

Treasury Questions on Notice Index Budget estimates 2021-22

Qn No.	Senator	Subject	QuestionText	Department or agency	Hearing date	Hansard p. no. / Written qn
BET001	Jenny McAllister	Budget assumptions regarding lockdowns	Senator McALLISTER: Did you identify or project how many such week-long lockdowns might take place over the course of the budget? Dr Kennedy: From memory, just a small number-so low single digits. Senator McALLISTER: Mr Power? Mr Power: As Dr Kennedy mentioned, we do assume localised outbreaks over the period and that they're effectively contained. As Dr Kennedy said, by 'localised', we effectively draw on some of the experience we've seen. For example, if you think about a metropolitan area rather than a statewide situation, for example, we do assume a number of those lockdowns, and they impact on consumer confidence and consumer spending in our forecasts, pretty much through 2021. Senator McALLISTER: How many of such lockdowns did you imagine through 2021? Mr Power: For the exact details, I'd like to take it on notice. But I believe it was in the order of three per quarter. Senator McALLISTER: Three per quarter, of one-week duration? Mr Power: Correct.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	12
BET002	Matthew Canavan	Phillips curve and estimation modelling	Senator CANAVAN: As I said, I couldn't see a clear comment in the paper in terms of your own model but on page 24 you do have some commentary about estimates the US Federal Reserve have done recently, indeed only last year. In a speech the Kansas City Federal Reserve chair outlined that in their view the Phillips curve has flattened in recent years, therefore, indicating a lower trade-off between inflation and unemployment rates. Is that consistent with what's happened here in Australia, in your estimations in this model? I'm happy for you to take that on notice. Dr Kennedy: I will take it on notice. I might even send around the federal estimated model to have a chat to you about it, to be honest.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	16
BET003	Nick McKim	Housing costs over forward estimates	Senator McKIM : Treasury has repeatedly forecast higher wage growth than has actually occurred, and that is a long-term scenario, not just related to the pandemic. What is Treasury's forecast for housing costs over the forward estimates? Is Treasury forecasting housing costs to increase as the proportion of income over the forward estimates? Dr Kennedy: Senator, I need to correct my record. I read out the wrong numbers earlier. I was right in talking about the wage price index in 2019-20 growing by 1.8 and the consumer price index falling by 0.3. Inflation through to June 2021 is forecast to grow at 3.5, as I mentioned earlier-above 3-and the wage price index at around 1.25, and things unfold as they go on from there. Apologies for that. For house prices, I will pass to Mr Power. Mr Power: Senator, you mentioned house costs. We obviously look at CPI, we look at the output gap in the economy, and we look at pressures in the labour market. That all goes into our view of the CPI profile going forward. I don't have for you the component on housing costs. I am happy to take it on notice to see if we have any detail on that point. But that relates particularly to housing costs, or the cost of builds-I assume that is what you are getting at? Senator McKIM: Housing costs in total. People who live in houses generally have to pay bills, but there are also the costs of repaying a mortgage, and for a third of Australians who don't own the home they live in, there is the cost of rent. I am particularly interested in the cost of rents. My hometown of Hobart is the most unaffordable city in the country in which to rent. We have a homelessness crisis down here. We have people living in tents out at the showgrounds, or who have in the near past. Are you saying you don't know whether housing costs are going to rise as a proportion of income? Surely that is something Treasury tracks? Mr Power: On the specific point about what those costs are doing and how they are contributing to the CPI, I am happy to take that on notice and get you some detail on that. Dr Kennedy: There are some very significant differences in rental vacancy rates and rents across cities. You are right, Senator-Hobart and Tasmania for some time have been suffering the pains of growth, particularly on the housing side. The vacancy rates were much higher in Melbourne, so we expect to see rental growth there to be less. It is beginning to come back in Sydney. There is quite a bit of variation by cities. We will reply to this on notice and break it down a bit.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	19
BET004	Gerard Rennick	Defined benefit for public servants	Senator RENNICK : I want to touch on the point you made before about how the tax and transfer system deals with wealth and equality quite well. I've got figures from the Department of Finance recently that showed the defined benefits scheme for non-military employees was a liability of \$335 billion, for 170,000 public servants, which works out at \$2 million per person. Do you think that retired public servants should be subject to an asset and income test similar to people who retire in the private sector? Wouldn't you think that if you had a fair tax and transfer system-it's a fair question. It's a \$335 billion liability, Chair. Dr Kennedy: I will need someone from the revenue side to help me with how the taxation system will apply to people on defined benefits. Senator RENNICK: It's not the taxation system; it's the income and assets test for that. They get taxed, but they should still be subject to an income and assets test, like people in the private sector, shouldn't they? Dr Kennedy: What should be subject to the income and assets test? Senator RENNICK: Say there are 40,000 people who get more than \$75,000 a year every year in retirement. If they've got assets, say, of \$5 million and they've got other income-some retired public servants come back and work as contractors, so they're getting \$75,000 in retirement, plus another \$100,000, for example, as a contractor-should they not be subject to income testing and asset testing if they're already wealthy? CHAIR: Senator Rennick, that's a policy question. It's probably more for the minister. I don't know whether the minister wants to take it. I'm happy for you to explore the issue with the Revenue Group. Dr Kennedy, do you want to add anything? Dr Kennedy: Not at this stage. To be honest, you've caught me on the hop because I don't know the details about it. I'm more than happy to go and have a look at it. Perhaps the best thing I could do for you is to take it on notice and give you a more considered response.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	25

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BET005	Nick McKim	Rental prices	Senator McKIM : I appreciate that response. Just on rents, the secretary was right to say that it's variable across the country. In fact, there's only one capital city where the median rental asking price has gone down in the last year, and that's Melbourne, possibly for quite obvious reasons in terms of the impact of the pandemic on Melbourne. But it has gone up in every other capital city, and in some cases by nearly 15 per cent. I think it's indisputable that we have a problem with rising rents in this country. I'm interested in your response to that on notice; I accept that you've probably given me all that you've got on that in real time. Are there any measures in this budget that will help people to meet the rising costs of rent? Senator Birmingham: I'll let Mr Power add to this. Again, the overall strength in relation to the economy and employment creation are key aspects. The extension of LMITO provides a significant additional financial benefit to certain households. The increase in the base rate of the JobSeeker payment again provides increased support into the economy, including in relation to meeting cost-of-living factors. They are a few of the broader approaches. Obviously, the measures that are particularly stimulating in increasing housing supply at present, in terms of the HomeBuilder program, as well as the continued support through NHFC, are also designed to provide support into those sectors. Mr Power may wish to add to that. Mr Power: Only to say that the government's First Home Loan Deposit Scheme has been in place and expanded. On rents, from a macro point of view, I don't have here any more detail on other measures; but we may be able to come back to you, as I said.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	31-32
BET006	Anthony Chisholm	JobSeeker participant breakdown	Senator CHISHOLM: I just have some questions following from Dr Kennedy's opening statement. I refer to the part where he says that we have an extra two weeks of data and that across the four weeks-this is in relation to JobKeeper-we now have 56,000 former JobKeeper workers who have lost employment. I was just wondering, Mr Power or anyone else, if you can break those 56,000 people down in terms of gender, geography or industry. Mr Power: I don't think we have a breakdown but I'll just ask my colleague. Mr M Cully: We don't have a breakdown to hand but it's something we're happy to take on notice and provide a breakdown for you.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	32
BET007	Anthony Chisholm	Underemployment figures	Senator CHISHOLM: Just on another figure, two million Australians are searching for work or more hours. How many hours a week does someone need to work to be classified as employed? Mr Power: The ABS definition, from memory, is that, if you're employed effectively working any hours then you are classified as employed. Senator CHISHOLM: Do you know how many employed Australians work fewer than 38 hours a week? Mr Power: Not really. The only thing on this that, I think, is important to note is that underemployment has also fallen quite quickly out of the pandemic. I'm sure that there is continuing spare capacity in the economy through underemployment. However, we have seen that come down quite significantly as the economy has recovered. So I guess there is some positive information on people taking up hours of work that has recovered from pre-pandemic levels. I guess, again, we're sort of seeing what's happened there in terms of hours as a sign of strength in the broader labour market. Senator CHISHOLM: Would it be possible to take that question on notice? Mr Power: I'm happy to. Senator CHISHOLM: Also, how many work fewer than 10 hours a week and one hour a week? Mr Power: We can get that information for you.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	33
