

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AGENCY - 2022-23 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES -
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QoN No.	Department/Agency	Senator	Subject	Question	Hansard page/Written	Hearing date/Date received
Ahpra-001	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Malcolm Roberts	Covid-19 notifications: data medical practitioners	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. Or your staff. How many medical practitioners have you formally warned for wrong speech based only on their expressed opinion of COVID, be it COVID itself or related health measures, including COVID injections?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I'm going to have to give you the figure for all registered health practitioners, so I'll have to take on notice for doctors only.</p>	Page 43	16/02/2023
Ahpra-002	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Malcolm Roberts	Have National Boards used own motion powers in relation to Covid-19 notifications	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Let's continue with the other questions. Is it necessary for Ahpra to receive a complaint regarding a medical professional offending your standard of speech from a third party, or is Ahpra monitoring social media and taking it upon yourselves to police the opinions being expressed by medical professionals?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: The vast majority of notifications or complaints that we receive are received from the public or other practitioners. We're not actively surveying social media for-</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: So the vast majority? That means some aren't that way?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I would probably have to take that on notice. There is a power under the national law for a board to take what is called own motion.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: What is 'own motion'?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: That means we don't need a complaint. The board can take an own motion and act. I would probably have to take on notice whether we've done any own motions in relation to COVID-19.</p>	Page 42	16/02/2023

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Ahpra-003	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Malcolm Roberts	Covid-19 notifications data	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you for being here this afternoon. How many medical professionals has Ahpra contacted directly to lay down the law regarding Ahpra's rules around authorised speech in connection with COVID-19?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I have quite a bit of data on our work in the COVID space.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I'm very happy to take it on notice.</p>	Page 42	16/02/2023
Ahpra-004	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Tammy Tyrrell	Data/figures of practitioners accuses of rape or paedophilia who remain practicing or have been reinstated	<p>Senator TYRRELL: Do you have data or figures on practitioners that are accused of rape or paedophilia and that are practising or have been reinstated?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: We've got some data, yes.</p> <p>Senator TYRRELL: Would that be available to us? I understand privacy.</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: We've certainly done our own investigation into a number of the practitioners who have been in the media recently. We would be happy on notice to provide information. We're a bit constrained in some cases in what we can say, but we can certainly provide the public domain information to you.</p>	Page 41	16/02/2023
Ahpra-005	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Tammy Tyrrell	Annual report notifications data and timing (boundary violations)	<p>Senator TYRRELL: Thank you for that clarity. Have all practitioners currently under investigation been stood down pending the findings, or are there some still practising?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: A risk assessment is done at the front end, as I was saying. We call it immediate action. There is a certain threshold we need to meet in terms of being able to take immediate action under the national laws. So for all practitioners, where we have a view that the threshold is being met, we take action. I would make the point, though, that it is an appealable decision. Sometimes what we find is that practitioners will go to a tribunal and</p>	Pages 40-41	16/02/2023

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				<p>appeal or seek to have a stay on the restriction that we've placed on that temporary basis while we're investigating. There are certainly examples where tribunals have diluted, if you like, the restriction that we thought was necessary for patient safety. They might, for example, replace a suspension with a restriction around gender.</p> <p>Senator TYRRELL: Does that get restricted by crossing boundaries, as in states and territories, or is that across the board?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Any restriction that is placed by boards is nationally. If you are suspended, you can't work anywhere in Australia as that practitioner.</p> <p>Senator TYRRELL: Is there a certain period by which investigations must be finalised? From what you've just said, no?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: There's no statutory period within the national law, no.</p> <p>Senator TYRRELL: Is there a period of time that it can be played out in—a month, a year, two years?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I will talk about all of the complaints we deal with. We get about 10,000 complaints a year across the 16 professions of 850,000 registered health profession practitioners. We do a risk assessment of all of those complaints. We have clinical advisers who work with us on those as well. We aim to close those that don't need investigation within three to six months. We're currently closing about 70 per cent of matters in that period. Where we need to investigate, it can and does take longer. It would not be unusual, perhaps, to have a 12-month period and sometimes longer. As I say, they can be very complex matters. They can involve police and coroners where we have to sequence our work with what they are doing. Sometimes we have practitioners who are very</p>		
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				<p>unwell and who can't participate in the process. But we are really conscious of timeframes because it's incredibly stressful for the practitioners involved. It's very stressful for the person raising the concern. One of the areas we've put quite a lot of additional resources in this year is what we call our notifications or complaints team to really try and both reduce caseloads for those people and improve those timelines.</p> <p>Senator TYRRELL: Is there any way that we could get without personal information the data in relation to incidents and the timeframes associated?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Yes. We do publish data like that in our annual report. We would be happy to share that with you, yes.</p>		
Ahpra-006	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Larissa Waters	Criminal history registration standard	<p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. Is it consistent with current Ahpra policy that doctors who have been subject to serious disciplinary action regarding sexual misconduct are able to return to work? What is the threshold for when a doctor can return to practice. Mr Fletcher: The threshold is the criminal history standard, which is applied on a case-by-case basis. I would be happy to share a copy of that standard so the committee can see it.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, please, thank you, if you could table that.</p>	Page 34	16/02/2023
Ahpra-007	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Larissa Waters	900+ boundary violations - how many against practising doctors and what is the average length of an investigation?	<p>Senator WATERS: We spoke earlier about the 900-odd boundary violations. I have here that you are currently investigating 933 sexual misconduct complaints, over 400 of which are against practising doctors. Can you confirm that they are the right figures for me? Along the lines of some earlier questions, what is the average time frame for completing an investigation? I think you said earlier that it was between three and six months when no investigation was required and it could take about 12 months when</p>	Pages 47-48	16/02/2023

