

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – SOCIAL SERVICES – 2023-24 ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - INDEX OF QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – 14
FEBRUARY and 18 MARCH 2024**

QoN No.	Department/Agency	Senator	Subject	Question	Hansard page/Written	Hearing date/Date received
AIFS SQ24-000146	Australian Institute of Family Studies	James McGrath	Use of Artificial Intelligence	<p>Question 1: To what extent is Artificial Intelligence (AI) being utilised in the Australian Institute of Family Studies?</p> <p>Question 2: Has the Australian Institute of Family Studies been advised by any federal departments or agencies on how to develop policies and procedures on the utilisation of AI in the Australian Institute of Family Studies? If so, please table this advice and correspondence.</p> <p>Question 3: Does the Australian Institute of Family Studies have any internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Australian Institute of Family Studies? If so, please table these internal policies and/or procedures.</p> <p>Question 4: If there are internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Australian Institute of Family Studies, has there been any breaches of these policies and procedures? Please provide de-identified summaries of such breaches since May 2022.</p> <p>Question 5: Please provide any correspondence, briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to internal policies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>Question 6: Please provide any briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to correspondence between the Australian Institute of Family Studies and other federal departments and agencies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>Question 7: Has the Australian Institute of Family Studies completed an assessment on the benefits of AI in the Australian Institute of Family Studies? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>Question 8: Has the Australian Institute of Family Studies</p>	Written	21/02/2024

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				<p>completed an assessment on the risks that AI poses to the ability for the Australian Institute of Family Studies to successfully execute its aims and objectives? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>Question 9: Are there any cases of staff being reprimanded for the misuse of AI, such as using ChatGPT to complete reports or inputting confidential information into online chat boxes?</p>		
AIFS SQ24-000148	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Ministerial Briefs turnaround times	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, 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	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000149	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Ministers Office Hospitality	<p>2. Since 1 July 2023, 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 2023, 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	23/02/2024

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AIFS SQ24-000150	Australian Institute of Family Studies	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> <p>Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000151	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Ministers office staff	<p>4. 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 been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000152	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Ministers meeting with Secretary	<p>5. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? 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 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000153	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Briefs to the Ministers' offices	<p>7. a. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>b. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.		
AIFS SQ24-000154	Australian Institute of Family Studies	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 2023? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000155	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 producers. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000156	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Inter-departmental 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 October 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 October 2023.	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000157	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	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>make across the following areas to achieve this cut:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. External labour hire 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>		
AIFS SQ24-000158	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Functions expenditure	13. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>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. 		
AIFS SQ24-000159	Australian Institute of Family Studies	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 2023/24 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	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000160	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	SES 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 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000161	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Staff travel	<p>16. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 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 2023/24 to</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				date, including costs of flights and accommodation. 19. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?		
AIFS SQ24-000162	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Facilities Upgrade	18. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 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 photographs of the upgraded facilities.	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000163	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Media monitoring	20. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000164	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Advertising	21. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000165	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Promotional merchandise	22. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date? What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.	Written	23/02/2024

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				Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.		
AIFS SQ24-000166	Australian Institute of Family Studies	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 2023/24 to date and what was it for?</p> <p>c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 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 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 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 2023/24 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 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 2023/243 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</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>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>		
AIFS SQ24-000167	Australian Institute of Family Studies	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	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000168	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Fairwork 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	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000169	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Reviews	<p>26. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <p>a. the name of the review;</p> <p>b. the purpose of the review;</p> <p>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</p> <p>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</p> <p>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</p> <p>f. the amount spent to date; and</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>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</p> <p>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 SQ24-000170	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Internal Reviews	<p>28. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2023.</p> <p>Please provide</p> <p>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. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000171	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Inter-departmental Committees	<p>29. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to.</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>Please provide:</p> <p>a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose.</p>		
AIFS SQ24-000172	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	New Entities	<p>30. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>31. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000173	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Data requests by electorate	<p>32. 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 request if provided. b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000174	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Staffing levels	<p>33. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 February 2024.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL; b. Total number of FTE by APS classification; c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				department/agency is responsible; and d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification		
AIFS SQ24-000175	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Market Research	34. 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. 43. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign? Has that research been provided to a Minister’s office? Did the Minister’s office provide any input on the development of the research?	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000176	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information	35. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? 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	23/02/2024

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				63. How many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?		
AIFS SQ24-000177	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications - Minister's Office	36. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown including; a. the number of applications by Minister, i. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; ii. the number of applications refused; and iii. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000180	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Estimates Variations	37. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000181	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Movement of Funds	38. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000182	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Flexible working arrangements	39. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? a. Please provide a breakdown including; i. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week? ii. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week? iii. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week? iv. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week? v. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week? b. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees? c. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>50. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>51. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p>		
AIFS SQ24-000183	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	ChatGPT	<p>40. a. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network?</p> <p>i. If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>b. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000184	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates	41. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000185	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates	42. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister’s office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000186	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Conflict of Interest	<p>44. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</p> <p>Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000187	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Agency Heads leave	45. Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2023, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000188	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Staffing	<p>46. Please provide a list of positions that are currently vacant within the Department as at 1 February 2024.</p> <p>47. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2022?</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>48. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>49. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>73. What is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?</p>		
AIFS SQ24-000189	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Accommodation	<p>52. As at 1 February 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>58. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2023.</p> <p>59. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, clearing and building maintenance. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>60. How many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000190	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Years of service	<p>53. As at 1 February 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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AIFS SQ24-000191	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Public holidays	<p>54. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>55. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>56. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King’s Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000192	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Professional development	57. Since 1 July 2023, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000193	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Staff training	61. How many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000194	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Number of QoNs	62. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000195	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Election Commitments	<p>64. Has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>65. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000196	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Social media influencers	66. Has the Department/Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000197	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	External speakers	67. Has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	23/02/2024

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AIFS SQ24-000198	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	External Retreats	68. Has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000199	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Minister international visits	69. How many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000200	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Department International visits	70. How many official international visits have been taken by staff since 1 July 2023?	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000201	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Security Clearances	71. How many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, since 1 July 2023? 72. How many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance? Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months? Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000202	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates Index	74. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 12 February to 16 February 2024.	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000203	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates Questions on Notice	75. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following: a. the number of the Question on Notice; b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister's office; d. the date the Minister's office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled;	Written	23/02/2024

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				e. the date the Question on Notice was tabled; and f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.		
AIFS SQ24-000204	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Michaelia Cash	Property	1. Please provide a list of all property/land that is in the possession of the agency/department/statutory authority with the following details: a. Location of the property or land; b. Is it owned by the agency/department/statutory authority or leased; i. If leased – when does the lease expire; c. Total footprint in square metres; and d. Total footprint in sqm excluding areas specifically designated for interaction with the public (eg: excluding hearing rooms for particular matters, but including kitchens, breakout and internal meeting rooms).	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000205	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Michaelia Cash	Underpayments	2. Are you aware of any underpayments of worker entitlements in your agency/department/statutory authority since 2021-22 Financial year? a. If yes, please provide how many instances it has occurred, what was the quantum of underpayment, and how many workers were impacted? b. Did you report it to the Fair Work Ombudsman as a self-report?	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000206	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Michaelia Cash	Work from Home	1. What is the proportion of staff that are on formal Work from Home (WFH) arrangements in the agency/department/statutory authority? 2. How many have informally used WFH arrangements? 3. What is the average number of staff that are WFH on any given workday? 4. What is the most senior level of employee who has a formal work from arrangement in place? a. What is that arrangement – how many days a week do they attend the office?	Written	23/02/2024

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				b. Are they in charge of a team of employees? How many in that team?		
AIFS SQ24-000207	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Michaelia Cash	Departmental Staff	5. Does the agency/department/statutory authority have a breakdown across all offices on how many have a formal working from home arrangement? 6. How many staff in the agency/department/statutory authority work permanently from home? 7. do any staff with remote working arrangements now based outside of Australia? 8. Of those based outside of Australia, is the agency/department/statutory authority aware of their current location, and what security protocols do you have in place for their device access?	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000208	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Michaelia Cash	Productivity	9. How do you assess the productivity of employees within the agency/department/statutory authority? Do you have any indication of the productivity of employees working from home – has it changed in any way? 10. How often do employees undergo performance appraisals? How is WFH built into that process now – is the WFH arrangement taken into account with assessing performance? 11. (if yes) – How does that work?	Written	23/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000209	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Kerrynne Liddle	Priority Areas	1. According to the DSS Portfolio Budget Statement 2023/24, the work of the AIFS falls under eight key program areas. Could you explain how the funding is broken down across those eight areas? 2. Given the escalating FDV incidence, does any single research area take priority over any other?	Written	22/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000210	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Kerrynne Liddle	Employment	1. The 2022-23 Budget indicates your employee wages rose from \$7.7 million to \$8.4 million but you had a reduction in staff from 88 to 84. At what APS levels are each employee employed and how many work full time?	Written	22/02/2024

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AIFS SQ24-000211	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Kerrynne Liddle	Performance	<p>1. One performance measure of the AIFS according to the Budget Statement is an increase in e-News subscribers and an increase in accessing publications year on year. Have you been successful in increasing these figures?</p> <p>2. The Budget Statement notes that the 2022-23 year-end forecast for e-News subscribers was 40,000 and for accessing publications 4.5 million. What are the year-end forecasts for 2023-24?</p> <p>3. All of these figures focus on access by end users. How are end users defined for the purpose of performance monitoring?</p>	Written	22/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000212	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Kerrynne Liddle	Research	<p>1. Your latest research indicates “continued efforts to address the gendered drivers of men’s violence against women are very likely to have wider positive impacts in addressing other forms of family and gendered violence”. Do you evaluate any of the programs funded under Close the Gap or NIAA or Health in relation to men and their relationship with violence?</p> <p>2. Have you evaluated what good if any “yarning circles” play in assisting FDV perpetrators to change behaviour?</p> <p>3. What is an outcome from these programs?</p>	Written	22/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000213	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Kerrynne Liddle	Data	<p>1. Would you agree the data is seriously lacking, inconsistent and unable to be compared across jurisdictions?</p> <p>2. Have you considered or are you aware of any work on establishing a consistent national reporting of FDV from police and service providers?</p>	Written	22/02/2024
AIFS SQ24-000214	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Kerrynne Liddle	Coercive Control	<p>1. Queensland has legislated against coercive control. NSW set to change law in July 2024. Other jurisdictions yet to get to work on this. What is your involvement, if any, with what is happening in others states and territories?</p> <p>2. Your Corporate Plan 22/23 to 25/26 research priorities reference new trends, men and boys, refugee families, defence families and services for children and the impact of</p>	Written	22/02/2024

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				gambling and children. When is the first report against progress due?		
DFSVC SQ24- 000274	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Kerrynne Liddle	National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner	1. I hear constantly from the sector of duplication, cross-agency silos, slow roll-out and lack of focus on prevention and early intervention. What advice will you provide for policy now that you've been in the role for more than a year? 6. The lack of data available immediately across the nation for family and domestic violence is stark. Actually, to find any up-to-date data is near impossible. What could be done to secure data and data of greater value for decision making? 7. Your 2022-23 report (P5) states that nationally consistent monitoring and evaluation frameworks are important to ensure progress against the National Plan can be tracked accurately. Given police and agencies in each state do this differently – some with little transparency – and getting any up-to-date statistics is near impossible, how are you addressing this so you can track progress against the National Plan?	Written	22/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000275	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Kerrynne Liddle	National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner	2. At the October Senate Estimates you told us you had met only with Asst. Minister Justine Elliott despite an epidemic in DV and 50+ deaths in 2023. Has Minister Rishworth's level of engagement with you as Commissioner improved since then? 3. What formal meetings have you had? Which Ministers have you met with? What was the outcome?	Written	22/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000276	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Kerrynne Liddle	National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner	4. I understand the Lived Experience Advisory Council was appointed in October and their term ends in March. Why is their term so short? 5. Given men make up about 50% of the population and young people are missing from the dialogue on domestic and family violence, will you also be seeking to include them in a future Lived Experience Advisory Council?	Written	22/02/2024

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DFSVC SQ24- 000277	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Ministerial Briefs turnaround times	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, 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	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000278	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Ministers Office Hospitality	<p>2. Since 1 July 2023, 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 2023, 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	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000279	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> <p>Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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DFSVC SQ24- 000280	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Ministers office staff	<p>4. 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 been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000281	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Ministers meeting with Secretary	<p>5. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? 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 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000282	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Briefs to the Ministers' offices	<p>7. a. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>b. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000283	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals	<p>8. How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.		
DFSVC SQ24- 000284	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 producers. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000285	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Inter- departmental 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 October 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 October 2023.	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000286	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 of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to?	Written	23/02/2024

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				<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 SQ24- 000287	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Functions expenditure	<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 2023/24 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	23/02/2024

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DFSVC SQ24- 000288	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Ministerial Functions	14. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 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	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000289	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	SES office upgrades	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 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000290	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Staff travel	16. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 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 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation. 19. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000291	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Facilities Upgrade	18. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges,	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>		
DFSVC SQ24- 000292	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Media monitoring	20. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000293	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Advertising	21. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date?	Written	23/02/2024
				Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.		
DFSVC SQ24- 000294	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Promotional merchandise	22. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date? What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?	Written	23/02/2024
				Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.		
				Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.		
DFSVC SQ24- 000295	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 purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 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 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 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 2023/24 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 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 2023/243 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>		
DFSVC SQ24- 000296	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	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</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>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>		
DFSVC SQ24- 000297	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Fairwork 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	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000298	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	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> <p>b. the purpose of the review;</p> <p>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</p> <p>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</p> <p>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</p> <p>f. the amount spent to date; and</p> <p>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</p> <p>a. the name of the review;</p> <p>b. the purpose of the review;</p> <p>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</p> <p>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>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 SQ24- 000299	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Internal Reviews	<p>28. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2023.</p> <p>Please provide</p> <p>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. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000300	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Inter- departmental Committees	<p>29. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <p>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	23/02/2024

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DFSVC SQ24- 000301	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	New Entities	<p>30. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>31. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000302	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Data requests by electorate	<p>32. 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 request if provided. b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000303	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Staffing levels	<p>33. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 February 2024.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL; b. Total number of FTE by APS classification; c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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DFSVC SQ24- 000304	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Market Research	<p>34. 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> <p>43. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign? Has that research been provided to a Minister’s office? Did the Minister’s office provide any input on the development of the research?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000305	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information	<p>35. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? 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> <p>63. How many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000306	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information	<p>36. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister’s office since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown including;</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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			applications - Minister's Office	a. the number of applications by Minister, i. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; ii. the number of applications refused; and iii. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue		
DFSVC SQ24- 000307	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Estimates Variations	37. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000308	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Movement of Funds	38. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000309	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Flexible working arrangements	39. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? a. Please provide a breakdown including; i. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week? ii. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week? iii. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week? iv. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week? v. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week? b. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees? c. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy. 50. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.	Written	23/02/2024

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				51. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.		
DFSVC SQ24- 000310	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	ChatGPT	40. a. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network? i. If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data? b. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000311	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates	41. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000312	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates	42. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister’s office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000313	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Conflict of Interest	44. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration? Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000314	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Agency Heads leave	45. Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2023, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000315	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Staffing	46. Please provide a list of positions that are currently vacant within the Department as at 1 February 2024. 47. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2022? 48. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>49. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>73. What is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?</p>		
DFSVC SQ24- 000316	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Accommodation	<p>52. As at 1 February 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>58. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2023.</p> <p>59. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, clearing and building maintenance. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>60. How many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000317	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Years of service	<p>53. As at 1 February 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000318	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Public holidays	<p>54. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>55. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>56. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King’s Birthday Public Holiday?</p>		
DFSVC SQ24-000319	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Professional development	57. Since 1 July 2023, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24-000320	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Staff training	61. How many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24-000321	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Number of QoNs	62. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24-000322	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Election Commitments	<p>64. Has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>65. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24-000323	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Social media influencers	66. Has the Department/Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24-000324	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	External speakers	67. Has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24-000325	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	External Retreats	68. Has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	23/02/2024

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DFSVC SQ24- 000326	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Minister international visits	69. How many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000327	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Department International visits	70. How many official international visits have been taken by staff since 1 July 2023?	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000328	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Security Clearances	71. How many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, since 1 July 2023? 72. How many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance? Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months? Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000329	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates Index	74. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 12 February to 16 February 2024.	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000330	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates Questions on Notice	75. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following: a. the number of the Question on Notice; b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister’s office; d. the date the Minister’s office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; e. the date the Question on Notice was tabled; and f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.	Written	23/02/2024

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DFSVC SQ24- 000331	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Michaelia Cash	Property held within the agency/departm ent/statutory authority	1. Please provide a list of all property/land that is in the possession of the agency/department/statutory authority with the following details: a. Location of the property or land; b. Is it owned by the agency/department/statutory authority or leased; i. If leased – when does the lease expire; c. Total footprint in square metres; and d. Total footprint in sqm excluding areas specifically designated for interaction with the public (eg: excluding hearing rooms for particular matters, but including kitchens, breakout and internal meeting rooms).	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000332	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Michaelia Cash	Underpayments	2. Are you aware of any underpayments of worker entitlements in your agency/department/statutory authority since 2021-22 Financial year? a. If yes, please provide how many instances it has occurred, what was the quantum of underpayment, and how many workers were impacted? b. Did you report it to the Fair Work Ombudsman as a self-report?	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000333	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Michaelia Cash	Working from home arrangements	1. What is the proportion of staff that are on formal Work from Home (WFH) arrangements in the agency/department/statutory authority? 2. How many have informally used WFH arrangements? 3. What is the average number of staff that are WFH on any given workday? 4. What is the most senior level of employee who has a formal work from arrangement in place? a. What is that arrangement – how many days a week do they attend the office? b. Are they in charge of a team of employees? How many in that team?	Written	23/02/2024

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DFSVC SQ24- 000334	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Michaelia Cash	Departmental staff	<p>5. Does the agency/department/statutory authority have a breakdown across all offices on how many have a formal working from home arrangement?</p> <p>6. How many staff in the agency/department/statutory authority work permanently from home?</p> <p>7. do any staff with remote working arrangements now based outside of Australia?</p> <p>8. Of those based outside of Australia, is the agency/department/statutory authority aware of their current location, and what security protocols do you have in place for their device access?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000335	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Michaelia Cash	Productivity	<p>9. How do you assess the productivity of employees within the agency/department/statutory authority? Do you have any indication of the productivity of employees working from home – has it changed in any way?</p> <p>10. How often do employees undergo performance appraisals? How is WFH built into that process now – is the WFH arrangement taken into account with assessing performance?</p> <p>11. (if yes) – How does that work?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DFSVC SQ24- 000336	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	David Pocock	National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032	1. When will the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission report on measuring the impact of the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032?	Written	26/02/2024
DSS SQ24- 000001	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Disability Employment Service Providers	<p>Senator RICE: In terms of the money that would then be forwarded through to the actual participant, how does the DES participant know that money is available, for example, for relocation costs or for other things that would help them take up work?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I think there are two elements. One is that, through the job plan process, the provider is talking to the participant about their goals and trying to address some of</p>	92-93	14/02/2024

