. d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e. Details of any food served. f. Details of any wine, beer or champagne served. g. Photographs of the function. h. Details of entertainment provided.</p> <p>2. What is the total expenditure for functions and official receptions hosted by Ministers and Assistant Ministers in the Social Services portfolio from 1 July 2022 to 30 May 2023?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000607	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance – Departmental engagement with Ministerial Offices	<p>Ministerial submissions</p> <p>1. How many decision briefs have been sent to Ministers' office since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>2. How many briefs have been returned to the Department with one or more recommendations not agreed? Please provide a breakdown by ministerial offices.</p> <p>3. How many time-critical briefs were signed off by Ministers after the due date? Please provide a breakdown by ministerial office.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000608	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Department Governance – Ministerial staff and supplies	<p>Ministerial staff</p> <p>1. Since 1 July 2022 how many staff were seconded to the Minister's offices and for what period of time? APS/SES level of each staff member? Outline of duties?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>2. What travel has been undertaken by staff on secondment that has been charged to the Department?</p> <p>3. How many staff are still seconded to these Ministerial offices, by level and for what period of time?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000609	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Department Governance – Ministerial supplies	<p>Ministerial supplies</p> <p>1. Total expenditure by the Department on office supplies within each Ministers' (including the Assistant Minister) offices?</p> <p>2. How much has been spent on the following within the Minister's offices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Business cards, b) letterhead, c) mobile phones, d) desktop computers, e) laptops, f) tablets, g) headphones h) airpods, i) cameras for photography and videography, j) digital subscriptions (adobe creative suite etc) 	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000610	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Acting Ministerial Arrangements	1. Can the Department, provide all leave periods taken from 3 December 2022 by Ministers in the portfolio and details of the acting Ministerial arrangements for each leave period?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000611	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Briefings	1. Since 1 November 2022, has the Department or the Ministers' offices provided briefings to independents/minor parties in the Senate or House of Representatives. If so, please provide the following:	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>a. The subject matter of the briefing. b. The location and date of the briefing. c. Who proposed the briefing. d. Attendees of the briefing by level/position.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000612	Department of Social Services	Mehreen Faruqi	Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme	1. Geographically isolated families who must send their children to boarding school to access equitable compulsory education endure extensive additional costs to educate their children. Please advise why these additional expenses are not taken into consideration within the AIC Allowance.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000613	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Student Payments	<p>1. What percentage of postgraduate students access some form of student support payment? 2. Do you have figures on the proportion of postgraduate First Nations students who can access ABSTUDY or related payments? 3. As certain vocations are trending towards postgraduate pathways (medicine and law, in particular), how is the Department adapting to ensure students can access adequate supports throughout their study years, which now extend into their late 20's and 30's? 4. Retention of First Nations students in postgraduate degrees like medicine and law is a significant challenge, and is often related to high costs of study in the absence of adequate supports or access to ABSTUDY. Has the Department done any modelling on what it would cost to make ABSTUDY available to First Nations postgraduate students? 5. Is the Minister considering changes to make AUSTUDY and ABSTUDY available to certain postgraduate cohorts to improve retention?</p>	Written	20-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000614	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Growing number of women aged 55 and	2. How many safe or refuge homes have been built or made available since 1 July 2022?	Written	19-Jun-23

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			older facing the highest rate of homelessness in a decade			
DSS SQ23-000615	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Workforce	<p>Note: please segment the responses to these questions by APS classification.</p> <p>1. How many ongoing APS employees were employed in the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>a. How many of these are engaged full time?</p> <p>b. How many of these are engaged part time?</p> <p>c. How many ongoing positions were advertised by the agency in this period?</p> <p>d. How many of these advertised positions were filled?</p> <p>e. How many of the new ongoing employees transferred in from another agency?</p> <p>f. What is the average duration for the recruitment of an ongoing employee (I.e. how long does it take, on average, from approval to fill a position to the filling of the position)?</p> <p>g. How many ongoing roles that were offered to prospective employees turned down by the prospective employee?</p> <p>2. How many non-ongoing employees were employed in the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>a. How many of these are engaged full time?</p> <p>b. How many of these are engaged part time?</p> <p>c. How many non-ongoing positions were advertised by the agency in this period?</p> <p>d. How many of these advertised positions were</p>	Written	21-Jun-23

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				<p>filled?</p> <p>e. How many of the new non-ongoing employees transferred in from another agency?</p> <p>f. What is the average duration for the recruitment of a non-ongoing employee (i.e. how long does it take, on average, from approval to fill a position to the filling of the position)?</p> <p>g. How many non-ongoing roles that were offered to prospective employees turned down by the prospective employee?</p> <p>3. How many non-ongoing contract extensions were granted by the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>a. How many of these were engaged full time?</p> <p>b. How many of these were engaged part time?</p> <p>4. How many ongoing employees were made redundant from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>a. How many of these were engaged full time?</p> <p>b. How many of these were engaged part time?</p> <p>Note: for the following question please exclude employees departing due to retirement.</p> <p>5. How many ongoing employees resigned from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>6. How many ongoing employees were considered excess, or were made redundant from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>7. How many non-ongoing employees resigned from</p>		
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				<p>the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>8. How many labour-hire contractors resigned from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000616	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Workforce	<p>Note: please segment the responses to these questions by APS classification.</p> <p>1. How many labour-hire contractors were employed at the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many of these are engaged full time? - How many of these are engaged part time? - How many labour-hire contract positions were advertised by the agency in this period? - How many of these advertised positions were filled? - What is the average duration for the recruitment of a labour-hire contractor (i.e. how long does it take, on average, from approval to fill a position to the filling of the position)? - Have any labour-hire contractors at the agency been given authority to act as a delegate for the Commonwealth in this period? o If yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many and at what level? - What was the nature of the delegations? <p>2. How many labour-hire contractors were engaged by the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many of these were engaged full time? - How many of these were engaged part time? 	Written	21-Jun-23

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				3. How many existing labour-hire contracts were extended by the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?		
DSS SQ23-000617	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Workplace Culture	<p>In the period between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023? were there any allegations (either formally or informally reported) of untoward behaviour (E.g. bullying, harassment, discrimination) made against any APS, or labour-hire contractors engaged at the agency?</p> <p>1. How many of these claims were investigated (formally or informally) and found to have merit?</p> <p>2. How many of the claims were raised with ComCare?</p> <p>3. Of those that were deemed to have merit, how many resulted in time away from work for the victim?</p> <p>4. What is the total amount of leave taken, in days, from the agency that are attributable to claims of this nature?</p> <p>5. How many of these allegations were investigated and found to have no merit?</p>	Written	21-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000618	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Workers' compensation	<p>How many workers compensation claims were made to the agency, by employees of any nature, between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many of these claims were successful? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o How many of the successful claims were due to an injury of a physical nature? o How many of the successful claims were due to an injury of a mental nature (I.e. relating to psychological, or mental health injury)? • How many of these claims were rejected? 	Written	21-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000619	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Unpaid Leave	How many ongoing, or non-ongoing employees at the agency took unpaid leave between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?	Written	21-Jun-23

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				- What is the total number of days of unpaid leave for this same period at the agency.		
DSS SQ23-000620	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Consultants	<p>1. How many consultants (i.e. not APS, or labour-hire contract workers) were working in the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>a. What was the nature of work these consultants performed on behalf of the agency?</p> <p>b. Were any consultants used to augment work ordinarily conducted by APS employees?</p> <p>2. How much money did the agency spend on consultants between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>3. From which companies were all consultants engaged by the Department?</p> <p>a. What was the value for each consultancy procured by the agency?</p> <p>b. Please tabulate this information.</p> <p>4. Were any consultants at the agency given authority to act as a delegate for the Commonwealth between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023? If yes:</p> <p>a. How many and at what level?</p> <p>b. What was the nature of the delegations?</p> <p>5. Have any consultants at the agency been given authority to act as a delegate for the Commonwealth since 18 February 2023? If yes:</p> <p>a. How many and at what level?</p> <p>b. What was the nature of the delegations?</p>	Written	21-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000621	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Supply Nation	1. How many procurement activities, since 18 February 2023, have resulted in purchases of goods	Written	21-Jun-23

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				<p>and / or services from Supply Nation Certified organisations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the total value of all Supply Nation procurements to date for the agency this financial year (2022/23)? - What percentage of the agency's procurements for the 2022/23 financial year to date does the above value represent? - Would the agency please categorise the types of procurements undertaken with Supply Nation businesses for financial year 2022/23? <p>2. Would the agency list all Supply Nation entities it has purchased goods and / or services from this financial year, with a total value for each supplier?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000622	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Senior Executive Service	<p>1. Please advise the contracted start date for each Senior Executive Service Officer in the agency, plus their contracted end dates.</p> <p>2. Please advise the previous role (the role immediately prior to taking up their current SES role) for each Senior Executive Service officer.</p>	Written	21-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000647	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance – Fraud	<p>Has there been any incident of fraud or the misuse of public funds since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a list outlining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The number of incidents per portfolio agency b) A description of each incident, including the amount of money involved c) The steps were taken to address the matter d) Whether the person involved is still employed by the agency 	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000648	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance – Staffing	<p>Has any APS employee, staff member, or contractor been fired or had their contract terminated since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>a) The name of the portfolio agency b) The reason their employment/contract was terminated</p>		
DSS SQ23-000649	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance – Bullying and Harassment	<p>Have there been any reports, formal or otherwise, of bullying or harassment of staff in portfolio agencies since the election? If so, please provide a list outlining:</p> <p>a) The number of incidents per agency b) A description of the incident c) The steps taken to address the matter</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000650	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance – Complaints against a ministerial staff member	<p>Have any complaints, verbal or written, been made against a ministerial staff member since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide:</p> <p>a) The date and location of the alleged incident b) Whether the complaint was made verbally or in writing c) What action the department took following the complaint being made d) Whether the complaint was brought to the attention of the minister or assistant minister's office. Who in the minister's office was advised and when.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000651	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance – Security Incidents	<p>Have any security incidents been reported 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a list outlining:</p> <p>a) The number of incidents per agency b) A description of the incident c) Whether the incident involved classified material (and if so, the security classification of the documents) d) The steps actively taken to address the matter.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000652	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance – Energy	<p>1. What is the carbon footprint of each portfolio agency?</p> <p>2. What percentage of the portfolio agency's electricity usage is from renewables?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				3. Please provide a copy of each agency's plan outlining how they will reduce their emissions to net-zero by 2030.		
DSS SQ23-000654	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Support for People with Autism & National Autism Strategy	<p>The cost of the Support for People with Autism, \$27.0 million over 4 years from 2023-24 will met by reprioritising funding from DSS Program (Disability and Carers). Please outline what programmes/grants/services are to be cut to fund these measures?</p> <p>1. Regarding the Support for People with Autism budget measure, outline how the measure is to be funded, including details on the reprioritising from DSS Program 3.1 and redirecting unallocated funding from the Information, Linkages and Capacity program. (The budget measure is to cost \$27 million yet only \$4.9 million is allocated in the budget).</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000655	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Support for People with Autism & National Autism Strategy	<p>2. Please provide details on the 2 pilots to be undertaken including:</p> <p>a) When will the pilots commence? b) Where will the pilots be located? c) Who will deliver the pilots? d) How were the providers chosen? e) Explain how will the pilots leverage the design of the 'Linkages' pilot already underway in WA? f) Has the Linkages pilot in WA been evaluated yet? g) If not why is the Government leveraging its design before we know its level of success?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000656	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Support for People with Autism &	3. Please provide details on the \$3.7 million provided in the Budget to undertake a 'co-designed national consultation and engagement process on the National	Written	19-Jun-23

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			National Autism Strategy	Autism Strategy.' 4. When is this consultation to commence, conclude and how will the consultation be under taken?		
DSS SQ23-000658	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Support for People with Autism & National Autism Strategy	9. Does the Oversight Council involve members of the community with autism? If so, what is the composition of the council involving people of autism? 10. Are members of the Oversight Council remunerated? If so, please provide details of remuneration.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000659	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Support for People with Autism & National Autism Strategy	11. Since the announcement of the National Autism Strategy last year, what work has commenced with the development of the Strategy? Please provide details on a) All meetings conducted by the Oversight Council (face to face and virtual) b) Date of when the Council will next meet c) Progress made with the development of the Strategy d) Strategy's key priorities and objectives 12. Please outline how members of the community with autism will be involved in the development of the Strategy and detail their involvement to date. 13. The consultation process is due to commence in the second half of the year. What month is this process due to commence? 14. When is the Strategy due to be completed? Is it on	Written	19-Jun-23

