

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO - 2023-24 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES - INDEX OF QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – 25 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>Hearing date/Date received</b>
AIFS SQ23-000810	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Maria Kovacic	Contracts	<p>1. For DSS and agencies, what is 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>a) External labour hire  b) Consultancy  c) Advertising campaigns  d) Travel  e) Legal expenses</p> <p>2. What is the breakdown of the value of contracts relating to the following areas:</p> <p>a) External labour hire  b) Consultancy  c) Advertising campaigns  d) Travel  e) Legal expenses</p>	Written	2/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000814	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Ministers 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?  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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000815	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>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<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>		
AIFS SQ23-000818	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Ministers Office meetings	<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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000819	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Briefs to the Minister Office	<p>7. a) How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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	3/11/2023

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AIFS SQ23-000820	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals to the Ministers Office	<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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000821	Australian Institute of Family Studies	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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000822	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Commonwealth inter-departmental committees	<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 May 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 May 2023.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000823	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Budget Savings	<p>12. In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <p>a) What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate?</p> <p>b) Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut:</p> <p>i) External labour hire</p> <p>ii) Consultancy</p> <p>iii) Advertising campaigns</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>iv) Travel v) Legal expenses c) Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? d) Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? e) Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: i) External labour hire ii) Consultancy iii) Advertising campaigns iv) Travel v) Legal expenses f) Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts. g) Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target? h) Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target? i) If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
AIFS SQ23-000824	Australian Institute of Family Studies	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: a) List of functions; b) List of attendees; c) Function venue;</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>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>		
AIFS SQ23-000825	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:  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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000826	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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000827	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Staff 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.</p> <p>19. What was the total cost of staff travel for</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?		
AIFS SQ23-000828	Australian Institute of Family Studies	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 inclusive).</p> <p>Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000829	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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000830	Australian Institute of Family Studies	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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000831	Australian Institute of Family Studies	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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000832	Australian Institute of Family Studies	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</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>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 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>		
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AIFS SQ23-000833	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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000834	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Fair Work Commission Referrals	<p>25. In relation to the department/agency:</p> <p>a) In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission?</p> <p>b) Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000835	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Departmental reviews	<p>26. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <p>a) the name of the review;</p> <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>	Written	3/11/2023



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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) the date the review was provided to the Department;  j) the date the review was provided to the Minister; and  k) the date the review was provided to the Minister’s office.</p>		
AIFS SQ23-000836	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Interdepartmental Committees	<p>28. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:  a) the name of the interdepartmental committee;  b) a list of the membership;  c) the date it was established; and  d) its purpose.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000837	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	New entities	<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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000838	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Data Requests	<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?  a) Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided,</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				and the context of the request if provided. b) Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.		
AIFS SQ23-000839	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Staffing levels	32. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023. 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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000840	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Market Research	33. Has the department/agency provided any Minister’s office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.	Written	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000841	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	FOI Applications	34. 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	Written	3/11/2023

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				i) the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.		
AIFS SQ23-000842	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	FOI Applications for Ministers Office	35. 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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000843	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Estimate Variations	36. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.	Written	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000844	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Funds movement	37. 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	3/11/2023
AIFS SQ23-000845	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	Flexible Working Arrangements	38. 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?	Written	3/11/2023

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				d) Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.		
AIFS SQ23-000846	Australian Institute of Family Studies	Jane Hume	ChatGPT	39. 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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000720	Department of Social Services	Hollie Hughes	National Autism Strategy	Ms Shannon: Mr Mansfield has talked about the oversight council at the top level of the governance process that's here. There are also four working groups that are doing a range of activities that are feeding into the thinking of the oversight council and informing the work the department's doing. For example, there is a working group on social inclusion with 21 members. There's an economic inclusion working group. There's a working group that's looking at diagnosis, supports and services. And there's also a health and mental health working group, which is being managed out of the Department of Health and Aged Care. I'd be very surprised if there weren't parents or family members of autistic people represented on those working groups. Senator HUGHES: Are those working groups and the people on them—the people on the oversight council and the people on the working groups—public information? Mr Mansfield: The information about the oversight council is available on the department's website. The working groups information is also there. I don't think it goes down to the names of people in relation to the working groups. Senator HUGHES: Communities know each other well within communities, and viewpoints are held. And particularly in autism—I think Senator Steele-John could reiterate this since he was on the committee with me—there are very diverse	83-84	25/10/2023

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				views in the autism community. And we in the community, most of us, know which voice sits where, and I think the community would be really interested to know where the weight is of those. Can you take it on notice, because I would really like to see the list of who is on it—actual names.		
DSS SQ23-000721	Department of Social Services	Hollie Hughes	National Autism Strategy	<p>Senator HUGHES: [...] With the 1,180 consultations that have occurred, do we have a breakdown of each number of those groups you just read through? I'm happy for you to take it on notice, or table it. I'm assuming, when you say 'autistic young people' we're not talking three-year-olds. I assume we're bringing families in. So the kids might not have complex needs, but the kids don't talk yet.</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: Families are directly involved. We'll take on notice the detail of your question.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Yes, how many are autistic adults. How many are autistic young people. How many are complex needs. How many are families and carers. And it would be helpful to know if the families and carers who were interviewed were autistic parents or not—and I'm sure they would have told you in the interview.</p> <p>Ms Shannon: We'll need to take that on notice. Obviously, as Mr Mansfield said, there are a number of elements to this consultation, and some cases we may have collected more detailed information about the participants, in other cases we may not have that information.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: That's okay, but if you divide it into groups and you've got so many responses, I'm sure you'd know how many responses in what groups you've had. If you want to make sure it's reflective of the whole community, you'd be trying to make sure you've covered off all of those bases.</p> <p>Ms Shannon: And, indeed, we're trying to do that.</p>	84	25/10/2023
DSS SQ23-000722	Department of Social Services	Jordon Steele-John	Commonwealth Disability Royal	Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you, Mr Mansfield. With the greatest of respect, though, you've just outlined a scope of	87	25/10/2023

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			Commission Taskforce	<p>work for the taskforce. Mr Mansfield: Yes. Senator STEELE-JOHN: There must therefore be a written document of some form that outlines the scope of work of the taskforce. Whether it is called 'terms of reference', it— Mr Mansfield: We can provide that to you on notice. [...] Senator STEELE-JOHN: So that was provided during the budget process. It is called the taskforce overview. Is the taskforce overview a publicly available document? Mr Mansfield: Not at this stage. We've got some information on the Department of Social Services website. We don't have a description that fits what you have described, but we can make one available. Ms Shannon: In the broad, the role, the scope and the function of the taskforce were part of Minister Rishworth's statements on the day that the government tabled the report in parliament—the minister spoke shortly after. It is on the public record as part of her speaking points. I appreciate that it's important that there's transparency about— Senator STEELE-JOHN: It is very important. Ms Shannon: what the taskforce has been set up to do, and the department's very happy to make sure that there is information that describes that and provide that to you. I'm sure we could augment what public information is available—for example, on our website or the like.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000723	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Advocacy Supports for the Disability Royal Commission	<p>Mr Griggs: While Mr Mansfield said that the reconciliation won't be available till next year, the amount that was allocated to the royal commission over its entire life was \$599.3 million. Senator KOVACIC: That relates to my next question regarding some detail around the supports provided and administered by DSS to those who contributed to the royal commission.</p>	88	25/10/2023

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				<p>You've spoken about the \$102.9 million in advocacy and counselling and the \$13.9 million in management. Could you give us a bit of detail about that and the level of take-up of these supports by contributors?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: I will have to come back on notice in relation to the specific take-up of that, but I can explain the nature of the supports that have been provided.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000724	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Commonwealth Disability Royal Commission Taskforce	<p>Senator KOVACIC: Are you able to provide for us on notice details of the composition—the agencies, departments and band levels of public servants involved in that taskforce?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: Yes, we can.</p>	89	25/10/2023
DSS SQ23-000725	Department of Social Services	Jordon Steele-John	Commonwealth Disability Royal Commission Taskforce	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Okay. Across the 14 intended members, we have a list of portfolios: Health, Education, Attorney-General's, the NDIS and the National Indigenous Australians Agency. There's also involvement from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury and the Department of Finance. Now we've clarified that there will be the Department of Social Services, obviously. Are there any other agencies that will be represented on the taskforce?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: The working group that goes across government involves something like 16 different departments and agencies, so effectively any department or agency that has responsibility in relation to any of the recommendations is represented in governance arrangements that support the work of the taskforce. We can provide a list if you wish.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: If you could provide a list, that would be great.</p>	91-92	25/10/2023
DSS SQ23-000726	Department of Social Services	Jordon Steele-John	Commonwealth Disability Royal Commission Taskforce	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Can you table the list of various other working groups that have been established by the taskforce?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: Yes. We can provide that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: We'll provide the whole governance architecture.</p>	92	25/10/2023
DSS SQ23-000727	Department of Social Services	Jordon Steele-John	Commonwealth Disability Royal	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: In the advice that was given by the department to the government in the lead-up to the budget</p>	92	25/10/2023

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			Commission Taskforce	<p>process did you make a recommendation as to whether the lead of the taskforce should be a disabled person? Given your position, Mr Mansfield, I might ask this of Mr Griggs if that's more appropriate. I'm not asking anybody to identify anything. I just want to know if that was a recommendation that was made.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: I'd have to take that on notice because I think I was overseas when that advice was provided.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000728	Department of Social Services	Jordon Steele-John	Commonwealth Disability Royal Commission Taskforce	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: One of the groups that hasn't been mentioned here is the Quality and Safeguards Commission. How are they represented in the taskforce?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: They're absolutely on the working group. There are two working groups: one whole-of-government one and one that's relating to our portfolio. They're on both of those.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Can you table for us the full list of invitees to hold positions on the taskforce?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: We can take that on notice.</p>	92	25/10/2023
DSS SQ23-000729	Department of Social Services	Jordon Steele-John	Commonwealth Disability Royal Commission Taskforce	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Can you confirm whether all individuals appointed to the taskforce have undertaken disability awareness training?</p> <p>Mr Mansfield: We'll take that on notice.</p>	92	25/10/2023
DSS SQ23-000730	Department of Social Services	Hollie Hughes	Open employment	<p>Senator HUGHES: I hopefully will be super quick. I really just want to talk about IR legislation and reforms that are being proposed, like the 'same job, same pay' and 'closing the loopholes' bills. I want to confirm that DSS has been part of discussions around this to ensure that people with a disability aren't unfairly impacted. We've got very little detail. We're working around things. I'll give you an example, and you can tell me whether or not this has crossed your radar. Quite often we know of people who work as cleaners. They have a disability. They work at a slower rate than someone without a disability. They have a negotiated position with an employer. Are they excluded from this legislation? Have you had</p>	93	25/10/2023



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				<p>conversations to make sure that they are excluded from this legislation? If company X has to pay person A with a disability and person B without a disability the same amount under this legislation, they could be unfairly impacted. Has this come under consideration or discussion? Will you confirm that people with a disability who negotiate their own rates of pay will not be impacted by this?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I believe the piece of legislation is the legislation being led out of the employment and workplace relations portfolio. My understanding is that our primary engagement with the policy intent of this legislation is around the way that it proposes to regulate platform workers and gig workers.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Mable's a very big concern, obviously. In a thin market, we're going to thin it out further.</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I appreciate the concern you're raising, but I think that—</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: It's just that no-one seems to be able to rule this out.</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I think that it really goes to people who are engaged as independent contractors.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: I'm talking about people with a disability who work for company X. If they're an employee, but they're not a full-time employee—they do casual or part-time work—and they've got a negotiated rate of pay because they take a bit longer than someone else without a disability, are they going to be impacted here?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I would need to seek—</p> <p>Senator Ayres: I'm very happy for the officials to come back on this. I think I understand the question that you're asking, which is—</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: There's no ill intent. I just want to make sure they're not impacted.</p> <p>Senator Ayres: does the bill have an impact in terms of</p>		
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				<p>supporting employment arrangements around the place? As I understand it—</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: It's not about independent contractors; it's special employment conditions that people negotiate, business to individual.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: In open employment?</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: In open employment.</p> <p>Senator Ayres: As I understand it, the answer is no, but I will seek further advice. I think I understand what it is that you're asking. If we can come back to you with—</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: I'm very happy for you to come back. Sometimes we have unintended consequences, and I just want to make sure that we don't end up impacting—</p> <p>Senator Ayres: I understand the question that you're asking. I'm very confident that I know the answer, but I'm going to seek some advice. If we can come back over the course of this evening, we will. If we have to come back on notice, we'll also do that.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000731	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Fraud cases	<p>Senator KOVACIC: How many fraud cases are before the courts?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: Without being specific around those that relate to DES related matters because there could be some sensitivities around fraud, I can advise we have about nine active fraud investigations. There are two before the courts and two briefs of evidence with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: For the 2022-23 financial year, are you able to let us know how many investigations resulted in a guilty outcome?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: I would have to take the specific question on notice, and I might be able to come back to you later this evening. I don't have the detail in front of me.</p>	95	25/10/2023

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DSS SQ23-000732	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Work for the Dole	<p>Senator RICE: I'm pleased to hear you are working to expunge—your term—the word 'welfare', but I do want to go to the name of the Work for the Dole program and whether you are looking at changing that name.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: Technically it's more a matter for our colleagues at the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations because it is essentially a part of the mutual obligations framework and they are primarily responsible for the implementation of that, including arrangements around programs like Work for the Dole.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Are they talking to ACOSS? You're working cross government, we were just told, on the implementation of the royal commission.</p> <p>Mr Flavel: No, what I said was we can look at the things we are responsible for in the department. Obviously, Services Australia can talk to how they're implementing that recommendation. It was primarily, in the words you read out, aimed at them. But we take it as read that it equally applies to us. I'm happy to take on notice the extent to which there have been conversations with other departments about it.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Perhaps after you've finished doing your review, if you feel that 'dole' is a word that carries a stigma, you might consider whether you would make representations to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations not to be using that term any longer.</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I'm happy to take that on notice and to speak to that department</p>	96-97	25/10/2023
DSS SQ23-000733	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Language and Culture - First Nations Communities	<p>Senator RICE: In particular, when you're looking at reviews to identify language and conduct that reinforces stigma and shame, are you paying particular regard to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: Yes, we always in all of our programs and reviews take that into account.</p>	97	25/10/2023