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				<p>their needs through that. There's a conversation that's had, and the provider will work with the participant, for example, on training, a particular piece of equipment or something like that. We expect that the provider will—</p> <p>Senator RICE: Do you know that they do?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: We don't, because it's not separately identified.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Do you have statistics as to how many of your participants receive that funding?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: They don't receive the funding; it purchases goods—</p> <p>Senator RICE: If it's purchases, or if it's relocation costs—those sorts of—</p> <p>Ms Shannon: That's a separate category. We have specific separate categories for relocation and wage subsidies and also some workplace modifications and other adjustments, and we can provide that information on notice.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Okay. That's separate to the money that—</p> <p>Ms Shannon: The service fee, yes.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So the service fee is just given to the providers.</p> <p>Ms Shannon: Correct.</p> <p>Senator RICE: And it doesn't flow through to the participants.</p> <p>Ms Shannon: The provider can use the service fee to buy things like training equipment or provide other interventions.</p> <p>Senator RICE: If they do use that to provide things, do you have data on that?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: Unfortunately not, because it's not separately identified. So we're not able to capture that data.</p> <p>Senator RICE: If you could provide me what data you do have, that would be appreciated.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000002	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Pathway Pilots	<p>Senator RICE: [...] I now want to go to the NDIS DES trial. In November 2022 Minister Rishworth announced a pilot scheme aimed at lifting employment rates amongst people with disability and better connecting NDIS participants with</p>	93	14/02/2024

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				<p>DES providers. I understand that program was to be launched in early 2023. Has it been launched?</p> <p>Ms Spence: There's been quite a lot of work going on with the pathways pilot doing a lot of co-design with different organisations. We have kicked off the pilot work. It's been agreed that it will be held in three different locations—greater Darwin, the ACT and outer eastern Melbourne. We held information sessions early this year with the relevant DES providers and local area coordinators in those regions.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So the locations have been finalised and the providers have been selected. Can you, perhaps on notice, reveal what the process was for choosing the DES providers—what criteria you used and how those providers were chosen? Have the NDIS providers also been chosen?</p> <p>Ms Spence: Yes. At a very simple level, it was done an expression of interest process through the LAC partners in the community. It was conducted by the NDIA.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Presumably there were more services that applied through that expression of interest than were chosen. I'd like to know what the criteria were and why the people were chosen and the areas were chosen.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000003	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Disability Employment Services Model	<p>Senator RICE: [...] Have you decided on the new model now?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: We're preparing advice for government on the new model.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Can you tell me how it aligns with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I might need to take that on notice. We are aware of the recommendations, but we haven't mapped them against the thinking.</p>	94	14/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000004	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	3.2.1—Component 1 (NDIS	<p>Senator KOVACIC: An amount of \$12.2 million was provided under '3.2.1—Component 1 (NDIS Transitioning Commonwealth Programs and Continuity of Support)'. Again,</p>	95	14/02/2024

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			<p>Transitioning Commonwealth Programs and Continuity of Support)</p>	<p>are you able to provide line by line how this funding is allocated this year and each year across the forward estimates? Ms Shannon: I might need to take that one on notice. I understand that that relates to a specific population of people with disability who were transitioned into the scheme, and there are some legacy arrangements. I think that's right. I'll need to take that on notice to give you a little more information. Senator KOVACIC: Okay, thank you. Ms Shannon: My friend the CFO has come to rescue me. Mr Harvey: That program is 3.2.1, and you said \$12.239 million? Senator KOVACIC: Correct. Mr Harvey: As Ms Shannon just said, that relates a range of programs that are gradually winding up as we transition into full NDIS schemes. There's \$2.4 million relating to mental health respite and \$4.7 million relating to Services for People with a Disability. That's what the program is called. Another \$3.7 million relates to a program called Continuity of Support. My report is cut off, unhelpfully. My last one is \$1.4 for the NDIS, but there will be something else in there. Senator KOVACIC: If you could give us that little piece on notice, that would be fantastic. I appreciate that.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000005	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Remote Area Allowance	<p>Senator RICE: Alright, let's move on. Is there any publicly available data on the number of remote area allowance recipients? Mr Flavel: I don't think so. I will take that on notice in terms of the numbers Senator RICE: I have looked for data and couldn't find any. Do you think it's important that the public is able to track it and that there is transparency around who's getting remote area allowance and how much is being</p>	96-97	14/02/2024

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				<p>expended on it?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: One of the tricky things in presenting it is that it's not its own appropriation. Like a lot of supplements in the income support system, it is attached to the person's primary payment. When we publish estimates for, say, JobSeeker payment, that's inclusive of all the supplements that people on JobSeeker payment get. There's not a disaggregation of energy supplement, remote area allowance and other supplements that somebody might get. I am very happy to take it on notice, but it has been a longstanding practice, if you want to call it that, that there hasn't been a specific breakdown of those. But they can be asked for on notice, of course.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes, if you could take that on notice and see what you can find, that would be useful information.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000007	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Paid Parental Leave Employer Role Data	<p>Senator KOVACIC: [...] Since the commencement of the Commonwealth's PPL scheme, per year, how many small businesses have administered the scheme?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: We've traversed some of this in the committees that have been looking at this issue. For the benefit of others, we don't track small businesses who administer the scheme per se. The reason for that is that the various requirements around whether employers have to pay PPL or are able to opt out are actually on the basis of inherent criteria attached to the payment. In other words, somebody who hasn't been with their employer for a year or who's taking their entitlement in blocks—anything other than 40 continuous days—is able to opt out. So we can infer some small business usage, but we don't actually have a reliable dataset on that because it's not actually required to be collected.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: In that case, you wouldn't have any data on how many individual PPL transactions or payment transactions small businesses have had to undertake?</p>	99	14/02/2024

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				<p>Mr Flavel: I might take that on notice. Certainly, for the employees, we'll have some data, I think, on the basis of whether they're small, medium or large. As you know, in different contexts, there's no universal definition either of a small business. It can be on the number of employees, it can be on turnover or it can be on other things. So I might take that on notice just to make sure that I can give you a robust answer to that.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: That would be great. If you also have the information on that basis on the quantum of payments facilitated by small businesses, that would be great.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000008	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Energy Supplement	<p>Senator KOVACIC: How many senior Australians are receiving the energy supplement, and what's the current rate of that supplement?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: People on the age pension generally get a pension supplement, and the pension supplement is inclusive of the energy supplement. I'll take it on notice, but my understanding is that it's not possible to break that down, because the energy supplement effectively was rolled into the overall pension supplement.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: If you can't break it down, are you able to give us a supplement costing out to the forward estimates as well, on notice?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I'll have a look at what we can provide on that, yes.</p>	100	14/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000009	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Escaping Violence Payment	<p>Senator RICE: So there are the people that disengage, so it's a bit difficult to track exactly what's going on there, but you've got another cohort, then, of people who don't receive it for a range of reasons. What's that range of reasons, and are you tracking that?</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: Yes. That's 11 per cent of all applications received. Some of the reasons might be that people may have left a violent relationship longer than the 12-week period, so it might have been a historical relationship that they're asking</p>	102-103	14/02/2024

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				<p>about. It may be that the person does not meet the age range; they might not be over 18. It could be that it's not intimate partner violence; it may have been violence from another party.</p> <p>Senator RICE: You say 'may have been'; have you got the data on that?</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: I don't have the data on that. We haven't had that reported in terms of breakdown, but we could potentially ask the service provider for that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Is that data being collected?</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: We collect the data on how many are ineligible, how many are disengaging and how many go through to eligibility.</p> <p>Senator RICE: But you haven't got data on those other reasons for the people that were eligible but have been rejected for a range of other reasons?</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: I just don't have the percentage breakdown, but we get reported other reasons.</p> <p>Senator RICE: You haven't got it, but what I want to know is: Does that data actually exist? Is it being collected in terms of being able to tell how many people are not getting their payment because their relationship was more than 12 months ago et cetera?</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: I'll have to ask the service provider if they collect that breakdown of how many people for which reason.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Is your answer that you don't know whether the service provider is collecting it? In the media article that resulted from this question, a spokesperson for the Department of Social Services said in a statement that Uniting, the provider that runs the payment for the government, does not keep data on why applications were not processed. Are you saying that's not correct?</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: I don't have the data in front of me if they do</p>		
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				<p>collect on percentage breakdown, but I do know that they report to us some of the reasons why people are ineligible. They don't report the data on that, but they report in a qualitative way in terms of, 'These are some of the reasons why people are ineligible.'</p> <p>Senator RICE: If it's only qualitative, that rings alarm bells for me, particularly in evaluating how effective the program is if you actually don't know, if you haven't got the data as to why people's applications are being rejected.</p> <p>Ms Lutz: The data was about ineligible applications. We know they were ineligible. We would have to check and take on notice if we can provide the detail of why they were ineligible, which is that 11 per cent of total applications.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Lutz: We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Hope: Just to be clear, Senator, what you're asking for is: of that 11 per cent, what is the breakdown of each particular reason by a percentage number?</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Hope: We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RICE: And whether you've actually got that data.</p> <p>Ms Hope: Yes.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000010	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Escaping Violence Payment	<p>Ms Shuhyta: We have worked with the provider Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) to alleviate the burden of needing documentation to validate experiences and looked at how those FDSV workers in the service can actually come to that clinical judgement call in the assessment, like with a lot of other services, through that initial work with a client. So there is less emphasis for the service provider on that. That was never stipulated in the DSS grant for UVT. This is a practice decision that had been made in terms of looking at eligibility, so it was something that we were able to drive some change with.</p>	103	14/02/2024

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				<p>Senator RICE: So people are no longer having to provide that documentation. Is that what you're saying?</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: There is a clinical judgement made by the intake worker in terms of whether something may need to be substantiated, because they still have a fraud risk to manage, but there is a lot more professional discretion allowed to be used at that point.</p> <p>Senator RICE: At that point, if their application is rejected—because of that discretion, it's still decided that they're not eligible for the payment—is there an appeals process for people?</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: I'd have to take that on notice in terms of the complaints process and appeals process. I don't have that in front of me.</p> <p>Senator RICE: If you could—please. I'm just confirming that you were saying there are people who are ineligible because they were experiencing other forms of family violence, it was more than a year ago, they were experiencing elder abuse or they were visa holders. They're ineligible.</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: There are particular eligibility criteria for the payment, and that is what the service bases eligibility on.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000011	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Escaping Violence Payment	<p>Senator RICE: Thank you. I just wanted clarity: it's people who left violent relationships more than what period ago?</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: 12 weeks.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So that's only three months.</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: It is around that change of living situation.</p> <p>Senator RICE: It's an extraordinarily short period of time for someone to then be ineligible for the program.</p> <p>Ms Shuhyta: Yes, the parameters around eligibility were around a change of support in terms of a change of living situation and relationship status.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Can you take on notice what the full costs of the</p>	104	14/02/2024

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				program, including the outsourcing to uniting, have been? Ms Shuhya: Yes		
DSS SQ24-000012	Department of Social Services	Louise Pratt	Emergency Relief	Senator PRATT: That emergency relief financial counselling and food relief has varied a bit over the years. There were cuts under the previous government. Where have habits, peaks and troughs been over recent years? Mr Burford: In recent years there was a cut of approximately \$20 million. I'd have to take it on notice to be precise with that.	109	14/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000013	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Income Management Engagements	Senator REYNOLDS: I'm somewhat surprised at your response because it didn't quite answer my question. Can I ask on notice for the detail of the 200 engagements you've had: Who actually did the engagements? Where were they conducted? Who by? Could you provide the information that was provided to you, where people attributed things to everything but the cashless debit card in your observation. Are you able to take that on notice? Mr Burford: Yes, but to clarify to your point that it's everything other than: the cashless debit card was highlighted by some stakeholders as one of the reasons, but it was certainly acknowledged that there are other reasons at play. Definitely—	111	14/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000014	Department of Social Services	Kerryne Liddle	Income Management Data	Senator LIDDLE: If you're telling me that there have been employment outcomes and those kinds of outcomes, can you provide that data to me on a month-by-month basis, or however you collect, it breakdown or are you just saying that anecdotally? Mr Burford: There is some data about some of those outcomes in terms of some employment outcomes. I'm not sure if we'll have that here, but I can take that on notice. Month-by-month might be a bit tricky, but I will have a look at what we can find. We'll also be doing an evaluation of the support services that will look at the effectiveness of them.	112	14/02/2024

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				They are relatively early—the card came to an end coming up on a year ago—and those support services have therefore been in place a year or less. It's about being able to monitor the impact of those and also to isolate the other factors that are either improving outcomes or other factors restricting achievement in that space as well.		
DSS SQ24-000015	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Income Management Data	<p>Senator LIDDLE: In terms of investing in programs, has the DSS made any contribution in those communities to concerts, sporting events and those kinds of things? Is that an outcome? Is that a program outcome?</p> <p>Mr Burford: I do not believe so.</p> <p>Ms Hope: We'll get Ms Fievez up to talk about the investments, but I think the point around the investments in the local service plan, as we've talked about before, is that they are really heavily driven by the community and what the community's needs are. So there are a range of different programs across a range of different communities. They're not 'set and play'. Leonora has a range of programs, as does Ceduna. They are different, and they are heavily worked through with the community in terms of what is required in that community for their particular place and circumstances.</p> <p>Ms Fievez: In terms of that last question regarding funding for sporting events or concerts, according to my records here in front of me, no, there hasn't been specific funding towards that. As Ms Hope said, the funding through the local service plans has been targeted at community priorities, and they have focused on initiatives such as agistment programs in Koonibba.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: Sorry, agistment?</p> <p>Ms Fievez: An agistment program that's being supported in Koonibba in the Ceduna region.</p> <p>Ms Hope: We could provide you with a list of the types of programs that have been funded in each site. Ms Fievez can</p>	112-113	14/02/2024

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				give you some more examples. There are things like expansion of women group activities, Men's Shed activities, improving safety for people sleeping rough and one-off activities aimed at improving community safety. We can take that on notice and give you a pretty comprehensive list side by side about what kinds of programs have been funded through the local service plans.		
DSS SQ24-000016	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Income Management Data	<p>Senator LIDDLE: I want to go back to the question about data. I want to be really clear about this because I think it was a bit confusing. What data can you or will you give me that will show me that people's lives have improved since the cashless debit card was removed? What data can you and will you give me? I'm assuming you must know at this point.</p> <p>Mr Burford: We can provide a list of the sort of data we have on notice. We're also undertaking a review of the implementation of the removal of the cashless debit card through the University of Adelaide. That will be providing intel to us in the first half of this year about the impacts, including bringing together the lived experience of individual participants. So it brings together stakeholder feedback and the individual lives of those people who have been affected. That's a critical element of the data because, as I said, in some administrative datasets, it's hard to know if that dataset reflects the individual or even the individual's family regarding their actual particular social outcome.</p>	113	14/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000017	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Disability Employment Service Providers	<p>Senator RICE: Are you able to tell me, for example, whether the amount of service fees provided to each provider differ?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: Under the DES agreement, providers receive service fees that are adjusted based on the needs of the participants. So there's, if you like, a risk adjusted funding level that is used to calculate. As a participant commences with a provider, the provider will receive a service fee. The amount of the service fee is based on the complexity and</p>	92	14/02/2024

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				<p>challenges that the participant might face.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Have you got a formula for that? How is that determined?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: We can give you those figures on notice. They'll be a matter of public record as part of the DES grant agreement.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Perhaps the figures on notice for how much and what the calculation is in general, not for each provider; how do you determine how much the service fees that each provider gets are?</p> <p>Ms Spence: The thing I can tell you about the risk adjusted funding-level calculation is that it's actually based on the probability of getting an outcome for that participant and their characteristics. It goes to try to capture the level of disadvantage of a particular participant and their characteristics, and they're defined against five different levels. We can take on notice to provide you the details of that.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000018	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Funded Transport Guidelines	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: On those bus services, do people have to be sober? I think Senator Liddle's question also went to whether they have to be sober or can they take them back drunk with alcohol into some of these more remote communities?</p> <p>Ms Fievez: Again, I'll take the specifics of that on notice. In all instances it would be sober—obviously, acknowledging that there are a number of dry communities that these services are aware of and would be respectful of in terms of helping people come home.</p>	113	14/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000019	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Former Cashless Debit Card sites	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: I understand that previously you provided a break-down of insights and statistics into each of the former CDC sites on a monthly basis. Are you able to provide that data to us now, going back to June 2022?</p> <p>Ms Fievez: We'll take that on notice. Yes.</p>	114	14/02/2024

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DSS SQ24-000020	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Income Management	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: Sorry, maybe I didn't ask the question clearly enough. My apologies. We understand and we've heard about the policies and programs and the money that you're spending on programs to assist people and facilitate them in those sorts of ways—bus trips and going in to help them with in Services Australia. But what I'm asking about is in terms of the dangerous activities. To cite an example, you just said that—can you unpack a bit further for me the conclusion you came to from the state-wide crime statistics in WA—</p> <p>Mr Burford: It wasn't state-wide; it was for Kalgoorlie. The conclusion was that it's very hard to draw any conclusion from causality of actual aggregate levels of—</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Burford: My point is that WA government police data is published on a monthly basis by local area—Kalgoorlie. If you pick certain months during CDC or post CDC you will see a drop in crime rates. If you choose another month, you might see a spike in crime rates. The point there is that there are other factors coming in—for example, a seasonality of people coming into townships and leaving. There are other issues. So, with respect to the assertion about 'what are we doing to prevent something', I'm challenging the idea that that is in fact what's happening in terms of that social harm.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: No. It's very clear what you're asserting. So can I ask you to take on notice—since the cashless debit card was removed—</p> <p>Mr Burford: Sure.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: what crime rates you're relying on. For the Goldfields, Kununurra and Ceduna, can you cite on notice the data that you're making these assertions about. The feedback that I have as a WA senator is that things are getting a lot worse. You just have to have a look at the local papers and the local communities. If you could take on notice,</p>	114-115	14/02/2024
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				<p>because I'd really like to understand—and I'm sure other WA members would very much like to understand—the basis on which you've made that assertion. Could you provide that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Burford: Sure, but, to be clear, my assertion is one of crime data.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Reynolds, I need to clarify what's being asked to be taken on notice, because my understanding of Mr Burford's testimony is that the data you're requesting from him is not actually useful in measuring the impact. Can you please clarify what you're actually asking him to produce for the committee? Is it an explanation of why that data is not useful? What are you looking for?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: That's one I've already asked, and Mr Burford has taken on notice to provide data of those 200 engagements in terms of how they were conducted, who they were conducted with, what the methodology was et cetera. The second lot of data that Mr Burford has been talking about is the crime rates. What we would like to understand—and maybe Senator Liddle has some more clarification—is: what crime data have you been using to say that you don't think there is a causal link between the CDC and crime rates? We want to understand that. Senator Liddle, have you got any other clarification?</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: I don't think I could have been clearer—</p>		
DSS SQ24-000021	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Cashless Debit Card	<p>Senator LIDDLE: I want to be absolutely clear about my question. The card was removed; that's an immediate effect. I want to know how that action improved the lives of people in those communities. That's the data and the assessments I want to see, if you can please provide that.</p>	116	14/02/2024

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				Mr Burford: We will take that on notice and see what we can provide.		
DSS SQ24-000022	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	New measures in trial sites	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: This is my final question, and I suspect the answer is going to be no: with the money that the Labor government has spent on programs—new art programs, buses and those sorts of things—are you looking at any initiatives or strategies to control and mitigate the reported increase in dangerous activities in those locations and more widely?</p> <p>Mr Burford: We are investing in initiatives based on what the communities have asked us to focus on and prioritise, as identified in their plans, some of which go to the ongoing challenges of domestic violence and alcohol reduction.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: What specific measures are you investing in to control and mitigate the increase in dangerous activities like we've seen recently in the Goldfields, which have been quite horrific.</p> <p>Mr Burford: We can take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Hope: We can take that on notice for you. We can get a pretty comprehensive list of all those measures per site.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: And also how you're assessing them—how you measure success.</p> <p>Mr Burford: Can do.</p>	116-117	14/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000023	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	National Coordination Group	<p>Senator KOVACIC: I have a few brief questions about the National Coordination Group, before Senator Sharma goes into some questions. How many times has the National Coordination Group met since May 2022?</p> <p>Mr Burford: I will get my colleague to assist with that. The group met 11 times in 2023. I'll try to work out how many there have been since May 2022. I might have to confirm whether we've got that. Ms Hodge, do you have more detail there?</p> <p>Ms Hodge: We might have to take that on notice. I'll try to</p>	117	14/02/2024