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				track to be finalised by its due date or is it expected to be delayed?		
DSS SQ23-000660	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Central Coordination of Disability Policy – measure progress against Australia's Disability Strategy	<p>1. Outline the functions of the new Central Coordination of Disability Policy function in DSS?</p> <p>2. How many Departmental officials will be involved in establishing and running the initiative?</p> <p>3. Will this be a stand-alone unit within the Department or will it be integrated throughout the Department?</p> <p>4. If it is a stand-alone unit, where will it sit in the Department's organisational chart?</p> <p>5. When is the Central Coordination of Disability Policy set to commence?</p> <p>6. What measures in DSS Program 3.1 will be cut or 're-prioritised' to fund this initiative?</p> <p>7. Please provide a break down per year of each programme that is to be cut to fund this initiative for each of the following years: 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000661	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Disability Strategy - Targeted Action Plans (TAPs)	<p>1. a. How many of the 417 actions within the five Targeted Action Plans (TAPs) have been delivered as of 9 May 2023?</p> <p>1. b. Which actions are yet to be delivered?</p> <p>2. Which of the actions yet to be delivered are the responsibility of the Commonwealth?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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DSS SQ23-000662	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Disability Strategy - National Disability Research Partnership	3. When will the National Disability Research Partnership be launched?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000663	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Disability Strategy - Disability Gateway	4. As of 9 May 2023: a. How many website visitors have visited the Disability Gateway Website? b. How many calls were made to the 1800 information service?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000664	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Disability Strategy Survey Preliminary Report	5. When will the Disability Strategy Survey Preliminary Report be released?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000665	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Disability Strategy - Advocacy Services	6. Since the launch of the Strategy, how many grants agreements have been entered into with providers to deliver individual advocacy services? 7. What has been the total grant amount provided to these advocacy services? 8. When will the National Centre for Advocacy be operational?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000666	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Disability Strategy - Strategy Advisory Council	Since November 2022, on how many occasions has the Strategy Advisory Council met? When and where did these meetings occur? When is the next Strategy Advisory Council meeting?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000667	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Disability Strategy - Good Practice Guidelines	12. Has the Department provided the Good Practice Guidelines to the Minister's office? 13. When will the Good Practice Guidelines be finalised and publicly released?	Written	19-Jun-23

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DSS SQ23-000668	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	National Disability Advocacy Program	<p>1. As of 9 May 2023, how many participants have accessed assistance through the National Disability Advocacy Program this financial year?</p> <p>2. Can the Department provide a breakdown of participants by state and territory?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000669	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	NDIS Appeals Program	1. As of 30 May 2023, how many participants have accessed assistance through the NDIS Appeals Program this financial year?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000670	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Budget Measure – Younger People in Residential Aged Care	1. How many young Australians are currently in residential aged care facilities?	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000671	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Budget Measure – Younger People in Residential Aged Care	<p>2. Please provide details of how \$3.6 million for targeted education and training over two years, for GPs, clinical staff, social workers, carers, advocates, families and other organisations will assist younger people who are currently in age care facilities.</p> <p>3. How will this training be rolled out?</p> <p>4. Who will conduct the training?</p> <p>5. Will this training be mandatory?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000672	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Budget Measure – Younger People in Residential Aged Care	<p>6. Provide details on the evaluation process that will be used to measure the actions taken by governments to reduce the number of young Australians in residential aged care. Who will undertake this evaluation?</p> <p>7. When will the evaluation commence and end?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000673	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance – Departmental	<p>Employment</p> <p>1. Has the Minister or the minister's office requested information, verbally or in writing, regarding</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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			engagement with Ministerial Offices	terminating or amending the employment contract of any employee within a portfolio agency? 2. If so: a) When was the information requested? b) How was the request made (email, phone call, WhatsApp messaging etc)? c) When was the information provided? d) What level (e.g. SES band 1) was the individual in question employed at? e) Is the individual still employed by the Department?		
DSS SQ23-000674	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Child support payments	The Budget allocates \$5.1M over 5 years to implement key recommendations regarding child support reforms. 1. Who will be invited to be part of the Child Support Stakeholder Consultation Group? What will the Group be consulted on? Will the group have regular or ad hoc meetings? 2. Has the Department already commissioned expert research on the costs of raising children in Australia and the adequacy of child support payments? a. If not, when will the research be commissioned and what will be the timeframe for delivery? 3. What is the timeframe for the proposed review of compliance, collection and enforcement? Will that review be undertaken internally or will it be a commissioned review?	Written	13-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000701	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Minister's Office Drafted Questions on Notice - Minister Shorten	Senator BROCKMAN: Mr Hetherington, do you keep statistics on how many questions the minister takes carriage of? Mr Hetherington: I don't have it with me, but we would certainly have a record of the questions that the minister has determined they want to respond to.	Page 14	30-May-23

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				Senator BROCKMAN: Can we have on notice a log of how many questions and which questions, by the QON category, the minister has taken carriage of? Mr Hetherington: We can take that on notice.		
DSS SQ23-000702	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Income Support Recipients - Living Arrangements	Provide the number of recipients in each housing status broken down by social security payment type per quarterly DSS data report for FY 2022-23, 2021-22, 2020-21.	Written	16-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000703	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Multiple Birth Allowance	1. In the following years, how many eligible families have claimed the Multiple Birth Allowance? a. 2017-2018 b. 2018-2019 c. 2019-2020 d. 2020-2021 e. 2021-2022 f. 2022-2023 2. For each of the following years, how much financial assistance has been provided to eligible families through the Multiple Birth Allowance? a. 2017-2018 b. 2018-2019 c. 2019-2020 d. 2020-2021 e. 2021-2022 f. 2022-2023	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000704	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability	In an interview in September 2022, Bill Shorten was asked whether he thought the NDIS was sustainable – to which he said: "I don't buy that there's some catastrophic disaster happening in the NDIS". Earlier in the year he also said: "You can't move around the corridors of Parliament in	Written	8-Jun-23

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				<p>Canberra without tripping over a Coalition minister whispering the Scheme is unsustainable... I'm here to tell you today that is a lie".</p> <p>Why did the Minister launch an Independent Review into the NDIS' sustainability, when he assured Australians in the lead up to the election that it was sustainable?</p> <p>- Why did the Minister break another pre-election promise?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000705	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Strategic Cuts	<p>When it comes to making cuts to the Scheme, the Minister outlined 'strategic cuts' would be made over 'blunt force cuts' – what is the definition of a blunt force cut?</p> <p>- What 'strategic cuts' have been made within the Scheme?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000706	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability - Budget Announcement	<p>Does the government now accept the NDIS does have significant sustainability issues?</p> <p>- Is this why in the October 2022 budget, an additional appropriation of \$8.8Bn was provided over the forward estimates?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000707	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Six Point Plan	<p>At the Press Club in April Bill Shorten outlined a six-point plan for the scheme, he said:</p> <p>"I am outlining are six policy directions that we will work on to deliver better outcomes for people with disability and, in the process, help secure the ongoing sustainability of the Scheme. An approach endorsed by the Board and the NDIA leadership".</p> <p>a) What is the difference between this six-point plan and the Sustainability Framework?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23

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				<p>b) Why has Bill Shorten announced a reboot to the NDIS given that the independent review won't hand down its recommendations until October?</p> <p>c) Where did these six key areas come from? Have they been derived from the work that the inquiry is currently doing?</p> <p>d) What actuarial data was used to cost this six-point plan?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000708	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Budget Savings	<p>1. This Budget says the Government wants to save \$15.3 billion of NDIS funding over the next four years, without changing eligibility criteria. Wouldn't the Minister say this is a cut in NDIS funding?</p> <p>2. Does the Minister expect these 'savings' to just come from his ramped-up efforts on stopping fraud?</p> <p>3. Is the Minister planning on cutting NDIS packages to fund this cut?</p> <p>4. What will be done with the \$15 billion in savings – will it be redirected to participant's plans?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000709	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Fraud Taskforce	<p>1. In his Press Club Address, the Minister makes mention that he has supposedly created a Fraud Taskforce: "Last October we created a Fraud Fusion Taskforce... It now has 38 investigations underway, involving more than \$300 million in payments." I refer to a media release on the NDIS website dated 2 August 2021 titled 'Extended crackdown on NDIS fraud' (https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/6658-extended-crackdown-ndis-fraud). "Established in 2018, the NDIS Fraud Taskforce has been integral in the investigation and successful prosecutions of criminals targeting NDIS participants." Does the Minister acknowledge that a creation of a Fraud Taskforce is not new, as per the evidence in the</p>	Written	8-Jun-23

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				media stating that the Taskforce was established in 2018, and I extended it as Minister in 2021?		
DSS SQ23-000710	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Supported Independent Living - Budget Announcements	In his Press Club Address, the Minister discusses the need for better outcomes from Supported Independent Living. The Budget then announces \$56.4 million to strengthen home and living decisions, including by introducing a 'home and living panel'. Does the Minister acknowledge that the creation of a Home and Living panel is not a new policy, and this is also already existing?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000711	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Policy	Why is Minister Shorten re-announcing old Coalition Government policies as his own?	Written	8-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000713	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Justice Reinvestment	Following the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory the government has failed to contribute adequate funding to the NT Government to implement the recommendations. What is the Federal Government doing to follow up on this Royal Commission and ensure that the recommendations are implemented?	Written	4-Jul-23
DSS SQ23-000714	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Department Briefs provided to Ministers Office - Minister Shorten	7. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs by Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000715	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Functions hosted by the Ministers - Minister Shorten	14. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, please provide the following: a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served;	Written	19-Jun-23

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				f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.		
DSS SQ23-000716	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Departmental engagement with Ministerial Offices - Minister Shorten	Ministerial submissions 1. How many decision briefs have been sent to Ministers' office since 1 July 2022? 2. How many briefs have been returned to the Department with one or more recommendations not agreed? Please provide a breakdown by ministerial offices. 3. How many time-critical briefs were signed off by Ministers after the due date? Please provide a breakdown by ministerial office.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000717	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications - Minister Shorten	35. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2022? Please provide a breakdown including; a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.	Written	19-Jun-23
DSS SQ23-000718	Department of Social Services	Slade Brockman	Functions - Minister Shorten	1. From 1 July 2022 to 30 May 2023, for any Departmental functions and official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the Social Services portfolio, please provide the following: a. List of functions. b. List of all attendees.	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>c. Function venue. d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e. Details of any food served. f. Details of any wine, beer or champagne served. g. Photographs of the function. h. Details of entertainment provided.</p> <p>2. What is the total expenditure for functions and official receptions hosted by Ministers and Assistant Ministers in the Social Services portfolio from 1 July 2022 to 30 May 2023?</p>		
HA SQ23-000554	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Ministers Offices Briefs turnaround timeframes	<p>1. Since 1 July 2022, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister? If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide: a. the previous turnaround requirement; and b. the date the change was requested.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000555	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Ministers Offices - Hospitality policy	<p>2. Since 1 July, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality. Since 1 July 2022, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000556	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Department Liaison Officers	<p>3. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister. Please denote any change in this allocation since February 2023		
HA SQ23-000557	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Departmental staff in Ministers offices	4. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer? Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister. Please denote any change in this allocation since February 2023.	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000558	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Portfolio Minister meetings with Secretary	5. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000559	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Non-Portfolio Minister meetings with Secretary	6. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000560	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Department Briefs provided to Ministers Office	7. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs by Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000561	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals to Ministers Office	8. How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal. Please denote where these New Policy Proposals have been provided since February 2023.</p>		
HA SQ23-000562	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Paper Usage	<p>9. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000563	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Committees and Taskforces	<p>10. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2023.</p> <p>11. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2023.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000564	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Budget Savings	<p>12. In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <p>a. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate?</p> <p>b. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut:</p> <p>i. External labour hire</p> <p>ii. Consultancy</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses c. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? d. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? e. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: i. External labour hire ii. Consultancy iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses f. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts. g. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target? h. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target? i. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
HA SQ23-000565	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Functions hosted by the Department	13. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, please provide the following:	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>		
HA SQ23-000566	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Functions hosted by the Ministers	<p>14. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, please provide the following: a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000567	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Executive Staff office refurbishment	<p>15. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000568	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Travel Costs	<p>16. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>17. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				accommodation. 19. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2022/23 to date?		
HA SQ23-000569	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Department premises upgrades	18. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide any photographs of the upgraded facilities.	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000570	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Media Monitoring and Advertising campaign costs	20. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2022/23 to date? 21. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000571	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Promotional merchandise costs	22. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs. Please provide examples of the merchandise purchased.	Written	19-Jun-23