BET008	Jess Walsh	Consumer spending	Senator WALSH: The budget relies on increased consumer spending-considerable consumer spending. How much GDP growth is expected to be accounted for by increased consumer spending? Mr Power: Consumption is a share somewhere between 55 and 60 per cent of GDP. As you've noted, in the forecasts we have quite a strong labour market recovery and strong labour market income flowing to households. We know that household disposable income had risen quite significantly through 2020; so that adds, if you like, to the income that households have to spend. All of that is built into our forecast. Senator WALSH: The answer was around 55 per cent for this budget period? Mr Power: I'm sorry, what I was saying was that, as a share of GDP, consumption is about 55 to 60 per cent, from memory. As for the contribution, if you like, to the growth, I'll have to come back to you with the detail of how our consumption goes. But consumption is a significant driver of growth in the period, for the reasons that I just mentioned.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	33
BET009	Nick McKim	Linking of public sector wages to private sector wages	Senator McKIM: I am asking the other way around about the impact of public sector wages on private sector wages. Given that you have, as I understand it in your last but one answer, denied that suppressing public sector wages has any impact on private sector wages, what evidence do you have to support that position? There's plenty of evidence to the contrary. Senator Birmingham: In terms of a direct correlation, private sector wages aren't driven by public sector wage determinations. Over time, increasingly inflationary or other factors can drive changes in relation to wage forecasts and expectations. In terms of a direct and short-term correlation, the linking, as we are establishing, between public sector and private sector wage growth does create a connection. But simply an arbitrary decision by government to escalate the rate of public sector wage growth doesn't in and of itself derive a short-term lift in private sector wages. Senator McKIM: That's the second time you've said that, Minister. Can you take on notice what evidence you have to support that position, given I've seen plenty that supports the contrary position? You've made that assertion twice now, and good luck to you, but could you take on notice what evidence you have to support that position and come back to the committee? Senator Birmingham: Sure.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	36
BET010	Eric Abetz	Foreign Investment Review Board - Port of Newcastle	Senator ABETZ : Is it accepted that China Merchants Group Ltd and its subsidiaries are key actors in China's Belt and Road Initiative? This relates to Senator McDonald's questions in relation to the Port of Newcastle. Mr Hamilton: That's not something on which I have an answer for you here. Senator ABETZ: Could you please take that on notice? My follow-up question is: does, or did this, have any bearing on FIRB considerations in making any determinations about the ownership or the leasing arrangements of the Port of Newcastle? Mr Hamilton: Again, Senator, we would need to take that on notice. As I said, we would need to make sure that, in providing a response, we're consistent with the protected information provisions in the act. We'll take that on notice. Senator ABETZ: Thank you. Was FIRB briefed as to this? Could you take that on notice as well? Minister, take this on notice: will the government review this deal under the same provisions that the government reviewed the BRI in Victoria? Believe it or not, I'll be asking that in Foreign Affairs as well, of Minister Payne. CHAIR: The minister may wish to respond. Senator Birmingham: I'll take that on notice, as you requested, Senator Abetz.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	39

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BET011	Eric Abetz	Belt & Road Initiative in Victoria	Senator ABETZ : Well done, Chair; no criticism at all. I'd be interested in Treasury's views on this as well: similarly with the Darwin port, Cockatoo Island, and the Cambria Green proposal for the state of Tasmania, which is a very large proposal. Was the department asked by Foreign Affairs to provide any information-not wanting to know what the information or advice was-or advice in relation to the cancellation of the BRI in Victoria? Mr Hamilton: I will take that on notice, Senator.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	39
BET012	Jenny McAllister	Foreign Investment Review Board - application approvals	Senator McALLISTER : I want to ask some questions about the volume of applications coming to the FIRB both in the period when the monetary screening threshold was lowered to zero and in the period since January this year, when the arrangements were changed again. In the period between March last year and December, what was the total number of applications made? Mr Hamilton: Let me make sure that I've got the numbers here. In 2020, in total, there were 2,952 proposals received by the Treasurer. Of those, 1,743 were non-zero-dollar threshold. My mind is not quite agile enough to do the maths instantly, but the balance is zero-dollar threshold. With these numbers, we go through a careful process of validating them; they may change slightly, but we want to be able to give you a response. Senator McALLISTER: Of those, 1,743 would have in any case come to the FIRB? Mr Hamilton: That's correct. Senator McALLISTER: That makes sense. Of the total, the 2,952, how many were approved? Mr Hamilton: Again, Senator, the maths will defeat me very quickly, but I can give you the numbers for this financial year to date, in terms of approvals, in terms of the numbers of cases approved. Ms Kelley: We'll take it on notice.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	39-40
BET013	Jenny McAllister	Foreign Investment Review Board - application breakdown	Senator McALLISTER: In the period between January this year and May this year, where we are operating under a different set of thresholds and triggers, how many applications have been received? Mr Hamilton: That is 480. That's to 30 April this year. Senator McALLISTER: Am I correct in understanding that, with the earlier figure that you provided, 36 of those were new kinds of notifications? Mr Hamilton: Yes. Senator McALLISTER: It means that around 400 were the sort of business that would have happened prior to March last year but the new arrangements have triggered an additional 36? Mr Hamilton: Yes, around 450 would be. If it's helpful, that compares to around 515 for the same time the previous year. Senator McALLISTER: Of those 36 new kinds of notifications, what is the country of origin for the applicants? Mr Hamilton: I don't have that exact breakdown with me, Senator. We'd have to take that on notice and see what we can do for you. Senator McALLISTER: What sectors predominantly are those applications in? Ms Kelley: We'll have to give that to you on notice as well. Mr Hamilton: We'll have to check the sectors. The sectors are something on which we do provide a breakdown in the annual report that's released-investor country and the breakdown by sector are provided on an annual basis. We're in the process of finalising our annual report for the 2019-20 financial year. That will give that breakdown. But we will see what we can do in advance of that for you.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	40
BET014	Jenny McAllister	Foreign Investment Review Board - application times	Senator McALLISTER : Since we're in the world of the bell curve, what's happening at the margins? What are the longest periods of time? Mr Hamilton: We don't talk about individual cases, as you know; we just provide that information about what are the extreme ones. Senator McALLISTER: I'm not asking you to identify the projects. Mr Hamilton: I can take it on notice and see what we can provide to give you a bit of a sense of how quickly we move for some cases, where there are big commercial deadlines. For some of the more significant transactions, it can take a significant period of time to work very carefully through those. As I said, we move as quickly as we can to move cases through the system.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	40
BET015	Jenny McAllister	Foreign Investment Review Board - application stakeholder feedback	Senator McALLISTER : Of the stakeholders that are telling you that they are keen to see faster approvals, are they drawn from any particular business sector? Mr Hamilton: I'd need to take that on notice. I personally haven't been doing all the engagement myself. I would say there is a wide range of stakeholders that clearly would like faster processing. I suspect even if we didn't have a new legislative framework, the nature of applicants is such that they would like to hear back quickly. It's not unexpected or unusual. So it's something that we are committed to: making sure that the system is as streamlined as is sensible for it to be, balanced against the importance of protecting the national interest and our national security.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	41
BET016	Slade Brockman	Table of foreign investment	CHAIR: Just quickly from me, is the DFAT league table of foreign investment by nation into Australia derived from information you collect or do they collect information separately? It runs: US, UK, Belgium-who's number 4, Japan? Mr Hamilton: We track applications of course. The FATA has a range of thresholds and if a country is not required to lodge an application to us we won't track that as part of our assessments. Broadly, the US continues to be the significant foreign investor in Australia but I'd need to check the correlation of those tables. CHAIR: I'm wondering where the information- Senator Birmingham: From that, DFAT would use a broader mix of data sources. I take on notice to what extent Treasury provides input into those data sources. I'm pretty sure you meant the Netherlands coming in sort of around third or fourth rather than Belgium. But yes, in terms of the full list there and the data sources, we are happy to provide an input.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	42