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				<p>there was an investigation. Do you have an average length of time that an investigation takes?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Just in terms of the 900 or so matters, I will take that on notice and confirm the breakdown by profession. Essentially, I will again make the point that when we talk about boundary violations, we are talking about a wide range of behaviour. None of it is acceptable. We take all of it seriously. It could, as I say, range from inappropriate texting or inappropriate comments to a patient right through to-</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Right through to criminal behaviour.</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: potentially something that is sexual assault.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: When you do judge that an investigation is required, that is the average time frame for that?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I'm happy to take that on notice and come back to you on that.</p>		
Ahpra-008	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Larissa Waters	Work being undertaken by Ahpra around underreporting of allegations of boundary violations	<p>Mr Fletcher: I think a welcome light has shone on this area much more widely in society, and people are more willing to speak up. What we're also seeing at times is historical allegations, so people are speaking up, and whenever we get media coverage of this. We've certainly had additional reports in the wake of the Four Corners report, for example. We always provide an identified person, which we give to the program so that people can follow-up if they've got a concern. I think that wider whole movement has rightly shone a light on this area.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: It's not so much that the incidents have increased but that the reporting of them has?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: That would be our view. Having said that, though, our view is that there is probably still underreporting going on as well.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Of course.</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: So we've got to work on that area and make</p>	Page 35	16/02/2023

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				<p>it as safe as possible for people to come forward. CHAIR: Senator Waters, I need to share the call around shortly. Senator WATERS: Thank you. Could you please take on notice to let me know what work you will do around underreporting? Mr Fletcher: Certainly.</p>		
Ahpra-009	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Larissa Waters	Trend data in reporting boundary violations	<p>Senator WATERS: Could you on notice, or if you have the figures to hand, let me know what the number of boundary violations has been in, say, the last 10 years? Are you seeing a trend? Is it a trend upwards or just a spike? Mr Fletcher: No. It's a trend upwards. I'll look to see whether we can go back 10 years. I will certainly see how far we can go back and give you a trend in relation to boundary violations.</p>	Page 35	16/02/2023
Ahpra-010	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jacqui Lambie	APS workforce	<p>1. How many ongoing APS employees were employed in the agency between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023? - How many of these are engaged full time? - How many of these are engaged part time? - How many ongoing positions were advertised by the agency in this period? - How many of these advertised positions were filled? - How many of the new ongoing employees transferred in from another agency? - What is the average duration for the recruitment of an ongoing employee (i.e. how long does it take, on average, from approval to fill a position to the filling of the position)? - How many ongoing roles that were offered to prospective employees turned down by the prospective employee?</p>	Written	16/02/2023