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HA SQ23-000572	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Credit Cards	<p>23. In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <p>a. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff?</p> <p>b. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was it for?</p> <p>c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>e. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</p> <p>g. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2022/23 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</p> <p>h. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2022/23 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>i. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
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				<p>rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>j. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>k. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
HA SQ23-000573	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Comcare Referrals	<p>24. In relation to department/agency:</p> <p>a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare?</p> <p>b. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim.</p> <p>c. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims?</p> <p>d. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000574	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Fair Work Commission referrals	<p>25. In relation to the department/agency:</p> <p>a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission?</p> <p>b. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000575	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Departmental Reviews	<p>26. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <p>a. the name of the review;</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed.</p> <p>27. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide: a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office.</p>		
HA SQ23-000576	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Interdepartmental Committee Representation	<p>28. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide: a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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HA SQ23-000577	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	New Entities within portfolio	<p>29. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>30. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased or disbanded since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000578	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Electorate brief request	<p>31. Since 1 July 2022, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000579	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Staffing	<p>32. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 May 2023. Please provide:</p> <p>a. a breakdown of this ASL by APS classification;</p> <p>b. the number of ASL, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>c. the number of ASL, by classification, that are currently not filled.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000580	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Market Research	<p>33. Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.		
HA SQ23-000581	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications	34. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2022? Please provide a breakdown of the number including; a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000687	Hearing Australia	Slade Brockman	Budget Process - Responsibility	1. Can you provide a list of responsibilities which the Department/Agency had on 1 July 2021 which are no longer an area of responsibility for the Department/Agency? 2. Can you provide an updated list of responsibilities which the Department/Agency has acquired since July 2022?	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000688	Hearing Australia	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Fraud	1. Has there been any incident of fraud or the misuse of public funds since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>a list outlining:</p> <p>a. The number of incidents per portfolio agency</p> <p>b. A description of each incident, including the amount of money involved</p> <p>c. The steps were taken to address the matter</p> <p>d. Whether the person involved is still employed by the agency</p>		
HA SQ23-000689	Hearing Australia	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Mismanagement	<p>2. Has any APS employee, staff member, or contractor been fired or had their contract terminated since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide</p> <p>a. The name of the portfolio agency</p> <p>b. The reason their employment/contract was terminated</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000690	Hearing Australia	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Bullying and Harassment	<p>3. Have there been any reports, formal or otherwise, of bullying or harassment of staff in portfolio agencies since the election? If so, please provide a list outlining:</p> <p>a. The number of incidents per agency</p> <p>b. A description of the incident</p> <p>c. The steps taken to address the matter</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000691	Hearing Australia	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Security Incidents	<p>5. Have any security incidents been reported 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a list outlining:</p> <p>a. The number of incidents per agency</p> <p>b. A description of the incident</p> <p>c. Whether the incident involved classified material (and if so, the security classification of the documents)</p> <p>d. The steps actively taken to address the matter.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
HA SQ23-000692	Hearing Australia	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance - Employment	<p>1. Has the Minister or the minister's office requested information, verbally or in writing, regarding terminating or amending the employment contract of any employee within a portfolio agency?</p> <p>2. If so:</p> <p>a. When was the information requested?</p> <p>b. How was the request made (email, phone call,</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				WhatsApp messaging etc)? c. When was the information provided? d. What level (e.g. SES band 1) was the individual in question employed at? e. Is the individual still employed by the Department?		
HA SQ23-000693	Hearing Australia	Slade Brockman	Departmental Governance (Energy)	1. What is the carbon footprint of each portfolio agency? 2. What percentage of the portfolio agency's electricity usage is from renewables? 3. Please provide a copy of each agency's plan outlining how they will reduce their emissions to net-zero by 2030.	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000102	National Disability Insurance Agency	Anne Urquhart	Salesforce Contract	Senator URQUHART: Can you confirm with me who was the responsible minister at the time the Salesforce contract was entered into? Ms Falkingham: The initial contract was 2019. I would have to take on notice the subsequent contract string period. Senator URQUHART: Who was the minister in 2019? Ms Falkingham: I wasn't part of the Commonwealth at that stage, but I understand it was former Minister Robert. Senator URQUHART: Can you confirm who the responsible minister was at the time the contracts were upwardly revised? Ms Falkingham: That's what I will have to double-check, because there were some that were much more recent.	Pages 84-85	31-May-23
NDIA SQ23-000103	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	Senator REYNOLDS: Okay. Secretary, thank you for making that point, because going round Treasury and Finance my colleagues have ended up with a blank look, and we don't know what actuarial data it was based on and we don't know the assumptions. So if	Page 85	31-May-23

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				<p>you have seen documentation, or if you have DSS documentation, that actually goes through what actuarial data that was based on—because I started asking Mr Gifford what the latest actuarial data was, and he agreed that the latest publicly available actuarial data was actually the 2021-22 AFSR. Are you saying that there is additional modelling over and above this AFSR that is not yet publicly available?</p> <p>Mr Griggs: There is data around the impact of the measures that are in the budget, and the actuary was actively involved in that process. In fact, we relied on the agency to provide the projected impact that we've been talking about.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Has someone here got that information available tonight? Would you be able to provide that updated actuarial data from the AFSR?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: We'll take that on notice, Senator.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000104	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	<p>Mr Gifford: I refer to my previous answer where I quoted the updated baseline estimates that were based on data to November. Just to reiterate the point, the 2021-22 AFSR is based on data to June. The updated baseline estimates were based on data to November. So—</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Are you able to table the updated baseline data to November?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Griggs: The CEO said she would take it on notice and release what she can. I mean, she has done that.</p> <p>CHAIR: The witness is entitled under our rules and standing orders to take a question on notice. If that's what you've done, Ms Falkingham, I suggest we are best served by moving to the next line of questioning.</p> <p>.....</p>	Pages 87-88	31-May-23

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				<p>CHAIR: I will come to Ms Falkingham in a moment, but it is perfectly within the rights under the standing orders of those at the table to take a question on notice. My listening to what has been occurring here is not that Ms Falkingham has said she is unable or unwilling to provide information; she has taken that information on notice. If I'm incorrect in that, please correct me, but that is perfectly reasonable and is within our standing orders.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: That's correct.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000105	National Disability Insurance Agency	Louise Pratt	NDIA Staffing Budget	<p>Senator PRATT: I want to look at NDIA resourcing. I can see the total investment in the NDIA in the May budget. How does that funding, though, compare to investment from past budgets in that administration side, where does that funding go and what's the breakdown of additional staff, please?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: I'll take on notice how it compares to previous budget investments. I don't have that information to hand. In terms of the investment in the budget—and I'll refer specifically—I think it's \$724 million that goes to the agency. Obviously, there are components as well that go to DSS. We're anticipating that that will support approximately 929 staff to be employed over a period of four years to support the implementation of the initiatives, and that is a kind of spectrum of staff—frontline staff, program implementation staff, ICT staff. We would anticipate a mix of both APS and labour hire.</p>	Page 91	31-May-23
NDIA SQ23-000106	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Compensation	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: I suspect that's right! My first question is: how many compensation reduction amount notices have been issued since 1 July 2022? And can you explain the process and how recipients are selected, based on the compensation-relevant</p>	Pages 92-93	31-May-23

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				<p>criteria? Mr McNaughton: We have taken 561 recoveries in—so, as you know, there are about three different types that we do. We do a recovery action, we do a compensation reduction amount—which is a future-facing adjustment to someone's NDIS plan—and we do reductions or adjustments based on interplay with the state and territory statutory systems. Would you like me to give you each of those numbers? Senator REYNOLDS: If you could just run through them. Just to make sure, 561 recoveries—is that in total, or is that since 1 July last year? Mr McNaughton: That's since we started doing compensation recovery. That's in totality. Senator REYNOLDS: Do you have the figures by financial year? If not, I'm happy for you to take them on notice. Mr McNaughton: I'll take those on notice. I'll give you the total. Senator REYNOLDS: I'll just get the specific breakdown.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000107	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: Okay. Have you got, for March and April, the annualised payment per participant? Mr Gifford: I don't have those to hand right now. I can take that on notice. Senator REYNOLDS: If you could take that on notice. So what is it currently? Mr Gifford: So the annualised? Senator REYNOLDS: There are two annualised figures. What is the current annualised payment per participant, and what is the annualised payment per participant when comparing the same groups year on</p>	Page 94	31-May-23

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				<p>year?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: I should be able to get those figures just a little later on in the session. I just don't have those actually right in front of me now, if that's okay.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Thank you. Can you tell me, if you've got it for March and April, what the current total year-to-date financial payments are?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Gifford: I can give the figure at the end of March for the payments.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: So you've got the end of March?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: End of March. At the end of March, it was \$25.655 billion.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Isn't that good; we've almost done the monthly summaries for March and April. That wasn't so hard. But, if you can get those figures, that will just about complete the March and some of the April figures. So thank you for that.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000108	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Monthly Summary	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: Okay. Did the board ask for it or did you provide it?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: We had ongoing conversations with the board about the regularity and the transparency that the agency has in relation to the provision of data. We provided advice to them in relation to the cessation of the monthly, which they accepted on the basis of how transparent the agency is and the fact that all the data is provided in the quarterly report.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: So you approached the board, the board discussed it and the board agreed. Now, did you consult anybody else? Did you consult any participants, any DROs or anybody else, saying, 'They're thinking about getting rid of this'? Did you consult anyone else?</p>	Page 95	31-May-23

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				<p>Ms Falkingham: I discussed it with a range of different stakeholders in relation to the fact that?</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Can you take on notice who you consulted with and what their response was?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: Sure.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Has anybody raised any concerns with you in the sector?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: No-one. No-one in the sector has raised a single concern with us because they're very aware of the information in the quarterly.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Nobody has raised it? Can you take that on notice? While nobody has raised it with you, can you check that no-one has raised it in your organisation - for the sake of completeness.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I can, but I can say with confidence that no-one has raised that with the agency.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000109	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Report to Disability Ministers	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: Was the last report delivered to the minister within 42 days after the quarter?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: How long was it with the minister's office?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: I'll have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 95	31-May-23
NDIA SQ23-000110	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Report to Disability Ministers	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: The last quarterly report was very late. What date was it actually tabled or released publicly, put on the internet?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: I believe it was 19 May.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: How many days overdue was that?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: I don't think there's any legislative requirement for when the report is published. I think, as I said, the only requirement is around when it's provided to the ministerial council.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: What was the delay, then,</p>	Pages 95-96	31-May-23

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				<p>between the date that you provided it to the minister and when it was released publicly? Mr Gifford: We'd probably have to take on notice the specifics of the reason for the publication date.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000111	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Report to Disability Ministers	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: Can you take on notice what dates the previous quarterly reports were released publicly, say for the last two years. Mr Gifford: Yes, we can take that on notice.</p>	Page 96	31-May-23
NDIA SQ23-000112	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: When I had a look at the AFSR, Mr Gifford, that looked like the baseline figures, but are those the actual budget figures? Mr Gifford: They're the figures that underpin the October budget. Senator REYNOLDS: The chair is hurrying me up, so can you have a think about that? What you've got in here—you've confirmed it's correct—is the baseline 2021-22 AFSR figure. Can you go and compare that with, even, the previous October budget? I don't think that actually reflects what was in the October budget. Mr Gifford: I can take that on notice, yes.</p>	Page 96	31-May-23
NDIA SQ23-000113	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	PACE contract	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: ... I'll bring you now to the new IT system, PACE. Is it correct that the agency is intending to roll this out nationally from September of this year? Ms Falkingham: We have released our full evaluation of the PACE system—which, as you know, is coming off our very broken SAP system—to enable a better computer system for all of our staff and to have greater transparency through the system. We are planning to start national rollout from September, but that's based on a whole range of caveats in relation to user testing, in relation to the readiness of the sector, in relation to us feeling confident that we are ready to</p>	Page 97	31-May-23

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				<p>hit 'go' from September. But it will be a gradual, progressive rollout.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Can you tell me what the full value of the contract is worth?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: There are a series of contracts that make up the build of the new IT system. Some are, obviously, with Salesforce. I can take it on notice if you'd like to see the full breakdown of the contracts.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes, thank you. There was some reporting earlier in the year that the NDIS is paying some \$2 million per month for PACE. Is that correct?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Porter: What I can say is that we have a range of contracts in place with Salesforce that assist us with the rollout of PACE. They don't necessarily specify a monthly amount, but we should take on notice and I'm happy to provide to you the total contract value.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Okay. Also, on notice, I know I've already asked for the total contract value, but could we also have the amount within that contract that has been expended to date, if that would be possible.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: Yes—happy to do that.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000114	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Freedom of Information requests	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you; that's useful. I've heard that FOI requests have been denied because the document search function is or was broken so that the agency was not able to identify requested files. I'm wondering how many FOI requests have been denied because the search function is not capable of finding documentation.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I'm not aware of that at all. I will take</p>	Page 98	31-May-23