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				<p>Senator RICE: Is there anything specific you are doing in terms of that review?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: Not at this stage. I would make the point that the government has yet to formally respond to the robodebt royal commission. Again, we can do things on our own, but a more systemwide approach to dealing with that, including the particular issue, I think will be taken into account down the track.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: It does get picked up on our portfolio response to priority reform 3, transforming government institutions, under Closing the Gap. We have about 79 or 80 different activities going on. A lot of that is around cultural safety, and I personally think of language use and particular words as an important part of cultural safety.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Perhaps you could take on notice if there's anything you are doing specifically to look at language and culture with regard to First Nations communities through that work.</p> <p>Mr Flavel: Yes.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000734	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Department of Social Services Annual Report	<p>Senator KOVACIC: When was the annual report released last year?</p> <p>Mr Griggs: I would have to take that on notice. [...]</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Was a draft copy of the department's annual report provided to the minister's office for clearance?</p> <p>Mr Griggs: As it always is.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Could you say when that was provided to the minister's office?</p> <p>Mr Griggs: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Thank you. Could you also take on notice, I'm assuming subsequently so, how long the draft report was with the minister's office before it was returned to the department?</p>	99-100	25/10/2023

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				<p>Mr Griggs: I will take that on notice.          Senator KOVACIC: Thank you. Did the minister or the minister's office give any direction to the department as to when the annual report should be released?          Mr Griggs: Not to my knowledge.          Senator KOVACIC: Could you confirm that for me on notice?          Mr Griggs: I will take that on notice.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000735	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Timeliness of Ministerial Briefs and Correspondence	<p>Senator KOVACIC: Why was the performance target at least 95 per cent of ministerial briefs and correspondence across the four outcomes provided in time not met.          Mr Hetherington: That's the one I just described before. The primary reason for that is following the election and changeover of government lots of correspondence was received early on in that period and we hadn't yet stabilised processes for responding to that correspondence. That was a big driver of our inability to meet that target.          Senator KOVACIC: You did mention that. I am mostly curious because it was such a big variance, 71 per cent, so that's 24 per cent off target.          Mr Hetherington: I will acknowledge now that some of those are own goals. Somewhere the department has set a time frame on a brief and then not met its own time frame. There are some examples of that.          Senator KOVACIC: Would you be able to provide on notice for us which briefs were not provided on time?          Mr Hetherington: In support of this I could probably take a look at aggregate numbers for you, but it would be a pretty extensive piece of work to go back and look through all of the briefs. I will see what I can do in terms of some aggregate numbers.</p>	101	25/10/2023
DSS SQ23-000736	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Taxable income support payments	<p>Senator RICE: .... My last question is about the issue of the tax-free threshold and the JobSeeker payment. Income support recipients and advocates have contacted me concerned that</p>	106	25/10/2023

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				<p>in the next financial year people whose only income is JobSeeker would likely incur a debt from the ATO because JobSeeker is going to go above the threshold. Is this issue being discussed with government and with the ATO?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I haven't actually seen any correspondence or that issue raised.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So it's not something that you're looking at at the moment?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: No, and none of the stakeholders we deal with—I won't name them—have raised that particular issue.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes, can you take it on notice and look into it, because it's a big concern that people are going to end up with a debt because they're not going to be having tax taken out throughout the year. I understand that the DSP is not taxable but the JobSeeker payment is. Why is that the case?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: This is all set out in legislation. I think that it has to do with the fact that one's an allowance and the other one's a pension.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Does that make any difference, really?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I might take it on notice. There's a history to the way in which tax is applied to various payments and allowances through the system. It might be better to do that on notice in a systematic way.</p> <p>Senator RICE: If you could take that issue on notice, please.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000737	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Paid Parental Leave and the Women's Economic Equality Taskforce	<p>Senator KOVACIC: My questions are about the Women's Economic Equality Taskforce and paid parental leave. On the Women's Economic Equality Taskforce, I'm just happy for some brief answers or for them to be taken on notice. How many times has the department met with the Women's Economic Equality Taskforce?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I'll take it on notice, but I can think of at least two or three occasions on which the department was asked to provide briefings on paid parental leave.</p>	106	25/10/2023

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DSS SQ23-000738	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Paid Parental Leave	<p>Senator KOVACIC: Since the Commonwealth government's Paid Parental Leave scheme commenced, how many Australians have accessed the scheme?</p> <p>Mr Flavel: I'll have to take that on notice. I can tell you how many in the last financial year. What I don't have is the cumulative total since 2011, when the scheme was introduced.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: What was the figure for the last financial year? I'm happy for you to take the other on notice. If, on notice, you could give us a breakdown per year since inception, that would be wonderful.</p> <p>Mr Flavel: We can do that.</p>	106	25/10/2023
DSS SQ23-000739	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Income Management Consultation	<p>Senator Rice ... I understand agencies in Shepparton sent a letter to the government requesting to be consulted about the move to enhanced income management. Have any agencies been consulted and, if so, who?</p> <p>Mr Burford: Are you talking about those to move over to enhanced income management?</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Burford: I'll just confirm whether we have spoken to people in Shepparton. I do believe so, but I might have to take it on notice to find more specifics there. Since this change, that option came in on 4 September. That's been an option. Obviously, the largest number of people on income management are in the Northern Territory, but there are other locations. Communication products have been out through all those communities to provide advice about what it means and the process to go through to ask to be moved over to enhanced income management.</p> <p>Senator RICE: I've been told that the letter that was written to government was from Berry Street, Bridge Youth Service, FamilyCare, Primary Care Connect and Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative and that they sent you the letter over a year ago,</p>	108-109	25/10/2023

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				<p>in August 2022.</p> <p>Mr Burford: I'll have to take that on notice, but it would be important for us to know if somebody is reaching out for information and we haven't able to get in touch with them. So I'll take that on notice to find out.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000740	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Income Management Consultation	<p>Senator RICE: In general, where is consultation at with the rollout of enhanced income management?</p> <p>Mr Burford: The rollout of enhanced income management has been in place since 4 September—the option for people to move over. Before that we had staff on the ground, working with a range of communities through digital and radio, translating into language, providing advice and working with our colleagues in the National Indigenous Australians Agency and other service providers out in place to provide advice about what the change would be and information. Ms Toze, if she's still there, might be able to share a bit about the outbound calls from Services Australia to provide advice to existing clients.</p> <p>Ms Toze: Services Australia is part of the transition from income management to enhanced income management. We are making some outbound calls to customers to advise them of the supports and services available to them. Most often, though, people have a choice on the transfer—on moving from income management or the BasicsCard to the SmartCard. Most often, our remote servicing teams or our Indigenous service officers in communities et cetera are talking to people and providing information and the choice. As well, in our face-to-face service centres, when people come in and we identify that they are on enhanced income management, we'll provide them the opportunity and the choice about whether they want to make a move over to enhanced income management and the more contemporary card.</p>	109	25/10/2023



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				<p>Senator RICE: Could you—</p> <p>Mr Burford: I'm sorry, Senator. I've got a table of the specific dates of the communication efforts and processes that have got underway. It might take a while to read through. I'm happy to take it on notice, if you'd like?</p> <p>Senator RICE: Take it on notice, yes, and can you also take on notice any of the data about how many people are choosing and not choosing to transfer?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000741	Department of Social Services	Janet Rice	Remote communities disengaging from income support	<p>Senator RICE: ... I'm wanting to get your response to the reports that we've heard of people in remote and very remote communities disengaging totally from the social security system, including vulnerable people with disabilities. They're unable to access DSP or maintain mutual obligations. Have you done any work to see how significant an issue this is? Is there any data showing the number of people with no apparent means of support dropping out of the social security system?</p> <p>Mr Burford: Not within the income management frame. I'm not sure if we've got data that would suggest that.</p> <p>Ms Toze: Not from Services Australia. We haven't seen anything to suggest that.</p> <p>Senator RICE: We've had evidence presented to an inquiry that this committee has had—I can't remember which—about that being an increasingly significant thing. So you're not doing any research into that at all?</p> <p>Ms Toze: That research element is more of a question for the Department of Social Services.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: I'll check with Mr Flavel and his team and get back to you notice, because, obviously, trying to capture that number is a difficult one, but—</p> <p>Senator RICE: But a very significant one.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: It is important. I'll check with the outcome 1 team and provide something to you.</p>	109	25/10/2023

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				<p>Senator RICE: Thank you.</p> <p>Mr Burford: I will say that one of the support funding elements was for local partners. Previously, under CDC, those staff were subcontracted under the private Indue company. There was a strong call from the community to maintain those services, to be directly employed through community. That is about not only some financial literacy support but connecting people to Services Australia and other support services. Certainly, there's evidence of a demand for those sorts of services in community and those connections to those services.</p> <p>Senator RICE: My understanding of the issue is that, because people are unable to meet their mutual obligations and are unable to get evidence of being on the DSP, they've given up entirely and are completely outside the social security system. It would be appreciated if you could you take on notice what information you have about that.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: Will do.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000742	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Support Services Funding	<p>Senator LIDDLE: [...] You provided the support services funding breakdown by location, organisation and activity name earlier. Are you able to add a couple more columns to that same paper that you gave us to give the amount that's actually allocated to each of those programs and the period that it relates to—is that possible?</p> <p>Mr Burford: We could take that on notice. Most of those agreements are in the 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years. Some are a bit longer. We can certainly get you that data on notice.</p>	109-110	25/10/2023
DSS SQ23-000743	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	SmartCard	<p>Senator LIDDLE: [...] Can you provide an update on how the new SmartCard introduced this year has been tracking in the six former CDC trial sites.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: In terms of uptake numbers?</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: Yes, in terms of uptake numbers and how you</p>	110-111	25/10/2023

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				<p>might track progress or otherwise. Is it just uptake numbers or is it other things?</p> <p>Mr Burford: We have some uptake numbers—</p> <p>Mr Griggs: We can talk about uptake numbers and the services that are provided in those former sites.</p> <p>Mr Burford: One of the documents tabled today by Services Australia is an extract from the data.gov publication dated 29 September. That has information on current income management participants and also those on the enhanced income management program. The total number, as at 29 September—which would be adding up the rows in that document—is 4,693 participants on enhanced income management. That's a combination of those who moved over with the abolition of the cashless debit card on 6 March this year. Then, from 4 September, there has been the opportunity for people on income management to choose to move over to the enhanced income management program.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: In the interests of time, are you able to table a list of those rather than go through all of them?</p> <p>Mr Burford: Yes, can do.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000744	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Opt-in to Income Management	<p>Mr Burford: ... That's right. There were 3,800 people in the Northern Territory who moved over from CDC to enhanced income management on 6 March. There were 113 people in Cape York and Doomadgee region—</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: Okay. Let's go through each of these.</p> <p>Mr Burford: Sure.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: So 3,800 in the Northern Territory?</p> <p>Mr Burford: Yes. Senator LIDDLE: Have you got a number that tells me how many of those people who weren't on income management at the time actually opted in to income management? You've given me that number. Is there another number that tells me the number of people who start afresh,</p>	112	25/10/2023

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				<p>who decide to come on to income management?</p> <p>Mr Burford: There is a bit of churn, so it might be a bit tricky to reverse-calculate that here. It might be best if I take that one on notice, because not only have those original Northern Territory people moved on; some of them would have got to the end of their period and dropped off, and then, since 4 September, people in the Northern Territory would have had the choice and would have moved on. So, if it's okay, I might have to take that on notice to try to reconcile that journey of those numbers, because it gets a bit complex.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Burford: Yes, 4,330 will be a combination of those who moved over automatically, plus people that have entered the system since, plus people that have actually chosen to move from 4 September, and that's the bit I'll take on notice to reconcile.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: In terms of 4 September, there are 1,161 people who have made the choice to move from income management to enhanced income management, and 575 are new entrants who would ordinarily and previously have gone on to income management; they've gone straight on to enhanced income management. They're part of that global number. But that's the component since 4 September.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: And you'll provide that per location for that other detail?</p> <p>Mr Burford: Certainly can.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000745	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Remuneration for previous Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner	<p>Senator LIDDLE: I want to start with a question that was asked at the previous estimates. It's probably one for you, Mr Griggs. It goes to when the commissioner came on board. The previous coalition government appointed the commissioner. Are you able to outline the financial payout from the revocation of Catherine Fitzpatrick's five-year appointment as commissioner?</p>	115	25/10/2023

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				<p>Mr Griggs: I will have to get Mr Hetherington up. I'm not sure that we've got that detail to hand at the moment.</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: Indeed, we don't have that to hand. Can I take that on notice? I would have had that at previous estimates hearings, but I did not bring it along to this one.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: My understanding is that we asked but that we didn't have it. If that is in error, please provide it again. So you'll take it on notice to provide that?</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: Had you previously asked on notice, or was that in the hearing?</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: My understanding was that it wasn't available at that time.</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: I don't recall being asked that before.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: There was certainly a period when we couldn't talk about it. We need to go away and check if we can. What we can provide, we will.</p> <p>Mr Hetherington: I think taking it on notice is the right call. There is an agreement and arrangement in place, and we just need to confirm whether we can provide that detail.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000746	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Paid Parental Leave	Government has committed to extending paid parental leave to 26 weeks by 2026. The Women's Economic Equality Taskforce's final report has recommended 52 weeks paid parental leave. Does the government intend to adopt the recommendation to extend paid parental leave to 52 weeks and if so what is the planned approach to bridge the gap between 26 and 52 weeks paid parental leave?	Written	31/10/2023
DSS SQ23-000747	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	Women's Safety Data	<p>We have previously discussed in estimates the need to measure unmet need in women's safety. Please update on how this work has progressed.</p> <p>? What data does the Department use to determine and understand the need for domestic, sexual and family violence services?</p> <p>? What is being done to improve that data to inform policy</p>	Written	31/10/2023

