

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AGENCY – 2023–24 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET  
ESTIMATES - INDEX OF QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – 26 OCTOBER 2023**

<b>QoN no.</b>	<b>Department/Agency</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Hansard page/Written</b>	<b>Heating date/Date received</b>
Ahpra-070	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Larissa Waters	Gap in professional indemnity insurance - impact on registration for midwives	<p>Senator WATERS: Just for clarity, you don't think there is an impact on registration from this insurance gap?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Well, as I say, I've only really become aware of this issue in the last 24 hours. That would be my initial view. I'm happy to come back to you with further information once we've had the opportunity to talk to the department more.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you very much. If that's correct—if your initial view is no—that would be a matter of great comfort to many of the midwives and the women and pregnant people using their services. Thank you for taking that on board and further considering it.</p>	63	26/10/2023
Ahpra-071	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Larissa Waters	Gap in professional indemnity insurance - does s.284 exemption apply in intrapartum phase for births intended to be in a hospital	<p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. My clarification is that we're not talking about home birth here. We're talking about births that are anticipated to be in a hospital, ergo they fall outside that home birth exemption, noting that it's a low-risk home birth exemption. My question is whether the exemption applies in that intrapartum phase for</p>	64	26/10/2023

				<p>births intended to be in a hospital.</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I would have to take that on notice to clarify that.</p>		
Ahpra-072	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Anne Ruston	Social media commentary by health practitioners - anti-Semitic	<p>Senator RUSTON: Recently, particularly in the last nearly three weeks, have you had any complaints about antisemitism?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Senator, I'm going to be careful about what I say. I think I'm not in a position to comment about what is happening in the Israel Gaza situation at the moment except to say—</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: I'm not asking you to comment about that. I am asking you to comment on complaints.</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I am aware that there are concerns—I have certainly seen them on social media—being expressed about the conduct of registered health practitioners online in relation to commentary that is occurring. We will certainly look at any concerns raised with us.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Have you had any real concerns raised with you?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Concerns have been raised with us, yes. We will look at that on a case-by-case basis with reference to the code of conduct.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Do you have any capacity to put a quantum around the complaints that you've received to date?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Not off the top of my</p>	66-67	26/10/2023

				<p>head, no.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: But you have had a number?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Well, I'm certainly aware that we've had some, yes. I can get you the number</p>		
Ahpra-073	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Anne Ruston	Social media commentary by health practitioners - have offensive comments been taken down	<p>Senator RUSTON: Have you asked any practitioners who have been the subject of the complaints that you've received to remove any offensive comments or take down any offensive posts offline?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I would have to take that on notice. My understanding is that the concerns we've had have been literally in the last 24 to 48 hours, so it's very early days.</p>	67	26/10/2023
Ahpra-074	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Malcolm Roberts	Covid-19 related notifications - data on suspensions of registration and general themes	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Many doctors in Australia were suspended for commenting on COVID vaccinations. Many of the concerns expressed have now been shown to be evidence-based. Can you please explain Ahpra's actions which deprived Australia of valuable medical manpower at a key juncture when doctors were sorely needed?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I think we have previously advised the committee that there were, in fact, 31 practitioners suspended associated with concerns in relation to COVID-19 and the pandemic. There has been no further use of our IA, or immediate action, powers or suspensions since we last met with the</p>	68	26/10/2023