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				<p>find it and provide it later.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Would you have any idea of how many times Minister Rishworth has attended meetings of the NCG in person since taking office?</p> <p>Ms Hodge: We'll have to take that on notice, but I can confirm she is attending the meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Given it's estimates, yes, we are aware she's attending tomorrow, but I'm curious as to whether, up to now, it's been more than or equal to once.</p> <p>Ms Hodge: The NCG chair invited the minister to attend a meeting, so her attendance tomorrow is in response to that invitation.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Is it accurate to say that she's only attended once since May 2022?</p> <p>Ms Hodge: I'll have to take it on notice.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000024	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Emergency Relief Funding	<p>Senator KOVACIC: My final question relates to the carryover funding from the \$200 million announced by Minister Ruston in 2022. Are you able to let us know how much funding is left from that initial \$200 million and whether the NCG has requested that these funds be allocated, and, if so, whether these requests have gone to the department and/or to the minister to be fulfilled?</p> <p>Mr Burford: The 2022-23 budget had announced a pool of funding of \$32.8 million that was set aside to respond to emerging needs. That was sourced from the underspends from the previous coronavirus extra money, but also a \$25 million fund that was established for flood relief. Unspent, that would have gone through to consolidated revenues. A proposal to government was considered, and a decision was made to actually create a new measure of \$32.8 million; \$32.7 million has now been allocated of that \$32.8 million, and the \$14.4 million we mentioned before is the last of those. I could step through each of those decisions the minister has made</p>	118	14/02/2024

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				on deployment of that \$32.7 million, or I could provide that on notice. Senator KOVACIC: Thank you. I appreciate that.		
DSS SQ24-000025	Department of Social Services	Dave Sharma	Outcome 2.1.3 Funding	Senator SHARMA: Okay. Then there is 2.1.3, Protecting Australia's children, which is approximately \$31 million or \$32 million. Mr Harvey: Yes. That relates to three programs: the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children, which is \$25.9 million; Intercountry Adoption Australia, which is \$1.2 million; and the national centre for the prevention—it's cut off there, sorry. I could find that out on notice. Senator SHARMA: Could you take that one on notice then? Mr Harvey: Yes.	119	14/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000026	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Ministerial Briefs turnaround times	1. Since 1 July 2023, 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	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000027	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Ministers Office Hospitality	2. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality. Since 1 July 2023, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>offices?</p> <p>If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment</p>		
DSS SQ24-000028	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 been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000029	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Ministers office staff	<p>4. 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 been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000030	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Ministers meeting with Secretary	<p>5. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? 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 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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DSS SQ24-000031	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Briefs to the Ministers' offices	<p>7a. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>b. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000032	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals	<p>8. How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000033	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Paper usage	<p>9. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000034	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Inter-departmental 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 October 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 October 2023.</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>29. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose. 		
DSS SQ24-000035	Department of Social Services	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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. External labour hire i. Consultancy i. Advertising campaigns i. Travel i. 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. External labour hire i. Consultancy 	Written	23/02/2024

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Advertising campaigns i. Travel i. 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? 		
DSS SQ24-000036	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Functions expenditure	<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 2023/24 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	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000037	Department of Social Services	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 2023/24 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 	Written	23/02/2024

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				and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.		
DSS SQ24-000038	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	SES office upgrades	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 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000039	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Staff travel	16. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 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 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation. 19. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000040	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Facilities Upgrade	18. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 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 photographs of the upgraded facilities.	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000041	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Media monitoring	20. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?	Written	23/02/2024

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DSS SQ24-000042	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Advertising	<p>21. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000043	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Promotional merchandise	<p>22. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000044	Department of Social Services	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 2023/24 to date and what was it for?</p> <p>c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 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 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 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 2023/24 to date? What was the total value of</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 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 2023/243 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>		
DSS SQ24-000045	Department of Social Services	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	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000046	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Fairwork 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</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				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.		
DSS SQ24-000047	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Reviews	<p>26. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>27. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>28. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2023. Please provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; 	Written	23/02/2024

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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; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000050	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	New Entities - Minister Rishworth	<p>30. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>31. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000051	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Data requests by electorate	<p>32. 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 request if provided. b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000052	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Staffing levels	<p>33. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 February 2024.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL; b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification</p>		
DSS SQ24-000053	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Market Research	<p>34. 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> <p>43. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign? Has that research been provided to a Minister’s office? Did the Minister’s office provide any input on the development of the research?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000054	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information	<p>35. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? 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</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				been overturned.		
				63. How many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?		
DSS SQ24-000055	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications - Minister Rishworth	36. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister’s office since 1 July 2023? 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	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000056	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications - Minister Shorten	36.How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister’s office since 1 July 2023? 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	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000057	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications - Minister Collins	36. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister’s office since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown including; a. the number of applications by Minister, i. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; ii. the number of applications refused; and iii. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000058	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Estimates Variations	37. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000059	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Movement of Funds	38. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year,	Written	23/02/2024

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				including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.		
DSS SQ24-000060	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Flexible working arrangements	<p>39. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home?</p> <p>a. Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>i. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</p> <p>ii. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</p> <p>iii. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</p> <p>iv. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</p> <p>v. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p> <p>b. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>c. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>50. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>51. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000061	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	ChatGPT	<p>40. a. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network?</p> <p>If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>b. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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DSS SQ24-000062	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates	41. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000063	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates	42. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister’s office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000064	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Conflict of Interest	44. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration? Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000065	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Secretary's leave	45. Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2023, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000066	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Staffing	46. Please provide a list of positions that are currently vacant within the Department as at 1 February 2024. 47. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2022? 48. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level. 49. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level. 73. What is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?	Written	23/02/2024

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DSS SQ24-000067	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Accommodation	<p>52. As at 1 February 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>58. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2023.</p> <p>59. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, clearing and building maintenance. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>60. How many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000068	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Years of service	53. As at 1 February 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000069	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Public holidays	<p>54. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>55. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>56. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King’s Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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DSS SQ24-000070	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Professional development	57. Since 1 July 2023, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000071	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Staff training	61. How many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000072	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Number of QoNs	62. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000073	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Election Commitments	64. Has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments? 65. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000074	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Social media influencers	66. Has the Department/Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000075	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	External speakers	67. Has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000076	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	External Retreats	68. Has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000077	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Minister international visits	69. How many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000078	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Department International visits	70. How many official international visits have been taken by staff since 1 July 2023?	Written	23/02/2024

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DSS SQ24-000079	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Security Clearances	<p>71. How many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>72. How many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance? Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months? Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000080	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates Index	74. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 12 February to 16 February 2024.	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000081	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates Questions on Notice	<p>75. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the number of the Question on Notice; 2. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; 3. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister’s office; 4. the date the Minister’s office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; 5. the date the Question on Notice was tabled; and 6. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response. 	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000082	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Consultants	<p>1. How many consultants were working in the Department from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the nature of work these consultants performed on behalf of the Department? b. Were any consultants used to augment work ordinarily conducted by APS employees? 	Written	19/02/2024

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				<p>2. How much money did the Department spend on consultants from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024?</p> <p>3. From which companies were all consultants engaged by the Department? Please tabulate this information and include the value for each consultancy procured by the agency?</p> <p>4. Have many consultants have been given authority to act as a delegate for the Commonwealth since 28 October 2023? If yes: a. How many and at what level? b. What was the nature of the delegations?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000083	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Staffing	<p>1. How many ongoing APS employees were employed in the Department between 28 October 2023 and 15 February 2024? a. How many of these are engaged full time? b. How many of these are engaged part time? c. How many ongoing positions were advertised by the Department in this period? d. How many of these advertised positions were filled? e. How many of the new ongoing employees transferred in from another agency? 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)? g. How many ongoing roles that were offered to prospective employees turned down by the prospective employee?</p> <p>2. What is the average duration for the recruitment of an ongoing employee (ie. how long does it take, on average, from approval to fill a position to the filling of the position)? a. How has this number changed over the past 10 years?</p> <p>3. How many ongoing roles that were offered to prospective</p>	Written	19/02/2024

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				<p>employees turned down by the prospective employee?</p> <p>4. How many non-ongoing employees were employed in the Department from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024?</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 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>		
DSS SQ24-000084	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Labour Hire	<p>5. How many labour hire contractors were employed at the agency from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024?</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 labour hire contract positions were advertised by the agency in this period?</p> <p>d. How many of these advertised positions were filled?</p> <p>6. Have any labour hire contractors at the Department been given authority to act as a delegate for the Commonwealth in this period? If yes:</p> <p>a. How many and at what level?</p> <p>b. What was the nature of the delegations?</p>	Written	19/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000085	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Non-ongoing contracts	<p>7. How many non-ongoing contract extensions were granted by the Department from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024?</p>	Written	19/02/2024

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				<p>a) How many of these were engaged full time? b) How many of these were engaged part time?</p> <p>13. How many non-ongoing employees resigned from the Department from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000086	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Labour hire contractors	<p>8. How many labour hire contractors were engaged by the Department from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024? a. How many of these were engaged full time? b. How many of these were engaged part time?</p> <p>9. How many existing labour hire contracts were extended by the Department from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024?</p> <p>14. How many labour hire contractors resigned from the Department from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024?</p>	Written	19/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000087	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Redundancies and Retirement	<p>10. How many ongoing employees were made redundant from the Department from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024? a) How many of these were engaged full time? b) How many of these were engaged part time?</p> <p>11. How many ongoing employees resigned from the Department from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024?</p> <p>12. How many ongoing employees were considered excess, or were made redundant from the Department from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024?</p>	Written	19/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000088	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Workplace Culture	<p>15. In the period between 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024, how many allegations were reported (either formally or informally) about untoward behaviour e.g. bullying, harassment, discrimination) within the Department? a. How many allegations were made against APS or labour hire contractors?</p>	Written	19/02/2024

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				<p>b. How many of these claims were investigated (formally or informally) and found to have merit?</p> <p>c. How many of these allegations were investigated and found to have no merit?</p> <p>d. How many of the claims were raised with comcare?</p> <p>e. Of those that were deemed to have merit, how many resulted in time away from work for the victim?</p> <p>f. What is the total amount of leave taken, in days, from the Department that are attributable to claims of this nature?</p> <p>16. In relation to employees that have made claims of bullying, harassment, discrimination, actions that are not administrative in nature, or have made a Comcare claim:</p> <p>a. How many independent medical examinations (IME) has the agency sought for employees of the agency?</p> <p>b. How many records of conversation (RoC) have taken place? Please provide this information for the past 10 years. Please provide the purpose of each IME and RoC. Please tabulate the information per financial year.</p> <p>17. How many people have been directed to get an independent medical examination? Please provide information for the past 10 years and tabulate the information per financial year</p> <p>18. How many people have been terminated for incapacity? Please provide this information for the past 10 years and tabulate the information per financial year.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000089	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Workers Compensation	<p>19. How many workers compensation claims were made to the Department, by employees of any nature from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024?</p> <p>a) How many of these claims were successful? o How many of the successful claims were due to an injury of a physical</p>	Written	19/02/2024

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				nature? b) How many of the successful claims were due to an injury of a mental nature (i.e. relating to psychological, or mental health injury)? c) How many of these claims were rejected?		
DSS SQ24-000090	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	Unpaid Leave	20. How many ongoing, or non-ongoing employees at the Department took unpaid leave from 28 October 2023 to 15 February 2024? a) What is the total number of days of unpaid leave for this same period at the agency.	Written	19/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000091	Department of Social Services	Jacqui Lambie	SES Executive	21. Please advise the contracted start date for each Senior Executive Service Officer in the Department, plus their contracted end dates. 22. Please advise the previous role (the role immediately prior to taking up their current SES role) for each Senior Executive Service officer.	Written	19/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000092	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Support for people with a life-limiting illness	1. If someone has high grade brain cancer where would the Department recommend that individual seek disability and palliative care support from? a. What particular system or program would the Department recommend the individual apply for? b. Given the answer to a. What Department is responsible for that system or program? 2. Is the Department aware of a growing cohort of people under 65 who have a disability linked to a life-limiting condition (e.g. brain cancer), but who cannot access home-based support from any system – either the health system, the NDIS or anywhere else? 3. How many Australians are in this cohort? 4. Where should someone in this situation – that is, someone under 65 with a disability associated with a life-limiting illness who needs support at home with the activities of daily living –	Written	19/02/2024

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				<p>seek that support?</p> <p>a. If they need a service today but can't access the NDIS, or a state service, can they expect to receive any service?</p> <p>i. If not, why not?</p> <p>b. From where can they seek support?</p> <p>c. In what circumstances can they seek support?</p> <p>5. Does the Commonwealth or so State/Territory Governments have responsibility for delivering these services, or is responsibility shared?</p> <p>a. If shared, how is this coordinated?</p> <p>6. Which Commonwealth Minister has ultimate responsibility for resolving this gap in services?</p> <p>7. Does the Department have an estimate of the number of people affected by this gap in services?</p> <p>a. If not, why not?</p> <p>8. Can the Department provide an update on any progress in resolving this issue?</p> <p>a. When is a resolution expected?</p> <p>b. If not, why not?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000093	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Universities Australia's sexual violence prevention campaign	<p>1. Can the Department provide an update on the status of the materials developed with the \$1.5 million it provided to Universities Australia?</p> <p>2. Have those materials been received by the Department?</p> <p>3. Have those materials been disseminated and implemented by universities? If so, which universities?</p> <p>4. Have experts in sexual violence prevention evaluated those materials? If so, who were the experts who undertook the evaluation and what were the results? If not, when will the materials be evaluated and by which experts?</p>	Written	20/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000094	Department of Social Services	James McGrath	Use of Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. To what extent is Artificial Intelligence (AI) being utilised in the Department of Social Services?</p> <p>2. Has the Department been advised by any federal</p>	Written	21/02/2024

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				<p>departments or agencies on how to develop policies and procedures on the utilisation of AI in the workplace? If so, please table this advice and correspondence.</p> <p>3. Does the Department have any internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Department? If so, please table these internal policies and/or procedures.</p> <p>4. If there are internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Department, has there been any breaches of these policies and procedures? Please provide de-identified summaries of such breaches since May 2022.</p> <p>5. Please provide any correspondence, briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to internal policies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>6. Please provide any briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to correspondence between the Department and other federal departments and agencies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>7. Has the Department completed an assessment on the benefits of AI in the Department? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>8. Has the Department completed an assessment on the risks that AI poses to the ability for the Department to successfully execute its aims and objectives? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p>		
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				9. Are there any cases of staff being reprimanded for the misuse of AI, such as using ChatGPT to complete reports or inputting confidential information into online chat boxes?		
DSS SQ24-000095	Department of Social Services	Dave Sharma	Ceasing Grants	<p>1. What organisation are currently receiving funding under the 'National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022' that ceases on 30 June 2024?</p> <p>2. What organisations will continue to receive funding after 30 June 2024 and what organisations will not? How is this determined?</p> <p>3. Could the Department provide an update on current and expected future funding of the Lokahi Foundation?</p> <p>4. If there is no funding for the Lokahi Foundation beyond 30 June 2024, did the Department or the Minister make the decision to not renew funding?</p>	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000096	Department of Social Services	Bridget McKenzie	Travel	<p>1. Can the department please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's air travel for the 2023-24 financial year to date, including costs of flights and airline used? A suggested format is as per:</p> <p>Date/ Route/ Airline /Airfare</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000097	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Paid Parental Leave payments administered by businesses	<p>For the past two financial years:</p> <p>1. How many businesses have administered the scheme?</p> <p>2. How many individual PPL payment transactions have businesses had to administer to employees who have accessed the scheme?</p> <p>3. What has been the quantum of PPL payments administered by businesses to employees?</p> <p>4. Outline the compliance activities carried out by DSS on businesses PPL payments to employees.</p> <p>5. How many businesses have been non-compliant with their</p>	Written	21/02/2024

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				<p>PPL administration obligations?</p> <p>6. What sanctions have been placed on businesses found to be non-compliant?</p> <p>7. Have any businesses been non-compliant with their PPL payment obligations on more than one occasion? If so, please outline sanctions placed on these businesses.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000098	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Paid Parental Leave Scheme	<p>1. The first tranche of the Government’s PPL reforms became law twelve months ago has there been any change in how families are using their PPL? If so, please outline.</p> <p>2. Has there been an increase/decrease in the take up of the Commonwealth’s PPL scheme in the last twelve months?</p> <p>3. How are couples choosing to split their leave? Are both couples sharing leave?</p> <p>4. How many families are expected to access the PPL scheme each year across the forward estimates?</p> <p>5. What data is available on how the Commonwealth’s PPL scheme improving Australia’s productivity?</p> <p>6. What is the cost to the Commonwealth across the forward estimates of the government funded PPL scheme?</p>	Written	21/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000099	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Fallout from abolishing the Cashless Debit Card	<p>1. Previously you have provided a breakdown of insights, data and statistic into each of the former CDC sites on a monthly basis - shown on a chart. Please provide these dating back to July 2022 20 February 2024.</p> <p>2. In each of the former Cashless Debit Card trial sites, outline expenditure provided to transition to the enhanced income management.</p> <p>3. Outline the evaluations undertaken to date on enhanced income management.</p> <p>4. Can the Department provide details on any additional law enforcement measures or resources allocated to each of the former CDC sites to address the escalating safety concerns raised by residents?</p> <p>5. Since the abolition of the Cashless Debit Card, please</p>	Written	21/02/2024

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				provide the dates and duration of visits undertaken by the Minister for Social Services or Assistant Minister for Social Services to former Cashless Debit Card sites. 6. Did DSS officials accompany the Ministers on these visits? If so, how many DSS officials accompanied officials? Please provide details of the APS band levels for each official accompanying the Ministers per visit.		
DSS SQ24-000100	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	JobSeeker payment	1. How many Australians are currently receiving JobSeeker payment? 2. Of the Australians receiving JobSeeker, how many recipients had no reported earnings for the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23? 3. What percentage of jobseekers exit the payment within a year? 4. Of those who do not exit within a year, what is the average time spent receiving a working age pension	Written	21/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000101	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Student Financial Supplement Scheme	1. What amounts are still owed by Australians who took out loans through the Student Financial Supplement Scheme? 2. At the most recent indexation of the amount still owing, how much was this total indexed by?	Written	21/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000102	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Grants and Programs	1. In reference to DSS SQ22-000310, as of 1 February 2024, how many grant programs are administered by the Department of Social Services across the forward estimates? Please provide a breakdown of appropriation by Annual Administered Item for these programs. 2. What is the appropriation administered by the Department of Social Services for advocacy services across the forward estimates? Please provide a breakdown of appropriation per program for advocacy services.	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000103	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Program Expenditure	What is the breakdown of appropriation each year across the forward estimates for the following programs/activities: 1. Autism Spectrum Disorder Playgroups 2. Continuity of Support Fund - National Auslan Booking and	Written	22/02/2024