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				and funding decisions? ? Has the Department conducted an analysis of the women's safety sector's assertion that one billion dollars every year is required to meet demand for frontline services. If not, why not? If so, has advice been provided about the consequences of only half of this amount being provided by the federal budget?		
DSS SQ23-000748	Department of Social Services	Larissa Waters	National Perpetration Study	? The Perpetration Project recently completed a state on knowledge report on the perpetration of domestic, family, and sexual violence. Has the Department been asked to replicate this study? ? If not, will the federal government fund and commit to a repeatable national prevalence study on the perpetration of domestic, family and sexual violence?	Written	31/10/2023
DSS SQ23-000749	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Funding for Men's Behaviour Change Programs - National Partnership Agreement Initiative	1. At the May estimates, Deputy Secretary Ms Hefren-Webb confirmed the department collects data on waiting times for men who are seeking to access that service. Can you provide the data on waiting times?	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000750	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Funding for Men's Behaviour Change Programs - National Partnership Agreement Initiative	2. Regarding the Innovative Perpetrator Responses, will there be further announcements in other States and Territories? 3. How do you ensure that you are not duplicating existing state and territory programs and services for Innovative Perpetrator Responses?	Written	6/11/2023

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DSS SQ23-000751	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Funding for Men's Behaviour Change Programs - National Partnership Agreement Initiative	4. Has the Department received progress reports from each jurisdiction under the NPA as required for the 2023-24 payment due in September 2023? And, how many are late?	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000752	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Response and Prevention - National Partnership Agreement Funding for Frontline Services Gaps – Reports due	1. Can the department provide a list of the programs delivered in each jurisdiction including the recipient and funding allocation?	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000753	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Response and Prevention - National Partnership Agreement Funding for Frontline Services Gaps – Reports due	2. Has the department received final reports from each jurisdiction as required under the NPA due in September 2023? 3. Who has not submitted a report and have they sought an extension to June 2024? 4. What will the department do with the outcomes from the final reports?	Written	6/11/2023

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DSS SQ23-000754	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Budget Funding for Women's Safety Programs	<p>1. Please provide a detailed list of the programs and initiatives that are not on track as well as a list that are performing on track.</p> <p>2. What evaluation has been undertaken to determine the effectiveness/benefits of these programs and what is being done to identify changes to improve outcomes?</p>	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000755	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Budget Funding for Women's Safety Programs	<p>3. The \$3.3 mill over 3 years from 2023-24 to review emergency accommodation services and their suitability for children, has the review begun?</p>	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000756	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Budget Funding for Women's Safety Programs	<p>4. Re 1800RESPECT. What is the process to use the evaluation findings to improve or fine tune operations? Do they have to submit an improvement plan?</p>	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000757	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	National Plan to end Violence Against Women and Children 2022-23	<p>1. Please provide a programme status update on new initiatives such as the \$25 Million allocated in October 2022 for perpetrator behaviour; the pilot program to assist Temporary Visa Holders experiencing DV and any others.</p>	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000758	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Our Watch	<p>1. Has a new contract with Our Watch been finalised?</p> <p>2. In August, Our Watch partnered with property group Goodman to launch a new national Institute; Our Watch Institute is to provide advice for workplaces. Goodman made a funding commitment of \$1.7 million. Is the Australian Government contributing?</p> <p>3. When will Australians see the Our Watch work on education in relation to current and proposed sexual consent laws in Australia?</p>	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000759	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	ANROWS	<p>1. What is the current and forward research program and how do you ensure is it consistent with government/community priorities?</p> <p>2. Is primary prevention still ANROWS priority for research?</p> <p>3. Does this research investigate positive masculinity, men as allies, positive role of fathers in raising children? If so, is there much evidence available and what is it?</p>	Written	6/11/2023



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DSS SQ23-000760	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	ANROWS	<p>4. The Evidence Portal was launched in September 2023, what has been the activity to the portal since September and who is accessing it?</p> <p>5. What is the cost to maintaining and growing the database within the portal?</p> <p>6. Have you identified any security issues with information collected in the portal?</p>	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000761	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Helping Children Heal	<p>At the May 2023 Budget estimates, it was stated that the initiative Helping Children Heal, a pilot program, was in the final stages of negotiation.</p> <p>1. Has the program begun?</p> <p>2. If not, why?</p> <p>3. If yes, can you provide an update?</p>	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000762	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Outcome 2 Budget Appropriation	<p>\$443,981,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 2.1.1 Component 1 Families and Children.</p> <p>1. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates.</p> <p>\$328,401,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 2.1.2 Component 2 Family Safety.</p> <p>2. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates.</p> <p>\$31,832,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 2.1.3 Component 3 Protecting Australia’s Children</p> <p>3. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates.</p> <p>\$3,212,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 2.1.4 Component 4 Sector Representation.</p> <p>4. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates.</p>	Written	2/11/2023

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				<p>\$188,568,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 2.1.5 Component 5 Financial Wellbeing and Capability. 5. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates. \$100,297,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 2.1.6 Volunteering and Community Connectness. 6. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates. \$538,029,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 2.1.7 Component 7 National Redress Scheme for Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse – Redress Payments. 7. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates. \$3,032,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 2.1. Component 8 National Redress Scheme for Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse – Psychological Support Payments. 8. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates. \$4,120,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 2.1.9 Component 9 Special Account to support the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children. 9. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates. \$3,512,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 2.1.10 Component 10 Transition to living Allowance 10. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is</p>		
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				<p>budgeted per year across the forward estimates. \$16,938,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 2.1.11 Component 11 Social Impact Investing Initiatives. 11. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000763	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Outcome 3 Budget Appropriation	<p>\$12,292,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 3.2.1 Component 1 NDIS Transitioning Commonwealth Programs and Continuity of Support. 3. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates. \$27,420,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 3.2.2 Component 2 Sector Development Fund and Jobs Market Fund. 4. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates.</p>	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000764	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Outcome 4 Budget Appropriation	<p>\$24,964,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 4.1 Component 1 Housing and Homelessness Service Improvement and Sector Support. 1. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates. \$57,191m was provided in this year’s budget under 4.2 Component 1 Housing and Homelessness Service Improvement and Sector Support. 2. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates.</p>	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000765	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Outcome 4 Funding	<p>1. In outcome 4, please outline, (including individual programs, grants etc...): A. All committed contracted funding in this year’s budget and</p>	Written	2/11/2023

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				each year across the forward estimates; B. All committed uncontracted funding in this year’s budget and each year across the forward estimates.		
DSS SQ23-000766	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Outcome 2 Funding	1. In outcome 2, please outline, (including individual programs, grants etc...): A. All committed contracted funding in this year’s budget and each year across the forward estimates; B. All committed uncontracted funding in this year’s budget and each year across the forward estimates.	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000767	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Outcome 3 Funding	1. In outcome 3, please outline, (including individual programs, grants etc...): A. All committed contracted funding in this year’s budget and each year across the forward estimates; B. All committed uncontracted funding in this year’s budget and each year across the forward estimates.	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000768	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Payments	1. As of 23 October 2023, how many Australians are accessing the Age Pension? 2. As of 23 October 2023, how many Australians are accessing the Carer Payment? 3. As of 23 October 2023, how many Australians are accessing the ABSTUDY Living Allowance? 4. As of 23 October 2023, how many Australians are accessing the Austudy or Youth Allowance? 5. As of 23 October 2023, how many Australians are accessing the Disability Support Pension? 6. As of 23 October 2023, how many Australians are accessing the Bereavement Allowance? 7. As of 23 October 2023, how many Australians are accessing the Widow Allowance? 8. As of 23 October 2023, how many Australians are accessing the Special Benefit or Sickness Allowance? 9. As of 23 October 2023, how many Australians are accessing the Family Tax Benefit – Part A?	Written	2/11/2023

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				<p>10. As of 23 October 2023, how many Australians are accessing the Family Tax Benefit – Part B?</p> <p>11. As of 23 October 2023, how many Australians are accessing the Parenting Payment partnered and single?</p> <p>12. As of 23 October 2023, how many Australians are accessing the JobSeeker Payment?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000769	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Work Bonus and Age Pension	For each of the years 2019-2020; 2020-2021; 2021-22 and 2022-2023, how many recipients of the Age Pension have accessed Work Bonus after earning fortnightly income from work?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000770	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	JobSeeker	<p>For 2022-23:</p> <p>A. How many welfare recipients received JobSeeker?</p> <p>B. How many JobSeeker recipients had no reported earnings?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000771	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Paid Parental Leave	<p>Since the commencement of the Commonwealth’s paid parental leave scheme, how many recipients received accessed:</p> <p>A. Parental Leave Pay?</p> <p>B. Dad and Partner Pay?</p> <p>Since the reforms to the Paid Parental Leave Act in March 2023, how many recipients have accessed the Commonwealth’s paid parental leave scheme?</p> <p>Since the reforms to the Paid Parental Leave Act in March 2023:</p> <p>A. As a percentage, how many birth mothers have approved an amount of leave claimed by the other parent?</p> <p>B. In total, how many birth mothers have approved an amount of leave claimed by the other parent?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000772	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Contracts	<p>1. For DSS and agencies, what is 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>a) External labour hire</p> <p>b) Consultancy</p>	Written	2/11/2023

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				<p>c) Advertising campaigns d) Travel e) Legal expenses 2. What is the breakdown of the value of contracts relating to the following areas: a) External labour hire b) Consultancy c) Advertising campaigns d) Travel e) Legal expenses</p>		
DSS SQ23-000773	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Early Childhood and Youth Funding	<p>1. In the lead up to 2022 Federal Election, Centenary Kindergarten was promised \$5,000 to purchase new furniture. When was this funding delivered to the kindergarten? 2. In the lead up to 2022 Federal Election, Euroka Children’s Centre was promised a grant of \$20,000 to transform the children’s backyard play place. When was this funding delivered to the children’s centre?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000774	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Staffing	<p>1. Since June 2022, how many voluntary redundancies has there been in the Department? 2. Have there been any involuntary redundancies? If so, how many? 3. Since June 2022, how many incentives to retire were offered and accepted? 4. As of 20 October, how many DSS employees are on secondment with other agencies? 5. Please outline per agency.</p>	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000775	Department of Social Services	David Pocock	National Housing and Homelessness Plan	<p>1. Bearing in mind the narrow and superficial content of the National Housing and Homelessness Plan Issues Paper (August 2023), what further Issues Papers is DSS intending to commission as part of the Plan consultation process, to better inform development of the Plan itself? 2. When can it be expected that the draft National Housing and Homelessness Plan will be issued for consultation, and in</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>what form is it anticipated that this process will take place?</p> <p>5. Given the widely advocated inclusion in the National Housing and Homelessness Plan of an aspiration to ‘end homelessness’, how does the Department envisage that this will be precisely defined and monitored?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000776	Department of Social Services	Hollie Hughes	Travel	<p>1. How much has the department spent on travel this financial year?</p> <p>2. Were they domestic or international?</p> <p>3. Could you please provide a list of the flights undertaken, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Dates of travel</li> <li>b) Nights spent at each location,</li> <li>c) Reason for travel</li> <li>d) Cost of each trip</li> <li>e) Number of staff on each trip and APS level?</li> </ul>	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000777	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Previous Question on Notice response	<p>3. I refer to question on notice: DSS SQ23-000348 “The NDIS has seen a number of estimates variations in recent years and there continues to be a risk of further variations in the future as the Scheme has not yet reached maturity”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What is the definition of Scheme maturity?</li> <li>b. When is the Scheme projected to reach maturity?</li> <li>c. Will the NDIS Review result in maturity of the scheme?</li> <li>d. Have any variations occurred since the 2023-24 Budget?</li> <li>e. What variations have occurred?</li> <li>f. Is the Scheme still defined as a “financial risk”?</li> <li>g. Is the 8% growth target a “financial risk”?</li> <li>i. If not, why not?</li> <li>ii. If it is, why is it a “financial risk”?</li> </ul>	Written	2/11/2023

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DSS SQ23-000778	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Previous Question on Notice response	4. I refer to question on notice: DSS SQ23-000349 a. Can you clarify that the NDIS review will “moderate” the NDIS Scheme costs to 8%. b. What percentage of savings will this represent from the 21-22 Budget Forward Estimate scheme cost projections?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000779	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Previous Question on Notice response	5. I refer to question on notice: DSS SQ23-000352 a. What specific measures or safeguards are in place within the NDIS to ensure that participants' wellbeing and rights are not compromised, given its inclusion as a financial risk? b. Given this answer, is it not true that if the financial risk is realised it will result in the 8% not being achieved?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000780	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Previous Question on Notice response	6. I refer to question on notice: DSS SQ23-000353 a. Please provide the actuarial projections of the Scheme costs used to underpin this Financial Sustainability Framework? b. Following National Cabinet that was held on 28 April 2023, an OPD letter was tabled on 11 May 2023 from Senator Ayres to the President. The letter stated that, “it is impossible for us to table the document requested because it doesn’t yet exist. The agreement at National Cabinet was to agree to develop a framework”. The response to the question on notice states that “the Framework provides greater certainty in Scheme costs”. How can the Framework provide greater certainty in Scheme costs, if the framework has not been developed?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000781	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Previous Question on Notice response	7. I refer to question on notice: DSS SQ23-000354 a. How is the 8% growth target not a cap? b. How does the Government define a ‘cap’? c. Given that “further moderation in growth over time as the Scheme matures to a long-term sustainable trajectory” will	Written	2/11/2023