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BET017	Kristina Keneally	Assumptions relating to temporary migration	<p>Senator KENEALLY: On the government's assumptions in relation to temporary migration: do you have any assumptions in relation to temporary migration? We have 190,000 permanent in 2023-24. What assumptions are you making around temporary migration? Ms Anderson: In the long run, for the medium term and beyond, obviously the next four years are highly influenced by what's going on with COVID. They're probably not particularly instructive as to what the long-run levels will be. We look at history essentially, the pre-COVID history, to guide what's going on in the future. I can provide a bit more detail around how we're thinking about each of those components, if that's helpful. Senator KENEALLY: What we might do, in the interests of time, is take that on notice rather than have a conversation that you and I might find interesting. ... Senator KENEALLY: Back to the levels-do you have any assumptions around levels of temporary migration in 2023-24 or 2024-25? Ms Anderson: We have a model that breaks down what we expect that to be. Again, I can provide that on notice, if that would be useful. ... Ms Anderson: I would posit that migration has contributed historically just over 50 per cent overall to our growth, so it's a very large proportion of the growth that we are seeing. Fertility obviously does have a long-term impact, as does life expectancy. Although we have a lot of people ageing, they are living longer as well. Migration and natural increase are the two, and natural increase is affected by a host of things. Senator KENEALLY: Are you still projecting migration to be a little over 50 per cent, or do you have a different allocation? Ms Anderson: At the moment, over the medium term, I'd have to take on notice exactly what percentage of the growth it is, but I would expect if it's running at around 235,000, it would be a little over 50 per cent-returning to that once we hit that 235,000. Senator KENEALLY: If I could get that on notice too, that would be great, thanks, Ms Anderson.</p>	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	43-44
BET018	Jess Walsh	Budget deficit	<p>Senator WALSH: I think the ABC reported that there is about a \$50 billion deficit at 2031-32. Does that sound right? Ms J Wilkinson: The government hasn't published the level of the deficit in the medium term. Typically what government publishes is the deficit as a share of GDP, which is 1.3 per cent of GDP. I can't confirm that but I'm happy to take that on notice.</p>	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	46
BET019	Jenny McAllister	Women's Budget Statement - timing	<p>Senator McALLISTER: When did you become aware that a Women's Budget Statement would be required? Ms J Wilkinson: I will have to take the specific date on notice, but there was a meeting of the women's task force which was convened in early April. My recollection is that it was soon after that task force meeting that we had a discussion with the Office for Women about what would be different ways in which the package of measures-which were targeting women's safety, security and wellbeing-could be pulled together. Senator McALLISTER: So the women's task force meets. There is a discussion in early April. You then talk to the Office for Women and at that time you're still canvassing whether or not there will be a Women's Budget Statement or some other form of communication? Ms J Wilkinson: As I said, I am happy to take on notice the question about when a decision was taken. I think that was a decision taken by the task force, which is a cabinet task force. I know that the first task force meeting was on 6 April. Certainly within a week of that we were having discussions with the Office for Women.</p>	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	49
BET020	Bridget McKenzie	Discount rates cost benefit analysis	<p>Senator McKenzie: Yes, could someone print off the questions on notice that have been submitted this morning-QON 12 and 14, if that hasn't arrived, and 15. When you say 'periodically', my actual question was when we last publicly consulted and reviewed. Mr Brine: I'm not aware of Treasury having undertaken any public consultation or review. Senator McKENZIE: Right. I don't have it in front of me. Was there a raft of bodies that examined this periodically? Mr Brine: Yes. Senator McKENZIE: How often? What's the period-pi divided by two? Mr Brine: Informally, we examine whether it remains appropriate. In the discussion we had last time, my view and certainly the view of the department is that where it is at the moment is not appropriate. So there is no formal three- or four- or five-year review. I mentioned last time we were looking at a process. I think that is one thing we should examine-whether there should be a regular review and how timely that should be and who's in the best position to conduct it. We're hoping to have that work finalised by August. Senator McKENZIE: Alright. On notice, if you are already working through and making that a regular occurrence, can I ask about understanding better the international settings and how- Mr Brine: Yes, we can definitely undertake that.</p>	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	53-54
BET021	Jenny McAllister	AAO Orders - Women's economic security	<p>Senator McALLISTER: I've got a couple of questions which are largely administrative. I would ask them of Minister Hume, except that we have a slight disjuncture between your role, Ms Wilkinson, in leading the economic security work and Minister Hume's ministerial job. Was there a change to the administrative orders to facilitate the new portfolio for Minister Hume or did the allocations for Treasury remain as they were? Ms J Wilkinson: I hate to say this, but I think that's a question for Prime Minister and Cabinet. I'm not aware of any changes to the administrative orders in respect of her women's economic security role- Ms V Wilkinson: Not at this stage. Ms J Wilkinson: No. Senator McALLISTER: Can the department take this on notice. This is one of these things where I'm really asking you to confirm my online research. Is the administrative arrangements order that was promulgated on 18 March the relevant order? I am happy for that to be contemplated over the break and for people to come back and tell me later. Ms V Wilkinson: Yes. Senator McALLISTER: I don't know whether one has been made subsequently. Do you know, Minister? Senator Birmingham: I can't recall, which suggests possibly not, but the issuing of an administrative arrangements order won't necessarily capture everyone's attention. I have no doubt that the processes around updated charter letters and so on for ministers would have ensued and been pursued following the reshuffle. But, in terms of the administrative orders, whether there were changes necessary, I'm just not sure. Senator McALLISTER: Maybe that's just something- Senator Birmingham: We can take it on notice as it relates to whether there were any changes for Treasury. Senator McALLISTER: Yes, that is particularly what I'm asking: has Treasury acquired any new responsibilities or devolved any responsibilities to anybody else as part of that set of changes to create this new set of appointments in relation to women? Ms J Wilkinson: My answer is I don't think so, but we will confirm for you.</p>	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	58
BET022	Jenny McAllister	Homebuilder application processing and briefings to the Minister	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Thanks, Ms Wilkinson. That is not a response to my question. Have you briefed the minister about the issues confronting these citizens? Ms V Wilkinson: We have provided briefings on every issue, including that one, that has come up during the course of HomeBuilder. Senator McALLISTER: Thank you. When did you brief him? Ms V Wilkinson: I haven't got the dates with me. Ever since it started to emerge as an issue we have been briefing, so I will have to go back, but probably since 14 April. I haven't got that with me at the moment, but we can come back on notice.</p>	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	60

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BET023	Anthony Chisholm	National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development and meetings with states and territories	Senator CHISHOLM: Okay. Has the department met with state or territory counterparts to discuss these funding arrangements, or is that left to the department of education? Mr Boneham: I have had discussions with state treasuries. I've also been involved in bilaterals with the Department of Education, Skills and Employment and skills departments in treasuries. So yes, I have been involved. Senator CHISHOLM: How many times have you met with states and territories since the new minister was appointed? Mr Boneham: I'd have to take that on notice.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	62
BET024	Anthony Chisholm	JobMaker Hiring Credit - feedback on registration process	Senator CHISHOLM: Did you get any feedback as part of that process? If so, from how many businesses and what was the type of feedback? Mr Hirschhorn: I don't have in front of me what feedback we've got. I hope that many of those employers found it useful in maximising their entitlement and not waiting until their claim was rejected. But, unfortunately, I'd have to take on notice if there was any substantial feedback. I know that across this scheme we have received 35 complaints. We generally track complaints more than compliments, but there's not a high level of complaints under the process.	Australian Taxation Office	1/06/2021	69
BET025	Anthony Chisholm	Companies using the JobMaker Hiring Credit	Senator CHISHOLM: Are the companies using the hiring credit? I'm keen to get a sense of the different categories of employees, whether they were non-employing businesses or had one to four employees, five to 19 employees or more than that? Is that something that you have? Mr Hirschhorn: We can provide some information. This links to the 2,400 unique employees who have been claimed. A little more than half-1,279-have been claimed on behalf of microbusinesses. Microbusinesses are those with business income or turnover roughly less than \$2 million per annum. I will give you the exact numbers: 1,279 are micro and 736 are small to medium enterprises, so that is the difference. They range in turnover from \$2 million up to \$250 million per annum. Not-for-profits have claims for 88 unique employees, and large business have claimed for 297 unique employees. So the measure has mostly been taken up by microbusinesses and small businesses. Senator CHISHOLM: You've got that based on turnover. Do you have it based on the number of employees they have? Mr Hirschhorn: I do not have that in front of me. I can take on notice as to whether we can produce that.	Australian Taxation Office	1/06/2021	69-70