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment Service 3. Helping Children with Autism Workshops 4. Disability Employment Continuity of Support 5. Disability Leadership Initiative 6. Economic and Community Participation - Building Employer Confidence 7. Economic and Community Participation ECP - Information Linkages and Capacity Building 8. Economic and Community Participation – Workable 9. Economic Participation Stream 10. Individual Capacity Building (ICB) - Information, Linkages and Capacity Building 11. Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) - Economic and Community Participation Program (ECP) 12. Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) - National Information Program (NIP) 13. Mainstream Capacity Building MCB - Information Linkages and Capacity Building ILC 14. National Information Program (NIP) - Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) 15. Social and Community Participation Stream 16. Housing Affordability Fund 17. Safe Places 18. Carers Peak Body Funding 19. Carers Week 20. Disability Advocacy Support Hotline 21. Disability and Carer Service Improvement and Sector Support 22. Early Childhood Targeted Action Plan culturally safe and appropriate developmental screening tool 23. Improved Health Outcomes for People with Disability 24. National Disability Services - Community of Practice 25. Sector Development - Disability Representative 		
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				<p>Organisations</p> <p>26. Supported Employment Transition - Western Australia</p> <p>27. Supporting Participation by Representatives of People with Disability in Key International Forums on Human Rights</p> <p>28. Development and enhancement of disability and developmental concerns online content</p> <p>29. Disability Royal Commission Advocacy Support</p> <p>30. Disability Royal Commission counselling and referral services</p> <p>31. National Disability Advocacy Program</p> <p>32. National Disability Conference Initiative</p> <p>33. Postal Concessions for the Blind</p> <p>34. Print Disability Services Program</p> <p>35. Integrated Carer Support Services</p> <p>36. Regional Delivery Partners Program</p> <p>37. Tristate Carer Vocational Outcomes Program Pilot</p> <p>38. Young Carer Bursary Programme</p> <p>39. Young Carers Network</p> <p>40. Digital Work and Study Service</p> <p>41. Individual Placement and Support - Adult Mental Health Centres</p> <p>42. Individual Placement and Support Program</p> <p>43. Individual Placement and Support Program - Program Management</p> <p>44. Individual Placement and Support Program - Workforce Development</p> <p>45. Individual Placement and Support Program (IPS) Fidelity Review</p> <p>46. 4AP2 Specialised Family Violence Services</p> <p>47. Children and Family Intensive Support</p> <p>48. Children and Parent Support</p> <p>49. Services Children and Parenting</p> <p>50. Communities for Children - Facilitating Partners</p>		
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				<p>51. Family and Relationship Services</p> <p>52. Forced Adoption Support Services</p> <p>53. 3AP CALD integrated referral and support pathways for women with disability experiencing violence.</p> <p>54. 3AP CALD Prevention</p> <p>55. 3AP Supporting men as new parents</p> <p>56. 3AP The Perpetrator Support Innovation Fund</p> <p>57. 4AP1 Community led prevention</p> <p>58. 4AP1 Male Role Models</p> <p>59. 4AP1 Media Engagement</p> <p>60. 4AP1 Prevention Workforce Development</p> <p>61. 4AP1 The Line</p> <p>62. 4AP1 Awareness and Outreach</p> <p>63. 4AP1 Prevention Hub</p> <p>64. 4AP1 Sexual Violence Community Awareness</p> <p>65. 4AP2 Sexual Violence Training</p> <p>66. 4AP2 University module</p> <p>67. 4AP2 DV-alert</p> <p>68. 4AP2 Research and Evidence</p> <p>69. Coordinated Enforcement and Support to Eliminate Domestic Violence Program trial</p> <p>70. Escaping Violence Payment</p> <p>71. Evidence-based Framework</p> <p>72. Gender and Disaster Recovery</p> <p>73. Keeping Women Safe in Homes</p> <p>74. Local Support Coordinators</p> <p>75. National Community Attitude Survey</p> <p>76. National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022</p> <p>77. Primary Prevention of sexual violence in LGBTIQ communities - pilot projects</p> <p>78. Responding to Recommendation 8 of the Respect@Work Report</p>		
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				<p>79. Safe Technology for Women 80. Sector Development 81. Temp Visa DV Pilot 82. Web-based Resources 83. National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009-2020 84. Safe and Supported: the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031 -Reporting Enhancements 85. Secretariat Services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group Stronger ACCOs, Stronger Families 86. Financial Crisis and Material Aid - Emergency Relief 87. Financial Crisis and Material Aid - Food Relief 88. Financial Resilience 89. No Interest Loan Scheme for women experiencing domestic and family violence 90. NILS Coronavirus - Community Support Package 91. Commonwealth Financial Counselling and Financial Capability 92. Commonwealth Financial Counselling and Financial Capability - Capability Building 93. Financial Counselling Helpline 94. Money Support Hub Problem Gambling 95. Strong and Resilient Communities 96. Strong and Resilient Communities - Community Resilience Grants 97. Strong and Resilient Communities - Inclusive Communities Grants 98. Social Impact Investing - payment by outcomes trials 99. Social Impact Investment</p>		
DSS SQ24-000104	Department of Social Services	Michaelia Cash	Property	1. Please provide a list of all property/land that is in the possession of the agency/department/statutory authority with the following details:	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>a. Location of the property or land; b. Is it owned by the agency/department/statutory authority or leased; i. If leased – when does the lease expire; c. Total footprint in square metres; and d. Total footprint in sqm excluding areas specifically designated for interaction with the public (eg: excluding hearing rooms for particular matters, but including kitchens, breakout and internal meeting rooms).</p>		
DSS SQ24-000105	Department of Social Services	Michaelia Cash	Underpayments	<p>2. Are you aware of any underpayments of worker entitlements in your agency/department/statutory authority since 2021-22 Financial year? a. If yes, please provide how many instances it has occurred, what was the quantum of underpayment, and how many workers were impacted? b. Did you report it to the Fair Work Ombudsman as a self-report?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000106	Department of Social Services	Michaelia Cash	Work from Home	<p>1. What is the proportion of staff that are on formal Work from Home (WFH) arrangements in the agency/department/statutory authority? 2. How many have informally used WFH arrangements? 3. What is the average number of staff that are WFH on any given workday? 4. What is the most senior level of employee who has a formal work from arrangement in place? a. What is that arrangement – how many days a week do they attend the office? b. Are they in charge of a team of employees? How many in that team?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000107	Department of Social Services	Michaelia Cash	Departmental Staff	<p>5. Does the agency/department/statutory authority have a breakdown across all offices on how many have a formal working from home arrangement? 6. How many staff in the agency/department/statutory</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>authority work permanently from home?</p> <p>7. do any staff with remote working arrangements now based outside of Australia?</p> <p>8. Of those based outside of Australia, is the agency/department/statutory authority aware of their current location, and what security protocols do you have in place for their device access?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000108	Department of Social Services	Michaelia Cash	Productivity	<p>9. How do you assess the productivity of employees within the agency/department/statutory authority? Do you have any indication of the productivity of employees working from home – has it changed in any way?</p> <p>10. How often do employees undergo performance appraisals? How is WFH built into that process now – is the WFH arrangement taken into account with assessing performance?</p> <p>11. (if yes) – How does that work?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000109	Department of Social Services	Michaelia Cash	Contract - CN4028756	<p>With reference to contract notice CN4028756, published by the Department of Social Services on the Austender website on the 24th January 2024 relating to venue hire:</p> <p>1. To what event did this venue hire relate, and precisely where was the event held.</p> <p>2. Can an itemised list of all costs relating to the event be provided.</p> <p>3. Can a guest list for the event be provided, including, without limitation, details of any Ministers, ministerial staff or APS staff who attended.</p> <p>4. Can an itemised list be provided for:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. any food served; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. any beverages served, including the names and vintages of any wines or champagnes.</p> <p>5. Were any catering services procured for the purposes of the event, for example waiters, kitchenhands, or cleaning staff; if so, can full details be provided.</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>6. Was any entertainment provided at the event; if so, can full details be provided.</p> <p>7. Was any audio visual equipment or were any services procured for the purposes of the event; if so, can full details be provided.</p> <p>8. Were any decorations purchased for the purposes of the event; if so, can an itemised list be provided.</p> <p>9. Can any photographs of the event be provided.</p> <p>10. Can copies of any presentations delivered at the event be provided.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000110	Department of Social Services	Michaelia Cash	Contract - CN4029434	<p>With reference to contract notice CN4029434, published by the Department of Social Services on the Austender website on the 19th January 2024 relating to venue hire:</p> <p>1. To what event did this venue hire relate, and precisely where was the event held.</p> <p>2. Can an itemised list of all costs relating to the event be provided.</p> <p>3. Can a guest list for the event be provided, including, without limitation, details of any Ministers, ministerial staff or APS staff who attended.</p> <p>4. Can an itemised list be provided for:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. any food served; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. any beverages served, including the names and vintages of any wines or champagnes.</p> <p>5. Were any catering services procured for the purposes of the event, for example waiters, kitchenhands, or cleaning staff; if so, can full details be provided.</p> <p>6. Was any entertainment provided at the event; if so, can full details be provided.</p> <p>7. Was any audio visual equipment or were any services procured for the purposes of the event; if so, can full details be provided.</p> <p>8. Were any decorations purchased for the purposes of the</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>event; if so, can an itemised list be provided.</p> <p>9. Can any photographs of the event be provided.</p> <p>10. Can copies of any presentations delivered at the event be provided.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000111	Department of Social Services	Michaelia Cash	Contract - CN4012967	<p>With reference to contract notice CN4012967, published by the Department of Social Services on the Austender website on the 2nd November 2023 relating to venue hire:</p> <p>1. To what event did this venue hire relate, and precisely where was the event held.</p> <p>2. Can an itemised list of all costs relating to the event be provided.</p> <p>3. Can a guest list for the event be provided, including, without limitation, details of any Ministers, ministerial staff or APS staff who attended.</p> <p>4. Can an itemised list be provided for:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. any food served; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. any beverages served, including the names and vintages of any wines or champagnes.</p> <p>5. Were any catering services procured for the purposes of the event, for example waiters, kitchenhands, or cleaning staff; if so, can full details be provided.</p> <p>6. Was any entertainment provided at the event; if so, can full details be provided.</p> <p>7. Was any audio visual equipment or were any services procured for the purposes of the event; if so, can full details be provided.</p> <p>8. Were any decorations purchased for the purposes of the event; if so, can an itemised list be provided.</p> <p>9. Can any photographs of the event be provided.</p> <p>10. Can copies of any presentations delivered at the event be provided.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000112	Department of Social Services	David Shoebridge	Redress scheme issues	<p>1. How many survivors have approached the redress scheme about organisations not yet joined up to the scheme?</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>2. It was indicated at the beginning that organisations that failed to join up when they were supposed to would face serious consequences, how many has this applied to so far?</p> <p>3. Given the scheme is supposed to end in a few short years what steps are being taken to make sure all relevant survivors have their change to make an application?</p> <p>4. Have you got advice on how many survivors have taken redress payments once faced with a permanent stay?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000113	Department of Social Services	Lidia Thorpe	Homeless Deaths	<p>1. The Guardian recently reported on figures showing a huge life expectancy gap between those experiencing homelessness and the general population. What data does the Department currently have on life expectancy for people experiencing or who have experienced homelessness?</p> <p>2. What is being done in the Department to monitor homelessness deaths?</p> <p>3. Has the Department been asked by the Minister to investigate whether it can build an annual count of such deaths?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000114	Department of Social Services	Dorinda Cox	Closing the Gap	<p>1. What is the Department doing to collect data on relevant Closing the Gap targets? Notably target 13.</p> <p>a. Who owns this data?</p> <p>2. How is already available data being used?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000115	Department of Social Services	Dorinda Cox	Closing the Gap	<p>3. Regarding Target 12, when can we expect to see updated data?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000116	Department of Social Services	Dorinda Cox	Closing the Gap	<p>4. What is the Government doing to address housing stress for First Nations people outside of the Northern Territory?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000117	Department of Social Services	David Pocock	National Plan to End Violence against Women	<p>3. Does the department consider the continued high rate of intimate partner murders in Australia a sign that the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032 is not yet meeting its objectives?</p>	Written	26/02/2024

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			and Children 2022-2032			
DSS SQ24-000118	Department of Social Services	David Pocock	National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032	2. How is the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 informing the National Housing and Homelessness Plan?	Written	26/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000119	Department of Social Services	David Pocock	Housing and Homelessness Plan	<p>1. Is addressing the enormous importance of housing to women and children fleeing violence a priority in the Government's National Housing and Homelessness Plan?</p> <p>2. Why was family and domestic violence unmentioned as a driver of homelessness in the Department's Summary Paper for the National Housing and Homelessness Plan, given that this is the single most commonly occurring cause of homelessness for women? How many Submissions made to the Plan consultation raised this as an issue of concern?</p> <p>3. Considering that the issue was highlighted by many participants in the process, why was the Department's National Housing and Homelessness Plan consultation summary report entirely silent on the need for housing tax reform? How many Submissions to the Plan consultation urged the government to consider housing tax reform?</p> <p>4. What kind of targets will be included in the National Housing and Homelessness Plan to increase the proportion of victim survivors getting a safe home to more than the current level of 1 in every 27?</p> <p>5. Noting that capacity constraints mean that homelessness services were forced to turn away more than a fifth of all those seeking assistance in the past year (AIHW), and that two thirds of all those affected were women and girls (ibid), will the Commonwealth Government increase funding to homelessness services in the new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement so more women and children can</p>	Written	26/02/2024

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				<p>get the help they need? Has the government undertaken any assessment of this need and costed a response?</p> <p>6. When does the Department intend to publish its draft National Housing and Homelessness Plan and how does it intend to consult on the draft? Will there be an opportunity to provide input on a draft of the plan before it is finalised?</p> <p>7. What analysis of existing government housing expenditure will underpin reform options to be outlined in the National Housing and Homelessness Plan?</p> <p>8. What analysis and projections of unmet housing need will underpin discussion of necessary reform and investment options to be outlined in the National Housing and Homelessness Plan?</p> <p>9. How will the National Housing and Homelessness Plan address the fragmented state of housing policy responsibilities within the Commonwealth Government?</p> <p>10. Considering the vital role of social housing in suitably accommodating vulnerable people, can Australians be assured that the National Housing and Homelessness Plan will contain a Government estimate of the minimum scale of social housing construction needed (annual gross and net completions) to halt the declining representation of social housing within the national housing stock due to ongoing population growth?</p> <p>11. With respect to the forthcoming re-negotiation of the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement, is the Commonwealth open to financially incentivising state/territory government social/affordable housing delivery via inclusionary zoning under landuse planning powers?</p> <p>12. Has DSS consulted with Treasury and/or Housing Australia on the National Housing and Homelessness Plan?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000120	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Women’s Safety Programs	1. Given the increasing levels of family and domestic violence, can you provide a detailed list of the programs and initiatives	Written	22/02/2024

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			(National Plan) Status Update	<p>that are not on track as well as those that are on track? And the progress and payments.</p> <p>2. What will be the impact of any delay in progress?</p> <p>3. What evaluation has been done for programs already underway to date?</p> <p>4. Some parts of the family and domestic violence sector say programs and actions are fragmented and not meeting increasing/changing demand. What efforts are being done to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> identify changing demand, and respond to changing demand? 		
DSS SQ24-000121	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Women’s Safety Programs (National Plan)	<p>1. More than 55 women killed in 2023. Already this year ten women are dead and at least ten children are facing life without a mother. DVO breaches are at record highs. FDV crime is up in every state and territory. Yet Target 1 of the Outcomes Framework calls for a 25 per cent reduction a year in female victims of intimate partner homicide – how are we ever going to “end violence in a generation” given this appalling start?</p> <p>2. On 24 November 2023, Minister Rishworth and her state and territory counterparts affirmed the importance of accurate and comparable data collection over the life of the National Plan. What is your role in coordinating a response to that?</p> <p>3. If the Minister, as would appear from that earlier statement, recognises the importance of data, have you been resourced to collate it from organisations such as police, hospitals and other agencies or organisations or who is leading that work? And when would that occur?</p> <p>4. What about coordination of Commonwealth data and programs. The Commonwealth has many agencies delivering in DVFV (e.g., AG, NIAA, etc.) and that’s a bit of a minefield to traverse. What are the plans to address that?</p> <p>5. The sector has criticised the speed of reaching agreement</p>	Written	22/02/2024

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				<p>and of the roll-out. Where has the hold-up occurred?</p> <p>6. What is being done to remedy further delay?</p> <p>7. Given the enormous amount of grant funding and the immense important of delivering results, what mechanisms/checks and balances are in place to ensure good governance and delivery of outcomes not only outputs?</p> <p>8. Given the states and territories have their own DVFV plans and that some of them have different start and end dates, how on earth do you reconcile the achievements of this plan or, conversely, where does responsibility sit for the failures of action within other plans?</p> <p>9. Given the rising numbers of FDV, since the national plan has been in place, what adjustments have been made and how much money has been spent to make these adjustments?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000122	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Women’s Safety Programs (National Plan) - Intimate Partner Dashboard	1. Late last year, the Albanese Government announced a new statistical dashboard to “provide more timely reporting on intimate partner homicide”. The most recent data of this type online remains statistics from 2021-22. (a) Where is the current data, and (b) how are you using that data from the dashboard to inform policy?	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000123	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Women’s Safety Programs (National Plan) - Domestic Violence Orders	1. So the term of a DVO and the level of DVO breach is increasingly an indicator of risk to women and their children – particularly the experience in NSW. Are you doing any work to tap into that evidence of reducing risk?	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000124	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	First Action Plan	<p>1. Given the evidence of escalating levels of family and domestic violence, have you commissioned any work in response to what already looks like a Plan that won’t deliver on its objective of “ending violence in a generation”?</p> <p>2. In the Budget Paper 2 pp 89: \$12 million over 4 years was allocated to develop and distribute social media resources for young people focused on consent as a “pilot project”. How is that progressing? Please provide detail.</p>	Written	22/02/2024

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				<p>3. In relation to the \$3.3 million over 3 years from 2023-24 (pp 89 Budget Paper 2) to review emergency accommodation services and their suitability for children and to conduct an independent evaluation of 1800RESPECT. What is completed?</p> <p>5. I note there is a mid-term performance review of Specialist Family Violence Service Program that began in September and ends this month. Can you advise in detail where that is at?</p> <p>6. Can you provide further information about the \$13.9 million (2023-24 to 26-27) to establish several small-scale grants to address emerging priorities and where is the detail?</p> <p>7. We know from previous evidence that you didn't have a role in the allocation of funding for the Central Australian Better, Safer Future Plan. The Albanese Government says it is listening to communities but has the Minister drawn on your expertise given it is a battleground?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000125	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program	4. On the Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program, last year you were undertaking consultation. Have you actually started the bricks and mortar work?	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000126	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan	<p>1. There are significant rates of Indigenous incarceration and many who are incarcerated for family violence offences. What is in that plan to support a safer return home for everyone? Or is this being left to the states/territories?</p> <p>2. Has any of the funding for this Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan contributed to the \$250 million commitment to a Better, Safer Future for Central Australia?</p>	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000127	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	500 New Frontline Workers	<p>8. Did you advise the minister on slow progress of putting DV workers into the community? If so, when was that?</p> <p>9. What was the sector telling you about demand for them given we are in the middle of an epidemic with escalating DV?</p> <p>10. Did the Minister ask for a prioritisation of delivery of these positions in the states that were doing it toughest?</p>	Written	22/02/2024

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DSS SQ24-000128	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	500 New Frontline Workers - Progress and Locations	<p>Lack of Progress</p> <p>1. We have a family violence epidemic with the statistics going in the wrong direction. How many frontline workers promised as part of that election commitment are actually on the frontline as of today?</p> <p>Locations</p> <p>1. Are you able to provide a breakdown of those who have workers in place right now? For example, we know that “expressions of interest” were announced for WA and Tasmania only late last year and they have advised they won’t likely have people in place until mid-2024.</p> <p>2. Can you supply the postcodes for the employment of the workers already hired and can you provide a list of organisations have been successful in attaining funding for these frontline workers?</p>	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000129	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	500 New Frontline Workers - Reporting	<p>1. Is February still the deadline for progress reports from states and territories to be delivered? What reports have been delivered and please provide detail.</p> <p>2. Are there repercussions for those failing to meet the performance milestones?</p> <p>3. At what level were each of those workers employed and is it true that only half need to have any qualifications – they are trainees?</p> <p>4. This is without argument a portfolio where actions affect lives – every single day. After all, thousands of women and children and vulnerable people are being harmed or worse killed. What is being done to reverse the slow roll-out?</p>	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000130	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Temporary Visa Holders Experience Domestic and Family Violence	<p>1. Given the Albanese Government has allowed half a million people into the country on temporary visas, as overseas students, temporary workers and more; what adjustments have been made to funding for temporary visa holders to respond to the potential likely demand?</p>	Written	22/02/2024