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				<p>occur, does this mean that the NDIA plans on cutting the scheme further?</p> <p>d. How much does the Government estimate that the scheme will need to be cut by to see a “further moderation in growth over time as the Scheme matures to a long-term sustainable trajectory”?</p> <p>e. Can you confirm that the further moderation of growth out until 2032 is worth \$74 billion?</p> <p>i. If this is incorrect, what is the 10-year figure?</p> <p>f. Please provide the yearly cost savings that will be seen each year until 2034?</p> <p>g. The response states that “the Government will work with the disability community, and states and territories to implement these initiatives and the NDIS Financial Sustainability Framework.”</p> <p>However, in an OPD letter tabled on 11 May 2023 from Senator Ayres to the President it states that, “it is impossible for us to table the document requested because it doesn’t yet exist. The agreement at National Cabinet was to agree to develop a framework”.</p> <p>How can the Agency state that the Government will work with stakeholders to implement the NDIS Financial Sustainability Framework, if the Financial Sustainability Framework does not even exist?</p> <p>h. All other demand driven schemes allow for the two levers to be controlled. Are there any plans to control participant numbers or costs per participant?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000782	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Previous Question on Notice response	<p>8. I refer to question on notice: DSS SQ23-000704</p> <p>a. Given that “the NDIS Review will examine the design, operation and sustainability” of the scheme, why was a growth target created before the Review panel had finished the Review itself?</p>	Written	2/11/2023

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				<p>b. Given that the review is set to make findings on the sustainability of the scheme why did the Minister jump ahead and make his own target that isn't based off the recommendations of the Review?</p> <p>c. What was the point of the NDIS Review if the Government was not going to wait and let it make its findings on the scheme's sustainability?</p> <p>d. Given the costs of the NDIS were available in the monthly reports, quarterly reports and the budget documents how was "the extent and sources of problems with the NDIS" unclear to the Minister at the time?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000783	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Financial Sustainability Framework	<p>9. In relation to the NDIS Financial Sustainability Framework, the acting Deputy Secretary, Disability and Carers, Ms Shannon, outlined at Budget Estimates on 31 May 2023 that "the framework is really the guidance for how the target would be achieved".</p> <p>a. What is the guidance for how the 8% target will be achieved?</p> <p>b. How will the 8% target be achieved?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000784	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Financial Sustainability Framework	<p>10. The NDIA CEO, Ms Falkingham outlined at Budget Estimates on 31 May 2023 that the Agency was "not consulted on the eight per cent growth target in advance of what was being proposed for discussion at National Cabinet".</p> <p>a. Why was the Agency not consulted in advance?</p> <p>b. Were there any specific reasons or circumstances that led to the lack of consultation with the NDIA?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000785	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability	12. What is the most recent cost estimate of the Scheme for the financial year 23-24?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000786	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability	13. How much of the Scheme costs are funded by the Commonwealth?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000787	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability	<p>14. Has the NDIS Minister had discussions with the Prime Minister regarding Scheme sustainability?</p> <p>a. How many meetings have occurred?</p>	Written	2/11/2023

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				b. What were the dates of these meetings? c. Where did these meetings occur?		
DSS SQ23-000788	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability	18. Was the Social Services Minister involved in the determination of the 8% growth target?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000789	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability	19. In relation to the public interest immunity claim for the production of the NDIS Financial Sustainability Framework documents. As set out by the Procedural Order of Continuing Effect No.10, can you confirm the specific harm to the public interest that could result if the information is provided?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000790	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability	20. Does the NDIS Financial Sustainability Framework exist? 21. Why is there so much inconsistency in the messaging surrounding the existence of the NDIS Sustainability Framework?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000791	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability	22. Did the scheme actuary come up with the 8% figure? 23. Did the NDIS review come up with the 8% figure? 24. If neither created the figure, then who's idea was the 8% figure in the first instance?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000792	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability	25. How was the 8% figure costed into the 2023-24 Budget? 26. How will this growth target evolve as the Scheme matures? 27. The 8 per cent target is pivotal to the budget bottom line, as it is budgeted to save \$74 billion over 10 years. How will you determine which participant plans are cut to create such a saving?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000793	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability	28. On November 3rd 2022, the NDIS Minister outlined that he would seek to curb "growth in cost, rather than blunt force cuts that are not strategic". a. How would the Department define a blunt force cut? b. How would the Department define a strategic cut? c. Given that the NDIS Review "will examine the design, operations and sustainability of the NDIS". Are these blunt force cuts and strategic cuts informing the recommendations of the NDIS Review?	Written	2/11/2023

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				d. Has the Minister articulated to the Review what cuts or moderations he would like to see to the scheme? e. Is the 8 per cent growth target a 'strategic cut' as opposed to a 'blunt force cut'?		
DSS SQ23-000794	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Review	38. Can you advise as to when the NDIS Review will be released publicly? a. If not, why not? 39. Will the NDIS Review be released in full? a. If no, why not?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000795	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	2023-24 Budget Papers	50. How will the 8% growth target and the review recommendations be implemented together?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000796	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	2023-24 Budget Papers	51. On Page 68 of the Social Services Portfolio Budget Paper, it is states that the expected/planned performance results regarding the "extent to which NDIS participant goals are achieved" are currently "not on track". a. Please provide details on how each of these performance results are not on track. b. How are each of these performance results assessed? c. Who assesses these performance results? d. What does "not on track" mean? e. What is the Government doing to get these performance results 'on track'? f. When does the Government expect to see these performance results 'on track'?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000797	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	2023-24 Budget Papers	52. On pages 134-135 of the Social Services Portfolio Budget Paper, it is states that the 10 key measures have been developed with the NDIA Board, in consultation with the NDIS Review co-chairs. These 10 key measures "will support the NDIS Financial Sustainability Framework, agreed by National Cabinet, that provides an annual growth target in the total costs of the scheme of eight per cent by July 2026, with further moderations of growth as the Scheme matures." a. How will the 10 key measures support the NDIS Financial	Written	2/11/2023

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				<p>Sustainability Framework?  b. Why do the 10 key measures support the NDIS Financial Sustainability Framework  c. Does the Agency believe that instead the framework support the key measures rather than the other way around?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000798	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Intergovernmental Agreements	<p>57. What is the process and the timeline for the renegotiation of the IGAs following the release of the NDIS Review?  a. What processes, reviews and documentation will be informing the review of the IGAS?  b. Will the Sustainability Framework be used to inform the new IGAS?  c. If so, how?  d. Will the new IGAs be informed by the 2022 Australian Disability Strategy agreed to by all states and territories?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000799	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Intergovernmental Agreements	<p>58. Has the Government signed the new Intergovernmental Agreements with the state and territories?  59. When was the new IGA signed with the Western Australian Government?  60. How much money is the Western Australian Government providing to fund the NDIS?  61. When was the new IGA signed with the South Australian Government?  62. How much money is the South Australian Government providing to fund the NDIS?  63. When was the new IGA signed with the Queensland Government?  64. How much money is the Queensland Government providing to fund the NDIS?  65. When was the new IGA signed with the Tasmanian Government?  66. How much money is the Tasmanian Government providing to fund the NDIS?  67. When was the new IGA signed with the New South Wales</p>	Written	2/11/2023

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				<p>Government?</p> <p>68. How much money is the New South Wales Government providing to fund the NDIS?</p> <p>69. When was the new IGA signed with the Australian Capital Territory Government?</p> <p>70. How much money is the Australian Capital Territory Government providing to fund the NDIS?</p> <p>71. How much money is the Northern Territory Government providing to fund the NDIS?</p> <p>72. When was the new IGA signed with the Northern Territory Government?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000800	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Costs	<p>73. How much is the Government providing to Western Australia through the NDIS?</p> <p>74. How much is the Government providing to South Australia through the NDIS?</p> <p>75. How much is the Government providing to Queensland through the NDIS?</p> <p>76. How much is the Government providing to Tasmania through the NDIS?</p> <p>77. How much is the Government providing to New South Wales through the NDIS?</p> <p>78. How much is the Government providing to the Australian Capital Territory through the NDIS?</p> <p>79. How much is the Government providing to the Northern Territory through the NDIS?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000801	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Forensic Disability Services	<p>84. Who is responsible for the policy of Forensic Disability Services?</p> <p>85. Where are these facilities located?</p> <p>86. How many people with a disability are known to be in these facilities?</p> <p>87. How many NDIS participants are known to be in these facilities?</p> <p>88. Who funds these facilities?</p>	Written	2/11/2023

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				89. Does any money from the NDIS go towards funding these facilities? 90. What range of disabilities are held by individuals housed in these facilities?		
DSS SQ23-000802	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Quarterly Report	100. Page 7 of the Quarterly Report outlines that “for the 12 months to 30 June 2023, total growth in plan budgets for participants already in the Scheme was 19.4% per annum”. Given these figures how can the 8% growth target be implemented? 101. Will participant plans need to be reduced to implement this 8% growth target?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000803	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	500 Frontline Workers	1. What is the current NPA agreed number and skill level of the new 500 frontline workers by state and region? 2. How many have been employed in the sector by 31 October 2023? 3. Of those employed can you provide at what pay rate within the award for each of the 500 frontline workers that has been or will be employed to date?	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000804	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Cashless Debit Card/Smartcard	1. How was the \$1 million of the \$3 million brokerage fund spent? Which organisations received the funding? In Ceduna and the Goldfields, as part of the rapid-response, flexible-funding pools, what were the specific organisations that received this funding and how did you determine the \$ amount they received and on what was it spent? 2. Did you assess potential to avoid duplication of existing services?	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000805	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Cashless Debit Card/Smartcard	3. What were the number of people on CDC in each of the six trial sites prior to its ending? 4. How many volunteered to go across to income management in each site? 5. What is the present number on the new income management scheme? Please provide in detail by site.	Written	6/11/2023

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DSS SQ23-000806	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Cashless Debit Card/Smartcard	6. What data is available from the fortnightly meetings held with former CDC sites on social and family issues? Please provide it?	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000807	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability	32. Given that the Minister intends to cut the costs of the scheme, does he intend to control the demand of the Scheme too? a. If yes, how does he intend to do this? b. If no, why not? 33. How will the NDIS cut its costs given that participant numbers and average plan costs continue to grow? 34. Who's plans will be cut to achieve this 8% growth target?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000808	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Review	41. Given that the NDIS Review "will examine the design, operations and sustainability of the NDIS". Why didn't the Minister wait for the recommendations of the Review to make decisions regarding the Scheme's sustainability?	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000809	Department of Social Services	Andrew Bragg	Safe/Refuge Homes	2. How many safe or refuge homes have been built or made available since 1 July 2022?	Written	8/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000881	Department of Social Services	Mehreen Faruqi	Parenting Programs	For parenting programs that DSS funds or is involved with: 1. How many parents are enrolling in parenting programs annually? 2. How many parents are completing these programs? 3. What demographic breakdowns are available about parents who enrol and/or complete parenting programs? 4. What parenting programs currently exist to support parents? 5. How many of the parenting programs have been subject to studies as to their effectiveness? What impact have these programs had on parents? 6. What has been the impact of these programs?	Written	9/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000882	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	Housing Program	1. How much funding goes to South Australia through the Housing Program to the APY Lands and Davenport? 2. Other than a house being rebuilt after an insurance claim when was the last time a dwelling was built at Davenport	Written	6/11/2023



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				using Commonwealth funding contributions? 3. Does the funding agreement identify the number of dwellings to be built and when?		
DSS SQ23-000883	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Outcome 3 Budget Appropriation	<p>\$1,263,729,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 3.1.1 Component 1 Employment Services</p> <p>1. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates.</p> <p>\$409,655,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 3.1.2 Component 2 Disability and Carer Support.</p> <p>2. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates.</p> <p>\$145,151,000 was provided in this year’s budget under 3.2.4 Component 4 National Information, Linkages and Capacity Building</p> <p>5. Please provide line by line, how this appropriation is budgeted this financial year and each year’s appropriation is budgeted per year across the forward estimates.</p>	Written	2/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000884	Department of Social Services	Andrew Bragg	Homeless women and children	1. How many homeless women and children now have homes due to initiatives of the Albanese Government?	Written	8/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000919	Department of Social Services	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>	Written	3/11/2023

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				If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment		
DSS SQ23-000920	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Departmental Liaison Officers	3. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?  Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.  Please denote any change in this allocation since May 2023.	Written	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000921	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Ministers Office Staff	4. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?  Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.  Please denote any change in this allocation since May 2023.	Written	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000922	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Minister meetings with Secretary	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.  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.	Written	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000923	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Briefs to the Minister Office	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.	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>b) How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft?</p> <p>Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000924	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals to the Ministers Office	<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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000925	Department of Social Services	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? If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? 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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000926	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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000927	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Interdepartmental Committees	<p>10. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth Interdepartmental Committees of which the Department/agency has membership.</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>Please specify where there are changes to the list since May 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 May 2023.</p>		
DSS SQ23-000928	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> <p>a) What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate?</p> <p>b) Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut:</p> <p>i) External labour hire</p> <p>ii) Consultancy</p> <p>iii) Advertising campaigns</p> <p>iv) Travel</p> <p>v) Legal expenses</p> <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> <p>i) External labour hire</p> <p>ii) Consultancy</p> <p>iii) Advertising campaigns</p> <p>iv) Travel</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<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>		
DSS SQ23-000929	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> <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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000930	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> <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	3/11/2023

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DSS SQ23-000931	Department of Social Services	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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000932	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Staff 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.</p> <p>19. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	Written	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000933	Department of Social Services	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 inclusive).</p> <p>Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000934	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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000935	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Advertising	21. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year	Written	3/11/2023

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				2023/24 to date?  Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.		
DSS SQ23-000936	Department of Social Services	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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000937	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Departmental Credit Cards	23. In relation to departmental use of credit cards: a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? 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 date? 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? 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	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>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 SQ23-000938	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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000939	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Fair Work Commission Referrals	<p>25. In relation to the department/agency:</p> <p>a) In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission?</p> <p>b) Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint</p>	Written	3/11/2023



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				and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator.		
DSS SQ23-000940	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Departmental reviews	<p>26. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <p>a) the name of the review;  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>	Written	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000941	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Interdepartmental Committees	<p>28. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</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	3/11/2023