BET026	Nita Green	Northern Queensland reinsurance costs	Senator GREEN: You were talking about the difference with reinsurance and that being passed on through premiums. What percentage of an insurance premium on a regular house in North Queensland does the government say is currently made up of reinsurance costs, because this is what government is going to pay for? What proportion of a premium is made up of a reinsurance cost? Mr Kelly: I don't have those figures with me. I can take it on notice. Senator GREEN: But surely there's been some analysis about the margin that the government assumes that people will save? It's not saved; it's more what's attached to reinsurance. Is it one per cent, two per cent? What's the margin? Mr Kelly: I would have to take the precise figures on notice. But, yes, we have been doing an analysis. We have been working with the Australian Government Actuary and an actuarial consulting firm to get a preliminary idea of the margin, but obviously the consultation process will offer opportunities to take that further. Senator GREEN: So you do have those figures, but it's just a matter of taking them on notice? Mr Kelly: I think we have those figures, but I don't have them with me, so I can't be absolutely certain.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	71
BET027	Nita Green	Insurers that re-enter the northern Australian market	Senator GREEN: Minister Sukkar also said that two large national insurers said: they will be shortly announcing that they are re-entering the northern Australian market now that they will be able to access reinsurance through the Australian government. Which two big insurers are going to re-enter the market now? Mr Kelly: Senator, I don't have the answer to those questions. Ms Quinn: I have in the past known, but I don't have them in my head at the moment. But I'm happy to take it on notice.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	73
BET028	Bridget McKenzie	Superannuation - assessment on regulatory burden	Senator McKENZIE: In your letter you say that the review has adequately addressed all seven RIS questions. The review doesn't cover a variety of policy positions within this reform. The one I am specifically asking about is the requirement to write to members. I want to understand, given we didn't do a RIS-like the impact to businesses of that particular policy position-how did we assess what the impact would be? Ms Quinn: While all the RIS questions were addressed in the Productivity Commission, we did additional analysis in terms of the regulatory burden, in terms of the compliance cost of the different metrics. I'll just pass to my colleague on that more specific question. Mr Dolman: The government proposal in relation to holding funds to account for underperformance has been taken to be an implementation of recommendation 4 of the Productivity Commission inquiry. In many ways, what the government has put forward is very close to what the Productivity Commission recommended in its review. One area of difference was that the Productivity Commission recommended that funds that fail the test twice should be, essentially, shut down. They'd be forced to close. Instead, the government has put forward a two-tiered response to funds that fail the test. The first tier being that they need to inform their members; the second tier being that, after two consecutive failures, they'll be closed to new members entering the fund, rather than being closed down altogether. Senator McKENZIE: For this particular policy position around funds writing to members et cetera, I want to understand what assessment you did and how you came to the conclusion that this was an acceptable level of regulation and burden for companies. Can someone help me with the detail? Ms Quinn: On the letter that you quoted, there is a table about the regulatory burden of implementing the whole package. It's broken down by the three different large classifications. The entirety of holding funds to account for underperformance is expected to cost about \$6.4 million, in terms of the compliance costs. I'm happy to take on notice more details that go into making up that component for you. I don't have them with me here today. On balance, the whole package was around reducing fees for superannuation members, improving the efficiency of the operation of superannuation trusts and ensuring that, over time, there's accountability and strong governance in superannuation schemes.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	74-75

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BET029	Jess Walsh	Briefings to Liberal or National backbenchers regarding Your Future, Your Super Bill	Senator WALSH: Has Treasury provided any briefings to Liberal or National backbenchers in relation to the powers that we're talking about since the publication of the Senate inquiry into the bill? Mr Dolman: I'd need to take that on notice.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	78
BET030	Jess Walsh	Estimates on quantity of underperforming MySuper products	Senator WALSH: In response to a question on notice as part of the Senate inquiry into the bill, Treasury provided an estimate that 21 out of 77 MySuper products, containing over three million accounts, were underperforming. Has Treasury updated its estimates of how many MySuper products are underperforming since then? Ms Quinn: We provided this answer on 8 April. I'm happy to take it on notice, but it's unlikely.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	78
BET031	Jess Walsh	Estimates on quantity of underperforming choice products	Senator WALSH: Yes. But I'm wondering why there's no Treasury data then on underperformance of those products which you've mentioned you intend to bring into these reforms later. At the moment you've given us answers on notice in April around the MySuper products. You've mentioned an incomplete dataset in relation to choice products. We have talked about the Productivity Commission research. You don't dispute that benchmark. There must be something that you can tell us now, or on notice, about your best estimates of how many choice products would be underperforming on the same benchmark that you've used for the MySuper products. Ms Quinn: I'm happy to take on notice what we have available, noting the caveats around the work that APRA is doing to improve our understanding of that segment of the market. I am happy to take your question on notice.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	79
BET032	Anthony Chisholm	Teleconferences with Greensill Capital	Senator CHISHOLM: How many teleconferences with Greensill Capital were there all up? Ms Quinn: I'm not sure. I had one, which was about getting preliminary information about what they were interested in discussing, and then it was allocated to people more closely working on that policy. I think there was at least one more, but I don't know if there were more than that. I am happy to take it on notice. Senator CHISHOLM: Okay. Is there no-one there who can advise us of how many there were? Ms Quinn: I don't think so. Mr Kelly: My understanding is that there was one call involving Mr Beckett with Greensill. That would have been in addition to the one you mentioned. But we can take that on notice. Senator CHISHOLM: Thanks. On that first call, who was present on the conference call? Ms Quinn: I, Ms Bishop and a member of Greensill Australia. Senator CHISHOLM: Who was that person from Greensill Australia? Ms Quinn: I would have to check. I honestly can't remember.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	81
BET033	Anthony Chisholm	Company proposals/suggesting in relation to the small and medium enterprise guarantee	Senator CHISHOLM: Can you provide me with a list of what other companies pitched or put forward suggestions regarding the small and medium enterprise guarantee and who met with them from the department? Ms Quinn: I am happy to take that on notice.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	82
BET034	Anthony Chisholm	Meeting information from Greensill Capital to Treasury	Senator CHISHOLM: Can you provide a copy of the information that Greensill Capital gave to Treasury officials in preparation for that meeting? Ms Quinn: There may be some issues with commercial-in-confidence information, but we're happy to take it on notice. Senator CHISHOLM: If it was information provided by them, I don't see how that would be commercial in confidence. Ms Quinn: Parties often provide information to us as part of a discussion. I didn't receive anything in advance of the meeting that I had. There were follow-up discussions, but the initial discussion was to find out what their inquiry was and what they were interested in.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	82
BET035	Matthew Canavan	National Access Regime timing on decision	Senator CANAVAN: Consultation closed on 19 April. When was the decision made to progress reforms to the National Access Regime of the nature outlined in the budget papers? Mr Jeremenko: It was certainly made after 19 April and in the course of finalising the decisions in the budget context. Senator CANAVAN: Could you take on notice the specific date that the Treasurer made that decision?	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	83
BET036	Matthew Canavan	National Access Regime and consultation with ACCC	Senator CANAVAN: Did you or others from Treasury seek the views of the ACCC about the proposed changes? Ms Quinn: Yes, and they provided a submission. Senator CANAVAN: Were the ACCC consulted on the specific changes that had been proposed in the budget papers? Ms Quinn: They responded to the consultation paper, as did others. Senator CANAVAN: So their communication to you was during the consultation period? Ms Quinn: Yes. Mr Jeremenko: As a stakeholder. Senator CANAVAN: So there was no further consultation to them post 19 April? Mr Jeremenko: Not that I'm aware of. Ms Quinn: We can take on notice- Senator CANAVAN: Take it on notice.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	83-84
BET037	Matthew Canavan	National Access Regime list of submissions	Senator CANAVAN: Yes. I thought with detailed changes like this there might be, and the ACCC is on the record about some of these matters. Is there a list of submissions available online? Mr Jeremenko: The normal practice is that submissions and the content those submissions be released. It's a matter for government, but normally it is the case that the timing of that release aligns with legislation that is introduced. Senator CANAVAN: None of those submissions have been made public at this stage. What about a list? Is that available, or can you provide it? Mr Jeremenko: I could take that on notice, but there's nothing published. Senator CANAVAN: Okay, if you could take on notice the list of the submissions that were provided	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	84