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				<p>2. Of the \$12.6 million over two years in the 23/24 Budget, how much has been exhausted given potential for increased demand caused by the substantial increase in immigration?</p> <p>3. Is there up to date data on the number of immigrants who have experienced FDV since arriving in Australia in the past 18 months?</p> <p>4. When I visited regional WA, I was advised there has been no adjustment in ten years in the Escaping Family Violence Payment. Has there been any adjustment?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000131	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Men’s Behaviour Change - Men's Intervention	<p>1. The Australian population is approximately half male and half female. The National Plan mission is to end violence within a generation. Yet the funding is skewed towards women’s services. Is there enough funding supporting men in the National Plan given they make up half the adult population?</p> <p>2. At the May Senate Estimates, Deputy Secretary Ms Hefren-Webb confirmed the department collects data on waiting times for men who are seeking to access intervention and counselling. Can you provide an update on what that data is telling you on wait times for clinical service intervention?</p> <p>3. How many services have made submissions for extra funding due to wait times and increasing demand?</p> <p>4. We are increasingly seeing men's programs referred to as “yarning circles” which are essentially men with lived experience working with other men to talk through issues. Experts in the sector have raised concerns about a lack of clinical expertise in these programs. How many men’s programs have you funded that are not independently evaluated, are untested for efficacy and which are not proven to prioritise outcomes that reduce recidivism?</p> <p>5. What analysis is happening to understand the effectiveness of the programs in preventing re-offending?</p> <p>6. There is funding delivered for FDV in other portfolio areas</p>	Written	22/02/2024

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				<p>such as DPMC and NIAA. How do you/they ensure there is geographic reach, the work is centred in priority areas and there is no overlap?</p> <p>7. Could you provide, by state, the following data: (a) the number of participants in these programs, (b) the rate of recidivism among participants, (c) what the outcomes of the Commonwealth-funded programs are, and (d) whether these outcomes have been achieved?</p> <p>8. In the Northern Territory, can you provide detail of the Commonwealth funded or jointly funded programs for men by the family and domestic sector/other organisations? Can you provide detail on the funding? How many men have signed up for the programs? How many have completed? How many have never re-offended vs how many have relapsed?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000132	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Men’s Behaviour Change - New Program(s)	<p>1. Innovative Perpetrator Responses24 programs have been announced in WA and TAS. Can you tell us how trail sites will be determined and how they are progressing?</p> <p>2. Can we expect to see further announcements in other states and territories?</p> <p>3. In running trials in WA and TAS, and potentially more locations in the future, how do you ensure you are not duplicating existing state and territory programs and services for Innovative Perpetrator Responses?</p> <p>4. Has the department received progress reports from each jurisdiction under the NPA as required for the 2023-24 payment due in September 2023?</p> <p>5. Under the NPA, workers cannot be allocated to roles providing perpetrator intervention or men’s behaviour change programs. However, workers can be allocated to roles providing victim-survivor support within a perpetrator intervention service. Whose decision was it to exclude men in this way and what is the justification?</p> <p>6. Under the NPA there are new Innovative Perpetrator</p>	Written	22/02/2024

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				Responses in WA and TAS but the only other funding for men’s behaviour change or referrals outside of the NPAs is the Mensline Change for Good service (telephone counselling program) and Men’s Referral Service – call centres only and brief intervention service which is not available in all states and territories or the regions (\$19.3 million in 4yrs). Other programs are funded by states, usually through women’s programs, restricting their service availability and growth. What is happening in the other states and territories?		
DSS SQ24-000133	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Helping Children Heal	At the May estimates, Ms Greta Doherty, Group Manager for Women’s Safety, stated the initiative Helping Children Heal, a pilot program, was in the final stages of negotiation. 1. Has the program begun? 2. Where was the pilot to support 100 children on a single site conducted? Why was it chosen? 3. Can you provide an update? 4. Has it been evaluated? 5. Are there plans for it to be rolled out at more locations? If so, how will it be funded? 6. What is the status? How many are there? What demographics were most represented?	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000134	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Rejection of Domestic Violence Payments	1. It has been reported that more than half of people trying to access emergency financial support for domestic violence have had their claims rejected. 2. What are the reasons for the claims for the Escaping Violence Payment (EVP) being rejected? 3. Why is the provider Uniting not keeping reasons for rejecting applications? 4. What help is being given to those rejected? Are they left without any assistance? 5. Are those rejected being forced to stay with violent partners? 6. What impact is this having on safety and why is it taking so	Written	22/02/2024

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				<p>long to address?</p> <p>7. Has the department or minister taken any steps to improve the application success rate or ensure no woman escaping violence is left without assistance?</p> <p>8. How much of the EVP budgeted payments were made until January 31?</p> <p>9. How many EVP applications were approved and rejected from July 2023 until January 31?</p> <p>10. Minister Rishworth said people who deemed ineligible were referred to other support services and programs. How many were referred to other services and programs and what tracking was provided to ensure this occurred?</p> <p>11. How many applications actually got a service?</p> <p>12. When these applicants are rejected, how long does it take before the referral is provided and those applicants are able to begin a different program or use a support service?</p> <p>13. Do you know if any rejected applicants have since endured harm or even worse were among those killed in 2023?</p> <p>14. What processes or checks have been initiated to closely monitor the Escaping Violence Payment, given that women and children’s lives are at risk?</p> <p>15. In a joint statement in October 2023, the Queensland Government increased assistance payments to DV victims ninefold – has this rise been mirrored elsewhere or are you considering further assistance?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000135	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Safe Places Inclusion	<p>1. Other than 8 new units at the Lutheran Services and Family Violence refuge announced 21 September 2023, how many new places are available for emergency accommodation?</p> <p>2. The 21 November 2023 media release outlines the Inclusion Round will deliver up to 720 new safe places for women and children. What jurisdictions across Australia will these new places be situated in and what is the timeline for the completion of this round of safe places?</p>	Written	22/02/2024

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				<p>3. Of the 720 new safe places announced, how many are already implemented?</p> <p>4. Of those that are not underway, when will they be?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000136	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Boosting Parental Leave	<p>1. As this is partially legislated, do you know if there are changes being proposed for this benefit?</p> <p>2. Are there statistics for the number and type of claim for this benefit?</p>	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000137	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Central Australia Responses	<p>1. Several Commonwealth agencies have contributed to the \$300 million investment. Did any agency seek guidance from DSS to minimise overlap and maximise impact?</p> <p>2. Have you reassessed the programs and grants that you administer in response to the funding delivered there?</p> <p>3. Have you ever met with the NT Government, its DV agencies or the Regional Controller in relation to Commonwealth funds for Central Australia?</p> <p>4. At what stage is the funding?</p> <p>5. How was the allocation of funding determined?</p>	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000138	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Agreement with Telstra	<p>1. Has the commitment to boost awareness of available national support been rolled out? Where and how has this occurred? Are they in places of need? Are there any early indicators of success?</p> <p>2. The announcement stated about 15,000 payphones will feature these stickers. Is there a more exact figure of payphones distributed yet?</p> <p>3. With nationwide increases in the use of helplines, it is clear that boosting awareness both extensively and efficiently is critical. As such, weight must be put on the speed of the roll out. To date how many Telstra payphones have the support information available? When will the rollout be complete?</p> <p>4. What drivers were used to identify locations of distribution? Was this guided by FDV statistics?</p> <p>5. Unfortunately, some areas are more vulnerable to mental</p>	Written	22/02/2024

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				<p>health and domestic violence crises. Is there any strategy behind the spread of locations?</p> <p>6. Performance review is always important in such measures. Have you been able to monitor if there has been an increase in calls to these support agencies due to their promotion through Telstra payphones?</p> <p>7. The use of these six support services has increased annually for some time. Is there a clear link between the provision of these payphone stickers and this increase?</p> <p>8. What data is currently available that demonstrates the value of this initiative?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000139	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Our Watch - Contract	1. Has a new contract with Our Watch been finalised and has that included recurrent funding as recommended in the KPMG Report?	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000140	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Our Watch - Strategic Plan	1. The strategic Plan finalised late last year defines four goals: “Growing Knowledge” “Inspiring action” “Leading for impact” and “Strengthening Performance.” Will you develop a more detailed action plan to explain your activities and priorities?	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000141	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Our Watch - Consent laws	1. The Senate’s Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee review of Australian consent laws recommended sufficient funding for respectful relationships education across Australia, and the upskilling of teachers to deliver the comprehensive program. Will Our Watch work on education in relation to current and proposed sexual consent laws in Australia? 2. What is Our Watch’s role in delivery?	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000142	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Our Watch - Stop it at the Start	1. When will Australians see the next (5th and 6th) phase of the Stop it at the Start campaign (\$46 million/ 4 years (2022-23 to 2025-26)? 2. Where is it on our screens? Critical to effectiveness of this campaign was continuity and connectivity of messaging. 3. Has there been a break in delivery program and what effect will that have on the effectiveness of messaging?	Written	22/02/2024

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DSS SQ24-000143	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	ANROWS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is ANROWS forward research program and how is it consistent with government/community priorities? 2. Is primary prevention still ANROWS priority for research? 3. What work is being done to include men as allies in addressing family violence? 4. Your Evidence Portal was launched in September 2023. What has been the activity to the portal since September and who is using it and for what? 5. What is the cost of maintaining and growing the database within your existing budget allocation? 6. What security issues exist with information collected in the portal and what is being done to manage/protect that information? 7. It's good to see work focusing on the experiences of children and young people in the context of domestic, family and sexual violence. I note your most recent research is due for release in early 2024. What are some of the findings that force a rethink in what we are currently doing? 8. In that research on youth justice, 59% of boys with a history of sexual violence experienced domestic and family violence (Ogilvie, et al., 2022). How much more work do we need to do before we act on the connection between sexual abuse and connection with judicial settings and do you have a role in that? 	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000144	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Cashless Debit Card	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What reporting has been done since the removal of the cashless debit card in each former trial site? Can you provide greater detail on this than was provided at Senate Estimates? 2. What programs have been put in place since the removal of the card in each former trial site? Can you provide detail on the programs and third progress and targets? 3. How much money has been spent on each of these programs? 	Written	22/02/2024

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				<p>4. Which of these programs have already been implemented? 5. What are the outcomes of those already implemented?</p>		
DSS SQ24-000145	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Child Protection	<p>1. Can you provide the number of children in Australia and state by state, territory etc in child protection since April 2022 and entering since July 1, 2023? 2. How many children have left the child protection system in the same period to be reunited with family? Please provide detail of ages, time spent in child protection, by state and territory, annual cost for each child, average length of time in care. 3. Can you provide detail on number of Australian-born children in the foster/child protection system who are in care overseas or subject to orders to return to Australia? 4. What are the measures you place on outcomes in child protection? 5. What is the annual number of indigenous children reunified with a parent/parents?</p>	Written	22/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000337	Department of Social Services	Anne Ruston	NDIS Fraud/Non-compliance	<p>1. Can the Department please advise the outcome of any tenders for assistive technology retailers in South Australia with the responsibility of refurbishing assistive technology that no longer meets the needs of NDIS clients (including mobility scooters, powered wheelchairs etc)? 2. Was this an open competitive tender or a closed tender? 3. How long does the tender last for? 4. What is the value of the tender(s)? 5. Are there any instances where the NDIS has contracted the services of a company to refurbish and reallocate assistive technology that did not go to tender? If so: a. What is the company? b. What is the contract? c. What is the duration of the contract? d. What is the value of the contract?</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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DSS SQ24-000338	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	New Entities - Minister Collins	<p>30. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>31. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000350	Department of Social Services	Jordon Steele-John	Independent Review	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: [...] I want to move now to the independent review, which was so seriously undermined in its independence by the adoption of the sustainability framework halfway through the commission of the review. Now that it has been given to the government and released, can you, Minister, inform the committee as to when the government intends to respond formally to the review? Senator Farrell: I'll follow that up and come back to you with a response. Senator STEELE-JOHN: Sorry? Senator Farrell: I'll follow that up and back to you with a response to that question. Senator STEELE-JOHN: As to when the government intends to respond? Will you do that in the course of the afternoon, please? Senator Farrell: I'll attempt to, yes Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you very much. I would have expected that to be on your cue cards for this afternoon.</p>	53	14/02/2024
HA SQ24-000215	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Ministerial Briefs turnaround times	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<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</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p>		
HA SQ24-000216	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Ministers Office Hospitality	<p>2. Since 1 July 2023, 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 2023, 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	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000217	Hearing Australia	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> <p>Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000218	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Ministers office staff	<p>4. 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</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>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 October 2023.</p>		
HA SQ24-000219	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Ministers meeting with Secretary	<p>5. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? 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 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000220	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Briefs to the Ministers' offices	<p>7. a. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>b. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000221	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals	<p>8. How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000222	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Paper usage	<p>9. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>from overseas producers.</p> <p>Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>		
HA SQ24-000223	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Inter-departmental 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 October 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 October 2023.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000224	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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. External labour hire 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</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>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>		
HA SQ24-000225	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Functions expenditure	<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 2023/24 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	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000226	Hearing Australia	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 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; 	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>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 SQ24-000227	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	SES 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 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000228	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Staff travel	<p>16. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary’s/agency head’s travel for financial year 2023/24 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 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>19. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000229	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Facilities Upgrade	<p>18. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				inclusive). Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.		
HA SQ24-000230	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Media monitoring	20. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000231	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Advertising	21. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000232	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Promotional merchandise	22. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date? What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000233	Hearing Australia	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 purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? e. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>date?</p> <p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 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 2023/24 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 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 2023/243 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>		
HA SQ24-000234	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>	Written	23/02/2024

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				d. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?		
HA SQ24-000235	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Fairwork 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	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000236	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	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; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed. 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;	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>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 SQ24-000237	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Internal Reviews	<p>28. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2023.</p> <p>Please provide</p> <p>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. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000238	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Inter-departmental Committees	<p>29. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <p>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	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000239	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	New Entities	<p>30. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				31. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.		
HA SQ24-000240	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Data requests by electorate	32. 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 request if provided. b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000241	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Staffing levels	33. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 February 2024. Please provide: a. Total number of ASL; b. Total number of FTE by APS classification; c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000242	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Market Research	34. 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. 43. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign? Has that research been provided to a Minister’s office?	Written	23/02/2024

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				Did the Minister’s office provide any input on the development of the research?		
HA SQ24-000243	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information	<p>35. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown of the number including;</p> <p>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.</p> <p>63. How many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000244	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications - Minister's Office	<p>36. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister’s office since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications by Minister, i. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; ii. the number of applications refused; and iii. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue</p>	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000245	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Estimates Variations	37. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.	Written	23/02/2024

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HA SQ24-000246	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Movement of Funds	38. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000247	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Flexible working arrangements	39. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? a. Please provide a breakdown including; i. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week? ii. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week? iii. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week? iv. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week? v. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week? b. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees? c. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy. 50. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week. 51. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000248	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	ChatGPT	40. a. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network? i. If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?	Written	23/02/2024

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				b. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.		
HA SQ24-000249	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates	41. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000250	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates	42. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister’s office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000251	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Conflict of Interest	44. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration? Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000252	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Agency Heads leave	45. Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2023, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000253	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Staffing	46. Please provide a list of positions that are currently vacant within the Department as at 1 February 2024. 47. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2022? 48. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level. 49. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level. 73. What is the current turnover rate for staff within the	Written	23/02/2024

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				Department/Agency?		
HA SQ24-000254	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Accommodation	<p>52. As at 1 February 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>58. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2023.</p> <p>59. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, clearing and building maintenance. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>60. How many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000255	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Years of service	53. As at 1 February 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000256	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Public holidays	<p>54. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>55. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>56. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King’s Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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HA SQ24-000257	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Professional development	57. Since 1 July 2023, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000258	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Staff training	61. How many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000259	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Number of QoNs	62. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000260	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Election Commitments	64. Has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments? 65. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000261	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Social media influencers	66. Has the Department/Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000262	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	External speakers	67. Has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000263	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	External Retreats	68. Has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000264	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Minister international visits	69. How many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000265	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Department International visits	70. How many official international visits have been taken by staff since 1 July 2023?	Written	23/02/2024

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HA SQ24-000266	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Security Clearances	<p>71. How many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>72. How many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance? Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months? Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000267	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates Index	74. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 12 February to 16 February 2024.	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000268	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates Questions on Notice	<p>75. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following:</p> <p>a. the number of the Question on Notice;</p> <p>b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice;</p> <p>c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister’s office;</p> <p>d. the date the Minister’s office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled;</p> <p>e. the date the Question on Notice was tabled; and</p> <p>f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000269	Hearing Australia	Michaelia Cash	Property	<p>1. Please provide a list of all property/land that is in the possession of the agency/department/statutory authority with the following details:</p> <p>a. Location of the property or land;</p> <p>b. Is it owned by the agency/department/statutory authority or leased;</p> <p>i. If leased – when does the lease expire;</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				c. Total footprint in square metres; and d. Total footprint in sqm excluding areas specifically designated for interaction with the public (eg: excluding hearing rooms for particular matters, but including kitchens, breakout and internal meeting rooms).		
HA SQ24-000270	Hearing Australia	Michaelia Cash	Underpayments	2. Are you aware of any underpayments of worker entitlements in your agency/department/statutory authority since 2021-22 Financial year? a. If yes, please provide how many instances it has occurred, what was the quantum of underpayment, and how many workers were impacted? b. Did you report it to the Fair Work Ombudsman as a self-report?	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000271	Hearing Australia	Michaelia Cash	Work from Home	1. What is the proportion of staff that are on formal Work from Home (WFH) arrangements in the agency/department/statutory authority? 2. How many have informally used WFH arrangements? 3. What is the average number of staff that are WFH on any given workday? 4. What is the most senior level of employee who has a formal work from arrangement in place? a. What is that arrangement – how many days a week do they attend the office? b. Are they in charge of a team of employees? How many in that team?	Written	23/02/2024
HA SQ24-000272	Hearing Australia	Michaelia Cash	Departmental Staff	5. Does the agency/department/statutory authority have a breakdown across all offices on how many have a formal working from home arrangement? 6. How many staff in the agency/department/statutory authority work permanently from home? 7. do any staff with remote working arrangements now based outside of Australia? 8. Of those based outside of Australia, is the	Written	23/02/2024

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				agency/department/statutory authority aware of their current location, and what security protocols do you have in place for their device access?		
HA SQ24-000273	Hearing Australia	Michaelia Cash	Productivity	<p>9. How do you assess the productivity of employees within the agency/department/statutory authority? Do you have any indication of the productivity of employees working from home – has it changed in any way?</p> <p>10. How often do employees undergo performance appraisals? How is WFH built into that process now – is the WFH arrangement taken into account with assessing performance?</p> <p>11. (if yes) – How does that work?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000001	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIS Access	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: It's quite concerning because what I have been told by the community is that they have had it reported to them by LACs and others that they are unable to apply for access to the scheme before they have completed this community access plan. Are you telling me that is not the case?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: It's not a requirement. As I say, we'll make sure that we're clarifying that with all of our partners so it's not a concern.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Are you currently aware of that occurring in Western Australia?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: I am. A particular advocate has personally raised it with me which is why I'm aware of those circumstances. That is the only circumstance I'm aware of, which isn't to say that it doesn't happen elsewhere, but either way we've been working with all of our partners in the community so that access process is really clear.</p> <p>While I think community connections plans are really important and play a really important role and will continue to do so as part of the scheme, it's not a requirement prior to seeking access to the scheme to complete a</p>	54	14/02/2024