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DSS SQ23-000942	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	New entities	<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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000943	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Data Requests 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? 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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000944	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Staffing levels	<p>32. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023. 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.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000945	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Market Research	<p>33. Has the department/agency provided any Minister’s office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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DSS SQ23-000946	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	FOI Applications	34. 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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000947	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	FOI Applications for Minister Rishworth's Office	35. 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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000948	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Estimate Variations	36. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.	Written	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000949	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Funds movement	37. 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	3/11/2023

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DSS SQ23-000950	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Flexible Working 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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000951	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	ChatGPT	<p>39.</p> <p>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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000952	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Yes Campaign - Minister Rishworth's office	<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</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				to or during the course of the referendum campaign? 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?		
DSS SQ23-000953	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Yes Campaign - Minister Shorten's office	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. 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? 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?	Written	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000954	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	Yes Campaign - Minister Collins' office	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. 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? 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?	Written	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000955	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	FOI Applications for Minister Shorten's Office	35. 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;	Written	3/11/2023

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				ii) the number of applications refused; and iii) the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.		
DSS SQ23-000956	Department of Social Services	Jane Hume	FOI Applications for Minister Collin's Office	35. 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	3/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000957	Department of Social Services	Kerrynne Liddle	National Domestic Family & Sexual Violence Commissioner	1. Please indicate which program or budget line funds were used to pay out the cancelled contract of the first appointed National Domestic and Sexual Violence Commissioner. 2. If there were multiple program or budget lines used to pay out the cancelled contract, can these please be indicated and the amount from each budget line disclosed? 3. In total, what was the amount used to pay out this contract? 4. Were any service or frontline programs affected by the payout even if it were time delays in commencement of programs?	Written	15/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000958	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Payment Accuracy Reviews - Volume	In FY 2022-23, how many payment accuracy reviews conducted?	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000959	Department of Social Services	Maria Kovacic	Accuracy of Welfare Payments	In the 2022-23 FY, per each welfare payment category, expressed as a percentage, what was the payment accuracy?	Written	6/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000960	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Payments Data	Please provide the data for the following areas for the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23: a. Number of Job seekers b. Number receiving Family Tax Benefit	Written	8/11/2023

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				<p>c. Number receiving Paid Parental Leave  d. Number of Aged Pensioners  e. Number of Carers  f. Number of Students</p>		
DSS SQ23-000961	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability and Review	<p>15. Was the Prime Minister involved in the determination of the 8% growth target ?  16. Was the Treasurer involved in the determination of the 8% growth target ?  17. Was the Finance Minister involved in the determination of the 8% growth target ?  35. Were the State and Territory Ministers advised of this 8% target prior to National Cabinet?  36. Has the Prime Minister asked the First Ministers to agree to the release of the documents shown at National Cabinet in relation to the Financial Sustainability Framework?  a. If not, why not?  b. If yes, which First Ministers agreed to the release and who did not agree?  40. In reference to PM&amp;C question on notice 0105, which states that “The Review will have regard to government commitments such as the Financial Sustainability Framework when forming recommendations” .  How is the Review independent if it is seeking to ensure that the Labor Party follows through on its “government commitments”?  42. Has there been any conflict of interest declarations made by anyone working on NDIS Independent review and supporting taskforce?  a. If yes, please provide the details.  43. Does any staff member of the taskforce or review have a relationship or links to Minister Shorten’s office?  a. If yes, does the Department believe that this would be considered a conflict of interest?</p>	Written	2/11/2023

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				<p>44. Please provide the details of the assurance processes in place to ensure probity and independence.</p> <p>49. What are the assumptions that are underpinning the cost drivers that are under review?</p>		
DSS SQ23-000962	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Sustainability	<p>In an interview in September 2022, Minister Shorten was asked whether he thought the NDIS was sustainable – to which he said: “I don’t buy that there’s some catastrophic disaster happening in the NDIS”. Earlier in the year he also said: “You can’t move around the corridors of Parliament in Canberra without tripping over a Coalition Minister whispering the Scheme is unsustainable... I’m here to tell you today that is a lie”. a. Why did the Minister launch an Independent Review into the Scheme’s sustainability, when he assured Australians in the lead up to the election that the NDIS was sustainable? b. Does the Government now accept the NDIS does have significant sustainability issues?</p>	Written	16/11/2023
DSS SQ23-000963	Department of Social Services	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability Framework	<p>29. What indicators or metrics will be used to assess the effectiveness of the Financial Sustainability Framework? 30. Will there be periodic reviews of the Financial Sustainability Framework impact on the NDIS? 31. How will the framework specifically contribute to the long-term sustainability of the Scheme?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23-000812	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Kerrynne Liddle	Remuneration of Committee	<p>Senator LIDDLE: Will you actually be paying those advisory council members for their contribution and work? Will they be remunerated? Ms Cronin: Yes, they're being remunerated. Senator LIDDLE: How are they remunerated? Are they paid a fee for attending each meeting? How does that work? Ms Cronin: Yes. They will be paid according to the appropriate Remuneration Tribunal sitting fees.</p>	118	25/10/2023



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				<p>Senator LIDDLE: Can you tell me what those sitting fees are? Is there a category that's relevant to that particular group of people?</p> <p>Ms Cronin: Absolutely, there is. Someone might help me to find that, or we'll take that on notice</p>		
DFSVC SQ23- 000813	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Maria Kovacic	Contracts	<p>1. For DSS and agencies, what is 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>a) External labour hire b) Consultancy c) Advertising campaigns d) Travel e) Legal expenses</p> <p>2. What is the breakdown of the value of contracts relating to the following areas:</p> <p>a) External labour hire b) Consultancy c) Advertising campaigns d) Travel e) Legal expenses</p>	Written	2/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000848	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Ministers 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? If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? 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	3/11/2023

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DFSVC SQ23- 000849	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	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000852	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Ministers Office meetings	<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	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000853	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Briefs to the Minister Office	<p>7. a) How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.		
DFSVC SQ23- 000854	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals to the Ministers Office	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	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000855	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	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000856	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Commonwealth inter- departmental committees	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	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000857	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	Written	3/11/2023

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <p>f) Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>g) Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>h) Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>i) If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
DFSVC SQ23- 000858	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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) List of functions;</li> </ul>	Written	3/11/2023

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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>		
DFSVC SQ23- 000859	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	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	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000860	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	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	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000861	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Staff 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.</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				19. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?		
DFSVC SQ23- 000862	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, 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	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000863	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	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000864	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?  Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.	Written	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000865	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?  Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.  Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.	Written	3/11/2023

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<p>DFSVC SQ23- 000866</p>	<p>Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Departmental Credit Cards</p>	<p>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 date?  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?  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?  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?  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?  j) Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff</p>	<p>Written</p>	<p>3/11/2023</p>
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				credit card policy. k) Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023		
DFSVC SQ23- 000867	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Comcare referrals	24. In relation to department/agency: a) In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? b) Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. c) What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? d) Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?	Written	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000868	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Fair Work Commission Referrals	25. In relation to the department/agency: a) In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? b) Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator.	Written	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000869	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Departmental reviews	26. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide: a) the name of the review; b) the purpose of the review; c) the name or names of the reviewer(s); d) the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e) the budgeted cost of the review; 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	Written	3/11/2023



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				<p>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>		
DFSVC SQ23- 000870	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Interdepartmen tal Committees	<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;  b) a list of the membership;  c) the date it was established; and  d) its purpose.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000871	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	New entities	<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	3/11/2023

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DFSVC SQ23- 000872	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Data Requests	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? 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	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000873	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Staffing levels	32. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023. 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	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000874	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Market Research	33. Has the department/agency provided any Minister’s office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.	Written	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000875	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	FOI Applications	34. 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	3/11/2023

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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.		
DFSVC SQ23- 000876	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	FOI Applications for Ministers Office	35. 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	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000877	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Estimate Variations	36. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.	Written	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000878	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Funds movement	37. 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	3/11/2023
DFSVC SQ23- 000879	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	Flexible Working Arrangements	38. 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?	Written	3/11/2023

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				<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>		
DFSVC SQ23- 000880	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission	Jane Hume	ChatGPT	<p>39.</p> <p>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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23- 000811	Hearing Australia	Maria Kovacic	Contracts	<p>1. For DSS and agencies, what is 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>a) External labour hire</p> <p>b) Consultancy</p> <p>c) Advertising campaigns</p> <p>d) Travel</p> <p>e) Legal expenses</p> <p>2. What is the breakdown of the value of contracts relating to the following areas:</p> <p>a) External labour hire</p> <p>b) Consultancy</p> <p>c) Advertising campaigns</p> <p>d) Travel</p> <p>e) Legal expenses</p>	Written	2/11/2023
HA SQ23- 000885	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Ministers 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>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<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>		
HA SQ23-000886	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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000889	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Ministers Office meetings	<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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000890	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Briefs to the Minister Office	<p>7. a) How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio?</p> <p>Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>b) How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft?</p> <p>Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p>		
HA SQ23-000891	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals to the Ministers Office	<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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000892	Hearing Australia	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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000893	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Commonwealth inter-departmental committees	<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 May 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 May 2023.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000895	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>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<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> <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>		
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HA SQ23-000896	Hearing Australia	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 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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000897	Hearing Australia	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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000898	Hearing Australia	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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000899	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Staff Travel	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.	Written	3/11/2023



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				<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>		
HA SQ23-000900	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 inclusive).</p> <p>Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000901	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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000902	Hearing Australia	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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000903	Hearing Australia	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>	Written	3/11/2023

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				Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.		
HA SQ23-000904	Hearing Australia	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> <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	3/11/2023

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				<p>those reward schemes?  j) Please provide a copy of the department or agency’s staff credit card policy.  k) Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
HA SQ23-000905	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Comcare referrals	<p>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?</p>	Written	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000906	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Fair Work Commission Referrals	<p>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.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000907	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Departmental reviews	<p>26. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide:  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>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<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>		
HA SQ23-000908	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Interdepartmental Committees	<p>28. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000909	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	New entities	<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	3/11/2023

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HA SQ23-000910	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Data Requests	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? 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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000911	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Staffing levels	32. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023. 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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000912	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Market Research	33. Has the department/agency provided any Minister’s office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.	Written	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000913	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	FOI Applications	34. 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	3/11/2023

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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.		
HA SQ23-000915	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Estimate Variations	36. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.	Written	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000916	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Funds movement	37. 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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000917	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	Flexible Working Arrangements	38. 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	3/11/2023
HA SQ23-000918	Hearing Australia	Jane Hume	ChatGPT	39. a) Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network?	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>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.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000221	National Disability Insurance Agency	Hollie Hughes	Financial Sustainability	<p>Senator HUGHES: How many new people are accessing the NDIS per year? Mr Gifford: In the past year, it was approximately 85,000, I believe. I would have to get the precise figure on notice. Senator HUGHES: So in the 2022-23 year? Mr Gifford: Correct. Senator HUGHES: Do you have any projected figures? Is that likely to keep increasing. There are 85,000 new people. How many people went off it? Can you give us a figure? Mr Gifford: Again, I can get you the figure within the session. It's certainly less than 20,000. I believe it would be in the order of 10,000 to 15,000. Senator HUGHES: That went off it? Mr Gifford: Correct</p>	52	25/10/2023
NDIA SQ23-000223	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Australian Thalidomide Survivors	<p>Mr Maitland: No. Within that team, we have divided into specific functions in relation to compensation. Some of them are recoveries for amount that are duplicating support. Some are them are amounts for compensation reduction in plans. Some of them relate to SATS schemes, state and territory statutory schemes, if there have been payments made through that. In the case of most of these survivors, there will have been payments made. That team will specifically look at these claims. Senator STEELE-JOHN: So the SATS team? Mr Maitland: The SATS team, yes. Senator STEELE-JOHN: And how many people in the SATS team? Mr Maitland: I don't have that number to hand. I will take that on notice.</p>	54	25/10/2023

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				<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you. What training or guidance has been provided to the SATS team in relation to this specific group?</p> <p>Mr Maitland: I will have to take that on notice to give you an accurate answer of the exact training that we've given them.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000224	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Australian Thalidomide Survivors	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Has the access branch been provided with specific information in relation to this cohort?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: We have four to five staff across the agency who are specialised in thalidomide related policies and issues. Whether they are in the same branch we can't confirm today. But they exist within the agency and can provide dedicated support. So we will follow up for you exactly what branches they sit in.</p>	55-56	25/10/2023
NDIA SQ23-000225	National Disability Insurance Agency	Hollie Hughes	Administrative Appeals Tribunal	<p>Mr Swainson: ...There is a whole-of-government response to mitigation. HWL Ebsworth is a law firm on the whole-of-government panel. The Attorney-General's Department administers that panel. There are contractual arrangements in place that the Attorney-General's Department administers in relation to firms on that panel. In terms of what the agency specifically did, we put in place a range of measures.</p> <p>...</p> <p>We also, throughout July, had individual meetings with all other law firms that were engaged by the agency and the AAT to ask them what additional cybersecurity measures they had put in place.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: How many firms is that?</p> <p>Mr Swainson: Approximately 11 different firms were engaged by the agency</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: They are external firms on top of the agency's legal team?</p> <p>Mr Swainson: Yes. They are external legal firms engaged by the agency but on the Australian whole-of-government panel.</p>	58	25/10/2023



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				<p>...</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: For the agency, are there 11 firms effectively with the agency?</p> <p>Mr Swainson: Yes, 11 firms.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: There are 11 firms that do external work when it comes to things such as access appeals in the AAT?</p> <p>Mr Swainson: At the beginning of this year, that's correct. We've now reduced that, I think, to eight. I think about four or five firms are getting active work with us. If you want precise figures on that, I will have to take that on notice. It does fluctuate from time to time.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000227	National Disability Insurance Agency	Hollie Hughes	Administrative Appeals Tribunal	<p>Senator HUGHES: When you say 'resolved', does that mean a solution was found that both participant and agency were happy with, or does that also include where people have just walked away from applications and said, 'I can't keep fighting this'?</p> <p>Mr Swainson: In most cases, it's that the agency and the participant have reached a resolution—or prospective participants. We've also got access cases, but they are a much lower proportion. I probably have some figures here on how many were withdrawn versus being resolved. I don't have those figures for you, but I should be able to get them quite easily, as to what proportion of those were withdrawn by the participant and which were resolved.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: That would be very helpful if you can take that on notice. I am interested to know—I don't know whether you would have this information—how many were settled substantially through the application. What I really want to know is how many were settled on the week or the day of the proposed hearing.</p> <p>Mr Swainson: I don't think we keep that structured data in a structured way.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: We have a lot of anecdotal evidence. It</p>	65	25/10/2023