				<p>committee. There are 15 practitioners who are currently suspended. In nine of those cases, there is an investigation ongoing. In six of those cases, a referral has been made to the tribunal. We make a referral to the tribunal—it is the independent tribunal in each state and territory—where there is a concern about possible professional misconduct. Those tribunal matters are either at a hearing stage or awaiting an outcome. That's the current status of practitioners who have been suspended. Of the ones who are no longer suspended, there have been two where we've completed tribunal proceedings and the tribunal has taken action. In other words, it has upheld the view that there was a finding that required action on the part of the tribunal. Six of those practitioners have either surrendered their registration or moved to a form of non-practising registration. We've closed those matters on the basis that there wasn't a public interest in continuing to pursue those matters. One has surrendered, awaiting a tribunal outcome. Five have had their suspension lifted. Another restriction was imposed by a board. That might be a condition on their registration or an undertaking that they've agreed to accept in relation to certain requirements on their registration</p>		
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				<p>around additional education, training or supervision.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Are we able to get the details of those cases on notice?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I can certainly provide that data to you, yes. We need to be careful not to identify individuals. We can certainly give you some of the general themes in relation to the actions we've taken.</p>		
Ahpra-075	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	David Pocock	Nursing renewals - how many over last two years have not met recency of practice requirements	<p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Can you tell me how many nurses have been reregistered over the past two years and have not met recency requirements?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I would have to take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: I might have to put the other ones on notice, too, then.</p>	69	26/10/2023
Ahpra-076	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	David Pocock	Staffing - how many additional staff have been hired (Regulatory Operations)	<p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: I've got a few more for them—not many. It depends on the length of the answers. How many additional staff have you hired to do that work that you just outlined?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Do you mean particularly in relation to complaints and notifications?</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: You just said that there's a lot more work for you to do so you've hiked the fees.</p> <p>With that hike in fees, I'm interested—</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: For example, our cosmetic surgery enforcement unit has about 18½ staff in it. In the notifications area,</p>	70	26/10/2023

				<p>particularly in the sexual misconduct area, we've increased the number of investigators by around 10. We've also, as I said, made increases to our registration teams.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Maybe on notice you could give us the increase across there.</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Sure.</p>		
Ahpra-077	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	David Pocock	Notifications data	<p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: I'll put a couple of other questions on notice. This is a final question. Can you give me the average time taken to process notifications made to Ahpra for medical professionals?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Senator, I can perhaps give the data to you in terms of our current open notifications. We've got about 4½ thousand notifications across all professions, not just medicine.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Sure. I'm more interested in the time to process those notifications.</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: What I was going to say to you was about 50 to 51½ per cent of them have been open under three months. Another 14 per cent is under six months. Another 7.8 per cent is under nine months. Another five per cent is under 12 months. In total, about 80 per cent are currently open.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: What was the 12-month figure? Sorry, I missed that.</p>	70-71	26/10/2023

				<p>Mr Fletcher: The number currently open is about 80 per cent in total.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: What was the 12-month figure? Sorry, I missed that one.</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: So 4.8 per cent are nine to 12 months with us at the moment.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Can you quantify that?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: That's—</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: That's 4½ per cent of what was the total that are currently open?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I've got the numbers here. I'll give it to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Yes, sure.</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I can just set out the total and how we've done the percentages. One issue that we have flagged previously in this committee is that we're very focused on timeliness. We recognise how stressful it can be when an investigation process around a notification is protracted. We do everything we can to avoid that. One of the issues, though, is that with more serious matters, we are required to refer them to tribunals in each of the states and territories. That can also add to the timeframes. We have no control over those timeframes within each of those state and territory tribunals.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: So the 12-</p>		
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				<p>month ones, is that—</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: The ones I was talking about are the ones open with us at the moment. I can provide the data on the matters that we've closed by how long it took us to close them. I can also show you those ones that are within the tribunal system as well.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Sure. If possible, just on notice maybe, the trend over the last five years and how that is tracking.</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I'll look to give you a trend. It may not be five years, but I'll see what I can do beyond one year. It might be more like three years.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: It would be great to go pre-pandemic if you can, please.</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Okay.</p>		
Ahpra-078	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Alexander Antic	Medical practitioner - suspensions as at 1 October 2023	<p>1. Could AHPRA please provide details on the number of medical practitioners currently suspended under Section 156 of the National Law (as of 1 October 2023).</p> <p>2. For each practitioner, please provide the reason for suspension and duration of suspension to date.</p>	Written	26/10/2023
Ahpra-079	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Linda Reynolds	IQNM candidates and streaming decisions and timelines	1. What percentage of IQNM candidates receive their stream assessment decision immediately on registering with AHPRA and uploading their portfolio?	Written	26/10/2023