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				<p>community connections plan.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: I've been informed that it is also something that people are experiencing in Victoria.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: We will take it on notice and we will put out communications to all of our partners to say it is not a requirement for access and remind people how the access process works. As you know, those plans have been in place for a long time for people to participate in those if they would like. There's been no change at all from the agency, so we will try and understand why that was happening in those instances and I'm very happy if you want to provide me the Victorian details so we will follow up. But I think it's a good call out and we will get out communications to all of our partners.</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000002	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Expenditure	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: ..In the first quarter we got the quarterly reports for expenditure. Can you give me the six-month expenditure for the scheme, through to the end of December and then also through to the end of January—the six-month and seven-month figures?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I'm happy to take that question on notice, because, as I said, we do not have that data with us today.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: The second question is: the quarterly inflation was 15.1 per cent annualised in the September quarter. What is it from 31 December?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: As I've said, I've taken that information on notice.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Okay, take that on notice. Can you please update what the figures were from Q2 in December—so, what it is now.</p>	55-57	14/02/2024

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				Ms Falkingham: We can take that on notice. Senator REYNOLDS: I'm not asking directly what is in the report you refuse to table now, but is inflation higher or lower than it was in the last quarter, at 15 per cent? Ms Falkingham: I'll take that on notice		
NDIA SQ24-000003	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Q2 2023-24 NDIS Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers - NDIS Participants	Senator REYNOLDS: Participant numbers increased from Q4 last financial year, with a quarterly annual increase of 15 per cent. Can you update us on what that increase is now. Ms Falkingham: I'll take that on notice.	57	14/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000004	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Q2 2023-24 NDIS Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers - NDIS Payments	Senator REYNOLDS: The average payment in the September 2023 report was \$63,600, or 1.3 per cent, higher than projections in that Q1. Can you please provide dollar figures and percentages for the December 2023 quarter. Ms Falkingham: I'll take that on notice Senator REYNOLDS: Can you update the figures for January—so the end of last month—and can you also advise whether growth was driven by participants with developmental delay, which was \$9,320, or 6.9 per cent, higher than the June 2023 projections. Ms Falkingham: I'll take that on notice.	57	14/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000005	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Q2 2023-24 NDIS Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers - NDIS Participant Numbers	Senator REYNOLDS: Participant numbers were 631,529 in the September 2023 Q1 report. What were the participant numbers in December last year? Ms Falkingham: I'll take that on notice. Senator REYNOLDS: Quarterly increases in the September report were 4,350. What is the quarterly increase as of December last year? Ms Falkingham: I'll take that on notice. Senator REYNOLDS: And can you update the figures for the	57	14/02/2024

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				month of January as well. Ms Falkingham: We'll take that on notice.		
NDIA SQ24-000006	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Q2 2023-24 NDIS Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers - NDIS Participants	Senator REYNOLDS: What percentage of new participants is children younger than 15? Ms Falkingham: I'll take that on notice. Senator REYNOLDS: What is the breakdown of NDIS participants by age ranges? Ms Falkingham: I'll take that on notice.	57	14/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000007	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Q2 2023-24 NDIS Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers - NDIS Plan Budgets	Senator REYNOLDS: Over the three-year period to September 2023, average plan budgets for all participants increased by 2.8 per cent per annum. Is this figure still trending upwards in this latest quarter, as in the December quarter—or downwards? Ms Falkingham: I'll take that on notice. Senator REYNOLDS: In the September quarter report there was no reduction in the average plan budgets of participants continuing in the scheme, with the average plan budget increased from \$71,000 to \$74,000, which was 4.9 per cent. In the last quarterly report, in December, is this figure trending upwards or downwards or is it moderating? Ms Falkingham: I'll take that on notice	58	14/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000008	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Q2 2023-24 NDIS Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers - Average Plan Budgets	Senator REYNOLDS: Are average plan budgets increasing for SIL and non-SIL in the last quarter? Ms Falkingham: I'll take that on notice	58	14/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000009	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Specialist Disability Accommodation	Senator STEELE-JOHN: Can I ask you to confirm first of all: of the SDA currently funded by the agency, what percentage is single-dwelling occupancy? Ms McKay: I don't have that exact figure with me today. What	61	14/02/2024

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				<p>I can say is that we have a total of 8,299 dwellings and we have a total of 23,277 people who have SDA in their plans. As you're aware, we have a mix of dwellings—single bedroom and up to five bedrooms—that we fund.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: I do understand that. I'm just conscious of time. This is not a gotcha question: would you be able to see if you can get that figure for me at some point during our time together today? I just want to confirm that the figures the agency has about what you're currently funding align with what's in the Summer report.</p> <p>Ms McKay: Yes.</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000010	National Disability Insurance Agency	Maria Kovacic	NDIA Staff residing in Geelong LGA	<p>Senator KOVACIC: Can you provide any information on what percentage of your staff reside locally in Geelong, where the national headquarters are located and purpose-built to centralise the agency's national operations.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: We wouldn't provide data regarding where our staff live. That's not data that we would commonly provide.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: So you don't have information as to what percentage of your staff actually reside within a 10 or 15 or 20 kilometre radius of your national headquarters?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: We have over 191 offices. We are a nationwide agency. Our staff work in every location.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: I understand.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: We can take on notice the number of people who live in the LGA of Geelong if that's what you're seeking.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: I'm seeking an answer to the question that I asked, which is information on the percentage of staff that reside locally to the headquarters. If you could provide that on notice that would be wonderful.</p> <p>CHAIR: I'm seeking clarification on the de-aggregation of that data. Do you want it by LGA?</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: LGA is fine</p>	61-62	14/02/2024

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NDIA SQ24-000011	National Disability Insurance Agency	Maria Kovacic	NDIA Staff - Flexible Working Arrangements	<p>Senator KOVACIC: How many NDIA staff currently work from home full-time?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: We have a commitment to all roles being flexible within the agency, within the operating frame of a frontline service delivery agency. Regarding all our staff who have a flexible working arrangement, we can provide that number on notice.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Thank you. Would you be able to do the same for the number that work from home part time?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: We can do that</p>	63	14/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000012	National Disability Insurance Agency	Maria Kovacic	Remote access to NDIA network	<p>Senator KOVACIC: So non-frontline staff can access whatever information they need to access remotely at any time through your systems?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I'm not aware of any limitations in accessing data off site from the agency.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Perhaps the report that Senator Reynolds was referencing earlier, which has been put on notice. It's not publicly available but has been provided to the states and not to the Senate. If I were an NDIA employee working from home and I were there now and you asked me to get it, would I be able to access it if I had the security credentials to access that information?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I'd have to take that on notice. I'm not aware of who has access to that document at the moment</p>	63	14/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000013	National Disability Insurance Agency	Maria Kovacic	NDIA Geelong Office - Cost Benefit Analysis	<p>Senator KOVACIC: Can the NDIA provide us with any information on the economic impact of that new headquarters in Geelong, including whether you have tracked any information around how many local jobs you have created? What value has it added to the community?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: Obviously the building was before my time, but I'm very happy to see what the economic cost-benefit</p>	64	14/02/2024

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				<p>analysis of the building was.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Yes—specifically, how many local jobs it's created, in terms of the investment of the \$120 million into the new headquarters.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: You mean in terms of construction, sorry?</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I think that's been publicly released previously, but I am happy to provide it again.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Thank you</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000014	National Disability Insurance Agency	Malcolm Roberts	Fraud Fusion Taskforce - Recovered NDIS Funds	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you for appearing today. On the topic of fraud, how much money has the NDIA been able to claw back through identified NDI fraud?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I'll ask Deputy CEO John Dardo, who leads that program, to come forward to the table.</p> <p>Mr Dardo: Thanks for the question. There are different ways to measure that. One of the ways to measure it is to think about how much we've prevented from going out the door by implementing systems or detecting the integrity leak before the money has left the door. Another way to measure it is to look at whether we've asked the participant or provider to pay the money back. Another way to measure it is by the amount of money that is subject to a prosecution activity—so where it has gone to the courts. Not all of that is recoverable, because unless there's criminal asset confiscation, or unless there are penalties being charged, that money may not be recoverable. So there are lots of different ways to measure it. What I would say is that, as my colleague mentioned earlier in relation to detecting the anomalies, there are a range of things that we've been building up over the last 18 months to allow us to identify where there are integrity leaks, and what I would emphasise is that integrity leaks are very, very strongly correlated to participant risk. The safety of participants is put at risk when money is leaking to the wrong places. It's</p>	66	14/02/2024

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				<p>because the participants aren't receiving the services they need, or because we've got providers that are dodgy and are actually growing their businesses at the expense of good providers—so they're wiping out the good providers—or because that money is actually funding activity for participants that is putting them at further risk, whether it be drug abuse, alcohol abuse, risky behaviours or other behaviours. So the money's important, but the reason we look at the money is the participant safety impact that it has. What I would also say is that there's a level of detail that I can't share in this forum—I'm happy to do it in a private setting—because we do not want to run a 101 session on how to commit fraud against the NDIA. But I'm on the public record in previous hearings talking about the layers of concern that we have. We have, in round figures, over 600,000 participants in the scheme. The system is extraordinary immature for a system that pays out over \$100 million a day, with 400,000 claims a day. It is an extraordinarily immature system. Certainly it's one of the most immature I've seen. If I think about the sorts of risks that we're managing and investing in, being confident that a participant is a real human being, is in the scheme knowingly and—</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Actually exists.</p> <p>Mr Dardo: actually exists is an area of risk that we're certainly unpacking and understanding, and we're identifying things that need to be addressed.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Excuse me. Out of respect for the chair wanting to conclude pretty soon, could you take it on notice to provide the figures around the categories of fraud that you mentioned earlier on, please? What money has been saved?</p> <p>Mr Dardo: We can do that.</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000015	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIS Participant Trials	Senator STEELE-JOHN: Conducting participant trials in different areas is one of the key ways that the agency tests	73	14/02/2024

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				<p>new ideas. How many are currently underway? Ms Falkingham: We are working with our partners in DSS regarding pilots—the Inklings Project, for example. We've got trials in thin markets. We're working with our partners in DSS around how we make sure there's strong service delivery in the thinnest and most remote parts of the country. Beyond that, I'll take on notice whether we have any other trials. We have a participant advisory group that supports the agency with a whole array—and we're always thankful for the advice and feedback they give us on all aspects of design and reform. I'll take on notice whether we have any other pilots or trials currently underway, but they're the two main ones that I'm aware of.</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000016	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Administrative Appeals Tribunal - Specialist Disability Accommodation	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: On 9 February 2022 the AAT ruled in the case of Boxicities and National Disability Insurance Agency, in relation to an application made for SDA housing... what changes have been made to the agency's approvals processes in relation to SDA applications as a result of this tribunal ruling. Ms Falkingham: As I said earlier, the agency is driven by the principle of choice and control. Every decision we make, as you know, is an individual decision that's taken, and we work with participants in regard to that. I wasn't around in 2022, and neither was our general counsel. We now have a very thorough process of embedding practice change when we get AAT rulings to make sure that we are learning and responding to these issues as they go through the tribunal. I'm not aware of that particular case but I am aware that what has been deeply instilled in our planners is, when having conversations regarding SDA, it is an individual choice. We try and take into account participants desires in relation to housing, but we have other objectives we have to also take into account when considering that application. I don't know whether our</p>	74	14/02/2024

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				<p>general counsel has anything to add to that.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: I was going to ask whether Mr Swainson might have any light to shed on that. It was quite a significant ruling at the time.</p> <p>Mr Swainson: My response to that question will be rather short. As Ms Falkingham mentioned, I wasn't at the agency at that time. We do have processes in place to implement the decisions from the AAT and various mechanisms by which we look at our policy and our guidelines following AAT decisions.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Could you take notice whether the agency made any policy changes as a result of that particular case? If you haven't reviewed it and incorporated it into your feedback mechanisms for decision making around tribunal determinations, can I ask that you do review that?</p> <p>Mr Swainson: Yes, Senator.</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000017	National Disability Insurance Agency	Dave Sharma	NDIS Expenditure	<p>Senator SHARMA: Do you have a figure for the total payments made for supported independent living assistance for either the nine months to September or the 12 months to September?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: The total figure for the three months, the quarter, to the end of September was \$3.3 billion, and it was \$12.3 billion for the 12 months to 30 September.</p> <p>Senator SHARMA: What's that as a percentage of the overall NDIS expenditure?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: I could give you a precise figure on notice, but off the top of my head it's probably a little over 30 per cent.</p>	75	14/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000018	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Specialist Disability Accommodation Dwellings	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: I just want to confirm that 38.5 per cent of enrolled SDA dwellings are single occupancy dwellings. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms McKay: That's correct.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms McKay: Some dwellings that are not single-room dwellings</p>	76	14/02/2024

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				<p>have more bedrooms in them, so, even though it's 38 per cent, it represents a smaller percentage of the total number of bedrooms that are in single dwellings.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: I understand that. I'm just trying to ascertain: of the various sizes of residence funded under the scheme, which one is currently the largest?</p> <p>Ms McKay: We'll take that on notice and come back to you...</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000019	National Disability Insurance Agency	Maria Kovacic	NDIS Therapy Support Providers	<p>Senator KOVACIC: I have a question around allied health services. Can we have some information on the current wait times for people trying to access allied health therapies, particularly speech therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, through the NDIS and how that has changed over the last five years?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: I believe we have some data on that, but we probably need to take that on notice</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Of course. Could you also give us some information on whether there are regional differences and what the wait time would be in regional and remote areas compared to metro areas? Can you also give us some insight into who is providing therapies through the NDIS? How many providers are sole traders or small businesses? How many are not-for-profit providers? How many are, say, charities?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: We'll do what we can. I'll have to take it on notice. I know we have some information.</p>	76	14/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000020	National Disability Insurance Agency	Maria Kovacic	Annual Pricing Review - Therapy supports	<p>Senator KOVACIC: Sure. Would you have at hand how long it has been since there was an increase in pricing for therapies?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: The last time that therapy prices were increased, I believe, was in the middle of 2019. I will take clarification on notice, but from memory it was 2019.</p>	76	14/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000021	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: I know you know what I'm asking, but I might put it a different way. When you came up with a figure</p>	87	14/02/2024

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				<p>of growth—say, seven per cent or five per cent—you didn't just make that number up; you had information, assumptions and data that that was based on. That's what I'm looking for. So what was the basis of these projections?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: I probably have to take the full answer to that question on notice. A description of the assumptions at a higher level is in the report. One of the pieces of information that's the basis for the assumptions is the historically observed experience, and then the report certainly notes the actuarial judgement that's applied as well.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: I appreciate that, and I do understand that, but my question is really: what assumptions did you use in the data modelling of the projections? Previously we have had that available, and to understand the numbers and the projections it's important to understand what you've modelled it on.</p> <p>Mr Gifford: Maybe the best answer I can give is that table 5.27, for example, summarises the assumption that we make about additional growth—it will be this in that year and this in that year. There is a set of analyses and judgements that form the basis of that, which are certainly—</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: ...Can you take on notice, just to be very clear, what the assumptions are for those five key areas of uncertainty that you've said you've modelled. What are the assumptions used in the data modelling of these predictions in tables 6.1 and 5.7 and, in fact, that chapter where you talk about uncertainty?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: We'll take that on notice.</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000022	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	Senator REYNOLDS: With those projections in table 6.1, we were missing four financial years. As I said, I've just done some	88	14/02/2024

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				projections. For 2027-28, it was going to be \$8 billion; for 2028-29, about \$9½ billion; for 2030-31, \$12 billion; and, for 2031-32, about \$13½ billion. Then we had the number for 2032-33, which was actually in the report, which is \$15.4 billion. Can you take that on notice, if you're not able to provide those numbers today, and just fill in the gaps of that table? Mr Gifford: Yes, Senator.		
NDIA SQ24-000023	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIS Access and Community Connections	1. a. Can the agency please provide its policy on access, and its access process; and b. Can the agency explain why applicants are being redirected by the agency back to LAC's to complete CCP's, if that is not a requirement for access?	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000024	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Community Connections - Consultation	2. When has the NDIA undertaken community consultation on the community connections plans? 3. How many community connections plans have resulted in no local services being available to prospective participants?	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000025	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Community Connections - Participant Feedback	4. Provide a summary of feedback received by the NDIA from disabled people from October 2023 relating to the community connections plans.	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000026	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Community Connections - NDIA Staffing	5. What role titles employed by directly by the NDIA and as contractors to the NDIA facilitate community connection plans? a. ?Number of employees and contractors undertaking community connections plans as at 1 July 2023 b. Number of employees and contractors undertaking community connections plans as at 1 January 2024	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000027	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Community Connections - Staff Training	6. What training have LAC's undertaken relating to community connection plans? 7. What training have NDIA staff undertaken relating to community connection plans?	Written	21/02/2024

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NDIA SQ24-000028	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIS Access - NDIA Staffing	8. As of 1 Feb 2024 how many FTE are reviewing access applications? 9. As of 1 Feb 2023 how many FTE were reviewing access applications?	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000029	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIA Assessment Tools	1. Does the agency currently measure the impact of someone's disability, compared to their peers through measuring standard deviations from the mean? 2. Can the agency provide all documents relating to the development of tools that measure standard deviations from the mean.	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000030	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIS Experience Design Office	1. How many FTE are allocated to the Participant Experience Design Office 2. What percentage of all staff in the Participant Experience Design Office will be disabled people? 3. Can the agency table its framework for its process of genuine co-design that this Office will operate by?	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000031	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Co-Design Advisory Group	1. What date did the Co-Design Advisory Committee last meet? 2. Has the Co-design Advisory Committee been formally disbanded? a. If yes, when does the agency expect to have it re-established, or a replacement committee established?	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000032	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Co-Design Evaluation	3. In September 2023, the Co-Design Advisory Committee resolved to undertake a review of the co-design process: a. What is the timeframe for the review? b. Will they produce a publicly available report? c. Who was awarded the contract for the review? d. How much budget has been allocated for this review?	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000033	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIS Plan Management	1. How many self-managed plans have been changed to plan-managed in the last 6 months? 2. How many self-managed plans have been changed to plan-managed in the last 12 months? 3. How many self-managed plans have been changed to	Written	21/02/2024

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				agency-managed in the last 6 months? 4. How many self-managed plans have been changed to agency-managed in the last 12 months?		
NDIA SQ24-000034	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Home and Living Decisions	1. How many psychosocial participants currently live in an SDA or SIL dwelling? 2. How many psychosocial participants are currently awaiting a decision for an SDA or SIL application? 3. How many participants have been denied SDA or SIL funding in the last 4 years? Please provide this data for each previous calendar year (2023-2019). 4. How many psychosocial participants have been denied SDA or SIL funding in the last 4 years? Please provide this data for each previous calendar year (2023-2019).	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000035	National Disability Insurance Agency	James McGrath	Use of Artificial Intelligence	1. To what extent is Artificial Intelligence (AI) being utilised in the NDIS?	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000036	National Disability Insurance Agency	James McGrath	Use of Artificial Intelligence - Policies and Procedures	2. Has the NDIS been advised by any federal departments or agencies on how to develop policies and procedures on the utilisation of AI in the NDIS? If so, please table this advice and correspondence. 3. Does the NDIS have any internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the NDIS? If so, please table these internal policies and/or procedures. 4. If there are internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the NDIS, has there been any breaches of these policies and procedures? Please provide de-identified summaries of such breaches since May 2022. 5. Please provide any correspondence, briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to internal policies on AI since May 2022.	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000037	National Disability Insurance Agency	James McGrath	Use of Artificial Intelligence - Intergovernmen	6. Please provide any briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to correspondence between the NDIS and other federal departments and agencies on AI since May 2022.	Written	21/02/2024