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				<p>would be interesting if there was an ability to see how many—can I call them 'cases', for lack of a better word—are drawn out for many, many months and then resolved on the day of the hearing.</p> <p>Mr Swainson: We'll see if we can get that data. I don't think we keep that structured data. I can tell you that we've looked at our case resolution rate over the last 12 months—that's new cases that have come in over the last 12 months; this is not the older cases that were in place some years ago. For those cases that were resolved in the last 12 months, we've almost halved the resolution time frames from around 29 weeks down to 18 weeks—for those cases which have commenced in the last 12 months. I hope that's a bit of information that's helpful. In terms of when cases were resolved, we'll see if we can get some information for you.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000228	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIA PACE National Expansion	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Jumping back to PACE for a moment: unregistered support coordinators will be required to utilise the PACE system to receive requests for services and provide reports back to the NDIA, correct?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: Yes.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: How many unregistered support coordinators have gained access to PACE as of the end of August 2023?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: How many unregistered support coordinators have gained access to PACE as of now?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: They would be only in relation to support coordinators who are working in Tasmania with current participants in Tasmania in the scheme. I don't have a number for you but I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: If you could. I would imagine, since that was the trial location, there is, hopefully, some reasonably at-hand data about the types of service providers involved. If you</p>	65-66	25/10/2023

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				<p>can provide it before we leave today, that would be really useful.</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: Sorry, just in relation to support coordinators?</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Support coordinators.</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: We'll see what data we can pull for you.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: The reason we could do with understanding the role that unregistered support coordinators play in that system is to analyse what potential representations such providers and support people have had within this trial site, to understand how well we can expect the transition to go for that particular cohort. During the trial, how many training sessions did the agency run to ensure that participants and support coordinators understood what would be required to utilise the PACE system?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: Sorry; is your question in relation to how many sessions we ran with people in Tasmania ahead of and during the Tasmanian test?</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes, that's my first question.</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: We run many. I will have to get the number on notice. Did you want the data over the period to evaluation or the data to date?</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Both, if that's okay.</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: I'll see what I can come up with.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000229	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIA PACE National Expansion	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: For the last three months—July, August, September—what is the percentage of total claims within utilising the PACE system?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: I don't have the data to the last three months. I've got the data from commencement of the Tasmania test in November through to September this year, if that's okay.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes, that's useful.</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: As at 8 September—this is since November 2022—we have 5,092 participants with approved plans in PACE. The number of payments that have been made in PACE</p>	66	25/10/2023

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				<p>is 292,462.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Excellent. So those are payments that have been made. How many applications for payment were made?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: How many claims for payment were made?</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes.</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: I don't have that number but I can find out for you.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Do you have any data around the number of rejections?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: I can try and track down the number of rejections. It's probably worth confirming there may be a plethora of reasons why a claim for a payment might be rejected. I can try and get you some data on the number of relative claims that have been rejected, if that's helpful.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: That would be useful. Could you give me the same figure in the month of September for the current system? The SAP system—a lot more people are utilising the SAP system. Can you give us—in percentage form is probably easier—the percentage of claims that were approved and that were rejected, and the grounds for that rejection.</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: I might have to take it on notice, given the analysis, rather than being able to table it today. It might be helpful to flag that we have a higher rate of rejection of claims in PACE at the moment. It's not a radically higher number.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: What is that rate?</p> <p>Ms McKenzie: I don't know off the top of my head, but I will get that information for you and table it. As I said, there are number of reasons for that.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000230	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIA PACE National Expansion	Senator STEELE-JOHN: The reason I ask is that about 51 per cent of all support coordinators currently providing that service are unregistered, so I would hope that we had a way of tracking how many support coordinators are moving into	67	25/10/2023

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				<p>this new system.  Ms McKenzie: We can certainly track providers who have made a claim for support coordination services and claims made for support coordination in the system.  Senator STEELE-JOHN: Can you provide that on notice?  Ms McKenzie: Let me take that on notice and provide what I can, absolutely.  Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you very much.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000231	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Hospital Discharge	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: ...On hospital discharge, are you meeting the target that you have set for yourself 100 per cent of the time?  Mr Maitland: Disability ministers agreed to two KPIs to the NDIA. One of them was to contact participants within four days of the NDIA being notified of a hospital admission; that is currently at 92 percent, which is up 35 points from August 2022, when it was 57 per cent. So it's not quite 100 per cent, but it's trending in the right direction.  ...  Senator STEELE-JOHN: For the current eight per cent of cases where you're not meeting the goal, what is the average wait time for people in that eight per cent?  Mr Maitland: I will have to take that on notice.</p>	67	25/10/2023
NDIA SQ23-000232	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Hospital Discharge	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes, I hear that. But, with the greatest of fairness to you, these were the commitments that you made as an agency and that ministers have signed up to, and what you've just told me is that, as of September, 43 per cent of people in this quite dire situation are not getting their discharge plans within the 30-day period. What is the longest someone has been waiting, currently, for a discharge plan?  Mr Maitland: Again, I'll have to take that one notice, and we can come back to you with that today.</p>	68	25/10/2023
NDIA SQ23-000233	National Disability Insurance Agency	Hollie Hughes	Hospital Discharge	<p>Senator HUGHES: When people are discharged, is there any record of whether they're being discharged to an aged-care</p>	68	25/10/2023

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				<p>facility or to their own home, or is it to SDA or SIL—because I'm not sure you're aware that the state health departments have established partnership arrangements with aged-care facilities, so they're moving long-stay hospital patients to aged-care facilities. So they might be moving them out more quickly, but where are they moving them to? Do you have any data on that?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: We do. I'm happy to take that on notice. I don't have that with me today, though.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000234	National Disability Insurance Agency	Maria Kovacic	NDIS plan budgets	<p>Senator KOVACIC: I noted the previous response in relation to the larger plans, there being 286 children on that plan of some 5,190 participants. What is the largest plan that you have, or the most costly plan? That is probably a better way to describe that. What is the most costly plan?</p> <p>Mr Griggs: In the scheme generally, you mean?</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Maitland: I'll have to take that on notice, for the specific plan, the largest plan that we have. Our largest delegation plans, which have to go to the highest approval levels, are over \$1.1 million a year. There are some plans that I'm aware of that approach \$2 million and beyond, for very, very limited cases, but I'll have to take that on notice to give you the largest plan.</p> <p>Senator KOVACIC: Thank you. Would you have some insight into roughly how many participants would be on those plans from, say, \$1.1 million to \$2 million?</p> <p>Mr Maitland: Again, I'll get you those numbers. We do have them, but I will have to take that on notice.</p>	72	25/10/2023
NDIA SQ23-000235	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIS Access Requests - Withdrawn	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: But just to be clear, they are not a participant at that point. They're just an individual. So if I make an access request to the agency, and then I do not continue with the access request, how is that recorded in the system?</p>	73-74	25/10/2023

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				<p>Mr Gifford: We have participants who have made a request. Perhaps Mr Maitland might give the detail about if people withdraw their request.</p> <p>Mr Maitland: We will have to take that on notice. I do not want to mislead you unintentionally around exactly what we record on an access decision and an access process. They do withdraw, and we do keep numbers of total and also [inaudible].</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: You keep withdrawal numbers?</p> <p>Mr Maitland: We know which ones don't proceed through to our final access decision, if that helps.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Could you provide, for the last two years, how many access requests have been withdrawn? Can you take that notice?</p> <p>Mr Maitland: I believe so. We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: When somebody withdraws the access request, do you record any kind of reason for withdrawal?</p> <p>Mr Maitland: Again, I will have to take that on notice as to what the system captures at that point.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Can you particularly provide us with how many individuals seeking access in the last two-year period withdrew their request for access for mortality reasons, if that information exists.</p> <p>Mr Maitland: If that information exists.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000236	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIS Exits	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Finally on this one, are you able to tell us how many participants exited the scheme due to mortality while awaiting the outcome of an AAT process?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: Yes, again on notice.</p>	74	25/10/2023
NDIA SQ23-000237	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Australian Thalidomide Survivors	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: You've blown me off course a little bit by providing me with additional information, which is very good of you, and I appreciate it. I've got some additional questions to ask about the thalidomide survivors snapshot that you circulated earlier. To understand this document</p>	77	25/10/2023

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				<p>correctly: who is this current document provided to in the agency?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: That is provided to all of our staff.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: And this version that you've given me that is the current version of that document?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I didn't see it before it was provided, but I will rely on our good people in the agency to provide the right version.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: It's dated 27 June 2019, so I just wanted to check that it was.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I will confirm for you, but often you will find that that will be the date first published. There probably were updates in that period, but I will confirm whether there is any history of changes.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000238	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Australian Thalidomide Survivors	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Absolutely. To be fair—I'm not trying to catch you out here—in the 'About thalidomide' section that you've provided, you do identify certain names of the manufacturers of the product and some of the issues around the timeline; but, again, there's nothing in here about the regulatory failure that led to the consuming of the product, which, if you've worked with thalidomide survivors, you know quite rightly shapes their worldview of interacting with government systems.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: We're always happy to improve and update. We'll take that on notice and see what more we can do.</p>	77	25/10/2023
NDIA SQ23-000239	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Department of Home Affairs - Significant Cost Threshold	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: When you say a range of agencies met, who else was in the room?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: I understand that Home Affairs; Commonwealth, state and territory agencies and related departments; and our colleagues in DSS and the Department of Health. So there was a big range of agencies.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: And when did that meeting take place?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: It was in April 2023.</p>	78	25/10/2023



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				<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Before April 2023, had the agency been asked to provide information in relation to these matters to the Department of Home Affairs?  Ms Falkingham: Before this time?  Senator STEELE-JOHN: Yes, before April 2023.  Ms Falkingham: I don't believe we were, but I'm happy to take that on notice and find out. Obviously, that would have been before my time.  Senator STEELE-JOHN: I'm asking because, in evidence given to the royal commission, a department of the Australian government identified the cost of NDIA plans as factoring into the current threshold.  Ms Falkingham: I will find out for you, Senator, whether we had provided any information prior to that time.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000240	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Department of Home Affairs - Significant Cost Threshold	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Can you take that on notice and provide us with the specifics of the request?  Mr Gifford: Yes, we can.  Ms Falkingham: We understand that in late 2020 the Department of Home Affairs did request some additional reports. They were referred to publicly available reports, as we understand, that was the information they were looking for. Information on payments and plans is obviously already available in all our public reporting as well. So the agency did get that request in 2020.  Senator STEELE-JOHN: Would you be able to table that request and provide on notice or table the subsequent request. The statement that both average payments and committed supports across all age bands have been increasing each year at rates higher than general inflation—are you able to provide that statement that you provided to the department?  ...  Mr Gifford: Again, we can certainly on notice provide the</p>	78-79	25/10/2023

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				<p>specifics of the advice that was provided to Home Affairs, yes.  Senator STEELE-JOHN: Okay. Thank you. My challenge here, folks, is that the nature of the extent to which somebody is being supported by the NDIS is a combination of their individual support needs and the environment in which they find themselves, which would be specific to every particular case. I'm just trying to ascertain the diversity of data that you've provided.  Ms Falkingham: We will provide you with the request and every piece of data we provided to them</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000241	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Younger People in Residential Aged Care	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you for outlining that. The does sounds like what would be charitably termed 'a lot'. That is good to know and is what we would hope for in the circumstances. Can you provide us with data on the number of people who have been approved for SDA funding that have been shifted from residential aged care into their own accommodation or their own home in the last 12 months?  Ms Falkingham: We've got a lot of data on that, so we can table that for you if you like.  Senator STEELE-JOHN: Okay. Thank you. Would you be able to provide us with data around NDIS participants continuing to enter aged-care settings? Are you tracking that data?  Ms Falkingham: We are tracking that.  Senator STEELE-JOHN: How many have entered in the last 12 months?  Mr Maitland: We can provide you with that data, yes.  Senator STEELE-JOHN: If you could do the last 12 months and two years, that would be great.  Mr Maitland: Yes.</p>	79	25/10/2023
NDIA SQ23-000300	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Home and Living Decisions	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: What is the current wait time for the home and living team to assess an SDA application? How long is that taking on average?  Ms Falkingham: By wait time do you mean?</p>	79-80	25/10/2023

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				<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: As in the duration that it takes the team to assess the application, because that's a key part of this process obviously.</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: It most definitely is. I'd highlight that we had significant investment in the budget in the home and living team to try and deal with the backlog that existed prior to the last 12 months. The scheme actuary might be able to help you with the number.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Maitland: We might need to take it on notice, apologies.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000242	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	<p>1. I refer to question on notice: NDIA SQ23-000104</p> <p>In regards to the costs of the Scheme, what evidence does the Government has to state that the previous government was “out by over \$21 billion”?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000243	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Financial Sustainability Framework	<p>2. I refer to question on notice: NDIA SQ23-000151</p> <p>An OPD letter tabled on 11 May 2023 from Senator Ayres to the President states that, “it is impossible for us to table the document requested because it doesn’t yet exist. The agreement at National Cabinet was to agree to develop a framework”.</p> <p>a. Given the CEO of the NDIA confirmed at Senate Estimates on 31 May 2023 that she was “not consulted on the eight per cent growth target in advance of what was being proposed for discussion at National Cabinet”. Please provide further information on the engagement with the NDIA.</p> <p>i. Dates of engagement with NDIA?</p> <p>ii. Time of engagement with NDIA?</p> <p>iii. Briefings provided by the NDIA?</p> <p>b. As detailed in an OPD letter sent on 20 June 2023 from the Treasurer to the Finance Minister, “on 28 April 2023, National Cabinet committed to the NDIS Financial Sustainability</p>	Written	2/11/2023