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				<p>2. How many non-ongoing employees were employed in the agency between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many of these are engaged full time? - How many of these are engaged part time? - How many non-ongoing positions were advertised by the agency in this period? - How many of these advertised positions were filled? - How many of the new non-ongoing employees transferred in from another agency? - What is the average duration for the recruitment of a non-ongoing employee (i.e. how long does it take, on average, from approval to fill a position to the filling of the position)? - How many non-ongoing roles that were offered to prospective employees turned down by the prospective employee? <p>3. How many labour hire contractors were employed at the agency between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023??</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many of these are engaged full time? - How many of these are engaged part time? - How many labour hire contract positions were advertised by the agency in this period? - How many of these advertised positions were filled? - What is the average duration for the recruitment of a labour hire contractor (i.e. how long does it take, on average, from approval to fill a position to the filling of the position)? - Have any labour hire contractors at the agency been given authority to act as a delegate for the Commonwealth in this period? -- If yes: --- How many and at what level? 		
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				<p>--- What was the nature of the delegations?</p> <p>4. How many non-ongoing contract extensions were granted by the agency between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023? - How many of these were engaged full time? - How many of these were engaged part time?</p> <p>5. How many labour hire contractors were engaged by the agency between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023? - How many of these were engaged full time? - How many of these were engaged part time?</p> <p>6. How many existing labour hire contracts were extended by the agency between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023?</p> <p>7. How many ongoing employees were made redundant from the agency between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023? - How many of these were engaged full time? - How many of these were engaged part time?</p> <p>8. How many ongoing employees resigned from the agency between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023?</p> <p>9. How many ongoing employees were considered excess, or were made redundant from the agency between 1st July 2022 and 17 February 2023?</p> <p>10. How many non-ongoing employees resigned from the agency between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023?</p>		
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				11. How many labour hire contractors resigned from the agency between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023?		
Ahpra-011	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jacqui Lambie	Workplace culture	<p>1. In the period between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023 were there any allegations (either formally or informally reported) of untoward behaviour (E.g. bullying, harassment, discrimination) made against any APS, or labour hire contractors engaged at the agency?</p> <p>- How many of these claims were investigated (formally or informally) and found to have merit?</p> <p>-- How many of the claims were raised with comcare?</p> <p>-- Of those that were deemed to have merit, how many resulted in time away from work for the victim?</p> <p>-- What is the total amount of leave taken, in days, from the agency that are attributable to claims of this nature?</p> <p>- How many of these allegations were investigated and found to have no merit?</p>	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-012	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jacqui Lambie	Workers' compensation	<p>1. How many workers compensation claims were made to the agency, by employees of any nature, between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023?</p> <p>- How many of these claims were successful?</p> <p>-- How many of the successful claims were due to an injury of a physical nature?</p> <p>-- How many of the successful claims were due to an injury of a mental nature (I.e. relating to psychological, or mental health injury)?</p> <p>- How many of these claims were rejected?</p>	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-013	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jacqui Lambie	Unpaid leave	<p>1. How many ongoing, or non-ongoing employees at the agency took unpaid leave between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023?</p> <p>- What is the total number of days of unpaid leave for this same period at the agency.</p>	Written	16/02/2023

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Ahpra-014	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jacqui Lambie	Consultants	<p>1. How many consultants (i.e. not APS, or labour hire contract workers) were working in the agency between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What was the nature of work these consultants performed on behalf of the agency? - Were any consultants used to augment work ordinarily conducted by APS employees. - How much money did the agency spend on consultants between 1 July 2022, and 17 February 2023? <p>2. Have any consultants at the agency been given authority to act as a delegate for the Commonwealth since 1 July 2022?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many and at what level? b. What was the nature of the delegations? 	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-015	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jacqui Lambie	Supply Nation	<p>1. How many procurement activities, since 1 July 2022, have resulted in purchases of goods and / or services from Supply Nation Certified organisations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the total value of all Supply Nation procurements to date for the agency this financial year (2022/23)? - What percentage of the agency's procurements for the 2022/23 financial year to date does the above value represent? - Would the agency please categorise the types of procurements undertaken with Supply Nation businesses for financial year 2022/23? <p>2. Would the agency list all Supply Nation entities it has purchased goods and / or services from this financial year, with a total value for each supplier?</p>	Written	16/02/2023

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Ahpra-016	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jacqui Lambie	Senior Executive Service	<p>1. Please advise the contracted start date for each Senior Executive Service Officer in the agency, plus their contracted end dates.</p> <p>2. Please advise the previous role (the role immediately prior to taking up their current SES role) for each Senior Executive Service officer.</p>	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-017	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Anne Ruston	Podiatric surgeons	<p>1. Does AHPRA agree with the Australian Orthopaedic Association's position that "podiatry surgery is currently an outlier in the field of surgical interventions undertaken on the Australian public"?</p> <p>2. Is AHPRA concerned that the public is at risk from under-qualified podiatric surgeons?</p> <p>3. What action is AHPRA taking to ensure consistency within the healthcare industry in who can call themselves a surgeon?</p>	Written	17/02/2023
Ahpra-018	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Anne Ruston	Cosmetic surgery and 'area of practice'	<p>1. Regarding the public consultation process; given that submissions closed on the 11th Of December 2022, has a summary of stakeholder feedback been released to the public?</p> <p>a. If not, why not?</p> <p>2. In the submissions about AHPRA's plans for an endorsable "Area of Practice" for cosmetic surgery, was there widespread support for the proposed endorsement model?</p> <p>a. Who supported it?</p> <p>b. Who did not support it?</p>	Written	18/02/2023