				<p>2. What is the criteria built into the AHPRA IT system that enables an immediate stream assessment to be given?</p> <p>3. Is AHPRA investing further into its systems to enable more immediate stream assessment decisions to be made?</p> <p>4. What is the criteria used by AHPRA for determining that a portfolio must be assessed by an AHPRA employee?</p> <p>5. What are the criteria used by an AHPRA employee to determine a:</p> <p>A. Stream A decision?</p> <p>B. Stream B decision?</p> <p>C. Stream C decision?</p> <p>6. Does AHPRA have an internal deadline in which stream assessment decisions must be made?</p> <p>7. Can you please provide supporting internal checklist sheets that are used for portfolio assessments.</p> <p>A. What is the timeframe for stream assessment decisions currently?</p> <p>B. As at 30 September 2023?</p> <p>C. As at 30 March 2023?</p> <p>D. As at 31 August 2022?</p>		
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				<p>8. Is AHPRA benchmarking itself against other international equivalents (e.g., UK, USA, Ireland, Canada, EU and New Zealand) for timeliness of assessment decisions?</p> <p>a. If no, in a globally competitive market for nurses, why is it not benchmarking?</p> <p>b. If yes, please provide for benchmarking details being undertaken.</p> <p>9. Does AHPRA provide a point of contact to an IQNM immediately on registration?</p> <p>a. If not, why not?</p> <p>b. If yes, please provide the details?</p> <p>10. Is AHPRA working to streamline its assessment processes to enable more timely decision and registration outcomes?</p> <p>11. Is AHPRA building a publicly available international list of Stream A degrees, like the World Federation of Occupational Therapists has, to facilitate ease of assessment decision making?</p> <p>A. If not, what is the rationale behind that?</p>		
Ahpra-080	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Linda Reynolds	IQNM assessment of nursing qualifications	12. Does AHPRA regard nursing as “sufficiently different” to occupational therapy therefore nursing qualifications	Written	26/10/2023

			in comparison to occupational therapy	cannot be assessed in the same way that occupational therapy can be?  A. If so, on what objective basis has this determination been made?		
Ahpra-081	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Linda Reynolds	IQNMs - Ahpra staffing for assessments and registration work	13. How many staff does AHPRA employ/contract to perform IQNM assessments and registration work?  14. Is that number sufficient to manage workload? 15. If AHPRA needs more staff, what strategies does AHPRA have in place to obtain them?  16. What is the timeframe AHPRA has in place to have secured them?	Written	26/10/2023
Ahpra-082	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Linda Reynolds	IQNMs - transparency of processes and timeframes	17. What strategies has AHPRA implemented to provide full transparency of its processes and timeframes to IQNM candidates?  18. If AHPRA does not provide full transparency, what is the policy rationale behind that?  19. Does AHPRA assign a case manager for an IQNM as soon as they register with AHPRA?  A. If not, why not?	Written	26/10/2023