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				<p>Framework. I claim public interest immunity over the document prepared for this National Cabinet meeting, as its release would be detrimental to relations between the Commonwealth and the states and territories”.</p> <p>How is the release of the National Cabinet document “detrimental to relations between the Commonwealth and the states and territories” if the document does not exist as stated by Senator Ayres?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000244	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	<p>11. The NDIA CEO, Ms Falkingham outlined at Budget Estimates on 31 May 2023 that “the agency ran a range of projected long-term growth scenarios for” the Minister.</p> <p>a. What projected long-term growth scenarios did the agency show the Minister?</p> <p>b. How many scenarios were shown?</p> <p>c. What was the difference between the scenarios?</p> <p>d. Was the 8% growth target one of the scenarios presented to the Minister?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000245	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Key Cost Drivers	<p>37. What are the key drivers of cost in the scheme?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000246	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Expenditure	<p>53. On page 137 of the Social Services Portfolio Budget Paper in table 1.1, there is a \$1 billion difference between the opening balance/cash reserves at 1 July Funds from Government in 2022-23 and 2023-24.</p> <p>a. Where has this money gone?</p> <p>b. Why is the difference so significant in a single financial year?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000247	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Expenditure	<p>54. In reference to table 1.1 on page 137, provide the details of all state or territory offsets that are claimed by each state and territory in their respective IGA’s.</p> <p>a. What impact do these offsets have on the total state and territory payments to the Commonwealth, as reflected in table 1.1?</p>	Written	2/11/2023

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NDIA SQ23-000248	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	NDIS Performance Measures	55. On page 144 of the Social Services Portfolio Budget Paper, it is states that the expected/planned performance results regarding the “NDIS financial sustainability and integrity”, “participant and stakeholder sentiment”, and “Participant Service Guarantee timeframes”, are “Partially on track”. a. Please provide details on how each of these performance results are partially on track. b. How are each of these performance results assessed? c. Who assesses these performance results? d. What does “partially on track mean”? e. What is the Government doing to get these performance results ‘on track’? f. When does the Government expect to get these performance results ‘on track’?	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000249	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Fraud Measures	80. How do the fraud measures taken by this Government differ from those of the former Coalition Government?	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000250	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Annual Financial Sustainability Report	91. Can you confirm that annual ASFR’s are legally required to be based off the most recent data from June 30? 92. Can you advise when the next report will be released publicly? 93. Has the 2022-23 ASFR been delivered to Minister Shorten’s office? a. If so, on what date did this occur?	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000251	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Financial Sustainability	94. Can you provide the latest baseline projections of scheme expenses? 95. Can you provide the latest comparison of 2022-23 ASFR with 2021-22 ASFR?	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000252	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	NDIA 2022-23 Annual Report	96. The 2022-23 annual report includes summary data of the 2023-24. The 2023-24 Budget states that the total Scheme costs will be \$41.9 billion. However, in the NDIS Annual Report released 31 October 2023, the total Scheme costs have been reduced to \$41.36 billion. a. What actuarial data supports this cut in Scheme costs?	Written	2/11/2023

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NDIA SQ23-000253	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	NDIA 2022-23 Annual Report	<p>97. In reference to Table 4.3B on page 81 of the NDIS Annual Report.</p> <p>a. Please provide further detail on what assumptions and data underpins the four factors referenced in Table 4.3B?</p> <p>I. Immigration changes;</p> <p>II. Pricing and normal inflation;</p> <p>III. Updates for experience; and</p> <p>IV. Updates for assumption changes.</p> <p>b. Please provide a definition of the four factors referenced in Table 4.3B?</p> <p>I. Immigration changes;</p> <p>II. Pricing and normal inflation;</p> <p>III. Updates for experience; and</p> <p>IV. Updates for assumption changes.</p>	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000254	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	NDIA 2022-23 Annual Report	98. Please table the draft documents and Excel models used to derive the projections in the Executive Summary of the NDIS Annual Report.	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000255	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	Q4 2022-23 NDIS Quarterly Report to Disability Ministers	99. When will the final 2022-23 NDIS Quarterly report publicly released?	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000256	National Disability Insurance Agency	Linda Reynolds	National Injury Insurance Scheme	<p>102. How many current NDIS participants would have been covered by a medical or general injury stream of the NIIS since full scheme implementation in 2016?</p> <p>103. Has the Agency provided advice to the Minister on the potential implementation of the NIIS?</p> <p>a. If yes, what advice has been provided?</p> <p>b. When was this advice provided?</p> <p>c. If no, why not?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000301	National Disability Insurance Agency	Maria Kovacic	Specialist Disability Accommodation	<p>1. As of 30 June October 2023:</p> <p>a. How many NDIS participants are receiving SDA supports?</p> <p>b. How many SDA dwellings are these participants residing in?</p>	Written	2/11/2023

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NDIA SQ23-000258	National Disability Insurance Agency	Maria Kovacic	Specialist Disability Accommodation	2. How much was spent from participant plans on SDA supports over the 12 months to 30 October 2023? 3. How many NDIS participants are awaiting SDA supports?	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000259	National Disability Insurance Agency	Maria Kovacic	Specialist Disability Accommodation - Providers	4. How many SDA providers were registered to provide services for NDIS participants in the following years: a. 2019-20 b. 2020-21 c. 2021-22 d. 2022-23	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000260	National Disability Insurance Agency	Maria Kovacic	AusTender	1. For DSS and agencies, what is 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: a) External labour hire b) Consultancy c) Advertising campaigns d) Travel e) Legal expenses 2. What is the breakdown of the value of contracts relating to the following areas: a) External labour hire b) Consultancy c) Advertising campaigns d) Travel e) Legal expenses	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000261	National Disability Insurance Agency	Maria Kovacic	NDIA Participants with Poliomyelitis	1. How many participants are on the NDIS with Polio as a primary condition? 2. How many participants with Polio are on the NDIS?	Written	2/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000262	National Disability Insurance Agency	James McGrath	Ministerial Website Usage	On 16 June 2023, I asked the National Disability Insurance Agency the following question as per QoN 547, NDIA SQ23-000167, “Since the swearing in of the new ministry on 1 June 2022: 1.	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>Please provide a breakdown of the domain usage for the 50 most utilised (by data sent and received), unique (internet) domains accessed by the minister's office. Please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The domain name of the website being accessed (or IP address if the Domain is unavailable in the tracking system) .</li> <li>2. Amount of data downloaded and uploaded to the site.</li> <li>3. Number of times the site was accessed.”</li> </ol> <p>The response I received was, “The Minister’s Office accesses a range of websites for work related purposes.”</p> <p>This response is not satisfactory and mocks the Senate. As such I am putting this question on notice again for an appropriate response.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000263	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Briefs	<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? If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the previous turnaround requirement; and</li> <li>2. the date the change was requested.</li> </ol>	Written	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000264	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Ministerial Functions	<p>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 offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment</p>	Written	3/11/2023



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NDIA SQ23-000266	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Minister Meeting and Briefs	<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>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.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000267	National Disability Insurance Agency	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? 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	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000268	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Paper Supplies	<p>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.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000269	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Inter-departmental Committees	<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 May 2023.</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				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.		
NDIA SQ23-000270	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>a. 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>i. Consultancy</li> <li>i. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>i. Travel</li> <li>i. Legal expenses</li> </ul> <p>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?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>a. 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>i. Consultancy</li> <li>i. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>i. Travel</li> <li>i. Legal expenses</li> </ul> <p>a. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>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>		
NDIA SQ23-000271	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> <p>a. List of functions;</p> <p>a. List of attendees;</p> <p>a. Function venue;</p> <p>a. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</p> <p>a. Details of any food served;</p> <p>a. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</p> <p>a. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000272	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:</p> <p>a. List of functions;</p> <p>a. List of attendees;</p> <p>a. Function venue;</p> <p>a. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</p> <p>a. Details of any food served;</p> <p>a. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</p> <p>a. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000273	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Executive Office Upgrades	<p>15. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.		
NDIA SQ23-000274	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Departmental Travel	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. 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	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000275	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Facilities Upgrades	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	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000276	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Media Monitoring, Advertising, Promotional Merchandise	20. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date? 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. 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.	Written	3/11/2023

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				Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.		
NDIA SQ23-000277	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>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?</p> <p>a. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>a. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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?</p> <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</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>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>		
NDIA SQ23-000278	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>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	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000279	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Fair Work Ombudsman	<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>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	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000280	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA 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>a. the purpose of the review;</p> <p>a. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</p> <p>a. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</p> <p>a. the budgeted cost of the review;</p> <p>a. the amount spent to date; and</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>a. 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>h. the name of the review; h. the purpose of the review; h. the name or names of the reviewer(s); h. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); h. the budgeted cost of the review; h. the amount spent; h. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; h. the date the review was provided to the Department; h. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and h. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000281	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Interdepartmental Committees	<p>28. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</p> <p>a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; a. a list of the membership; a. the date it was established; and a. its purpose.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000282	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	New Entities	<p>29. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>30. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased or disbanded since May 2022?</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.		
NDIA SQ23-000283	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Ministerial Data Requests	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? 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	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000284	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staffing	32. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023. Please provide: a. Total number of ASL; a. Total number of FTE by APS classification; a. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and a. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and a The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.	Written	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000285	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign	33. Has the department/agency provided any Minister’s office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.	Written	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000286	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information requests	34. 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;	Written	3/11/2023