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				it on notice and identify that, because if the system can't identify it then we have manual workarounds to find those cases. Leave it with me, and we'll come back to you on notice in relation to that.		
NDIA SQ23-000115	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Use of Cellebrite technology	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: ...Just sticking with the IT system for a moment, Services Australia shared with the committee—yesterday, I think—that they have developed a capability, in collaboration with the Israeli spyware company Cellebrite, to support them in their compliance investigations. They've also shared that it can interact with NDIA systems. Can you confirm that?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I haven't had a briefing on that. I'm happy to take that on notice. I think the secretary might want to share.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: I don't think the evidence today was that it can access systems. I think the part of the evidence that you were referring to, Senator, was when Ms Skinner was asked if the technology is used outside of Services Australia and Ms Skinner said that there were shared service arguments with other agencies, and I think she mentioned the NDIA was one.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Okay. Now, there's not much public information regarding the relationship between the NDIA and Cellebrite beyond what Services Australia has stated. They've confirmed that they share technology with the NDIA to investigate financial offences against the Commonwealth. Could you elaborate any further on how Cellebrite has been utilised by the NDIA?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I'm not aware that we necessarily have, beyond, obviously, that functionality being</p>	Pages 99 - 100	31-May-23

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				available through Services Australia, but I'm happy to take it on notice and come back to you.		
NDIA SQ23-000116	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Legal Expenditure	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you. I have questions for Mr Swainson. I circulated some of these questions to you ahead of time, and I very much acknowledge that the questions I'm about to ask you are not seeking the identities of the individuals involved. Can you please share with me the total billable hours and total billable costs for case No. NDH-J?</p> <p>Mr Swainson: Yes, thank you for sharing those questions, Senator. Certainly at this time of the evening I'm not able to get billable hours for a particular case. I'll have to take that particular question on notice—</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Okay.</p> <p>Mr Swainson: with an additional caveat that obviously we'd have to take some care with any information that identifies an individual.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Of course.</p> <p>Mr Swainson: And we procure our legal services from the whole-of-government panel, so we need to also be mindful of commercial arrangements and whatnot. So, we will get the information we can for you for that case.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you. Are you able to tell us in general terms what the billable hours and total costs are for the agency for—and you might have to take it on notice—case No. 2020-5639?</p> <p>Mr Swainson: As with the previous answer, we'll take that on notice and we'll get what information we can.</p>	Pages 106-107	31-May-23
NDIA SQ23-000117	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, Chronic Fatigue	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you. I mean, you could have a stab at it if you wanted! Shall I repeat the question? The agency uses a guideline or a reference</p>	Page 108	31-May-23

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			<p>Syndrome and Fibromuscular Dysplasia</p>	<p>guide for the assessment of access applications for people with ME/CFS and FMD—correct? Mr McNaughton: That's correct. Senator STEELE-JOHN: Can the agency table the criteria or reference guide for those seeking access to the scheme with those conditions? Mr McNaughton: We can take that on notice. It's just really important, as we're all aware, that we're not a diagnosis driven scheme. Section 24 or 25 doesn't ask for a diagnosis. We're very clear on that. It's really about making sure that we're getting all the information we need to make sure that it's a permanent condition, which you know ME is, and then the level of functional impact that that condition has on that person across those different domains. That's really where we go to in that guidance; it's about making sure we get that functional impact assessment. Senator STEELE-JOHN: Are the guidelines used for these conditions the same as the guidelines currently under review by the RACGP? Mr McNaughton: The guidelines we use now are based on the current act as it currently stands in the— Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes, but the specific guidelines or reference guidelines for these conditions, particularly ME/CFS—you'll table them, I know that— Mr McNaughton: We'll table them, yes. Senator STEELE-JOHN: But are they the same ones that are used by the RACGP? Mr McNaughton: They would be using a diagnosis driven set of guidelines. We're using our guidelines to assess against section 24 or section 25 of the act. Wave some specialist teams within our technical</p>		
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				<p>advice branch where we have additional supports. This is a challenging interface with chronic health conditions entering the scheme, and we're getting a lot of presentations at the moment. It's a really complex area for our staff who assess eligibility. We have some additional clinical experts in our technical advice team that assist in the determination of those applications.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Okay, so what information is provided to planners to support them to make a determination in relation to somebody with ME/CFS or FMD?</p> <p>Mr McNaughton: We have our access guidelines for our access staff. They'll go through all the available information. When the prospective participant submits an access request form, they'll have all the information from their treating doctors and medical practitioners, as well as allied health information that goes to the impact of that on their functions across the domains of personal care, social engagement—across those four or five different domains. That's the guidance. I can table that for you.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000118	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Eligibility re-assessments	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes, thank you. The agency website states: We will only reassess your eligibility if we receive information that your disability support needs or situation have changed. So how many reassessments of eligibility has the agency completed in the last 24 months?</p> <p>Mr McNaughton: I'll get you that number. I just want to be clear though. We assess eligibility across two main areas. One is for children who enter the scheme under section 25 through the early intervention</p>	Page 109	31-May-23

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				<p>criteria, which is a very deliberate and very well understood process: children enter the scheme under the early childhood pathway; may stay on the scheme for one, two or three years; get access to those really important early intervention supports; and then graduate from the scheme.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: I'm sorry, Mr McNaughton, I think I might have phrased my question in a way that wasn't too helpful to you. What I was seeking was agency-driven or agency-initiated reassessments of eligibility.</p> <p>Mr McNaughton: It's the same type of process because for young children that will come via our early childhood partners. They will make a recommendation to the agency when the child has had the early intervention supports, and we'll reassess eligibility. Our planners or our partners in the community can also make recommendations around potentially a person who may no longer need ongoing support or whose plan might reduce. An example might be someone who has a psychosocial disability and we've built capacity. They could actually stay on the scheme but with a zero-dollar or a low-cost plan and then access supports later on. That's just one example. For some other people, it could be that we don't think their disabilities are likely to meet section 24 or 25. We could ask for additional information through the eligibility reassessment process and make a determination that way. But I can get you the numbers of how many eligibility reassessments we do.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes—those that have been agency triggered in the last 12 months and the last 24 months. I just want to clarify, though: are you saying</p>		
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				<p>that partners in community can trigger a reassessment without the agreement of the participant?</p> <p>Mr McNaughton: No. What they would do as part of a normal review cycle is have the conversation with a participant and then, during that conversation, a participant could provide some information about whether they've built some capacity and may no longer need a funded plan.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000119	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Eligibility re-assessments	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: I've had people come to me very surprised that the agency has triggered a reassessment of their eligibility based on a conversation in a review. The chair wants to pass the call, so I'll just ask you a couple of quickfire questions that you can take on notice. How many disabled people have subsequently lost access to the scheme as a consequence of reassessment initiated by the agency? Can you also break that down for us by the type of disability the participant has?</p> <p>Mr McNaughton: We'll take that on notice and see what data I can get you.</p>	Page 109	31-May-23
NDIA SQ23-000120	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Participant Service Guarantee	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: I've got some more questions so if you could put that on notice and give us a bit of a time frame that would be excellent. Can we go to the participant service guarantee now and some of the quarterly data in there. By my reading, the plan reassessment time frames are falling, with 68 per cent of the time NDIA commences a plan reassessment prior to the scheduled reassessment date. A third of all participants aren't getting reassessments as expected more than 12 months. This is despite the PSG legislation changes that have come in.</p> <p>Mr McNaughton: Just to clarify that participant service</p>	Pages 110-111	31-May-23

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				<p>guarantee measure, this is commenced facilitating a scheduled plan review. So when the participant has got their scheduled planned review coming up, this PSG measure is for us to start that review 56 days before that planned review expires - the plans don't expire, actually, they automatically extend. That has been a measure that we've changed now a data marker in our system. So we're actually starting that process now a hundred days, but because we haven't started that throughout so many quarters there's a catch-up period. We're seeing that increase quite considerably through that new process.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Could I again get you to take that on notice?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000121	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Participant Service Guarantee	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: Okay. Given we have even less time now, I've still got many questions, so I will ask a number of questions, and, given some of these answers very long, I will ask for them to be taken on notice. Thank you, Senator Ayres; I do understand how the process works. Can you also then take on notice the home and living decision time frames. My reading is that they are getting worse. The number of those waiting more than 90 days has doubled compared to the last quarter. Can you also take on notice the complaint numbers, which look like they have doubled, and could you explain why, because I suspect there are some reasons for that. That is on page 68—because it does look like there has been a complaint theme and it is spiking; what is the reason for that? I've got it dropping to 79 per cent in March 2023, compared to 100 per cent in June 2022, which is page 64. So could you explain that in a bit more detail. And is it related to 53 per cent of participant plans</p>	Page 112	31-May-23

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				<p>being actually reduced after review, which is on page 70, with 26 per cent with a reduction of more than 20 per cent to their plans over that period? If you could explain those reductions and the linkage to an increase in complaints, that would be appreciated.</p> <p>Then, when you go on to the social and community participation, which is on page 31, one of the metrics that I am particularly interested in is that one of the main pillars of the scheme's establishment appears to be going backwards, and that is that the board set a target of 46 per cent in 2022-23, but it only reached 42 per cent, which I understand is a fall. That's, again, on page 31. Could you explain the reason for that dynamic. Also, it looks like social and community participation for 15- to 24-year-olds is going backwards now, over the longer term trend, the longer they're in the scheme, which seems counterintuitive because the whole idea of the scheme is for young people in those age brackets in particular to be doing more social inclusion and participation.</p> <p>CHAIR: It's time to go to a tea-break. Could you conclude what you're putting on notice so we can do that break.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Their participation has gone down to 39 per cent. Could you explain, please, why that is happening.</p> <p>Mr McNaughton: We'll take those on notice.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000122	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Assistance Animals	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you. The webpage calling for participants states, and I'll quote it directly: 'If you or the person you represent experience vision impairment and use a guide dog, your feedback can be helpful to us to improve this assessment template.'</p>	Page 113	31-May-23

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				<p>I'm a bit concerned, from that, that the webpage does not state that people who use an assistance animal other than a guide dog exist and are not necessarily vision impaired. This language seems to imply an exclusion of them from the review. Does the review cohort include people who use assistance animals but are not vision-impaired?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: You're absolutely right to say that eligibility for assistance animals does not require vision impairment. We adopted the La Trobe University definition of assistance animals, which is that an assistance animal is trained to perform at least three tasks or behaviours which the person can't do because of their disability. That's not specific to vision impairment.</p> <p>I don't have an answer for you here in relation to who is participating in that advisory group, so I'll take it on notice and I'll confirm that for you. And I absolutely take your point about the website text too; I'll take that as a comment, if I may?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000123	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Assistance Animals	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: How many assistance animals have the agency approved in the last 12 and 24 months?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: I have some data for you here. The total number of assistance animals funded to date is 606.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: And that's from when to when?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: It's up until March 2023, but I might need to come back to you on when it's from.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Okay. If you could come back to us on that, that would be great.</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: Yes, of course.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Can you tell me how many of these approvals related to assistance dogs</p>	Pages 113-114	31-May-23

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				<p>specifically? Ms McKenzie: As opposed to other animals? Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes. Ms McKenzie: I don't have that data, so I'll come back to you on that too. Senator STEELE-JOHN: And, if you can, how many of them were for other types of assistance animals. That would be great. Ms McKenzie: Dogs versus other animals? Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes, dogs versus other animals - just to be really clear. Ms McKenzie: Yes. Senator STEELE-JOHN: And how many assistance animals have been approved via an AAT case in the last 12 and 24 months? Ms McKenzie: I don't know that either. I will come back to you on that.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000124	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Assistance Animals	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Okay, thank you. Would the agency consider an alert service—a medical alert or medical response animal—as an assistance animal? Ms McKenzie: I'll come back to you on that specifically. I would anticipate that the reason for a medical alert requirement would certainly be one of the tasks or behaviours relevant to the consideration. But let me come back specifically on whether we have any advice around medical alerts.</p>	Page 114	31-May-23
NDIA SQ23-000125	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIA Staffing	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: So how many FTE are in the current engagement and codesign branch? Ms McKenzie: That's an excellent question. Do you have that? Ms Falkingham: We'll take that on notice. Senator STEELE-JOHN: Could you tell us, in the branch overall, how many FTE are allocated to the co-design</p>	Pages 114-115	31-May-23