BET038	Matthew Canavan	Arbitration proceedings	Senator CANAVAN: But it seems to indicate that they'd be retrospectively terminated, because it says, 'terminating arbitration proceedings'-something that's going on. Maybe you could take on notice whether or not Glencore's arbitration would be terminated by this provision. Finally, just going back to some of the questions I asked earlier, are you aware of any other arbitration proceedings that would be impacted by this clause? Maybe you could just indicate verbally, Mr Pearl. Mr Pearl: We're not aware, but we'll check.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	85

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BET039	Anthony Chisholm	Spending on improving the regulation of proxy advice	Senator CHISHOLM: Has Treasury already spent any money in relation to developing options to improve the regulation of proxy advice? Mr Dickson: In the sense that we've been doing the consultation already, yes. Senator CHISHOLM: Could you give us a sense of how much money has been spent and what that's been doing? Mr Dickson: I can take that on notice. The reason for taking it on notice is that essentially what you're asking me to do is just calculate the salaries for the people that have been working on this so far. I can do that calculation.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	87
BET040	Anthony Chisholm	Proxy advisers consultation and meetings with organisations	Senator CHISHOLM: Which organisations did you meet with prior to the Treasurer announcing the consultation? Mr Dickson: I did not have meetings with anyone prior to that that I can recall. But I'll take that on notice just to be sure. Senator CHISHOLM: Would it be possible to get a list of who was met with in the preparation of the consultation paper? Mr Dickson: I'm happy to take that on notice.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	88
BET041	Rex Patrick	Data Standards Body contracts	Senator PATRICK: Sure, in some senses the rate that I go to, the standard I work to is in the Legal Services Directions. If you are to employ a senior counsel above \$3½ thousand per day or a junior counsel over \$2,300 a day then the Attorney's permission needs to be sought. I've just seen in a whole range of defence contracts, OneSKY-parliament dealt with OneSKY several years ago with Aircservices, where they were paying quite extraordinary rates. I appreciate these are novated, so it is what it is for you, and I'm glad to see you are at least testing the market. Can I ask you on notice to provide details of any of those contracts that are above, say, \$350,000 per annum. Ms O'Rourke: The current contracts? Senator PATRICK: You can de-identify the players. I just want to get an understanding of that, then maybe next time we'll ask you the same questions about what's happened since. Ms Quinn: Happy to take that on notice. It is something we have been looking at. Our desktop analysis suggests it's not unusual for these very specialist skills to command quite high rates in the marketplace, because it is quite a specialist skill and the ability to do this work is quite important for the consumer data- Senator PATRICK: At this point in time you're supposed to be talking down the price, in case someone's listening: 'They're a dime a dozen and we're quite outraged by the price!' Ms Quinn: That's why we've gone to market. I guess the underlying point is that they are very specialist skills that are important to the system. Senator PATRICK: The contract no doubt will specify the types of activities that they do. Ms Quinn: Correct. Senator PATRICK: So if you could couple the higher value contracts with the type of work that was contracted, I'd be grateful for that. This next thing must be relatively widespread. My understanding is that there was a PID made in relation to this. I don't want to go to the PID, but apparently it's common knowledge that someone lodged a PID. That alarms me greatly, because it's an offence to reveal that someone has made a PID other than, obviously, in the course of dealing with a PID. Can you confirm, has a PID been made? I'm not going to go to the details. Ms Quinn: I'm not aware of anything within the Treasury context. Senator PATRICK: Okay. And you, Ms O'Rourke? Ms O'Rourke: No. Ms Quinn: We're happy to take it on notice, but it's unlikely, if neither of us-	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	90
BET042	Deborah O'Neill	Funding for supporting small business	Senator O'NEILL: That's a great segue; thank you very much, Ms Quinn. You wouldn't have known, but my next question is about funding allocations for supporting small business in the current budget estimates from 2021-22 through to 2024-25. What is the funding allocation in the budget specifically for supporting small business? Ms Quinn: Do you mean the total funding or the additional funding in this budget? Senator O'NEILL: Do you want to give me both? Ms Quinn: It is very difficult, actually, to come up with these summary numbers, because a lot of programs in the budget will benefit small business but they are not designed and targeted specifically at small business. But, in total, 43.4 in additional tailored initiatives over the forward estimates are being delivered for the small family business portfolio. That is one calculation made up of a series of measures. I don't have before me the base on what that goes to, but we're happy to take it on notice.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	92
BET043	Deborah O'Neill	Funding breakdown to ASBFEO and ahead for business over the forward estimates	Senator O'NEILL: Could I just clarify the final two amounts? Was it funding for ASBFEO? Ms Quinn: Yes, \$1.5 million. Senator O'NEILL: And funding for Ahead for Business? Ms Quinn: Yes, \$0.9 million. Both of those additional on a base. Senator O'NEILL: And that is to be expended in the period between 2021-22 out towards 2024-25? Ms Quinn: Yes. Senator O'NEILL: Could you point to a place in the budget where I would be able to see the breakdown over the forward estimates of those amounts, or do I need to get that from you? Ms Quinn: All of these are measures that are in the Budget Paper No. 2-individual kind of measures. They would all be under the Treasury section of the budget. Mr P Cully: We may need to provide it on notice. I think some of them are listed individually and a couple of them have been wrapped into other measures. So they are not easily identifiable from the budget papers. Senator O'NEILL: Okay; if you could do that and indicate the date at which the expenditure is likely to occur. I want to see if it is forward or back-end loaded.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	93
BET044	Deborah O'Neill	Decision taken to include information on the level of funding for small business	Senator O'NEILL: When was the decision taken to include information on the level of funding for small business in the 2021-22 portfolio budget statements for Treasury? Ms Quinn: I don't know that there was a specific decision taken. It would have been included as we do our normal reporting, which is not necessarily at a divisional level. Senator O'NEILL: Given the government's frequent statements and mentionings of small business, I find that a little surprising that there isn't a clear focus in the way that Treasury is looking at funding allocation to small business, when we know it is creator of jobs in much of Australia. Ms Quinn: The government allocates program funding and staff to perform that program funding. We have that information, but there are other aspects of the work of the division which could be done in different parts of the building. I am happy to take that on notice. We have an internal budget process where we shift resources around depending on the demands and that can go up or down depending on the government's demands on Treasury. The program funding and funding of particular programs is spent on what the government has indicated and we have base funding that gets shifted depending on the needs.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	93-94

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BET045	Deborah O'Neill	Research on the impact of the pandemic and natural disasters on the cost to small business	Senator O'NEILL: Thank you for that general overview; I appreciate you filling me in on a little bit of the conversation that happened earlier. I think household insurance in the north has been an issue for many, many years. In terms of business insurance in those contexts, that's something that seems to have acquired more passion and focus in recent times. Can you provide any documentation, or can somebody come up and give me some detail, about the research that Treasury has undertaken, particularly with regard to the impact of the pandemic and natural disasters on the cost to small business? Ms Quinn: I can take that on notice. One of the areas which has been in the public domain is the business interruption insurance issues that have been raised as part of the pandemic, about whether the pandemic is covered under business interruption insurance or not. You may be aware that there has been one test case, and there is another test case-it's an ongoing process through the courts-to determine whether COVID-19 does or doesn't trigger those particular metrics in business interruption insurance, which is a clear connection between business insurance and mostly small business but also large business and the pandemic. That's one area we have certainly done analysis on and provided advice to our Council of Financial Regulators colleagues on. Senator O'NEILL: Can you provide that to us? Ms Quinn: I can take that on notice. Much of it is in the public domain through various forums. Senator O'NEILL: So nothing significant is located in terms of information from the department in addition to what's in the public place; is that what you're telling me? Ms Quinn: We have been working with our colleagues to examine different implications. I'm happy to take it on notice to see what we can provide.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	95