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				<p>a. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</p> <p>a. the number of applications subject to internal review;</p> <p>a. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC;</p> <p>a. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT;</p> <p>a. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and</p> <p>a. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000288	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Largest Estimate Variations	36. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.	Written	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000289	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Largest movement of funds	37. 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	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000290	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	NDIA Staff - Flexible Working Arrangements	<p>38. a. 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>i. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</p> <p>i. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</p> <p>i. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</p> <p>i. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p> <p>a. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>a. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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NDIA SQ23-000291	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jane Hume	Use of ChatGPT	39. 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? a. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.	Written	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000292	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIA Research and Evaluation Strategy 2022-2027	According to the NDIS website, the Research and Evaluation Strategy 2022-2027 would “provide updates annually on our progress on the objectives and focus areas” - of which there are four, is this correct? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There does not seem to be a published annual report available. When will the annual update be published?</li> <li>• When can we expect to see some research reported from those evaluations?</li> <li>• How much funding was allocated for this strategy and the associated evaluations?</li> <li>• Please provide information on the teams doing this research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o How many teams?</li> <li>o Who makes up these teams?</li> <li>o How many staff overall working on the evaluations?</li> <li>o How many disabled staff working on the evaluations?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Written	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000293	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability	Relating to DRC recommendation 10.3 “Adequate support coordination” and reports that the Agency will attempt to phase out funding for Support Coordination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the Agency’s current policy for Support Coordination and will this be changing in the next 12 months?</li> <li>• What is the role of LAC’s in relation to support coordination currently, and will that change in the next 12 months? If so, how?</li> </ul>	Written	3/11/2023
NDIA SQ23-000294	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIA Staff Training	Can the agency please provide information on training staff to be trauma-informed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are all staff required to complete training in, or have</li> </ul>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>existing qualifications in trauma-informed practice &amp; communications?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If not, which staff members are required to undertake such training/have such skills?</li> <li>• Are all planners trauma-informed trained?</li> <li>• Are all planners required to have competencies in disability?</li> </ul>		
NDIA SQ23-000295	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Residential Aged Care	<p>The NDIA previously advised, “The NDIA does not recommend Residential Aged Care (RAC) as an option to NDIS participants” (see NDIA SQ23-000160).</p> <p>a. If the NDIA does not recommend RAC as an option for participants, what housing alternative/s does the NDIA recommend?</p> <p>b. I have been made aware of cases in which the NDIA has denied or reduced SIL and/or SDA funding to participants because the NDIA believes that the participant’s support needs are best met by the aged care system. Why are these decisions being made if the NDIA does not recommend RAC as an option to participants? How many referrals have been made to the YPIRAC Accommodation Project team since its establishment? How many recommendations that the participant be referred to RAC has the YPIRAC Accommodation Project team made, broken down by month and state?</p> <p>b. The latest quarterly report does not provide data on participants’ exit destinations from RAC. Why has the NDIA stopped reporting on RAC exit destinations?</p> <p>c. For participants in RAC who requested SDA in FY22/23, what percentage were granted SDA within 14 days? What percentage were granted SDA within 90 days?</p> <p>d. When a participant in RAC has expressed that they would like to continue living in RAC, what information and/or does the YPIRAC Planner provide to ensure an informed decision has been made?</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>Do YPIRAC Planners connect participants in RAC who have no goal to leave RAC with independent supports outside of the NDIS and RAC facility?</p> <p>e. How do YPIRAC Planners and Accommodation Officers work with participants in RAC to identify suitable alternative accommodation? Are state and territory governments engaged during this process and if so, how?</p> <p>f. How does the NDIA intend to support participants to access these housing alternatives?</p> <p>g. What is the NDIA’s view of participants relinquishing their NDIS status because their RAC provider does not want to be an NDIS provider?</p> <p>Should a report be made to the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission and/or Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission?</p> <p>Should support be given to the participant to ensure an informed decision has been made and if so, by whom?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000296	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Hospital Discharge	<p>In the last 12 months (broken down by month, age, disability type and state):</p> <p>a. How many participants have been discharged from hospital to RAC? b. How many participants have been discharged from hospital to transitional housing?</p> <p>b. Of these, how many participants did not have a long term housing and support plan at the time of discharge?</p> <p>c. c. What was the mean, median and range of days in hospital for participants?</p> <p>d. What was the mean, median and range of days spent waiting for an approved plan, following a home and living decision from the panel?</p> <p>e. d. What were the discharge destinations of participants in hospital?</p> <p>f. e. How many participants in hospital were granted MTA funding without having a confirmed long-term housing</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>solution?</p> <p>g. How many days of MTA funding were granted to participants?</p> <p>h. 1. What was the mean, median and range of days spent in MTA?</p> <p>i. What were the housing destinations of participants leaving MTA?</p> <p>j. How does the NDIA ensure that NDIS participants do not get stuck for months or years in options that are meant to be transitional run by state health, hospitals or support providers?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000297	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Specialist Disability Accommodation	<p>In the latest quarterly report, the NDIA advised that as at 30 June 2023, there were 4,619 participants in an SDA dwelling seeking an alternative dwelling and an additional 1,305 participants who were not in an SDA dwelling seeking a vacancy.</p> <p>a. How did the NDIA reach these figures?</p> <p>b. The quarterly report states that as at 30 June 2023, 23,092 participants have SDA funding in their NDIS plans. Meanwhile, the NDIA’s average support line item payments dataset states that 13,552 participants are receiving SDA payments. This then indicates that ~10,000 participants have SDA funding in their NDIS plans but are not utilising that funding (i.e. because they are not currently living in SDA).</p> <p>c. Can the NDIA explain why only 13,552 are receiving SDA payments?</p> <p>d. What does the NDIA know about ~10,000 participants who are not utilising their SDA funding?</p> <p>e. What barriers to moving into SDA have been identified by the NDIA?</p> <p>f. What does the NDIA believe is needed to overcome these barriers?</p> <p>g. How does the NDIA intend to work with participants to</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				determine SDA eligibility and allocate appropriate funds in plans?		
NDIA SQ23-000298	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Specialist Disability Accommodation - Demand Projections Report	<p>The NDIA’s first SDA demand projections report sets out the projected demand for SDA in 2042 by region and design category. a. Is the NDIA collecting data around participant demand for: i. different dwelling types (e.g. house, apartment, villa) ii. number of residents (e.g. single occupancy or shared dwelling), including demand to live in SDA with people who are not NDIS apartments (e.g. family and friends) iii. onsite shared support The SDA market needs accurate demand data on these points - will they be included in future iterations of the report?</p> <p>b. The report does not reference Basic SDA. Assuming that there is no projected demand for Basic SDA dwellings, is it the NDIA’s view that Basic SDA is not needed in the market?</p> <p>c. What does the NDIA believe is needed to support participants who are currently living in Basic SDA, to enable a move into SDA that meets the person’s needs and preferences?</p> <p>d. The NDIA anticipates that over 25,000 participants will need SDA by 2027. ~23,000 participants currently have SDA funding. Over the next 3-4 years, how will the NDIA identify the remaining 2,000 participants and ensure they have adequate SDA funding in their NDIS plans?</p> <p>e. How often will the SDA demand projections report be released?</p> <p>f. The NDIA has said that the SDA demand projections report should be used alongside other SDA resources developed to support growth, innovation and sustainability in the SDA market. What SDA resources is the NDIA referring to? The NDIA has not released an SDA quarterly report since 2022 Q4 (June 2022). Will the NDIA recommence publishing SDA quarterly reports?</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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NDIA SQ23-000299	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	Specialist Disability Accommodation - Pricing Review	<p>The SDA Pricing Review final report was delivered in June 2023.</p> <p>a. What are the NDIA’s plans for delivering on the recommendations made in the SDA pricing review? Are there any recommendations that the NDIA does not support?</p> <p>b. Since the SDA Pricing Review final report was delivered, what work has the NDIA done with state/territory governments to refurbish or redevelop state-owned existing and legacy stock, in line with Recommendation 15? What are the NDIA’s plans for delivering on Recommendation 15?</p> <p>c. What are the NDIA’s plans for the phasing out of group homes, in line with Recommendation 10? Since June 2023, has the NDIA granted funding to participants to live in SDA dwellings with 4 or more residents? If so, how many participants were granted funding to live in an SDA dwelling with 4 or more residents? Did these funding decisions align with participants’ initial requests for SDA? Why or why not?</p> <p>d. It has been recommended that the NDIA fund demonstration projects to encourage innovation in SDA (see Recommendation 12). How much funding is or will become available for these demonstration projects? Will the NDIA establish regular rounds of project funding to facilitate the development of innovative models of SDA? When and how can the sector be supported by the NDIA to deliver high quality SDA that meets the needs and preferences of participants?</p>	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000116	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jordon Steele-John	Irabina Autism Services - Independent Review	<p>Ms Mackey: The reviewer has been asked to particularly look at the NDIS Act and what the requirements are under that act. So, if there is evidence of a non-compliant use of restrictive practices as a part of her undertaking the review, then she would be looking at it under that act, and then there would be a discretionary option for information to be shared with other agencies, be it police or any other agency that may be</p>	Hansard	25/10/2023

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			<p>relevant.          Senator STEELE-JOHN: So yes, they could refer those?          Ms Mackey: That is not a specific part of her terms of reference, but the capacity for her to do that exists.          Senator STEELE-JOHN: Are the terms of reference public?          Ms Mackey: The terms of reference are currently with the reviewer. We've got a statement which captures the terms of reference, which we will be publishing.          Senator STEELE-JOHN: They're with the judge currently?          Ms Mackey: Yes.          Senator STEELE-JOHN: When is it expected that they'll be finalised?          Ms Mackey: They've been finalised. We'll put something out that captures the terms of reference of the review.          Senator STEELE-JOHN: Will you be publishing the terms of reference, though?          Ms Mackey: The terms of reference, the way they are written, are enshrined in a contract, so we will take the elements out that are appropriate, that give people absolute clarity about the scope of the work that will be undertaken.          Senator STEELE-JOHN: Who makes the determination as to what is appropriate to disclose from that contract?          Ms Mackey: In terms of what's appropriate, there is a particular part of the contract that talks about the requirement—the services that will be offered as a part of that contract. That, if you like, scopes out the arrangements around the review. That is the part that we'll provide.          Senator STEELE-JOHN: Is the commission empowered to make the contract public?          Ms Mackey: I'd have to take that on notice.          Senator STEELE-JOHN: Mr Griggs, are you able to shed any light there?          Mr Griggs: No, I'm not.</p>		
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				<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Okay. Can you take that on notice and provide it to us, because transparency is key here. If it were any other form of review, I'd want to be able to see the letter of the terms of reference.</p> <p>Ms Mackey: And that's what I'm indicating that we'll provide. I'm just going to pull it out of the contract to do that.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: To be fair, though, there is a difference between summarising the terms of reference from the contract and providing the actual wording of the contract.</p> <p>Mr Griggs: The other option—</p> <p>Ms Mackey: To be clear, Senator, I didn't say I would summarise; I said I would extract the part that related to the terms of reference and the scope of the review. I'm not intending to summarise or change the words, but there are parts of the contract that are commercial in nature and that would not be usual for us to disclose as part of making a statement about the review.</p>		
QSC SQ23-000118	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> <p>If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the previous turnaround requirement; and</li> <li>2. the date the change was requested.</li> </ol>	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000119	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</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>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>		
QSC SQ23-000120	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Meeting with Ministers - in Portfolio	<p>How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000121	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Meetings with Ministers - out of portfolio	<p>How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000122	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Ministerial Briefs	<p>a. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000123	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	NPP	<p>How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023?</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.		
QSC SQ23-000124	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Procurement - Paper	Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.  Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000125	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 May 2023.	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000126	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Commonwealth taskforces	Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership.  Please specify where there are changes to the list since May 2023.	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000127	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	2022-23 October Budget	In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses. a. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? b. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: i. External labour hire ii. Consultancy iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses c. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the	Written	3/11/2023

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				<p>funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to?</p> <p>d. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates?</p> <p>e. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas:</p> <p>i. External labour hire</p> <p>ii. Consultancy</p> <p>iii. Advertising campaigns</p> <p>iv. Travel</p> <p>v. Legal expenses</p> <p>f. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>g. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>h. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>i. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
QSC SQ23-000128	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> <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</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.		
QSC SQ23-000129	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Functions or Official receptions - Ministers	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	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000130	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Office upgrades	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	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000131	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Travel Expenses - Secretary/Agency Deputy heads	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.	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000132	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Travel Expenses - Deputy Secretary/agency heads	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.	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000133	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Office upgrades	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?	Written	3/11/2023

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				<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>		
QSC SQ23-000134	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Travel Expenses - Staff	What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000135	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	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000136	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Advertising and Information Campaigns	<p>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	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000137	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Promotional merchandise	<p>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	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000138	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Credit Cards	<p>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</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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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>		
QSC SQ23-000139	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>b. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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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>		
QSC SQ23-000140	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Staffing - Fairwork 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> <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	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000141	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> <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>	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000142	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> <p>a. the name of the review;</p>	Written	3/11/2023



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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. the date the review was provided to the Department;  j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and  k. the date the review was provided to the Minister’s office.</p>		
QSC SQ23-000143	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Inter-Departmental Committee - participation	<p>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	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000144	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Creation of new Entities	<p>How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since May 2022?</p> <p>Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000145	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	End of new Entities	<p>How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased or disbanded since May 2022?</p> <p>Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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QSC SQ23-000146	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	MO request for data - by electorate	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister’s office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000147	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Staffing - ASL	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023.</p> <p>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>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000148	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Market Research	<p>Has the department/agency provided any Minister’s office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign?</p> <p>Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.</p>	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000149	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information	<p>How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown of the number including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications withdrawn;</p> <p>b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</p> <p>c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</p>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<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>		
QSC SQ23-000151	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	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000152	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	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000153	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	Work from Home	<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	3/11/2023

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QSC SQ23-000154	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jane Hume	ChatGPT	<p>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	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000155	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jordon Steele-John	Price Differentiation	<p>We've received complaints about service providers and companies supplying products such as wheelchairs raising prices significantly when NDIS funding is involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you please reiterate for everyone listening, what is being done about price gouging?</li> <li>• What recommendations has the commission made to the Minister, the Agency, and the ACCC?</li> <li>• How are you working with the ACCC on this matter?</li> <li>• What role will the Commission have in complaints &amp; enforcement, and what enforcements will you be able to make against those found to be engaging in price gouging?</li> </ul>	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000156	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jordon Steele-John	Restrictive Practices	<p>In relation to restrictive practices, can you please reiterate for the record, how many providers in the last 12 months have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported</li> <li>• Penalised</li> <li>• Banned?</li> </ul>	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000157	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jordon Steele-John	Restrictive Practices	<p>I understand that some providers' behaviour support plans have enabled the use of restrictive practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many reports in last 12 months, and what were the outcomes?</li> </ul>	Written	3/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000162	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Jordon Steele-John	Restrictive Practices	<p>In relation to restrictive or coercive practices, I want to shift your attention to the practice of ABA (applied behaviour analysis) used on autistic people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the commission received reports regarding providers using ABA?</li> </ul>	Written	3/11/2023

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What advice has the Commission given the NDIA about the use of ABA?</li> </ul>		
QSC SQ23-000158	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Maria Kovacic	Contracts	<p>For DSS and agencies, what is the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total costs of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022, Which relate to the following areas:</p> <p>a) External labour hire b) Consultancy c) Advertising campaigns d) Travel e) Legal expenses</p>	Written	2/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000159	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Maria Kovacic	Contracts	<p>What is the breakdown of the value of contacts relating to the following areas</p> <p>a) External labour hire b) Consultancy c) Advertising campaigns d) Travel e) Legal expenses</p>	Written	2/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000160	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Linda Reynolds	Restrictive Practices	<p>What is the definition of authorised restrictive practices? What is the definition of unauthorised restrictive practices? Should restrictive practices be used at all?</p> <p>a. If yes, why? b. If no, why not?</p>	Written	2/11/2023
QSC SQ23-000161	NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	Linda Reynolds	Forward Estimates	<p>On page 165 of the Social Services Portfolio Budget Paper in Table 2.1.1. program support for the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission increases in the forward estimates until 2024-25, however in 2025-26 the total expenses of supports almost halves in cost and continues to fall in 2026-27.</p> <p>A. Why does support for the NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission fall in the forward estimates?</p>	Written	2/11/2023

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				<p>B. As more participants join, the scheme shouldn't support for the NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission increase rather than fall in the forward estimates?</p> <p>C. How can the Government assure participants that the NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission is being properly funded?</p> <p>D. How will this cut in funding into the forward estimates impact the work of the NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission?</p>		
NDIA SQ23-000302	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIS exits	<p>Mr Gifford: I might go back to the earlier question and give you the numbers who passed away in the past two years. In the 12 months to 23 September it was 5,530. In the 12 months to September 2023 it was 6,227.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Thank you. Are you able to break down that data by age or any form of demographic or geographic?</p> <p>Mr Gifford: Certainly we can. Again, we can probably get you at least one level of age breakdown within the course of the session. The earlier questions, again, are in relation to the process, and we'll need to take those on notice.</p>	74	25/10/2023
NDIA SQ23-000303	National Disability Insurance Agency	Jordon Steele-John	NDIA assistance with Coronial investigations	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Within the same 2-year period, please. I know you do not speak publicly about the circumstances of individual cases, but is the agency aware of any particular cases where a participant has exited the scheme due to mortality while they have been awaiting an agency decision in relation to a support service or product that has subsequently been found to be a factor in their passing?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: Those matters would be matters for colonial inquests. Obviously we have been involved in a range of coronial matters. I am not aware of circumstances where that has been found, but I'm happy to take that on notice and provide any further information.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: If you could. And can you tell us how</p>	74	25/10/2023

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				<p>many coronial inquests the agency has been called to give evidence before in the last 12 months? That might be a question for your legal section.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: Over the last five years the NDIA has directly assisted in four coronial inquests where the agency was an interested party or sought leave to appear in the inquest proceedings. These inquests related to former NDIS participants in New South Wales and Victoria. We have also responded to 606 requests for information made on behalf of coroners requesting information to assist broader coronial inquests.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Okay. Would you be able to circulate that piece of information for us?</p> <p>Ms Falkingham: Yes, of course.</p>		
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