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				<p>versus the engagement? Ms McKenzie: We'll give you a breakdown of that. Ms Falkingham: I am happy to take that on notice, Senator. Also, there are 34 FTE that work in the Co-design and Engagement Branch. Senator STEELE-JOHN: That's the branch overall? Ms Falkingham: That's right. Senator STEELE-JOHN: Well, hello to the 34, but how many of those 34 are co-design versus engagement? Ms Falkingham: I think that would be part of the work of the implementation of the new structure, in terms of which staff are dedicated, because? Senator STEELE-JOHN: No, I just mean: currently what's the division? Ms Falkingham: I think some staff will work on both, so that's part of the work of separating out that branch. I'll take that on notice to see if I can get you a distinct number, but I think you'll find that a lot of staff work on both elements. Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes. I'd love to know how many people are dedicated to co-design. Both are important; they are just very different jobs. And I had that other question, around the court case. Ms Falkingham: We will come back to you.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000126	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Co-design Advisory Group	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Could you provide me, on notice, with a list of who's part of that group? Ms McKenzie: The Co-design Advisory Group? Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes. Ms McKenzie: Yes, of course.</p>	Page 115	31-May-23
NDIA SQ23-000127	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Sexual Therapy	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you. I just have a last one, on notice. Would you be able to provide to me, on notice, what work the agency has done in light of</p>	Page 115	31-May-23

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				<p>the Federal Court case NDIA v WRMF, particularly in relation to the development of a policy regarding sex services?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I am happy to take that on notice, Senator. Also, there are 34 FTE that work in the Co-design and Engagement Branch.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000128	National Disability Insurance Agency	Wendy Askew	Autism Spectrum Disorder	<p>Senator ASKEW: Okay, so not from your perspective, but perhaps from external. How many cases of autism have been actually diagnosed in Australia in the last year? Are you aware of that?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Would you know how many were actually accepted into the NDIS?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: I don't actually have to hand the figure accepted in the past 12 months. I can certainly take that on notice as well.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Could you provide that on notice with the prior year as well, just as a comparison?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: Yes, certainly.</p>	Pages 115-116	31-May-23
NDIA SQ23-000129	National Disability Insurance Agency	Wendy Askew	Autism Spectrum Disorder	<p>Senator ASKEW: Obviously, you've given me the total number of participants. Is there an actual dollar figure associated with that 30 percent and how much it would actually be costing?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: Yes. The figure's fairly readily available. The average payment for participants with autism, in the year to March, was just over \$33,000.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Per participant?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: Per participant, yes, which is sort of considerably less than the average across the scheme. Sorry, I don't have the exact figure to hand, but it is over \$60,000. As I said, we're talking about a large proportion of those participants being children, who have plans of \$20,000 or less. Don't take this as a</p>	Page 116	31-May-23

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				<p>precise answer - we'll take the precise answer on notice - but 200,000 participants with \$30,000 each is in the order of \$6 billion.</p> <p>Senator ASKEW: Okay, and you'll confirm that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: Yes.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000130	National Disability Insurance Agency	Wendy Askew	NDIS Participant Eligibility	<p>Senator ASKEW: Okay. Overall, how many categories or varieties of disabilities are listed within the NDIS?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: There are a couple of different levels to that question. At a detailed level, I'd probably have to take that on notice. There's a higher-order grouping of primary disabilities that we use from a data analysis point of view, of which there are 17. In terms of that more detailed level that sort of sums up to that 17, I'd probably have to take that question on notice if I could.</p>	Page 116	31-May-23
NDIA SQ23-000131	National Disability Insurance Agency	Wendy Askew	NDIS Participant Eligibility	<p>Senator ASKEW: Also on notice, would you be able to provide a breakdown of the costs for each of the disabilities - of those 17, the costs on an annual basis?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: Yes. We can do that.</p>	Page 116	31-May-23
NDIA SQ23-000132	National Disability Insurance Agency	Wendy Askew	NDIS Participant Eligibility	<p>Senator ASKEW: That would be good. There's a recent article in the Australian, 'Call to reconsider NDIS independent assessments to diagnose autism in children'. I'm happy to table that if you wanted to have a look at it. With experts calling for independent functional assessments, such as that, to determine whether children with autism are eligible for NDIS funding, what are the current guidelines for someone with autism qualifying for NDIS?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: Again I'll probably defer to my colleague Mr McNaughton for the specifics of assessment.</p> <p>Mr McNaughton: Similar to that answer to Senator Steele-John: whilst we're not a diagnosis-driven</p>	Page 116	31-May-23

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				<p>scheme, we do have autism on our lists which help to guide access to the scheme. We have lists A, B, C and D. If you have autism - I think it's DSM level 2 - you're on a certain list. That gives you the permanency that you need, and then we'll assess the other parts of that. I can give you the detail on notice around autism on each of the lists -</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000133	National Disability Insurance Agency	Wendy Askew	Participant Service Guarantee	<p>Senator ASKEW: You're often identified at a young age. How long does it take, once you've been diagnosed, to actually start to receive the support? Once you make an application to the NDIS, what's the process, and what sort of time frame would it be before that's approved and a plan put in place?</p> <p>Mr McNaughton: Those time frames are articulated in the participant service guarantee. We have 21 or 28 days—I'll check that—to make an access decision, which we do 95 per cent of the time. Then, if it's a child under the age of six, that would be referred off to our early childhood partners in the community, who would then start the initial supports and assessments. Then they would do an NDIS plan. But you can actually receive early intervention supports from our early childhood partners without having a full plan. They'll start that process as part of the contract we have with our early childhood partners to do some of those initial supports. Then we'll build out an NDIS plan beyond that approach. But the time frames are set out in the participant service guarantee, and we're hitting all of those time frames.</p>	Page 117	31-May-23
NDIA SQ23-000134	National Disability Insurance Agency	Louise Pratt	NDIS Plans	<p>How many children in western Australia of the below ages have an NDIS plan.</p> <p>Age 0-1 1-2</p>	Written	5-Jun-23

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				2-3 3-4 4-5 5-6		
NDIA SQ23-000135	National Disability Insurance Agency	Louise Pratt	NDIS Plans	How many children in the Peel region of the below ages have an NDIS plan. Age 0-1 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-5 5-6	Written	5-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000136	National Disability Insurance Agency	Tammy Tyrrell	NDIS Pricing	1. The NDIS pricing for core supports such as supported independent living is based on several funding assumptions. One is that all support workers are paid under the SCHADS award. However, data from a December 2022 Report by The Ability Roundtable suggests that 40 per cent of the workforce are paid under EAs that are higher than the award.[1] The workers can't be transferred to the award because of the Better Off Overall Test. a. Does Department consider this to be an accurate assessment? b. Is it correct that for every hour of every day that a disability support worker provides care, the disability provider that employs staff under an EA is underfunded by the NDIS for the cost of staff to deliver supports? i. If not, why? c. How will providers continue to operate sustainably within a NDIS price cap that hasn't changed in four years, in the face of continuing increases in staff wages and a high inflationary environment?	Written	5-Jun-23

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				d. How will the Government manage the financial challenges associated with staffing shortages that are more acute for disability providers operating in regional and remote areas, compared with their metropolitan counterparts?		
NDIA SQ23-000137	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Questions on Notice process	1. I refer to questions on notice: NDIA SQ23-000003 NDIA SQ23-000007 NDIA SQ23-000013 A) The NDIA took these questions on notice. Who wrote and approved these responses? B) Was it the CEO or Actuary? C) Was this the original response as drafted by the NDIA or was it drafted by the Minister’s office? D) Reading this response, would the NDIA say this is an acceptable response to a legitimate question on notice? E) What is the NDIA’s process when it comes to responding to QONs?	Written	8-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000138	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Administrative Appeals Tribunal	1. How many Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people have made appeals through the AAT? 2. How many Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people have made appeals through the NDIA? 3. What is being done to ensure Aboriginal people are aware of their rights and the appeals process? 4. Are any Aboriginal organisations funded to provide culturally safe support and advocacy to Aboriginal people living with disability on their rights to appeal and support them with this process?	Written	8-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000139	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Monthly Summary	1. The NDIS publications page on the website now includes a sentence that says: “The NDIS Monthly Summary Report will be included	Written	8-Jun-23

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				<p>in the NDIS Quarterly Report from April 2023. It is no longer published as a standalone document.”</p> <p>Were NDIS participants consulted before this decision was made?</p> <p>2. With the discontinuation of monthly summary reports, would you say this decision is a step back in terms of transparency for the disability sector and NDIS participants?</p> <p>3. How does the NDIA plan to ensure transparency and provide relevant information to the disability sector and participants now that monthly summary reports are no longer published?</p> <p>4. Are there alternative methods or platforms through which the NDIA intends to communicate updates, progress, and key information to maintain transparency and engagement with the disability sector and NDIS participants?</p> <p>5. Is the NDIA aware of any concerns that have been raised by the disability sector and participants regarding the discontinuation of monthly summary reports?</p> <p>6. What steps, if any, are being taken to address these concerns?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000140	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Report to Disability Ministers	<p>1. I understand the cut-off date for publication of quarterly reports is 42 days after the quarter.</p> <p>2. Was this timeline been achieved for the last quarterly report which uploaded late on the website?</p> <p>3. Can you provide an explanation for the delay in uploading the latest NDIS quarterly report for the last quarter on the NDIS publications website, considering the 42-day cut-off period?</p> <p>4. What factors contributed to the extended</p>	Written	8-Jun-23

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				<p>timeframe for publishing the NDIS quarterly report beyond the usual deadline?</p> <p>5. Did the Minister see the quarterly report before the cut-off date?</p> <p>6. If so, why wasn't it publicly released earlier?</p> <p>7. Are there any specific challenges or circumstances that caused the delay in releasing the NDIS quarterly report for the last quarter?</p> <p>8. How does the delay in uploading the quarterly report impact the transparency and timely dissemination of information to the disability sector and NDIS participants?</p> <p>9. What measures, if any, are being taken to ensure that future NDIS quarterly reports are published within the timeframe to maintain accountability and transparency?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000141	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	10. After Labor came to Government, total plan inflation peaked at 20.6% and has now dropped to 12.9% total inflation. How has the NDIA achieved this significant 8% reduction in inflation?	Written	8-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000142	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Supported Independent Living	11. The number of participants entering SIL have spiralled, increasing by 16.4% over the last 9 months alone (page 6). What is driving this increase?	Written	8-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000143	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Children accessing the NDIS	12. 11% of all boys aged between 5 and 7 years are now accessing the NDIS, increasing on last year's statistics. Is the NDIA concerned about this trend?	Written	8-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000144	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Participant Service Guarantee	<p>13. Compared to the last Quarterly Report, all the timelines for completing your commitments look to be arbitrarily pushed out to March 2025. Why were these pushed out?</p> <p>14. What does this mean for participants who relied on these improvements?</p>	Written	8-Jun-23

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				15. What consultation was done with participants and the sector before these were pushed out?		
NDIA SQ23-000145	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Participant Service Guarantee	16. There has been a huge fall in Call Centre Standards - The service standard is 80% of calls answered in 60 seconds, however, the service participants are now receiving is at 45% - waiting an average of 2.28min. This is the worst performance in 2 years. Why is this happening and what is the NDIA doing to fix it?	Written	8-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000146	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Participant Service Guarantee	17. Plan Reassessment timeframes continue to fall this quarter - only 68% of the time NDIA commence a plan reassessment prior to the scheduled reassessment date - that means 1/3 all participants aren't getting reassessment as expected more than 12 months after PSG legislation changes came in (page 60). Does the NDIA believe this is good enough for participants? 18. When was the NDIA meant to be meeting its PSG targets post the passage of legislation?	Written	8-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000147	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Home and Living decisions	19. Home and living decision timeframes are getting worse - those waiting for more than 90 days have doubled compared to last quarter 4% to 8%, and 61-90 days also increased. What is causing this increase?	Written	8-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000148	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Participant Service Guarantee	20. Complaint numbers have doubled since December 2022 (page 68). What is causing this? 21. What is the complaint theme for it to spike so suddenly? 22. Is it because the NDIA is less likely to accept a participants request for a plan reassessment? Dropping to 79% in March 2023, compared to 100% in June 2022? (page 64) 23. Is it because over the last 12 months 53% of participants plans were actually reduced after a review, with 26% with a more than 20% reduction (page 70)?	Written	8-Jun-23