BET046	Deborah O'Neill	Advice to government on insurance arrangements for small business	Senator O'NEILL: I do take your point that the government of Australia is looking at this at a macro level, but when you're a small business there's nothing macro about your lived experience. We have seen incredible pressure in the tourism industry, and the availability of the particular kinds of insurance that you are talking about there-and their paucity in terms of being able to access them-is shrinking. That's an exacerbating factor for regions of Australia that really rely on tourism. What are the government's plans in terms of these problems that are very much emerging now in the community? Mr Kelly: The government's plans are matters for the government to answer- Senator O'NEILL: What advice are you providing? Mr Kelly: It is something that we've been asked to continue to monitor. We are certainly engaging with the Insurance Council of Australia on the issues around that. As Ms Quinn mentioned, the ICA has recently launched a project which will look at a number of strands about how you can respond to some of these issues, whether it be industry-led initiatives, disclosure with customers or how they do the insurance arrangements. Others are on the government side. We continue to talk to the industry, we continue to monitor the pressures and issues out there and, as required, we will provide advice to government. Senator O'NEILL: Have you provided advice to government already? Mr Kelly: Yes. Senator O'NEILL: Can you provide that to this committee? Ms Quinn: We can take that on notice and ask the minister.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	96-97
BET047	Deborah O'Neill	Reference documents	Senator O'NEILL: It's an acquired taste! Perhaps you might provide the committee with those documents that you've referred to in terms of the work that you've done. I notice you've provided us with some documents here. CHAIR: It's not in the pack? Mr Billson: No, but I can.	Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman	1/06/2021	104
BET048	Deborah O'Neill	ASBFEO Review and details of Ms Carmel McGregor's involvement	Senator O'NEILL: Minister, could you provide on notice the selection process for Ms McGregor and the tenure, the cost et cetera-general information about why she was selected, what the period of time for employment is, how much it will cost and any other relevant matters for the committee? That would be helpful, thank you.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	106
BET049	Deborah O'Neill	Ombudsman functions	Senator O'NEILL: At any point in time, with either of the relevant ministers-the Prime Minister or the new current minister-have you had any discussions about the range of current functions that you have as the ombudsman? Mr Billson: I did suggest that, as part of the review-we'd made a submission to the review about things that we may be more able to help with if there was clarity around, for instance, an alternative dispute resolution toolkit that we could deploy. Senator O'NEILL: So you offered a road map for expansion of capacity? Is that a fair way- Mr Billson: That was a general conversation, and, in our submission to the review, we did point to some areas where we could add more value. Senator O'NEILL: Is that document public? Mr Billson: I don't think it is, but I can't see a reason why we couldn't- Senator O'NEILL: Would you be happy to make it available to the committee? Mr Billson: If I could check with Ms McGregor-I have no problem with it. I'm not sure what her brief is, but I'm happy to make that available.	Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman	1/06/2021	107
BET050	Deborah O'Neill	Consultation period for ABSFEO review	Senator O'NEILL: And do you know why this six-week period was set? Is that the standard practice? Mr Billson: I don't know, but I was led to believe it was to work within the delivery time frame that was required for the review to be completed. Senator O'NEILL: Based on? Mr Billson: The legislation spoke about a window of time. Senator O'NEILL: So that's the six-week period we'd find in the legislation? Mr Billson: Not the consultation period, but there was, I think, within five years of the agency being established- Senator O'NEILL: I thought it was four or five years. Mr Billson: there shall be a review. So there was that time line, and then, I understand, the portfolio, in engaging Ms McGregor, stepped back and ran the Gantt chart in reverse, so the review was concluded. Senator O'NEILL: Would you be able to find out on notice if the six-week period is the same time as was previously the case when reviews have been undertaken? Mr Billson: I certainly can ask.	Department of the Treasury	1/06/2021	108

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BET051	Deborah O'Neill	Digital economy funding for small business	Senator O'NEILL: In another committee that I'm hoping to return to to ask a few more questions, I wanted to ask about Zara, which is a clothing brand. I saw Senator Hume's head go up. She must have shopped at Zara as well. It's a pretty big company with an international footprint. It was found to have \$2.8 million in underpayments, or wage theft. That was announced today. I can't understand how much is going to a business of that scale in terms of regtech and how much is going to small business. So my question really is: what quantum of the digital economy funding is carved out for small business? Can you answer that or take it on notice? Mr Billson: I'd take it on notice, and I'd have to get some advice from the other portfolios to whom those allocations were assigned. Senator Hume: I can probably assist with that too. Obviously, small business adopting digital technologies is one of the business priorities in the Digital Economy Strategy, but it hasn't been carved out in terms of dollars, because a lot of the strategies there apply to large businesses as well. But I can take that on notice for you. Senator O'NEILL: Yes, thank you, because often it's the big ones that soak up the money and it's the small ones that actually need the government support to change. Senator Hume: There have been some initiatives-ASBAS, for instance-that are specifically targeted to small business. Senator O'NEILL: If you could identify those in quantum to make it clear which bits are for small business-what's been absolutely guaranteed for small business-I'd appreciate it.	Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman	1/06/2021	108-109
BET052	Deborah O'Neill	Small businesses filed for insolvency in 2019-20	Senator O'NEILL: So no specifics there. Do you know how many small businesses filed for insolvency in 2019-20? Mr Billson: I actually do have those numbers. Let me just dig them out. We monitor what's said through ASIC and, as I mentioned earlier, through CreditorWatch as well. They have those figures. We were hoping we might have had last month's numbers, but we may not have them. If you're okay with it, I can grab the current data off ASIC and take that on notice and come back to you, if you're happy with that. We have noticed that it's increasing but still less than previous years. There are a number of datasets that are there, but I'll dig up that information and bring it back to you. Senator O'NEILL: Thank you very much. What I'm trying to get, in a table form if I can, is the comparison between the period 2019-20-maybe even with the regional variation embedded in it so it's a pretty good picture-and the latest estimates for 2021. If you haven't got the data tonight maybe having it on notice will give you a little more time to get it out. I did note that you indicated in your opening remarks some change to insolvencies. Mr Billson: Yes. They're currently down about 50 per cent from the same time last year. That's for the latest data that we've got, which is running from the end of last year into early this year. That's now trending up a little bit again but it's still below that more familiar rate. We'll dig that material up for you. We'll grab the ASIC numbers for you and then the CreditorWatch. They're a little more contemporary in terms of what they're seeing through their channels as well. Senator O'NEILL: In terms of the causes of insolvency, I'd be particularly interested if you could flesh those out a little. I'd like to know how much of it relates to some of the matters you've raised. Is insolvency in particular places related to inability to access finance? Is it related to inability to access affordable insurance? Is it related to changes in franchise structures? I'd like not just amorphous numbers but some reasonable data about what is really going on in terms of insolvency. CHAIR: Mr Billson, is that a dataset you control? Mr Billson: No. We'd source that from a number of datasets and then we'd probably ask some questions as well. Senator O'NEILL: I think it's really important for us right now to have a sense of exactly what's going on and where. We've talked about the macro, but small business really are a fleet-of-foot microresponse to the particular context they find themselves in, and there are very variable elements to that. Mr Billson: Yes, and regional variations as well. Senator O'NEILL: Absolutely. Mr Billson: With your agreement, we'll see if we can have 'a look under the hood' from the published material and see what we can get our hands on.	Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman	1/06/2021	109
BET053	Deborah O'Neill	Industry consultation	Senator O'NEILL: For those 32 industries that you're consulting with, could you provide any summary documents of your observations at this point in time? I'm sure you're doing that in pretty real time. Mr Billson: That's our policy forum, so we try to take guidance from that group. Senator O'NEILL: And do you publish what you find from them, or do you put that out? Mr Billson: Not usually. Normally they're giving counsel and advice to where they think we could best be applying our energies. At the moment that seems to be universally around insurance, to be honest with you. That's a strong theme that keeps coming up and even through the states' small business commissioners. Three of those colleagues have raised insurance as well. Senator O'NEILL: How frequently do you do these sorts of policy gatherings? Mr Billson: We haven't had one for little while, certainly not since I've been appointed, so we're just trying to make sure we have the right groups around that table. Senator O'NEILL: Okay. If you do have consultations with those 32 groups, I think it would be very interesting for this committee to actually receive those almost-in-real-time descriptors of what's going on and see how much that matches with some of our observations as well. Mr Billson: Sure.	Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman	1/06/2021	111