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NDIA SQ24-000038	National Disability Insurance Agency	James McGrath	Use of Artificial Intelligence - Risk Assessments	<p>7. Has the NDIS completed an assessment on the benefits of AI in Services Australia? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>8. Has the NDIS completed an assessment on the risks that AI poses to the ability for the NDIS to successfully execute its aims and objectives? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p>	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000039	National Disability Insurance Agency	James McGrath	Use of Artificial Intelligence - Misuse	9. Are there any cases of staff being reprimanded for the misuse of AI, such as using ChatGPT to complete reports or inputting confidential information into online chat boxes?	Written	21/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000041	National Disability Insurance Agency	Anne Ruston	Fraud Fusion Taskforce	<p>1. What is the role of the NDIS fraud squad?</p> <p>2. What is the size of the NDIS fraud squad, including the number of staff employed to work in this area?</p> <p>3. What are the costs associated with operating the fraud squad? How much funding is allocated to the investigation of fraud or non-compliance within the NDIS?</p> <p>4. Does the Department have any plans to increase size and scope of the fraud squad?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000042	National Disability Insurance Agency	David Pocock	Specialist Disability Accommodation	<p>1. How many people supported by the NDIS are living in public housing in the ACT?</p> <p>2. How many of these people are in specialist disability accommodation, and therefore eligible for specialist disability accommodation funding?</p> <p>3. What is the average amount of specialist disability accommodation funding made available per person for eligible recipients?</p> <p>4. How much funding is Housing ACT / the ACT Government receiving annually from the NDIA in the form of specialist disability accommodation funding?</p>	Written	26/02/2024

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				5. How does one receive specialist disability accommodation funding as a housing provider for eligible people? Is it just a matter of applying?		
NDIA SQ24-000043	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Briefs	1a. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister? b. If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? c. Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement. d. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide: i. the previous turnaround requirement; and ii. the date the change was requested.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000044	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Ministerial Functions	2a. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? b. Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality. c. Since 1 July 2023, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? d. If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000045	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Minister Meeting and Briefs	5a. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? b. Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister. 6a. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? b. Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister. 7a. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? i. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>b. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft?</p> <p>ii. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000046	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals	<p>8a. How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>b. Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000047	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Paper Supplies	<p>9a. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>b. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000048	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Inter-Departmental Committees	<p>10a. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership.</p> <p>b. Please specify where there are changes to the list since October 2023.</p> <p>11a. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership.</p> <p>b. Please specify where there are changes to the list since October 2023.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000049	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses	<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>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consultancy i. Advertising campaigns i. Travel i. 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. External labour hire i. Consultancy i. Advertising campaigns i. Travel i. 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? 		
NDIA SQ24-000050	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Departmental Functions	<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 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; 	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>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>		
NDIA SQ24-000051	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 2023/24 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	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000052	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Executive Office Upgrades	<p>15a. 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 2023/24 to date? b. Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000053	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 2023/24 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 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000054	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Facilities Upgrades	<p>18a. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments,</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>b. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>c. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000055	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Departmental Travel	19. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000056	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Media Monitoring, Advertising, Promotional Merchandise	<p>20. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>21a. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>b. Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>22a. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>b. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>c. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000057	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Departmental 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 2023/24 to date and what was it for?</p> <p>c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>e. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 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 2023/24 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 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 2023/243 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>		
NDIA SQ24-000058	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Comcare	<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</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				Comcare claims? d. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?		
NDIA SQ24-000059	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	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000060	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); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed. 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;	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>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 SQ24-000061	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Internal Reviews	<p>28. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2023. Please provide:</p> <p>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. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000062	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Interdepartmental Committees	<p>29. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</p> <p>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	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000063	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	New Entities	<p>30a. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2022? b. Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created</p> <p>31a. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2022? b. Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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NDIA SQ24-000064	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Ministerial Data Requests	32a. 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? b. 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. c. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000065	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staffing	33. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 February 2024. Please provide: a. Total number of ASL; b. Total number of FTE by APS classification; c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000066	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign	34a. Has the department/agency provided any Minister’s office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? b. Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000067	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information Requests	35. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? 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;	Written	23/02/2024

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				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.		
NDIA SQ24-000068	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Largest Estimate Variations	37. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000069	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Largest movement of funds	38. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000070	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staff - Flexible Working Arrangements	39 a. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? b. Please provide a breakdown including; i. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week? ii. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week? iii. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week? iv. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week? v. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week? c. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees? d. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000071	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Use of ChatGPT	40 a. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network? i. If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?	Written	23/02/2024

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				b. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.		
NDIA SQ24-000072	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staff Training - Senate Estimates	41. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates? 42. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister’s office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000073	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Communication s Campaign	43a. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign? b. Has that research been provided to a Minister’s office? c. Did the Minister’s office provide any input on the development of the research?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000074	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Conflict of Interest Declarations	44a. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration? b. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000075	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Chief Executive Officer Leave Arrangements	45. Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2023, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000076	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staffing	46. Please provide a list of positions that are currently vacant within the Department as at 1 February 2024. 47. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2022?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000077	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staffing	48. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level. 49. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.	Written	23/02/2024

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NDIA SQ24-000078	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staff - Flexible Working Arrangements	50. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week. 51. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000079	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Offices - Leased	52. As at 1 February 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000080	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staff - Longest Serving Member	53. As at 1 February 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000081	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staff - Public Holiday Working Agreements	54. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday? 55. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday? 56. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000082	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staff Training	57. Since 1 July 2023, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000083	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Property Maintenance	58a. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2023. b. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown. 59. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, clearing and building maintenance.	Written	23/02/2024

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NDIA SQ24-000084	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Requests for Additional Funding	60. How many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000085	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staff Training - Australian Public Service Academy	61. How many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000086	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Questions on Notice Responses	62. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000087	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staffing - Freedom of Information	63. How many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000088	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	2022 Australian Government Election Commitments	64. Has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments? 65. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000089	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Promotional or Communication s Campaigns - Social Media Influencers	66. Has the Department/Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000090	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	External speakers	67. Has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000091	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staff Retreats	68. Has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	23/02/2024

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NDIA SQ24-000092	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Minister Briefs - Overseas Visits	69. How many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000093	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Official International Visits	70. How many official international visits have been taken by staff since 1 July 2023?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000094	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Security Clearances	71. How many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, since 1 July 2023? 72. How many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance? a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months? b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000095	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staffing	73. What is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000096	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	2023–24 Additional Estimates Briefing Pack Index	74. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 12 February to 16 February 2024.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000097	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	2023–24 Supplementary Budget Estimates Questions on Notice	75. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following: a. the number of the Question on Notice; b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister’s office; d. the date the Minister’s office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; e. the date the Question on Notice was tabled; and f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.	Written	23/02/2024

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NDIA SQ24-000098	National Disability Insurance Agency	Michaelia Cash	NDIA Offices	<p>1. Please provide a list of all property/land that is in the possession of the agency/department/statutory authority with the following details:</p> <p>a. Location of the property or land;</p> <p>b. Is it owned by the agency/department/statutory authority or leased;</p> <p>i. If leased – when does the lease expire;</p> <p>c. Total footprint in square metres; and</p> <p>d. Total footprint in sqm excluding areas specifically designated for interaction with the public (eg: excluding hearing rooms for particular matters, but including kitchens, breakout and internal meeting rooms).</p>	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000099	National Disability Insurance Agency	Michaelia Cash	Underpayments of Worker Entitlements	<p>2. Are you aware of any underpayments of worker entitlements in your agency/department/statutory authority since 2021-22 Financial year?</p> <p>a. If yes, please provide how many instances it has occurred, what was the quantum of underpayment, and how many workers were impacted?</p> <p>b. Did you report it to the Fair Work Ombudsman as a self-report?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000100	National Disability Insurance Agency	Michaelia Cash	NDIA Staff - Flexible Working Arrangements	<p>3. What is the proportion of staff that are on formal Work from Home (WFH) arrangements in the agency/department/statutory authority?</p> <p>4. How many have informally used WFH arrangements?</p> <p>5. What is the average number of staff that are WFH on any given workday?</p> <p>6. What is the most senior level of employee who has a formal work from arrangement in place?</p> <p>a. What is that arrangement – how many days a week do they attend the office?</p> <p>b. Are they in charge of a team of employees? How many in that team?</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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NDIA SQ24-000101	National Disability Insurance Agency	Michaelia Cash	NDIA Staff - Flexible Working Arrangements	7. Does the agency/department/statutory authority have a breakdown across all offices on how many have a formal working from home arrangement? 8. How many staff in the agency/department/statutory authority work permanently from home? 9. do any staff with remote working arrangements now based outside of Australia? 10. Of those based outside of Australia, is the agency/department/statutory authority aware of their current location, and what security protocols do you have in place for their device access?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000102	National Disability Insurance Agency	Michaelia Cash	NDIA Staff - Flexible Working Arrangements	11. How do you assess the productivity of employees within the agency/department/statutory authority? Do you have any indication of the productivity of employees working from home – has it changed in any way? 12. How often do employees undergo performance appraisals? How is WFH built into that process now – is the WFH arrangement taken into account with assessing performance? 13. (if yes) – How does that work?	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000103	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	2023–24 Budget - Initiatives	4. Has there been the establishment of a "governance structure for implementing, and monitoring the effectiveness" of the May 2023 Budget initiatives, as recommended by the Scheme and Australian Government Actuaries?	Written	14/03/2024
NDIA SQ24-000104	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	8. What are the projection of Scheme expenses for the next decade? Noting that the Annual Financial Sustainability Report 2022-23 does not include FY27- 28, FY28-29, FY30-21.	Written	14/03/2024
NDIA SQ24-000105	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	2023–24 Budget - Initiatives	9. Can you outline what the May 2023 Budget incentives are, as referenced to in the Annual Financial Sustainability Report 2022-23?	Written	14/03/2024
NDIA SQ24-000106	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	2023–24 Budget - Initiatives	10. Are the May 2023 Budget initiatives on track to meet the forecasted projections?	Written	14/03/2024

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NDIA SQ24-000107	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	17.How will \$720 million in investment into financial sustainability through the May 2023 Budget initiatives bring about more than \$60 billion of savings, as outlined by the Minister?	Written	14/03/2024
NDIA SQ24-000108	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Ministers Office Staffing	3a. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio b. 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. c. Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023 4a. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer? b. 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. c. Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.	Written	23/02/2024
NDIA SQ24-000109	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information requests	36. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister’s office since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown including; a. the number of applications by Minister, i. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; ii. the number of applications refused; and iii. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000001	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	James McGrath	Artificial Intelligence	Question 1: To what extent is Artificial Intelligence (AI) being utilised in the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission? Question 2: Has the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission been advised by any federal departments or agencies on how to develop policies and procedures on the utilisation of AI in the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission? If so, please	Written	21/02/2024

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				<p>table this advice and correspondence.</p> <p>Question 3: Does the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission have any internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission? If so, please table these internal policies and/or procedures.</p> <p>Question 4: If there are internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, has there been any breaches of these policies and procedures? Please provide de-identified summaries of such breaches since May 2022.</p> <p>Question 5: Please provide any correspondence, briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to internal policies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>Question 6: Please provide any briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to correspondence between the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission and other federal departments and agencies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>Question 7: Has the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission completed an assessment on the benefits of AI in Services Australia? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>Question 8: Has the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission completed an assessment on the risks that AI poses to the ability for the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission to</p>		
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				<p>successfully execute its aims and objectives? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>Question 9: Are there any cases of staff being reprimanded for the misuse of AI, such as using ChatGPT to complete reports or inputting confidential information into online chat boxes?</p>		
QSC SQ24-000002	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Michaelia Cash	Property held within the agency/department/statutory authority	<p>1. Please provide a list of all property/land that is in the possession of the agency/department/statutory authority with the following details:</p> <p>a. Location of the property or land;</p> <p>b. Is it owned by the agency/department/statutory authority or leased;</p> <p>i. If leased – when does the lease expire;</p> <p>c. Total footprint in square metres; and</p> <p>d. Total footprint in sqm excluding areas specifically designated for interaction with the public (eg: excluding hearing rooms for particular matters, but including kitchens, breakout and internal meeting rooms).</p>	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000003	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Michaelia Cash	Underpayments	<p>1. Are you aware of any underpayments of worker entitlements in your agency/department/statutory authority since 2021-22 Financial year?</p> <p>a. If yes, please provide how many instances it has occurred, what was the quantum of underpayment, and how many workers were impacted?</p> <p>b. Did you report it to the Fair Work Ombudsman as a self-report?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000004	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Michaelia Cash	Working from home arrangements	<p>1. What is the proportion of staff that are on formal Work from Home (WFH) arrangements in the agency/department/statutory authority?</p> <p>2. How many have informally used WFH arrangements?</p> <p>3. What is the average number of staff that are WFH on any given workday?</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>4. What is the most senior level of employee who has a formal work from arrangement in place?</p> <p>a. What is that arrangement – how many days a week do they attend the office?</p> <p>b. Are they in charge of a team of employees? How many in that team?</p>		
QSC SQ24-000005	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Michaelia Cash	Departmental staff	1. Does the agency/department/statutory authority have a breakdown across all offices on how many have a formal working from home arrangement?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000006	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Michaelia Cash	Departmental staff	1. How many staff in the agency/department/statutory authority work permanently from home?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000007	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Michaelia Cash	Departmental staff	<p>1. Do any staff with remote working arrangements now based outside of Australia?</p> <p>2. Of those based outside of Australia, is the agency/department/statutory authority aware of their current location, and what security protocols do you have in place for their device access?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000008	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Michaelia Cash	Productivity	1. How do you assess the productivity of employees within the agency/department/statutory authority? Do you have any indication of the productivity of employees working from home – has it changed in any way?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000009	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Michaelia Cash	Productivity	<p>1. How often do employees undergo performance appraisals? How is WFH built into that process now – is the WFH arrangement taken into account with assessing performance?</p> <p>2. (if yes) – How does that work?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000010	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Ministerial Brief - Timeframe	<p>Since 1 July 2023, 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>	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the previous turnaround requirement; and 2. the date the change was requested. 		
QSC SQ24-000011	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Minister's Office Hospitality	<p>Since 1 July 2023, 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 2023, 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	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000012	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 October 2023.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000013	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Departmental 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 been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.		
QSC SQ24-000014	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 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000015	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Meetings with Minister's outside of the Portfolio	How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000016	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Ministerial Briefs	a. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief. a. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000017	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	NPPs	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000018	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Procurement of Paper	Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.	Written	23/02/2024

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				Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.		
QSC SQ24-000019	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Inter-departmental Committee 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 October 2023.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000020	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Taskforce	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 October 2023.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000021	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? a. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: i. External labour hire i. Consultancy i. Advertising campaigns i. Travel i. Legal expenses a. 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? a. 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? a. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>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 i. Consultancy i. Advertising campaigns i. Travel i. Legal expenses <p>a. 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>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>a. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>a. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
QSC SQ24-000022	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Functions or Official receptions - Agency	<p>In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; a. List of attendees; a. Function venue; a. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); a. Details of any food served; a. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and a. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000023	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Functions or Official receptions - Ministers	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; a. List of attendees; 	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>a. Function venue; a. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); a. Details of any food served; a. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and a. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>		
QSC SQ24-000024	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Office upgrades	<p>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 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000025	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Travel Expenses - Agency Head	<p>Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary’s/agency head’s travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000026	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Travel Expenses - Deputy Secretary	<p>Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary’s/agency head’s travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000027	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Office upgrades	<p>Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000028	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Staff Travel	<p>What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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QSC SQ24-000029	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Media Monitoring	What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000030	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Advertising and Information Campaigns	What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000031	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Promotional Merchandise	What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000032	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Credit Cards	In relation to departmental use of credit cards: a. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? a. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? a. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? a. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? a. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date? a. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?	Written	23/02/2024

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				<p>a. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2023/24 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 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>a. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2023/243 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>a. 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>a. Please provide a copy of the department or agency’s staff credit card policy.</p> <p>a. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
QSC SQ24-000033	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Staffing - 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>a. 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>a. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims?</p> <p>a. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?</p>	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000034	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Staffing - Fair Work Commission	<p>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>	Written	23/02/2024

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				a. 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.		
QSC SQ24-000035	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Reviews - Active	<p>Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; a. the purpose of the review; a. the name or names of the reviewer(s); a. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); a. the budgeted cost of the review; a. the amount spent to date; and a. the date the review is due to be completed. 	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000036	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Reviews - Completed	<p>Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022.</p> <p>Please provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 	Written	23/02/2024

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				j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister’s office.		
QSC SQ24-000037	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Internal Reviews	Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2023. 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 if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000038	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Inter-departmental Committee - Participation	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; a. a list of the membership; a. the date it was established; and a. its purpose.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000039	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Creation on new entities	How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.	Written	23/02/2024

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QSC SQ24-000040	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	End of new entitles	How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000041	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	MO Request for data - by electorate	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 request if provided. a. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000042	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Staffing - ASL	Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 February 2024. Please provide: a. Total number of ASL; b. Total number of FTE by APS classification; c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000043	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Market Research	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	23/02/2024

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QSC SQ24-000044	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	FOI	How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown of the number including; a. the number of applications withdrawn; a. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; a. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; a. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; a. the number of applications subject to internal review; a. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; a. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; a. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and a. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000045	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	FOI - MO	How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister’s office since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown including; a. the number of applications by Minister, i. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; i. the number of applications refused; and i. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000046	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Estimate Variations	For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000047	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Funds Movement	For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.	Written	23/02/2024

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QSC SQ24-000048	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Work from Home	<p>How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>a) The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</p> <p>b) The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</p> <p>c) The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</p> <p>d) The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</p> <p>e) The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p> <p>f) What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>g) Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000049	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	CHATGPT	<p>Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network?</p> <p>i. If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000050	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Estimates Training	Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000051	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Answers to Questions at Senate Estimates	Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister's office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000052	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Market Research	<p>Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p>	Written	23/02/2024

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				Did the Minister’s office provide any input on the development of the research?		
QSC SQ24-000053	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Conflict of interest declaration	Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration? Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000054	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Agency Head Leave	Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2023, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000055	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Vacant position	Please provide a list of positions that are currently vacant within the Department as at 1 February 2024.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000056	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Advertising externally	How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2022?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000057	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Staff in acting positions	As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000058	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Vacant position +90 days	As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000059	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Working from home arrangements	Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000060	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Working from home arrangements in the ACT	Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000061	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Office space	As at 1 February 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.	Written	23/02/2024

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QSC SQ24-000062	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	APS Service	As at 1 February 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000063	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Australia Day - Public Holiday	As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000064	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	ANZAC - Public Holiday	As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000065	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	King's Birthday - Public Holiday	As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000066	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Professional development	Since 1 July 2023, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000067	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Property maintenance costs	Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2023. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000068	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Contracts	Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, clearing and building maintenance.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000069	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Additional funding for operational expenditure	How many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000070	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	APS Training	How many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?	Written	23/02/2024

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QSC SQ24-000071	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Responses to QONs	Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000072	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	FOI Resources	How many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000073	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Election Commitments	Has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000074	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Election Commitments	Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000075	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Social media influencers	Has the Department/Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000076	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	External speakers	Has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000077	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Briefs - Overseas	How many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000078	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Overseas Visits	How many official international visits have been taken by staff since 1 July 2023?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000079	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Security clearances	How many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, since 1 July 2023?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000080	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Security clearances	How many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance? Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?	Written	23/02/2024

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				Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?		
QSC SQ24-000081	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Turnover rate	What is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000082	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Index of Senate Estimates briefs	Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 12 February to 16 February 2024.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000083	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	QON Activity	Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following: 1. the number of the Question on Notice; 2. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; 3. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister’s office; 4. the date the Minister’s office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; 5. the date the Question on Notice was tabled; and 6. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.	Written	23/02/2024
QSC SQ24-000084	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	External retreats for staff	Has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	23/02/2024
DSS SQ24-000339	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	DSS employees	Senator KOVACIC: Thank you for appearing this evening. I will start with corporate. As of 1 February, what is the headcount of DSS employees? Mr Griggs: I'll ask the Chief Operating Officer to answer that. Mr Hetherington: I don't have 1 February numbers in front of me, but as at December the headcount was 3,058, from memory. Senator KOVACIC: Can you provide February on notice? Mr Hetherington: Sure.	3	18/03/2024