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				<p>3. Comparing the draft standards for programs in Cosmetic Surgery to the AMC's Specialist standards (published in 2015) for example, section 3.3.1 of Specialist standards that "There is evidence of purposeful curriculum design which demonstrates horizontal and vertical integration and articulation with prior and subsequent phases of training and practice, including continuing professional development". This is absent from the Regulation of medical practitioners who provide cosmetic procedures draft standards, why?</p> <p>4. Noting that AHPRA can place Scope of Practice Restrictions on International Medical Graduates, should a default Scope of Practice Restriction for surgery for cosmetic purposes be established?</p>		
Ahpra-019	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Ministerial briefings	<p>1. 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>2. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs by Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p>	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-020	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Hospitality	<p>1. What is the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? Please provide a copy of the policy.</p>	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-021	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Departmental liaison officers	<p>1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio? Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>2. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices</p>	Written	16/02/2023

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				not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer? Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.		
Ahpra-022	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Meetings with the Minister	1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-023	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals	1. How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-024	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Use of office paper	1. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-025	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Membership on committees and taskforces	1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. 2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership.	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-026	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	2022-23 October Budget measure, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses	1. 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:	Written	16/02/2023

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				<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>		
Ahpra-027	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Functions and official receptions	1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, please provide the following:	Written	16/02/2023

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				<p>a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.</p> <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 to date, can the following please be provided: 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>		
Ahpra-028	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Facility upgrades	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive)?</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? If so, please provide a detailed description of</p>	Written	16/02/2023

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				the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide any photographs of the upgraded facilities.		
Ahpra-029	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Travel	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p>	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-030	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Media monitoring	1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2022/23 to date?	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-031	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Advertising expenditure	1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns with costs.	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-032	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Promotional merchandise expenditure	1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs. Please provide examples of the merchandise purchased.	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-033	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Credit cards	<p>1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff?</p> <p>a. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was it for?</p> <p>b. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p>	Written	16/02/2023

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				<p>c. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>d. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>e. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</p> <p>f. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2022/23 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</p> <p>g. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2022/23 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>h. 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>i. Can a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy please be provided?</p>		
Ahpra-034	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Workers' compensation	<p>1. 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>	Written	16/02/2023

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				<p>b. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims?</p> <p>c. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?</p>		
Ahpra-035	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Matters referred to the Fair Work Commission	<p>1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission?</p> <p>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.</p>	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-036	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Reviews being undertaken	<p>1. 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 name or names of the reviewers;</p> <p>c. the date the review is due to be completed; and</p> <p>d. the purpose of the review.</p>	Written	16/02/2023
Ahpra-037	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Committees and advisory boards	<p>1. 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;</p> <p>b. a list of the membership;</p> <p>c. the date it was established; and</p> <p>d. its purpose.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since May 2022? Please list each one and the date it was created.</p> <p>a. How many new entities (including advisory boards and</p>	Written	16/02/2023

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				agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased or disbanded? Please list each one and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.		
Ahpra-038	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Larissa Waters	Published information about practitioner and notifier experience and performance reporting	<p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. Are there currently any KPIs for dealing with complaints or any proposed?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Yes, there are. We look at KPIs around timeliness. We're very conscious that lengthy timeframes are in themselves very stressful for both the practitioner and the notifier. We also regularly survey practitioners and notifiers and invite them to provide feedback on their experience around things like how well we communicated, whether they felt they understood what was involved in the process and their perceptions of the fairness of the process, if you like. We have published on that. We are very happy to share that if you would like to read it. We also publicly report on a quarterly basis by jurisdiction on some of these performance measures across all of our regulatory work. That is also in registration. Of course, we produce an annual report every year, which includes a lot of data. That is tabled in all of the parliaments in Australia, including the federal parliament.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay</p>	Page 48	16/02/2023
Ahpra-039	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Anne Ruston	Consultation timeframes – MBA telehealth	<p>Mr Fletcher: I will comment, perhaps just going back to the consultation the Medical Board is doing on telehealth. There is a range of views generally supportive of telehealth as a mode of care delivery. Some of the concerns are things like the requirements around not having to consult or see a prescriber before a prescription is given, not getting a relevant medical history and then, to pick up, I think, on your point, prescribing processes that are managed by an algorithm or an AI process as opposed to being undertaken by the prescriber. So there is an element of that in what the Medical Board of Australia is</p>	Page 50	16/02/2023

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				<p>consulting on at the moment around revised guidelines. Senator RUSTON: What is the time frame on that review? Mr Fletcher: It is out for consultation at the moment. I would probably have to come back to you on exactly when. I would have to come back to you on the exact date on that. I don't have it in front of me. Again, it partly depends on what sort of response there is. My understanding is that there has been quite a lot of interest in this. Senator RUSTON: Sure. Mr Fletcher: Yes.</p>		
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