BET054	Malcolm Roberts	Small business and industrial relations	Senator ROBERTS: The topic of my second question is: what can be done to reduce industrial relations complexity for small business? The Fair Work Act is about that thick when it's printed out on pieces of paper. That's horrendous for any small business employee and any small business employer to get their heads around, and we need to restore the employer-employee relationship, surely. Mr Billson: Yes, it's difficult for many small businesses who want to do the right thing to know precisely what that is. I did point earlier to Senator O'Neill's question around small businesses measures in the budget. One of the regtech measures is to actually try and help small businesses navigate the award system. There's also an advice line for small businesses that aren't a member of an industry association. They're not of a size where they've got an HR professional, but they can get some advice. Our agency has also put out a report about simplification, and for the purposes of full disclosure, Senator, I actually authored a report for the Fair Work Commission judge His Honour Justice Iain Ross about practical steps I thought could be taken within the current law as it is to make the system work better for smaller employers. Senator ROBERTS: Could we get a copy of that, please? Mr Billson: Yes, I will make sure that you receive that.	Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman	1/06/2021	113
BET055	Malcolm Roberts	Tax system complexity	Senator ROBERTS: What about tax, not just personal tax but business tax and especially the complexity of the tax system? Mr Billson: We put a report out. When was that? May I consult the Deputy Ombudsman, who was here when I wasn't. Dr Latham: It was February. Mr Billson: February, that just rolled off the tongue. It's quite fresh, Senator. I can make sure we refer that inquiry report to you as well, and your winter reading list in Canberra will be abundant. Senator ROBERTS: Thank you.	Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman	1/06/2021	114

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BET056	Malcolm Roberts	Research undertaken in relation to human carbon dioxide and any climate factor	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Do you dare to make any comments at this time of night? Thank you for being here tonight. I understand the Productivity Commission does analysis of policy sometimes, impacts and so on. Good policy in my view, particularly in terms of climate change and energy policies, would be based upon specified, quantified impacts of carbon dioxide. In other words, for a given amount of carbon dioxide output from humans, it would have a quantified effect on climate factors such as temperature. Now, you have written reports on climate change, I believe. Have you ever identified any specified, quantified link between human carbon dioxide and any climate factor, whether that be temperature, rainfall, droughts, storms or whatever-specific, quantified impact? Mr Brennan: I would have to check. It's a while since we've done work that went specifically to climate change or other related policies like energy policy. For the most part the scientific basis for the work I think has been based on findings from organisations like the IPCC, so it hasn't been the practice of the commission to second-guess the scientific assessment made by other entities but possibly to make a judgement about the economic policy response and how best the economic policy response might sit with that science. But as I say, it's some time. I would have to take on notice the last bit of work we have done that was specifically on climate or a related policy and confirm that response. Senator ROBERTS: So you've not been able to identify specific, quantified impacts between human carbon dioxide and climate factors? Mr Brennan: I'm really saying it wasn't necessary. We would not have seen that as part of our remit. Senator ROBERTS: Okay, I'm not finding you wrong for doing that, but you haven't seen that. You have assessed the costs and benefits of policies? Mr Brennan: I'm going to have to take that on notice, because it's a while, and I might even turn to Mr Lattimore, because his history with the commission is longer than mine. Certainly in recent years we haven't done work in this area, going back 10 to 15 years, possibly. Mr Lattimore: In 2012 we did some work on barriers to effective climate change adaptation, but we haven't done a lot of work in this arena.</p>	Productivity Commission	1/06/2021	116
BET057	Malcolm Roberts	Productivity Commission advice to governments, MPs and ministers since 1996	<p>Senator ROBERTS: We've had policies now going on at least 25 years that are impacting energy generation, agriculture, industry, transport, personal as well as business, and these have had billions of dollars of impact, throttling us back in our economy, especially relative to our competitors. Could you tell me on notice what advice the Productivity Commission has given to governments and MPs and ministers since 1996, just the date, the type of communication, whom it was sent to and what the advice was? Mr Brennan: Senator, we can certainly take that on notice. It will be predominantly in the form of written reports that we will have published. That's our primary and for the most part the overwhelming bulk of our communications with government. Senator ROBERTS: And if you could note the specific advice in there, just a summary of that advice, please? Mr Brennan: We will see what we can do.</p>	Productivity Commission	1/06/2021	117
BET058	Katy Gallagher	Stage 3 Tax Cuts 2024-25	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: Okay. Can you give me the original costings for stage 3 in 2024-25? Ms Mrakovcic: So, basically, if you look at the measures that were taken in the 2018-19 budget, and you combine them with the 2019-20 budget, for those that were going to impact in 2024-25, basically the medium-term cost is just over \$130 billion. Senator GALLAGHER: And then can you give me the number in that 2024-25 year? Ms Mrakovcic: I don't think I've got the 2024-25 year in front of me, and I don't think we would have because 2024-25 would have been outside the forward estimates at the time. So it gets a little bit complicated because it goes back to 2018-19. I'm happy to take it on notice and see what we can do. Senator GALLAGHER: Okay. If you could.</p>	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	7
BET059	Katy Gallagher	Gender breakdown of taxpayers within the tax brackets	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: I want to know the breakdown of taxpayers within the tax brackets as they exist this financial year. Ms Mrakovcic: I might ask my colleague, Ms Di Marco, to see if we can translate it back-we have detailed tax brackets that we can take you through. But because there is so much change happening-the changes in the thresholds and the changes coming in terms of the 37c rate and all the rest of it-we'd have to try and relate it back. CHAIR: I would have thought the numbers in the tax brackets are only going to be known when tax returns are finalised. Senator Birmingham: I suspect it would be easiest for the ATO to give the most up-to-date- Senator GALLAGHER: Give me the last best figures you can, acknowledging that there are changes afoot. Ms Di Marco: While they are not quite defined in brackets, if you're happy I can give them to you in slightly lower than brackets. There are around two million taxpayers earning less than \$37,000, there are around 1.2 million taxpayers earning between \$37,000 and \$45,000, there are around 5.1 million taxpayers earning between \$45,000 and \$90,000, there are around 1.5 million taxpayers earning between \$90,000 and \$120,000 and there are a little over 1.6 million taxpayers earning above \$120,000. Senator GALLAGHER: Do you have that broken down by gender? Ms Di Marco: I don't have that in front of me. Senator GALLAGHER: Does anyone have that? Ms Di Marco: I could take that on notice.</p>	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	9-10
BET060	Malcolm Roberts	Review of Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)	<p>Senator ROBERTS : Let's move to something that is to some extent out of the ATO's control, and that's FATCA, the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act. I understand it's a difficult issue, and I can see the smile on your face. You must be tearing your hair out. FATCA, for those who don't know, is a US law requiring banks around the world to report accounts held by US citizens who are resident in other countries, including dual citizens. Despite FATCA's significant and capricious impacts-and they're truly horrendous-on people in this country and around the world, why did Treasury or the ATO decide that individual deposit account holders were not significant stakeholders when preparing the post-implementation review of FATCA? Mr Hirschhorn: In terms of the post-implementation review-I'm afraid I'm not aware of the review that you're referring to. Senator ROBERTS: Apparently there's a review of FATCA. You have to make a report on deposit account holders and you have to send that report to significant stakeholders, but apparently deposit account holders were not considered significant stakeholders. Mr Hirschhorn: I might pass to my colleague. Ms Mrakovcic: That issue probably falls with us, but I'll have to take it on notice. Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. I appreciate the complexity, and you're caught in the middle. Ms Mrakovcic: As you just pointed out, FATCA is a unilateral measure. It is a decision by the US to expect information. To some extent, we try to work with other countries in terms of exchange of information. At the end of the day, the regulatory and tax framework in one country is different from that in another, and a lot of this sometimes involves trying to work with the two. But let me take the specific question on notice so that we can give you the best answer we can provide.</p>	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	12-13

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BET061	Malcolm Roberts	FATCA and engagement with US counterpart	Senator ROBERTS: Okay. Thank you. That's very good. The US practices citizenship based taxation. It is almost unique in that; I think there is one other country that does it. FATCA reporting includes reporting on the Australian income of Australian residents, which is taxable in Australia and for which the US must grant a foreign income tax offset- a foreign tax credit, in American technology. This is not income that is being hidden from the US tax authorities. Has the ATO expressed to its US counterpart its support of a same country exception to FATCA as recommended by the US Taxpayer Advocate? Ms Mrakovcic: We'll take that on notice.	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	13