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				<p>Senator KOVACIC: Do you have, based on those numbers, how many are ongoing and non-ongoing as a percentage? Mr Hetherington: I do. Of the 3,058 APS staff—December figures—about 93.1 per cent were ongoing and about 6.9 per cent were non-ongoing. Senator KOVACIC: The non-ongoing, do they include contractors? Mr Hetherington: No, that's just APS staff. Senator KOVACIC: Do you have a breakdown of staff versus contractors? Mr Hetherington: I do. For the same period, we had about 310—again, head count—contractors. That's about 9.2 per cent of our total workforce. Senator KOVACIC: Can you provide the 1 February figures for those as well on notice? Mr Hetherington: I can say that number has been coming down. I think in the last set of numbers I looked at it was something like 290, so it's been trending down. Mr Griggs: We will get you that on notice.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000340	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Contractors	<p>Senator KOVACIC: Do you have data on how many of the DSS employees previously worked as a contractor? Do you capture if someone was a contractor and becomes— Mr Harvey: No, I don't have that with me. I'm not sure— Mr Hetherington: I think we've looked into this before for this committee, and I don't know that we were able to find the detailed data you were looking for. I'm happy to have another look. Mr Griggs: Senator, are you after people's work history, or their conversion from contractors to APS? Senator KOVACIC: Yes. I'm curious to get an understanding of people who have been contractors who have then become either ongoing or non-ongoing staff. Mr Hetherington: We can get you the conversion data, but</p>	3-4	18/03/2024

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				not every employee that we've brought on, whether they were once a contractor; but conversions, yes.		
DSS SQ24-000341	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Staff Movement and Separation	<p>Senator KOVACIC: Are you able to give us some insight into what the top reasons are for someone to leave the department as identified in the APS employee census?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: Yes. In addition to the census, we do also exit survey our staff when they leave. By far and away most people leave to go to another APS agency. That's not because they're disgruntled with our agency; it's because they're looking for further development or promotion opportunities. There are a few age retirements and that sort of thing in that mix as well, but the biggest bulk is people transiting to another organisation in the APS.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: With those reasons, are they pretty consistent with staff across the APS more broadly? Is there any figure where you guys are somewhat different or have a higher separation reason?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: I honestly couldn't give you data across the APS on that. We track our own numbers. I would be guessing if I tried to answer that.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Would you be able to give us information on whether the reasons or the movement is even higher than the APS average from within the DSS?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: I could say I don't believe it is. It depends on the agency. Some agencies have higher retention rates or lower separation rates. Others have higher separation rates. It's not uniform across the service. In terms of comparable agencies, I would have to have a look. I don't have that off the top of my head.</p>	4	18/03/2024
DSS SQ24-000342	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Staffing Separation Type	<p>Senator KOVACIC: Thank you. Do you guys collect the data on the breakdown of separation type?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: I could have a look. I can take it on notice. We haven't been doing our exit surveys for a particularly long</p>	4	18/03/2024

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				<p>time in their current format, so I don't have longitudinal data. Mr Griggs: That's the primary source of data, the exit survey. When I got here, we didn't have one. It's obviously a very powerful tool to have. Senator KOVACIC: If you could share what you have, I'd be grateful. Mr Hetherington: Yes.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000343	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Bullying and Harassment	<p>Senator KOVACIC: Going on to that culture, from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2023, are you able to tell us how many allegations of bullying and harassment has DSS firstly received and secondly investigated? Mr Hetherington: I can give you figures over the last 12 months, if that would be helpful. I don't think I have it on me back to 2021. In terms of the last 12 months, January 2023 through to the end of December, we had 14 code of conduct investigations. We found eight breaches; four were still pending at that time; and in two there were no breaches. That's 14 over the course of the year over a workforce of some 3,400 in head count terms. We investigate everything that is brought to our attention, and we do that thoroughly. Senator KOVACIC: That would mean you received 14 and you investigated 14? Mr Hetherington: Investigated 14, or we got to a point where—we received 14, we investigated 14. Sometimes there are cases where there is not enough information pursue an investigation. But we do thoroughly look at everything that is raised for our attention. Senator KOVACIC: So, potentially there would have been more than 14 received where you didn't have that good information? Mr Hetherington: No—if we received one, we investigated it. In that 14, I think there was one instance that we couldn't pursue to full investigation. That makes sense, I think.</p>	4-5	18/03/2024

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				<p>Mr Griggs: The point is that is general code of conduct investigations, not specifically bullying and harassment. So that will be a smaller subset of that number.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: So the whole total is 14?</p> <p>Mr Griggs: We'll get you the data back to that date range that you've asked for. We'll take that on notice.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000344	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Life expectancy of people experiencing homelessness study and reporting	<p>Senator RICE: So if it appears that that reporting on premature deaths and life expectancy of people who experience homelessness was requested to be part of the reporting framework in 2021, those requests have been ignored. Can you tell me how the federal government responded to that request? If it was specifically rejected, was it just ignored? Was the letter not replied to? How was it treated?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: Again, the agreement was struck in 2018, so it's not updated each year to add new things in. In relation to the specifics around that 2021 request, I'll take that on notice to go away and check what representations were made to the Commonwealth and to other levels of government and whether there was indeed any response to that.</p>	7	18/03/2024
DSS SQ24-000345	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Homelessness services	<p>Senator RICE: What are the figures of what the current shortfall in demand is for homelessness services? What is the gap, and how many people are seeking homelessness services?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I am checking what data we've got on unmet demand.</p> <p>Senator RICE: And what the cost would be to meet that current shortfall.</p> <p>Mr Flavel: If I can't track it right here, I might need to take it on notice.</p>	7	18/03/2024
DSS SQ24-000346	Department of Social Services	Louise Pratt	Rent Assistance	<p>Senator PRATT: Do you have data on the current number of people, if they're in a rental, who are claiming rent assistance, who would appear to not be claiming rent assistance anymore because they are no longer in a rental? They might have</p>	8-9	18/03/2024

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				<p>moved into a family home, might have bought the house—which is unlikely if they're dependent on social security, unless they got a big inheritance—or they might have become homeless. I am interested in what data you might have around someone staying on social security but what indicators there are in the kind of payments they are getting about their status?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: On CRA, Commonwealth Rent Assistance itself, I will check, but we won't necessarily have data on the reasons why people no longer receive it, because they could be other reasons, for instance the range of rent they need to be paying in order to qualify. They may be paying less because they may have moved, or their circumstances might have changed.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: They could have found a really cheap rental. They might have moved in with their parents. There are definitely things that are there.</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I think the point is that it's not necessarily easy to track that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I understand, hence the caveat in my question.</p> <p>Mr Flavel: On the more general point of people who may be on income support and vulnerable, there are indicators that Services Australia uses, for instance if somebody is homeless, to ensure that that person gets an enhanced or more appropriate level of service from Services Australia. I could take on notice what the data shows. That's less about people who might be transitioning, but it will give some sense of using that data from Services Australia.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I'm interested in the policy settings around when somebody becomes homeless, their income actually declining rather than because they no longer get rent assistance, and it's harder when you're homeless because</p>		
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				everything gets more expensive once you are. That was just a general question to take on notice.		
DSS SQ24-000347	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Right to disconnect	<p>Senator KOVACIC: [...] In relation to right to disconnect, I will be asking every secretary on notice if you can detail all of the occasions that staff at the department were required to work after hours on request from the minister or their office, if that is okay?</p> <p>Mr Griggs: I will take that on notice and determine the level of resourcing needed to answer the question.</p>	10	18/03/2024
DSS SQ24-000348	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Help to Buy	<p>Senator KOVACIC: In relation to housing and homelessness, particularly Help to Buy, I acknowledge that this is a Treasury bill, but can you tell me what involvement DSS or the housing and homelessness area of DSS have in the development of the government's Help to Buy legislation?</p> <p>Mr Sloan: We are in constant contact with our Treasury colleagues. Obviously with a large housing agenda we need to make sure we're all working together. Certainly, from the point of view of the legislation for Help to Buy, that's a Treasury responsibility and we certainly leave that to our colleagues to do that...</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Effectively, it's side by side but without always sharing the work—in terms of ensuring that what you cover is covered by Treasury. It's like each of you has your own job and where they sometimes merge you might have a conversation but still one of you takes the lead, rather than it being a collaboration between the two?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I think that's right, and I think that's important. So, on something like the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement, DSS will take the lead on that; but, of course, it's part of a broader suite of Commonwealth and state funding arrangements. It has broader ramifications for the housing market, so Treasury is involved in that. In relation to Help to Buy, there's consultation, but at the end of the day there is</p>	10-11	18/03/2024

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				<p>also clarity about who leads and, therefore, who has responsibility for the final stage of execution on some those things.</p> <p>Mr Sloan: And I think the important thing is, as Mr Flavel said, we are in constant conversations and discussions and sharing information with Treasury. But at the end of the day, to make sure things are delivered, you need a lead agency to take responsibility. And, as Mr Flavel said, it's very clear who does what in that relationship.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: In any of those discussions, did you flag any concerns to the lead agency in relation to any elements of the legislation, and if so, were those concerns considered or did they contribute to any changes to draft documents?</p> <p>Mr Sloan: I would have to take that on notice, Senator.</p>		
DSS SQ24-000349	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Homelessness	<p>Senator KOVACIC: Are you able to provide a breakdown of homelessness data by state and territory, any specific regions and demographics, including gender? If I could have that on notice. If that's available, has that been provided to Treasury or did they seek this information from you in the formulation of their Housing Australia Future Fund?</p> <p>Mr Sloan: The most recent comprehensive information or data on homelessness in Australia is from the 2021 census. What I can tell you, for example, on gender, is that on census night there were 68,516 males in homelessness and 53,974 females considered in homelessness. You need to remember that our definition of homelessness is quite broad and includes things like severe overcrowding and so forth.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: But does the department collect any data itself in relation to this, and if so, can you share it with us on notice? And if so, was this information sought by Treasury in the development of the HAFF?</p> <p>Mr Sloan: I'll take that on notice, Senator.</p>	11	18/03/2024

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NDIA SQ24-000110	National Disability Insurance Agency	Hollie Hughes	Plan Management - Risk Factors	<p>Senator HUGHES: So if a plan management model assessment is done, is that done by you or the justice system?</p> <p>Mr McNaughton: My staff, the justice liaison officers or the justice planning team or any NDIA planner will do an assessment around the plan management type based on risk factors at participant may have.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: What are the risk factors? If you are not allowed to know they were convicted of a sexual offence, what are the risk factors?</p> <p>Mr McNaughton: If the person has other informal supports in their life; if the person is at risk of exploitation by other members of the community or family; or at the other end of the continuum, the person may have really good capacity, really good networks and support systems around them, and it's perfectly fine for them to be able to self-manage the plan. But if there are risk factors such as I have described, there is guidance for our staff—I can provide some of that on notice—and then we will make a decision around plan management types</p>	17-18	18/03/2024
NDIA SQ24-000111	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Annual Financial Sustainability Report 2022–23	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: ...we've now got the June 2023 financial sustainability report, the full report from the Australian Government Actuary. The letter to the chair is dated 16 October last year. Can you take on notice, unless you know it off the top of your head, when this report actually was released publicly on your website.</p> <p>Mr Gifford: I don't have the precise date, but I believe it was the first week of December. We can take the precise date on notice.</p>	23	18/03/2024
NDIA SQ24-000112	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: ... When I ask the questions, I'll ask them against the baseline and also against the June 2023 projections.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Can you advise that the six-month expenditure for the</p>	25	18/03/2024

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				<p>scheme, through to the end of December, was \$20.4 billion? Mr Gifford: That's correct. Senator REYNOLDS: Okay, so that increased to \$20.4 billion. Is the six-month expenditure tracking above or below the baseline projections? Mr Gifford: It's above. Ms Falkingham: If it helps, Senator, I went through that in my opening statement. Senator REYNOLDS: Okay, but I want to unpack it with both, because your data is in both of these projections and it's important. Is the six-month expenditure tracking above or below for the June 2023 projections? Mr Gifford: As the CEO said in her opening statement, it was above. Senator REYNOLDS: It's above for both—we'll come back to what that means. How much is it above? What is the percentage for each? How much is it above the baseline projection and the June 2023 projections, for those first six months? Mr Gifford: For the June 2023 projections, it was 1.9 per cent above. I'll have to take the degree to which it was above the baseline on notice.</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000113	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: ... as I understand it, participant numbers in the quarterly report were 646,449. Is that correct for the end of December? Mr Gifford: That's correct. Senator REYNOLDS: Is that tracking above or below the baseline projections? Is it above or below the June 2023 projections? Mr Gifford: Once again, it's above the June 2023 projection. I'll take on notice the exact relativity to the baseline. Ms Falkingham: It's 0.5, Senator. I went through that in my opening statement.</p>	25	18/03/2024

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				<p>Senator REYNOLDS: Thank you. It was really hard to hear your opening statement because it was very scratchy. Do you have the January and February figures with you?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Gifford: Yes, we can take those on notice</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000114	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: ...In the report, the average plan payment was \$63,000. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Again, is it above or below the baseline projections and also the June 2023 projections?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: It's above the June 2023 projection, as the CEO noted in her opening statement. I'll take on notice the relativity to the baseline</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: That will be helpful, thank you. Do you have the figures for the average payments for January and February this year?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: We'll take those on notice.</p>	25-26	18/03/2024
NDIA SQ24-000115	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Annual Financial Sustainability Report 2022–23 – 10 Year Projections	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: Okay. Moving from the quarterly report figures back to the AFSR: we discussed the projections for the 10 years, but you had a gap in the table in the AFSR that didn't have four years worth of projections, and I did a guesstimate. Are you able to provide those on notice?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: We certainly can.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Can you also provide the corresponding for those? What is the scheme growth for each of the years— one for the baseline projection and one for the July 2023 projection? If you need to take those on notice, that's fine.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: ...I want to understand the assumptions that you've made on the 10-year projections—the July projections, not baseline projections—so we can see what you are projecting each year, because it's also not in the tables in</p>	26, 32-33	18/03/2024

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				<p>the AFSR, over the 10 years; and what the percentage change is year by year...</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I have gone through that in a fair amount of detail at three previous estimates hearings, and—</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: But none the wiser.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: Again, we can take more information on notice. I do want to make it clear why I'm optimistic, and that is because the government has invested \$720 million in our agency—investment which we have never seen before—to uplift the capability in the agency. The other area we haven't discussed is fraud, which has been neglected for a long time, and where we're starting to see the benefit of the government's investment in making sure every dollar is going to participants.</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000116	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	2023–24 Budget - Initiatives	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: We've heard a lot about the \$720 million worth of budget initiatives from this year's budget. Are you able to provide us with a quick overview or a listing of what each of those initiatives are? Or, for time, if you could provide it on notice. Can we get the details now of what the initiatives are, how they've been costed, what their implementation time line is and when they're expected to kick in? Also, for each of those \$720 million worth of initiatives, can you scale it for us so that we can see which of these initiatives will be kicking in in what financial year and how that's going to impact on that gap between the baseline projection and the 2023 projection? It might be easier taking those on notice because I suspect it would take some time to go through.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I was going to say that I think I've taken the committee through the reform for outcomes in the last three sessions. We're very happy to get you the financial details on notice.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: You've gone through them in general, but it would be good now to get the detail of what the initiatives</p>	26	18/03/2024

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				<p>will do, and, from Mr Gifford, what the actuarial assumptions are that have underpinned those savings, because the assumptions, as we went through last time, you haven't got the data that sits behind what assumptions are being made for that. As we move forward—and given it's \$60 billion worth of supposed savings—it would be good now to get some transparency, Mr Gifford, in your actuarial underpinnings of those savings and how they're going to make all that saving. I'm happy for you to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: The minister did release, at the budget last year, the underpinnings and the discussion in relation to how each of those initiatives will be implemented and obviously that is spread out over the forward estimates. Again, we're happy to take that and provide more detail on notice.</p>		
NDIA SQ24-000117	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Community Connections Plans - Correspondence	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Can you provide to the committee correspondence between the agency and LACs about the rollout of community connection plans, particularly in relation to this issue? We're getting so many participant queries about this issue; it would be useful to have something in writing that stepped out exactly what you have communicated to LACs about this specific point.</p> <p>Ms McKay: Certainly, we can give that on notice.</p>	27-28	18/03/2024
NDIA SQ24-000118	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Community Connections Plans - Supports	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: It's clear that there are no supports available for people in their local community, or at best very little available that is outside of the NDIS at the moment. I have heard of people with an autism diagnosis who meet the eligibility criteria who have not only had the yoga suggestion but have also had suggestions that they attempt meditation, which is a novel support—is the nicest way that I can describe it—for an autistic person. I really do mean this quite seriously: in terms of community connection plans produced by LACs, can you identify exactly how many have included yoga or meditation as a form of support?</p>	28	18/03/2024

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				Ms McKenzie: I think we'd have to take that on notice, so we might do that, if that is okay.		
NDIA SQ24-000119	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Australian Government Actuary report - NDIS Expenditure	<p>Senator REYNOLDS: Can I go back to Mr Gifford, please. I'd like to pick out a couple of things in the Australian Government Actuary report.</p> <p>...</p> <p>He talks about additional uncertainties. When we talked last time at additional estimates, we talked about some of the five uncertainties that you deal with as the actuary, so I won't go back over those, but the Australian Government Actuary has now mentioned three that he believes are contributing to the scheme being over the baseline projection and not just the July baseline. He said that there are three main areas of uncertainty in terms of the projections that he's assessed. The first thing is that initiatives are subject to a co-design process that does not yet exist. The second thing is that the funding for the initiatives lasts just for four years, whilst the initiatives are expected to result in lower expenditure in perpetuity. The third key area for uncertainty, he said, is that, as the baseline forecast is used as a base for assessing potential changes, consideration needs to be given to moderating experience already incorporated into the baseline projection. So the board needs to be confident that this moderation will occur before the impact of further actions are assessed. We went through some of the five key areas of uncertainty, Mr Gifford, but have you analysed those three uncertainties, and do you agree with the Australian Government Actuary, or do you think that he's not right?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: In relation to your first comment, your interpretation of his conclusion was that the projection of the scheme is likely to be over the baseline, but he actually makes separate comments around budget assumptions. I have a different interpretation of that comment. I think his comment</p>	29-30	18/03/2024

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				<p>around the baseline projection is comment that relates to baseline projection before allowance of budget initiatives—that's the first thing I would say. His comment around the co-design program of work not having commenced was the comment he made at the point that he wrote the letter. Ms McKenzie could certainly speak in some detail to the co-design process that has taken place over the ensuing months. And so, I think, it is a natural thing that the co-design process had just started when he wrote his letter.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: Thank you for that one. Can you take that on notice and give the committee an update on where that's up to then? I do take the point that this letter was written last year.</p> <p>Mr Gifford: Certainly. You also make the point about the fact that he refers to there only being four years of funding, but that there's savings banked into the forward projections. The fact is that, as you're aware, the budget only includes expenditure for the four-year forward estimate period, but obviously the budget papers also include projected scheme expenditure out to the 10-year period. There's obviously an annual process to come back and get further funding from the government, if required. I think at the time he wrote the letter he could see four years of expenditure, but any processes around future agency resourcing were yet to take place.</p> <p>Senator REYNOLDS: I appreciate that point, thank you. Perhaps the information that Ms Falkingham has taken on notice, the detail of \$720 million worth of initiatives, might fill in that gap of how those savings have been calculated, along with the assumptions that sit under them. Then we've got not just the forward estimates, where the expenditure is, but also how the savings are projected to grow from that. I think that would be very helpful, so we can understand how that's been</p>		
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				calculated. Ms Falkingham: Sure, happy to do that.		
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