Ahpra-083	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Nick McKim	Commission of Inquiry into Tasmanian Government's responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings	<p>1. Regarding the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings (the Commission) that reported to the Governor of Tasmania on 31 August 2023:</p> <p>a. How many referrals have been made by the Commission to AHPRA in respect of concerns regarding health practitioners?</p> <p>i. How many referrals/health practitioners are being actively investigated?</p> <p>b. What is the procedure for public awareness of investigation in respect of health practitioners (i.e., is a referral reflected on the practitioner's publicly accessible record of registration)?</p> <p>c. What legal barriers exist that might prohibit AHPRA from investigating Tasmanian health practitioners, in the context of the Commission?</p> <p>i. If legal barriers exist, how long has AHPRA been aware of them?</p> <p>ii. Where has AHPRA sourced advice on legal barriers from?</p> <p>d. Was the view of the Tasmanian Government sought in respect to legal advice provided to the Commissions of Inquiry Act?</p> <p>i. If so, what response did the Tasmanian Government give?</p> <p>ii. Can AHPRA table any legal advice it</p>	Written	26/10/2023
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				<p>received in writing?</p> <p>e. AHPRA announced the MOU in a media release on 25th September 2023; the Tasmanian Government announced entering into the MOU on 28th September 2023. What explanation, if any, did the Tasmanian Government provide AHPRA regarding the difference of timing for the public release of the MOU?</p> <p>f. Who precipitated the MOU and when was this first discussed?</p> <p>i. What were the original reasons for developing the MOU?</p> <p>ii. Does the MOU resolve any legal barriers that may exist?</p> <p>g. Is AHPRA in any way constrained in its ability to undertake independent investigations into victim-survivor allegations raised with them in response to the Commission of Inquiry?</p> <p>i. How does AHPRA manage investigating victim-survivor allegations in the context of the common feedback that victim-survivors are compelled to repeat their story multiple times to multiple agencies?</p> <p>ii. Has AHPRA made any investigation into how this predicament for victim-survivors might be remedied?</p> <p>h. Does AHPRA have the power to compel documentation from state agencies if a member of the public, such</p>		
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				<p>as a victim-survivor, makes a complaint?</p> <p>i. If not, how can a complaint by a member of the public, who might not be privy to internal communication of the medical practitioners' employer such as emails, internal documents etc, be investigated effectively?</p> <p>i. The Commission recorded witness testimony that medical staff, including nurses, at Launceston General Hospital, including those on Ward 4, were unaware that they could independently make reports to AHPRA. Please explain what guidance is provided to registered health practitioners and students about engaging with AHPRA.</p>		
Ahpra-084	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Ministerial briefs - minimum turnaround	<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>1. the previous turnaround</p>	Written	26/10/2023

				requirement; and 2. the date the change was requested.		
Ahpra-085	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	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	26/10/2023
Ahpra-086	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Departmental liaison officers and other staff provided to Ministers office	<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 May 2023</p> <p>4. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?</p>	Written	26/10/2023

				<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. Please denote any change in this allocation since May 2023.</p>		
Ahpra-087	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Meetings and briefings with the Minister/s	<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> <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</p>	Written	26/10/2023

				for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.		
Ahpra-088	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	New policy proposals	8. How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 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	26/10/2023
Ahpra-089	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Use of office paper	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	26/10/2023
Ahpra-090	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Membership on 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 May 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 May 2023	Written	26/10/2023
Ahpra-091	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	2022-23 October Budget measure, Savings from External Labour, and	12. In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.	Written	26/10/2023

			<p>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"> <li>i. External labour hire</li> <li>ii. Consultancy</li> <li>iii. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>iv. Travel</li> <li>v. Legal expenses</li> </ul> <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"> <li>i. External labour hire</li> <li>ii. Consultancy</li> <li>iii. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>iv. Travel</li> <li>v. Legal expenses</li> </ul>		
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				<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? If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
Ahpra-092	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Functions and official receptions	<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> <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> <p>a. List of functions;</p>	Written	26/10/2023

				<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>		
Ahpra-093	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Facility 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> <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 inclusive). Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	Written	26/10/2023

Ahpra-094	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Travel	<p>16. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency deputy 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. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities</p> <p>19. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	Written	26/10/2023
Ahpra-095	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Media monitoring	<p>20. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	Written	26/10/2023
Ahpra-096	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Advertising expenditure / market research	<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> <p>33. Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation</p>	Written	26/10/2023

				to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.		
Ahpra-097	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Promotional merchandise	22. 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	26/10/2023
Ahpra-098	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	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	Written	26/10/2023