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				24. Is it because AAT decided to cut 57% of plans, including 32% of which by more than 20% (page 72)?		
NDIA SQ23-000150	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	1. What are the latest financial forecasts? 2. What is driving the increased costs?	Written	8-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000151	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Independent Review of the NDIS	1. PM&C confirmed in Estimates that they had consulted with Finance, Treasury and DSS on the NDIS review prior to National Cabinet. They also provided papers to National Cabinet on this issue. Was the NDIA consulted in the preparation of these papers? 2. Do you have the documents that were provided for National Cabinet?	Written	8-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000152	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	2. Did the Actuary provide their forecasts as part of the Budget process? 5. How has the Actuary come to the conclusion that the Government will be able to shave \$15 billion in savings? 6. Has the Actuary's advice considered whether the Minister's 'reboot' of the NDIS would reduce costs by \$15 billion? 7. Can the Actuary provide the Committee with the advice he presented to the Minister showing that his reforms would reduce NDIS Cost by \$15 billion?	Written	8-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000153	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Sexual Therapy	1. How many plans has the NDIA technical advisory team reviewed for participants who have sought to have sex services included in their plan? 2. How many participants have had sex services refused in their plan by the NDIA technical advisory team? Under what grounds has sex services been refused? 3. How many participants have had sex services approved in their plan by the NDIA technical advisory team?	Written	13-Jun-23

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NDIA SQ23-000154	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Sexual Therapy	<p>4. What specific line items are being recommended to be used by participants, sex workers and plan managers for invoicing and receipts for sex services?</p> <p>5. Can you explain why when participants call the NDIS helpline 1800 800 110 they are told sexual services are not funded, when the Federal Court made it clear that neither the Minister or the NDIA have the power to broadly prohibit any NDIS support without unanimous agreement of all the State and Territory Disability Ministers?</p>	Written	13-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000155	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Early Resolutions team	<p>1. Since the re-establishment of the Early Resolutions Team (ERT):</p> <p>a. How many matters has the ERT been asked to assist in resolving?</p> <p>b. Over the same period, how many matters has the ERT resolved/assisted to resolve?</p> <p>2. What is the number of matters resolved by the ERT as a proportion of the entire AAT NDIS caseload over this period?</p>	Written	13-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000156	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Independent Expert Review	<p>1. The phased approach to the IER Program envisaged it would be scaled up in the first half of 2023.[2] However, the IER Program is now due to cease by 30 June 2023. What is the reason for ceasing the Program?</p> <p>2. As part of the IER Program, including as a clause in agreements between participants and the NDIA for cases going through the IER, the NDIA agreed to publishing a public register with de-identified summaries of the independent expert's recommendation for the purpose of providing open and transparent information to participants and the public. What is the status of this public register and when can the public expect it to be published?</p>	Written	13-Jun-23

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				3. The NDIA is evaluating the IER Program. Is a report with the results of the evaluation expected to be released publicly?		
NDIA SQ23-000157	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIS Age requirement modelling	1. Has the NDIA had its actuaries or any others do any modelling on the number of people with disability who would seek to access the NDIS if the age requirement in section 22 of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (Cth) was removed, and modelling on the associated costs?	Written	13-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000158	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Younger People in Residential Aged Care	<p>I refer to question reference number: NDIA SQ23-000055, and question reference number: NDIA SQ23-000056.</p> <p>In February 2023, I had asked, “How many people under 65 are currently living in RAC? How many are NDIS participants and how many are non NDIS participants? (breakdowns by location, age, disability type)”, and for additional breakdowns on the characteristics and experiences of YPIRAC. These questions were taken on notice. The returned answer was, “Please refer to the “YPRAC Strategy 2020-25 Annual Report, 30 June 2020 to 30 June 2021””. This report holds data from 2-3 years ago and therefore is not current.</p> <p>I also note that the report does not include several points of requested data (asked as part of question reference number: NDIA SQ23-000056), including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many NDIS participants were admitted to RAC from hospital? 2. How many participants have relinquished their NDIS status/funding and why? 	Written	13-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000160	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Younger People in Residential Aged Care	3. How many NDIS participants have gone through the NDIS/Aged Care pathway? Of these, how many times has the NDIA recommended that RAC is the only	Written	13-Jun-23

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				<p>option?</p> <p>4. How many participants in RAC have funding for 40 hours or more of Level 3 Specialist Support Coordination to navigate home and living options in the NDIS plan?</p> <p>5. How many participants in RAC have been supported by a Local Area Coordinator rather than an allocated YPIRAC Planner? 6. How many participants in RAC applied for SDA funding? Of these, how many have had their request declined?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000161	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Younger People in Residential Aged Care	<p>6. Has the NDIA collected data on YPIRAC (including the characteristics of YPIRAC, progress towards the YPIRAC targets, and achievements against priority areas) since 30 June 2021, besides what is being reported in the NDIS Quarterly reports to disability ministers (on the number of YPIRAC, the number of new entries to RAC, and the number of participants in RAC with a goal to leave)?</p> <p>7. If so, what data has been collected? How is this data being used to improve outcomes for YPIRAC? Does the NDIA intend to release this data publicly? What are the gaps in data collected that can be picked up in the next financial year?</p>	Written	13-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000162	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Younger People in Residential Aged Care	<p>8. How does the NDIA intend to deliver on the Federal commitment to no younger people in residential aged care by 2025?</p> <p>9. How will the NDIA systematically track and measure progress?</p> <p>10. Will reports be routinely released to the public, with critical information including:</p> <p>a) The number of YPIRAC (and the proportion of NDIS participants and non-NDIS participants)</p> <p>b) The characteristics of YPIRAC (including age,</p>	Written	13-Jun-23

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				<p>disability type, geographical location)</p> <p>c) The number of YPIRAC with a goal to leave</p> <p>d) The number of new entries to RAC (including where younger people entered RAC from)</p> <p>e) The number of exits from RAC (including exit destination)</p> <p>f) Measures to reduce the number of YPIRAC, and actions taken under these measures</p> <p>g) Future actions</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000163	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Hospital Discharge	<p>I refer to question reference number: NDIA SQ23-000062, and question reference number: NDIA SQ23-000059. In February 2023, I had asked about the number of participants currently in hospital awaiting an NDIS funding decision, the mean, median and range of days waiting for an NDIS funding decision, and additional breakdowns regarding discharge destinations. These questions were taken on notice. The returned answer was, “The NDIA does not hold structured data to respond to this question.”</p> <p>The NDIA also answered with, “In general, the majority of Home and Living decisions for NDIS participants in hospital are completed within 7 days of submission”.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What data has been collected regarding the experiences of outcomes of NDIS participants in hospital? 2. How is this data being used to improve outcomes for NDIS participants in hospital? 3. Does the NDIA intend to release this data publicly? 4. If the NDIA does not hold structured data regarding the mean, median and range of days waiting for plan approval, how is the NDIA confident that the majority of Home and Living decisions for participants in 	Written	13-Jun-23

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				hospital are made within 7 days? 5. What constitutes “the majority”? What are the gaps in data collected that can be picked up in the next financial year?		
NDIA SQ23-000164	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Hospital Discharge	1. What does the NDIA believe to be the priority areas that are critical to delivering on the Hospital Discharge Operational Plan? 2. What measures are being taken by the NDIA to achieve progress across the priority areas? 3. How is the Hospital Discharge Operational Plan being evaluated? 4. What data points are being used to monitor what interventions are successful or not? 5. What data is currently being reported to the NDIA from State Health Departments on NDIS participants?	Written	13-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000165	National Disability Insurance Agency	James McGrath	Voice to Parliament Referendum campaign	1. As of 16 June 2023, how many employees have a reference to the Voice to Parliament Referendum campaign in their email signature? How many of these implied a position in favour or against the proposed referendum question? Please table all employee email signatures as of 16 June 2023 that had a reference to the Voice to Parliament Referendum.	Written	16-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000166	National Disability Insurance Agency	James McGrath	Voice to Parliament Referendum campaign	2. As of 16 June 2023, how many pieces of material with a reference to the Voice to Parliament Referendum campaign were displayed in any workspace? How many of these implied a position in favour of the proposed referendum question? How many of these implied a position against the proposed referendum question? Please table all pieces of material that had a reference to the Voice to Parliament Referendum.	Written	16-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000167	National Disability Insurance Agency	James McGrath	Ministerial website usage	Since the swearing in of the new ministry on 1 June 2022: 1. Please provide a breakdown of the domain	Written	16-Jun-23

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				usage for the 50 most utilised (by data sent and received), unique (internet) domains accessed by the minister's office. Please provide: 1. The domain name of the website being accessed (or IP address if the Domain is unavailable in the tracking system). 2. Amount of data downloaded and uploaded to the site. 3. Number of times the site was accessed.		
NDIA SQ23-000168	National Disability Insurance Agency	James McGrath	Use of social media	1. Please table all LinkedIn posts made by the CEO. Please also table any other public social media posts made relevant to their current roles.	Written	16-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000169	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Briefs	1. Since 1 July 2022, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister? If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide: a) the previous turnaround requirement; and b) the date the change was requested.	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000170	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Ministerial Functions	2. Since 1 July, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality. Since 1 July 2022, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment.	Written	19-Jun-23

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NDIA SQ23-000171	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Minister's Office Staffing	<p>3. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio? Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister. Please denote any change in this allocation since February 2023.</p> <p>4. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer? Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister. Please denote any change in this allocation since February 2023.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000172	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Minister Meetings and Briefs	<p>5. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>6. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>7. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs by Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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NDIA SQ23-000173	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals	8. How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal. Please denote where these New Policy Proposals have been provided since February 2023.	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000174	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA paper supplies	9. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000175	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Inter-departmental Committees/Taskforces	10. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2023. 11. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2023.	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000176	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses	12. In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses. a. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? b. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: i. External labour hire	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Consultancy iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses <p>c. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to?</p> <p>d. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates?</p> <p>e. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. External labour hire ii. Consultancy iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses <p>f. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>g. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>h. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>i. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000177	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Departmental Functions	13. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>date, please provide the following:</p> <p>a. List of functions;</p> <p>b. List of attendees;</p> <p>c. Function venue;</p> <p>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</p> <p>e. Details of any food served;</p> <p>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</p> <p>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000178	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Ministerial Functions	<p>14. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, please provide the following:</p> <p>a. List of functions;</p> <p>b. List of attendees;</p> <p>c. Function venue;</p> <p>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</p> <p>e. Details of any food served;</p> <p>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</p> <p>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000179	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Executive Office Upgrades	<p>15. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000180	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Departmental Travel	<p>16. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>17. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				accommodation. 19. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2022/23 to date?		
NDIA SQ23-000181	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Facilities Upgrades	18. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide any photographs of the upgraded facilities.	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000182	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Media Monitoring, Advertising, Promotional Merchandise	20. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2022/23 to date? 21. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs. 22. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs. Please provide examples of the merchandise purchased.	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000183	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Departmental Credit Cards	23. In relation to departmental use of credit cards: a. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff?	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>b. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was it for?</p> <p>c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>e. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</p> <p>g. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2022/23 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</p> <p>h. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2022/23 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>i. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>j. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's</p>		
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				staff credit card policy. k. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023		
NDIA SQ23-000184	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Comcare	24. In relation to department/agency: a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? b. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. c. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? d. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000185	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Fair Work Ombudsman	25. In relation to the department/agency: a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? b. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator.	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000186	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Reviews	26. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide: a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed.</p> <p>27. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide: a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000187	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Interdepartmental Committees	<p>28. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide: a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000188	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	New Entities	<p>29. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since May 2022?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>30. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased or disbanded since May 2022?</p> <p>Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000189	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Ministerial data requests	<p>31. Since 1 July 2022, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000190	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staffing	<p>32. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 May 2023.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <p>a. a breakdown of this ASL by APS classification;</p> <p>b. the number of ASL, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>c. the number of ASL, by classification, that are currently not filled.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000191	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign	<p>33. Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign?</p> <p>Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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NDIA SQ23-000192	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information requests	<p>34. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown of the number including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned. 	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000193	National Disability Insurance Agency	Slade Brockman	Alternative therapies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. How many NDIS plans contain funding for psychic healers? 4. How many NDIS plans contain funding for tarot card readers? 5. Is there currently a definitive list of alternative therapies which are allowed under the NDIS? If not, why not? 6. What NDIS funding has been used to fund holidays and cruises? 7. What measures does the NDIS currently use to gauge the efficacy of the range of alternative therapies, including, but not limited to, psychic 	Written	19-Jun-23