				<p>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 2023/24 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</p>		
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				policy that have been made since February 2023		
Ahpra-099	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Workers' compensation (Comcare)	24. In relation to department/agency: a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare b. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. c. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? d. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?	Written	26/10/2023
Ahpra-100	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Matters referred to Fair Work Commission	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	26/10/2023
Ahpra-101	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Reviews agency is / has undertaken	26. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide:	Written	26/10/2023

				<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 to date; and  g. the date the review is due to be completed.</p> <p>27. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide</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>		
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Ahpra-102	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Committees and advisory boards	<p>28. 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>29. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created</p> <p>30. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased or disbanded since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	26/10/2023
Ahpra-103	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Request for data or information separated out by electorate	<p>31. 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?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a</p>	Written	26/10/2023

				<p>response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>a. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>		
Ahpra-104	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	ASL	<p>32. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <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>The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written	26/10/2023
Ahpra-105	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information requests	<p>34. 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</p>	Written	26/10/2023

				<p>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>35. 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,</p> <p>b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided;</p> <p>c. the number of applications refused; and</p> <p>d.. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.</p>		
Ahpra-106	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Estimates variations and forward estimates	<p>36. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</p> <p>37. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of</p>	Written	26/10/2023

				funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.		
Ahpra-107	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Flexible work arrangements	<p>38.</p> <p>a. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home?</p> <p>b. 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>c. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>d. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p>	Written	26/10/2023
Ahpra-108	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	ChatGPT	<p>39. 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</p>	Written	26/10/2023

				department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.		
Ahpra-109	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Jane Hume	Voice referendum - Office of the Minister	<p>40. It was reported in the The Age and Sydney Morning Herald by journalists Richard Baker, Nick McKenzie and Hannah Bowers that Mr Richard Pratt said that he had donated \$1 million to the Voice referendum's Yes campaign because he had fielded a request to do so from a senior adviser to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.</p> <p>a. Have any personal staff in the Office of the Minister solicited or encouraged donations to the YES Campaign prior to or during the course of the referendum campaign?</p> <p>b. Have any personal staff in the Office of the Minister solicited or encouraged donations to the YES Campaign on the basis of policy decisions?</p>	Written	26/10/2023
Ahpra-110	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	David Pocock	Nursing - recency of practice (RoP) requirements	<p>1. During Covid, the recency of practice requirements were relaxed in recognition that many nurses, who may have been working in a private hospital, were not able to work. Given recency requirements for nurses is calculated over a five year period, why was a decision taken not to grandfather these Covid measures such that person would not be penalised for missing hours due to Covid shutdowns?</p> <p>2. How many nurses that have been re-registered over the past two years did</p>	Written	26/10/2023

				<p>not meet recency of practice requirements at the time of their application?</p> <p>3. How many nurses have been re-registered over the past two years with restrictions on their practice?</p> <p>4. How does the Nursing &amp; Midwifery Board go about selecting restrictions to add to someone's practice if they have not met their recency requirements? Is there a standard set of restrictions that are proposed or an individual's circumstances considered in each case?</p> <p>5. In a case I am aware of, it was proposed that an EN who did not meet their recency requirements undertake 450 hours of practice in 12 months, which is far more than a student EN. What is the rationale for asking any person to undertake more hours of work to maintain registration than would otherwise be required if that person was a student?</p> <p>6. A supervised practice plan is an intensive requirement, given some organisations may not be willing to support such a plan. What is the threshold for the Nursing and Midwifery Board to propose a supervised practice plan? Are these defined in any guidance notes or policies that the Board or AHPRA maintains?</p>	
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Ahpra-111	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency	Malcolm Roberts	Medical practitioners	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you for being here. Ahpra has made many unjustifiable decisions against doctors and other allied health professionals. Many doctors have told us this. What proportion of Ahpra members are practising doctors? Why is there such a lack of medical input into Ahpra's investigations of doctors?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: Thank you, Senator. There are about 130,000 registered medical practitioners in Australia. I can give you the exact number on notice. It is roughly that figure.</p>	67	26/10/2023
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