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				services, tarot card readings, sound baths and chakra readings?		
NDIA SQ23-000194	National Disability Insurance Agency	Slade Brockman	NDIS Pricing	<p>1. The NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits 2022-23 state: “Providers are required to acknowledge compliance with the NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits and its associated documents when submitting a payment request through the myplace Provider Portal.” What obligation is in place for self-managing participants?</p> <p>5. What assistance is the government providing NDIS participants/caregivers to help them work out if they are victims of price gouging by unscrupulous service providers?</p> <p>6. Is the government providing any additional such assistance since July 2022? If so, outline?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000195	National Disability Insurance Agency	Slade Brockman	NDIS Monthly Summary	<p>1. How much did the monthly report cost each month to produce?</p> <p>2. How many staff had sole oversight of this monthly document?</p> <p>3. Was this a component that was contracted out, or were individuals employed purely for the purpose of synthesizing this data each month?</p> <p>4. Who made the decision to stop the monthly reports?</p> <p>5. When was the decision made for the monthly reports to cease?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000196	National Disability Insurance Agency	Slade Brockman	NDIA Staffing	<p>1. This financial year to date, how many staff are employed by the NDIA? Please provide a breakdown of number of staff per location.</p> <p>2. Have there been any reports, formal or otherwise, of bullying or harassment of staff in the NDIA since June 2022? If so, how many of these incidents have been reported?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>3. Since June 2022, were any employees of the NDIA offered a voluntary redundancy?</p> <p>4. Since June 2022, how many employees in the NDIA took a voluntary redundancy?</p> <p>5. What was the total cost to the Commonwealth for voluntary redundancies taken at the NDIA since June 2022?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000197	National Disability Insurance Agency	Slade Brockman	Hospital Discharge	<p>1. As of 30 May 2023, how many individuals who are eligible for the NDIS or have received a NDIS package are currently in hospital beds, awaiting to be discharged from hospital?</p> <p>2. Can the Department provide a breakdown by state and territory with the number of individuals who are eligible for the NDIS or have received a NDIS package and are currently in hospital beds, awaiting to be discharged from hospital?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000198	National Disability Insurance Agency	Slade Brockman	NDIS Plans	<p>As of 30 May 2023:</p> <p>1) How many individual NDIS plans were approved this financial year?</p> <p>2) Of these plans, how many are self-managed plans and how many are managed by the NDIS?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000199	National Disability Insurance Agency	Slade Brockman	Supported Independent Living	<p>1. Can the Department provide the total number of participants accessing Supported Independent Living assistance as of 30 May 2023?</p> <p>2. Can the Department provide the total payments made between 1 July 2022 and 30 May 2023 on SIL assistance?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000200	National Disability Insurance Agency	Slade Brockman	Supported Disability Accommodation	<p>1. As of 30 May 2023, what is the total number of enrolled SDA dwellings.</p> <p>2. As of 30 May 2023, what was the average wait time for SDA decisions?</p> <p>3. As of 30 May 2023, what is the total expenditure this financial year on SDA?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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NDIA SQ23-000201	National Disability Insurance Agency	Slade Brockman	Compensation	With reference to answers provided by the NDIA during Senate Estimates on 31 May 2023: 1. Can the NDIA please outline how NDIA participants are identified and selected for action for each of the following: a. Recovery action b. Compensation reduction amount (future facing adjustment to a NDIS plan) c. Reductions or adjustments based on interplay with state and territory statutory systems.	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000202	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jacqui Lambie	NDIA Staffing	How many ongoing APS employees were employed in the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023? - How many of these are engaged full time? - How many of these are engaged part time? - How many ongoing positions were advertised by the agency in this period? - How many of these advertised positions were filled? - How many of the new ongoing employees transferred in from another agency? - What is the average duration for the recruitment of an ongoing employee (i.e. how long does it take, on average, from approval to fill a position to the filling of the position)? - How many ongoing roles that were offered to prospective employees turned down by the prospective employee?	Written	21-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000203	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jacqui Lambie	NDIA Staffing	How many non-ongoing employees were employed in the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023? - How many of these are engaged full time? - How many of these are engaged part time? - How many non-ongoing positions were advertised by	Written	21-Jun-23

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				<p>the agency in this period?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many of these advertised positions were filled? - How many of the new non-ongoing employees transferred in from another agency? - What is the average duration for the recruitment of a non-ongoing employee (i.e. how long does it take, on average, from approval to fill a position to the filling of the position)? - How many non-ongoing roles that were offered to prospective employees turned down by the prospective employee? 		
NDIA SQ23-000204	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jacqui Lambie	NDIA Staffing	<p>How many labour-hire contractors were employed at the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many of these are engaged full time? - How many of these are engaged part time? - How many labour-hire contract positions were advertised by the agency in this period? - How many of these advertised positions were filled? - What is the average duration for the recruitment of a labour-hire contractor (i.e. how long does it take, on average, from approval to fill a position to the filling of the position)? - Have any labour-hire contractors at the agency been given authority to act as a delegate for the Commonwealth in this period? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o If yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many and at what level? - What was the nature of the delegations? <p>How many non-ongoing contract extensions were granted by the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p>	Written	21-Jun-23

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				<p>- How many of these were engaged full time? - How many of these were engaged part time?</p> <p>How many labour-hire contractors were engaged by the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023? - How many of these were engaged full time? - How many of these were engaged part time?</p> <p>How many existing labour-hire contracts were extended by the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>How many ongoing employees were made redundant from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023? - How many of these were engaged full time? - How many of these were engaged part time?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000205	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jacqui Lambie	NDIA Staffing	<p>Note: for the following question please exclude employees departing due to retirement. How many ongoing employees resigned from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>How many ongoing employees were considered excess, or were made redundant from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>How many non-ongoing employees resigned from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>How many labour-hire contractors resigned from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p>	Written	21-Jun-23

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NDIA SQ23-000206	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jacqui Lambie	Bullying or Harassment of NDIA staff	<p>In the period between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023? were there any allegations (either formally or informally reported) of untoward behaviour (E.g. bullying, harassment, discrimination) made against any APS, or labour-hire contractors engaged at the agency?</p> <p>- How many of these claims were investigated (formally or informally) and found to have merit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o How many of the claims were raised with ComCare? o Of those that were deemed to have merit, how many resulted in time away from work for the victim? o What is the total amount of leave taken, in days, from the agency that are attributable to claims of this nature? <p>- How many of these allegations were investigated and found to have no merit?</p>	Written	21-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000207	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jacqui Lambie	Workers' compensation	<p>How many workers compensation claims were made to the agency, by employees of any nature, between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>- How many of these claims were successful?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o How many of the successful claims were due to an injury of a physical nature? o How many of the successful claims were due to an injury of a mental nature (i.e. relating to psychological, or mental health injury)? <p>- How many of these claims were rejected?</p>	Written	21-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000208	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jacqui Lambie	NDIA Staffing	<p>How many ongoing, or non-ongoing employees at the agency took unpaid leave between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>- What is the total number of days of unpaid leave for this same period at the agency.</p>	Written	21-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000209	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jacqui Lambie	External Consultants	<p>How many consultants (i.e. not APS, or labour-hire contract workers) were working in the agency</p>	Written	21-Jun-23

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				<p>between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What was the nature of work these consultants performed on behalf of the agency? - Were any consultants used to augment work ordinarily conducted by APS employees? 		
NDIA SQ23-000210	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jacqui Lambie	External Consultants	<p>How much money did the agency spend on consultants between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>From which companies were all consultants engaged by the Department?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What was the value for each consultancy procured by the agency? - Please tabulate this information. 	Written	21-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000211	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jacqui Lambie	External Consultants	<p>Were any consultants at the agency given authority to act as a delegate for the Commonwealth between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many and at what level? b. What was the nature of the delegations? <p>Have any consultants at the agency been given authority to act as a delegate for the Commonwealth since 18 February 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many and at what level? b. What was the nature of the delegations? 	Written	21-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000212	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jacqui Lambie	Supply Nation	<p>How many procurement activities, since 18 February 2023, have resulted in purchases of goods and / or services from Supply Nation Certified organisations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the total value of all Supply Nation procurements to date for the agency this financial year (2022/23)? 	Written	21-Jun-23

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				<p>- What percentage of the agency’s procurements for the 2022/23 financial year to date does the above value represent?</p> <p>- Would the agency please categorise the types of procurements undertaken with Supply Nation businesses for financial year 2022/23?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000213	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jacqui Lambie	Supply Nation	Would the agency list all Supply Nation entities it has purchased goods and / or services from this financial year, with a total value for each supplier?	Written	21-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000214	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jacqui Lambie	NDIA SES Staff	<p>Please advise the contracted start date for each Senior Executive Service Officer in the agency, plus their contracted end dates.</p> <p>Please advise the previous role (the role immediately prior to taking up their current SES role) for each Senior Executive Service officer.</p>	Written	21-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000215	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information requests	<p>35. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister’s office since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications by Minister,</p> <p>b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided;</p> <p>c. the number of applications refused; and</p> <p>d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000216	National Disability Insurance Agency	Slade Brockman	Budget Process	<p>1. Can you provide a list of responsibilities which the Department/Agency had on 1 July 2021 which are no longer an area of responsibility for the Department/Agency?</p> <p>2. Can you provide an updated list of responsibilities which the Department/Agency has acquired since July 2022?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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NDIA SQ23-000217	National Disability Insurance Agency	Slade Brockman	Fraud or the misuse of public funds and NDIA Staffing	<p>1. Has there been any incident of fraud or the misuse of public funds since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a list outlining:</p> <p>a) The number of incidents per portfolio agency</p> <p>b) A description of each incident, including the amount of money involved</p> <p>c) The steps were taken to address the matter</p> <p>d) Whether the person involved is still employed by the agency</p> <p>2. Has any APS employee, staff member, or contractor been fired or had their contract terminated since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide</p> <p>a) The name of the portfolio agency</p> <p>b) The reason their employment/contract was terminated</p> <p>3. Have there been any reports, formal or otherwise, of bullying or harassment of staff in portfolio agencies since the election? If so, please provide a list outlining:</p> <p>a) The number of incidents per agency</p> <p>b) A description of the incident</p> <p>c) The steps taken to address the matter</p> <p>4. Have any security incidents been reported 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a list outlining:</p> <p>a) The number of incidents per agency</p> <p>b) A description of the incident</p> <p>c) Whether the incident involved classified material (and if so, the security classification of the documents)</p> <p>d) The steps actively taken to address the matter.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000218	National Disability Insurance Agency	Slade Brockman	NDIA Staffing	<p>1. Has the Minister or the minister’s office requested information, verbally or in writing, regarding terminating or amending the employment contract of any employee within a portfolio agency?</p> <p>2. If so:</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>a) When was the information requested? b) How was the request made (email, phone call, WhatsApp messaging etc)? c) When was the information provided? d) What level (e.g. SES band 1) was the individual in question employed at? e) Is the individual still employed by the Department?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000219	National Disability Insurance Agency	Slade Brockman	Environment	<p>1. What is the carbon footprint of each portfolio agency? 2. What percentage of the portfolio agency's electricity usage is from renewables? 3. Please provide a copy of each agency's plan outlining how they will reduce their emissions to net-zero by 2030.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
NDIA SQ23-000220	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Participant Service Guarantee	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: Could I get on notice, if you can go through all of those that have been pushed out, why it's only been picked up now. Why the December 2022 said they were still on track for an earlier delivery. Can you take each one of those and report back on that. Having a look, there's also been a huge fall in call centre standards. By my reading, the service standard is that 80 per cent of calls were answered within 60 seconds. However, the service participants are now receiving is 45 per cent waiting an average of 2.28 minutes, which, on my reading of this, is the worst performance in two years at least. Can you go through quickly or take on notice the reasons for that drop in call centre standards. Mr Dardo: Absolutely. In looking at the contact centre, we're implementing a transformation strategy and the main game in that transformation strategy is to improve first contact resolution. As we've been looking at why people are calling, there's a chunk of</p>	Page 110	31-May-23

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				<p>calls that are coming back because we're not answering them the first time. What we've done is we've looked at the training that's causing that. In our outsourcer they were getting 11 days of training before being put on to phones. What we've done is double that training. In addition to that we've started to create an insource workforce with an escalation queue and specialist training, and they're getting about 40 days of training. What I've done is made the call in terms of resourcing to take some of the pressure off the workforce to put that resource into training and skilling and improving the content that they use to provide service to the clients.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Can you take the detail on notice because again we're out of time?</p> <p>Mr Dardo: Can I just share two stats with you in response.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: If you could take the detail of that on notice.</p>		
QSC SQ23-000048	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Complaints Performance Targets	<p>Ms Leathem: We've done a lot of work on reorganising the way that we deal with our complaints. We have done a business process review. Instead of having state and territory based complaints teams, we now have a single national intake process that assesses and triages matters. Anything that might involve urgent safeguarding involving a participant we immediately direct to our safeguarding unit, and they are, generally speaking, responding the same day that they receive that information to quickly activate an urgent response for those safeguarding matters. We also assess matters that are capable of early resolution—anything that might be able to be resolved with a few telephone calls or some sensible</p>	Pages 70-71	31-May-23

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				<p>negotiation between a provider and a complainant. We set a target for ourselves to resolve those within two weeks, and we're hoping to achieve around 40 per cent of new complaints coming in that we could resolve in that short time frame.</p> <p>Overall we've set ourselves a target of resolving 70 per cent of complaints within 90 days. That's obviously an ambitious target that will only be realised when we've fully embedded all the additional staff that we're going to be receiving, but we're seeing some promising results from the triage, safeguarding and early resolution functions.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Thank you very much for that. Can you, perhaps on notice, provide the current targets as you just set out—I assume you've probably got some further gradations in there—and where you're tracking against those milestones.</p> <p>Ms Leathem: Certainly.</p>		
QSC SQ23-000049	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Workforce	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Is there a particular pattern state by state? Is it mainly in your headquarters? Is it spread right throughout the country?</p> <p>Ms Mackey: There tends to be additional contractors in the eastern states, where there is a tighter employment market in terms of us being able to compete, for example, with public servants in certain jurisdictions.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: It's interesting that you say that, because the employment market in WA is pretty tight, according to all the businesses I speak to.</p> <p>Ms Mackey: We tend to attract—particularly in Western Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory, when we put APS jobs out—a volume of applicants. We're seeing that turn now. With the jobs</p>	Page 72	31-May-23

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				<p>that we've currently got in the market, with the additional funding, we are getting large numbers of applicants across the board. But previously the contractors have been on the eastern seaboard, largely.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Interesting. Can I get a state-by-state breakdown on that.</p> <p>Ms Mackey: I don't have a state-by-state breakdown of contractors.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: I don't need it today. You could take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Mackey: Yes.</p>		
QSC SQ23-000050	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Procurement - Management Advisory Services	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Management advisory services is also an item that comes up on AusTender. Can you talk us through what's covered by 'management advisory services'. What expertise are you seeking there, and what's it being used to achieve within the organisation?</p> <p>Ms Mackey: That is the five contracts that I mentioned earlier. We sought particular advice around doing demand modelling as a part of doing advice to government around what resourcing was required in the commission. We've also sought advice around the appropriate operating model, given the national arrangements and the need to use all of the levers that we have as a regulator. Another example would be using a not-for-profit to assist us in doing participant guidance materials.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Sorry, you're using a not-for-profit to—</p> <p>Ms Mackey: An organisation that is, obviously, very expert in representing and understanding the needs of participants and working with participants—they</p>	Page 72	31-May-23

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				<p>have developed for us a number of communications. Senator BROCKMAN: Is this a disability advocacy group? Is it that kind of not-for-profit? Ms Mackey: I wouldn't call them an advocacy group. They're certainly in the disability sector. Senator BROCKMAN: Can we get a short description—and it might be available somewhere so you can point me to it—of each of those five contracts and what they're seeking to achieve. Ms Mackey: Sure.</p>		
QSC SQ23-000051	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Procurement - Photographic Services	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: There are two contracts for photographic services—\$11,000 and \$88,000. Again, it's probably pretty self-explanatory. What were these for, events? Ms Mackey: I'd have to take that on notice. Senator BROCKMAN: Can you get us details of what they were precisely for.</p>	Page 72	31-May-23
QSC SQ23-000052	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jordon Steele-John	Complaints	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Of the complaints that you've received in this financial year, have any had to be discontinued or investigations relating to complaints discontinued because of the non-participation or non-willingness to participate in the investigation of a guardian or public trustee? Maybe I'll rephrase that. What I'm trying to ascertain is: of the complaints that you've taken in the last financial year, how many, if any, had to be discontinued because the complaint was made by somebody who is subject to a guardian or public trustee order and, subsequent to the complaint being made, the guardian or trustee, declined to participate in the complaints process on behalf of the participant? Ms Leathem: I'd have to take that on notice. I'm not aware if there is or, if there are, how many there are.</p>	74-75	31-May-23

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QSC SQ23-000053	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	James McGrath	Voice Campaign Signature blocks	As of 16 June 2023, how many employees have a reference to the Voice to Parliament Referendum campaign in their email signature? How many of these implied a position in favour or against the proposed referendum question? Please table all employee email signatures as of 16 June 2023 that had a reference to the Voice to Parliament Referendum.	Written	16-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000054	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	James McGrath	Voice Campaign reference material	As of 16 June 2023, how many pieces of material with a reference to the Voice to Parliament Referendum campaign were displayed in any workspace? How many of these implied a position in favour of the proposed referendum question? How many of these implied a position against the proposed referendum question? Please table all pieces of material that had a reference to the Voice to Parliament Referendum.	Written	16-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000055	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	James McGrath	Social Media posts	Please table all LinkedIn posts made by the QSC Commissioner. Please also table any other public social media posts made relevant to their current role.	Written	16-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000057	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Budget Uplift	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline how the provision of and additional \$142.6 million will enhance the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission? How will this additional funding boost the Commission’s capability? 2. How will this additional funding ‘minimise the risk of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation [and] improve market quality and participant experience’? 3. The funding is to help complete casework. As of 1 June 2023 how much casework are currently outstanding? 4. Can you provide details on casework case work completion times – (expected times to complete cases and actual times) 5. Following this additional funding, is it expected all outstanding case work will be completed? 	Written	19-Jun-23

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QSC SQ23-000058	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Registered Providers - Psychic healers	How many psychic healers are registered as NDIS providers?	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000059	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Registered Providers - Tarot card readers	How many tarot card readers are registered with the NDIS?	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000060	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Provider Audits	What auditing processes/compliances checks are in place to audit the services provided by registered NDIS providers?	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000061	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Provider Audits undertaken	How may audits have been undertaken by the Agency since July 2022? How does this compare to the previous two financial years?	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000062	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Provider Audits - deregistered providers	How many NDIS providers have been de-registered following audits by since July 2022 and what was the value of services they were paid ? If you don't have the exact answer on hand, ball-park figures will do.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000063	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Bullying and Harassment	3. Have there been any reports, formal or otherwise, of bullying or harassment of staff in portfolio agencies since the election? If so, please provide a list outlining: a) The number of incidents per agency b) A description of the incident c) The steps taken to address the matter	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000064	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Carbon Footprint	1. What is the carbon footprint of each portfolio agency? 2. What percentage of the portfolio agency's electricity usage is from renewables? 3. Please provide a copy of each agency's plan outlining how they will reduce their emissions to net-zero by 2030.	Written	19-Jun-23

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QSC SQ23-000065	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Ministerial Briefs - timeframes	<p>Since 1 July 2022, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>If so, when was this advice provided to the Department?</p> <p>Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a) the previous turnaround requirement; and b) the date the change was requested.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000066	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Minister's Office Hospitality	<p>Since 1 July, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices?</p> <p>Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>Since 1 July 2022, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices?</p> <p>If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000067	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Departmental Liaison Officers	<p>How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p> <p>Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>Please denote any change in this allocation since February 2023.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000068	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Allocation of Agency staff	<p>How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?</p> <p>Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister. Please denote any change in this allocation since February 2023.		
QSC SQ23-000069	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Meetings with Minister/s in portfolio	How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000070	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Meeting with Ministers - out of portfolio	How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000071	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Ministerial Briefs - provided to Minister/s	How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs by Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000072	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal. Please denote where these New Policy Proposals have been provided since February 2023.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000073	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Procurement - Paper	Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	Written	19-Jun-23

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QSC SQ23-000074	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Inter-departmental Committees - Membership	Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2023.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000075	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Commonwealth taskforces	Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2023.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000076	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	2022-23 October Budget	In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses. a. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? b. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: i. External labour hire ii. Consultancy iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses c. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? d. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? e. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. External labour hire ii. Consultancy iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses <p>f. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>g. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>h. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>i. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
QSC SQ23-000077	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Functions in the 2022-23 FY	<p>In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided 	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000078	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Functions hosted by Minister/s 2022/23 FY	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, please provide the following:</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>		
QSC SQ23-000079	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Office Renovations	Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000080	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Travel Expenses - Secretary/agency head	Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000081	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Travel Expenses - Deputy Secretary/agency head	Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000082	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Refurbishment to Premises - 2022/23 FY	Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide any photographs of the upgraded facilities.	Written	19-Jun-23

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QSC SQ23-000083	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Staff travel	What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2022/23 to date?	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000084	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Media Monitoring Services 2022/23 FY	What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2022/23 to date?	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000085	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Advertising and information Campaigns 2022/23 FY	What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000086	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Communication Products 2022/23 FY	What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs. Please provide examples of the merchandise purchased.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000087	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	NDIS Commission Credit Cards	In relation to departmental use of credit cards: a. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? b. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was it for? c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date? d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date? e. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2022/23 to date?	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</p> <p>g. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2022/23 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</p> <p>h. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2022/23 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>i. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>j. Please provide a copy of the department or agency’s staff credit card policy.</p> <p>k. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
QSC SQ23-000088	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Claims to ComCare	<p>In relation to department/agency:</p> <p>a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare?</p> <p>b. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim.</p> <p>c. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				d. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?		
QSC SQ23-000089	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Referrals to Fair Work Commission	In relation to the department/agency: a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? b. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000090	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Reviews Conducted by NDIS Commission	Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide: a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000091	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Reviews Completed by NDIS Commission	Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide: a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent;	Written	19-Jun-23

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				<p>g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister’s office.</p>		
QSC SQ23-000092	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Inter- departmental Committees	<p>Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide: a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000093	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Creation of New Entities	<p>How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000094	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Finalised Entities	<p>How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased or disbanded since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000095	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Requests for data/information by Electorate	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister’s office seeking data or information separated out by electorate? a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the</p>	Written	19-Jun-23

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				request if provided. b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.		
QSC SQ23-000096	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Average Staffing Level	Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 May 2023. Please provide: a. a breakdown of this ASL by APS classification; b. the number of ASL, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and c. the number of ASL, by classification, that are currently not filled.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000097	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Market Research - Commonwealth Information & Advertising Campaign	Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000098	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information - NDIS Commission	How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2022? Please provide a breakdown of the number including; a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the	Written	19-Jun-23

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				AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.		
QSC SQ23-000099	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information - Minister's Office	How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2022? Please provide a breakdown including; a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000108	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Budget Process – Responsibilities/ Measures	1. Can you provide a list of responsibilities which the Department/Agency had on 1 July 2021 which are no longer an area of responsibility for the Department/Agency? 2. Can you provide an updated list of responsibilities which the Department/Agency has acquired since July 2022?	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000109	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Misuse of public funds	Has there been any incident of fraud or the misuse of public funds since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a list outlining: a) The number of incidents per portfolio agency b) A description of each incident, including the amount of money involved c) The steps were taken to address the matter d) Whether the person involved is still employed by the agency	Written	19-Jun-23

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QSC SQ23-000110	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Staff terminations	Has any APS employee, staff member, or contractor been fired or had their contract terminated since 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a) The name of the portfolio agency b) The reason their employment/contract was terminated	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000111	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Security Incidents	Have any security incidents been reported 1 July 2022? If so, please provide a list outlining: a) The number of incidents per agency b) A description of the incident c) Whether the incident involved classified material (and if so, the security classification of the documents) d) The steps actively taken to address the matter.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000112	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Departmental engagement with Ministerial Offices	1. Has the Minister or the minister's office requested information, verbally or in writing, regarding terminating or amending the employment contract of any employee within a portfolio agency? 2. If so: a) When was the information requested? b) How was the request made (email, phone call, WhatsApp messaging etc)? c) When was the information provided? d) What level (e.g. SES band 1) was the individual in question employed at? e) Is the individual still employed by the Department?	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000113	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	NDIS Commission staff by location	This financial year to date, how many staff are employed by the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (the Commission)? Please provide a breakdown of staff per location.	Written	19-Jun-23
QSC SQ23-000114	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Bullying or harassment	Have there been any reports, formal or otherwise, of bullying or harassment of staff in the NDIS Quality and	Written	19-Jun-23

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				Safeguards Commission since November 2022? If so, how many of these incidents have been reported?		
QSC SQ23-000115	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Slade Brockman	Voluntary redundancies	<p>1. Since June 2022, were any employees of the Commission offered a voluntary redundancy?</p> <p>2. Since June 2022, how many employees in the Commission took a voluntary redundancy?</p> <p>3. What was the total cost to the Commonwealth for voluntary redundancies taken at the Commission since June 2022?</p>	Written	19-Jun-23