BET062	Malcolm Roberts	FATCA reporting	Senator ROBERTS: What work has been done to verify that FATCA reporting is proportionate to the benefits of reporting to the respective governments of Australia and the United States? I'm thinking of sovereignty issues and the fact that shareholders of banks will lose. As I understand it, if we don't bend to the US blackmail, out banks can be taxed at 30 per cent. That's essentially blackmail. How much has FATCA increased tax revenues and/or decreased tax evasion, and how much has the collection of FATCA data increased the risk of data breaches and/or identity theft directed at account holders? These are significant issues affecting our citizens. Senator Birmingham: You asked some factual questions towards the end of that, which officials have info on. Ms Di Marco: Senator, we're going to take all of those questions on notice. We'll see where we can provide you information. Some of the questions you are asking go to cost-benefit analysis across two countries. Obviously it would be very difficult for us to provide substantive detail on that. But we are happy to go away and see what information we can provide.	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	13-14
BET063	Malcolm Roberts	ATO reporting under FATCA	Senator ROBERTS: Okay. FATCA has some exemptions to reporting that are not included in the similar common reporting standard, or CRS. Under FATCA, accounts with under US\$50,000 and accounts held at local client based banks are exempt from being reported to the IRS. How is the ATO ensuring that these exemptions are being honoured and data is not being over-reported to the IRS? As I said, the slightest mistakes cause Australian citizens, dual citizens and Americans resident in Australia enormous grief with the IRS. And they are innocent-the IRS is not innocent, the Australians are innocent. Mr Hirschhorn: I will take the details of that on notice. We are very aware of those exemptions from FATCA. I will take it on notice, but I would hope to provide comfort to you in saying that we do not report unnecessary accounts.	Australian Taxation Office	2/06/2021	13
BET064	Gerard Rennick	Costs of tax exemptions - questions at hearing	Senator RENNICK : I have a couple of questions around table 5.11 for the Treasury revenue side. That's on page 153 of Budget Paper No. 1. Could I get the workings for your large positive benchmark variations on E8 and E7, which is the main residence exemption-obviously you can take this on notice-and also the concessional taxation of employer super contributions and earnings, which is C2 and C4. Can you please show me on notice how you came up with those particular numbers. Could I also ask that those numbers be split out between houses valued between \$0 and \$2 million, between \$2 million and \$5 million, and greater than \$5 million. Likewise, could the superannuation concessions be broken down by tax bracket-up to \$45,000, between \$45,000 and \$120,000, between \$120,000 and \$180,000, and above \$180,000. Ms Di Marco: I think we provided similar answers to you on notice in the October-November estimates sitting. Senator RENNICK: I asked the tax office, and then I was told to ask Treasury if I could get the split out. Ms Di Marco: And I think that's still correct. The way we model these is as an aggregate estimate. We are not able to split them out by either income bracket or house value. Senator RENNICK: That's fine. I want to see your assumptions on how you got these figures. Clearly you've got a formula that has come up with these numbers. I need to see the assumptions you've used to derive these numbers. Ms Di Marco: Okay. We'll see what we can provide you on notice. These things change markedly from year to year. There are a couple of reasons for that. Firstly, you'll have changes in the economic outlook. With E7 and E8, for example, what we saw in 2018-19 was that the sale price of established dwellings fell. And when you have a look at things like capital gains tax, while that might be only one year, when you are looking at disposal periods of around eight years, that actually has a fairly significant impact on the change in gains over that period. Senator RENNICK: That's good. That was my next question: why has the cumulative E7 and E8 dropped from \$66 billion down to \$47 billion in this is estimates? That's why I wanted to look at your assumptions to see how you've come up with these numbers. Ms Di Marco: We'll see what we can provide you on notice. Another thing that might be worth talking through is that, with tax benchmark variation, the other thing that impacts on it as well is the actual value of the benchmark. So not only do changes in things like house prices impact the value of the concession; if you've got changes in things like wages and employment, that impacts the average tax rate that would be paid if it was taxed at your full marginal rates. So you've got things impacting on both sides of the benchmark equation. ... Senator RENNICK: The last one is a capital gains tax exemption for foreigners on the sale of non-portfolio interests. There was a case last year where the tax office ruled that the sale of water rights by foreigners wasn't taxable. I've got massive issues with that on equity grounds. I think it's nuts that foreigners can even buy water, let alone not pay tax on the sale of water rights. It's important that we quantify that sort of stuff because it's not fair that Australians pay capital gains tax and foreigners, subject to certain conditions, don't have to. Ms Di Marco: I'll have to leave those aspects to my policy colleagues in the tax office, but I can take on notice the quantification- Senator RENNICK: If I can get a value for it, I can then say, 'That's costing us \$2 billion.' Ms Di Marco: My suspicion is that that may also be unquantifiable, but we will come back to you on notice.	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	14-15

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BET065	Gerard Rennick	Superannuation concessions	Senator RENNICK: Sure. And that's why I want to ask about superannuation concessions. Seventy per cent of people are still on the age pension. That's hardly dropped in the 25 years since we introduced super. I want to see who's getting the superannuation concessions. It seems to me that if we are dropping \$40 billion a year in tax concessions, which is worth \$3,000 for every person who works-13 million workers-maybe it's better to give them a \$3,000 tax cut up-front and get rid of super and that's a better and quicker way to pay off the house and save for their retirement. Ms Di Marco: We'll see what we can provide you on notice. But, as I said, we're not able to provide estimates of these via income bracket or by distribution. Senator RENNICK: Let's have a look at your assumptions, and I'll see whether I can analyse that. I have some questions that maybe I'll ask of revenue. I think I asked the tax office originally, and I got the same answer on this one: would the tax exemptions on the interest deductions granted to companies under section 26(90) also be able to be estimated? That's where Australian companies who invest offshore get an interest deduction on the money that they borrowed to buy the company offshore here in Australia, even though they don't match the income of it, so there's no symmetrical- Ms Di Marco: We might have to take this one on notice as well. It's worth noting that some of these very complex variations that are related to specific elements of the tax law are often unquantifiable, and that's usually due to limitations of data and availability.	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	14-15
BET066	Kim Carr	Patent box policy consultation	Senator KIM CARR: I want to get to that issue. So the importance is that there's been no consultation broadly with industry or other departments to this point? Is that fair? Ms Reinhardt: There has been consultation with other departments in the development of- Senator KIM CARR: Which departments? Ms Reinhardt: I'd have to take that on notice but I understand the industry department is certainly one of them; we have discussed it with them. As you are aware, a number of companies have made public statements in the past and made submissions on using patent box; so that's also information we're able to draw on.	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	18
BET067	Kim Carr	Research and Development Tax Incentive	Senator KIM CARR: Thank you. What's the revenue, by the way, forgone on the RDTI at the moment? I can't see that anywhere in the budget processes. Can you point me to where I can find that table? Ms Mrakovcic: I suspect that we may have to take that on notice. Senator KIM CARR: Annually, please, if you could. Ms Mrakovcic: We'll take that on notice.	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	22
BET068	Kim Carr	Consultation in relation to the Board of Taxation review on the Research and Development Tax Incentive	Senator KIM CARR: I'll go through this. Will the submissions to the review be confidential? Ms Mrakovcic: I don't know the details around it. It will be the Board of Tax- Senator KIM CARR: Is there someone who can help me with actually conducting the review? Ms Mrakovcic: The Board of Tax, when it undertakes reviews, basically consults with a range of stakeholders. My understanding-and I'm relying on my recollection and understanding here-is that generally those submissions would not be made public. The best I can do is to take the question on notice and confirm my understanding. Senator KIM CARR: Thank you; if you would, please. Particularly, given that this scheme is a jointly administered scheme with the department of industry, will the submissions at least be made available to the department of industry? Ms Mrakovcic: I'll take that on notice.	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	22
BET069	Kim Carr	Considerations of the Board of Taxation review on the Research and Development Tax Incentive	Senator KIM CARR: I might give some background to the department; I'm very familiar with this scheme. This has already been reviewed on a number of occasions. Kate Carnell did a review of income tax R&D back in 2019 and was quite scathing in her commentary. The FFF committee undertook a review and made recommendations on this. Will that be part of the consideration? Senator Birmingham: Importantly, first and foremost, this is a review not into the policy settings of the R&D tax incentive but into its administrative operation. Insofar as those preceding reviews have recommendations on or points of relevance to the administrative operations of the R&D tax incentive, I'm sure that the Board of Taxation will be cognisant of those. Senator KIM CARR: Can I put those questions specifically to the Board of Taxation, or are you answering on their behalf? Senator Birmingham: We can take those on notice, to confirm what I've just said there. Senator KIM CARR: The terms of reference talk about reduced duplication. Is there a budgetary target to achieve reduced duplication? Does that mean a funding target? Senator Birmingham: There's not a savings target attached to this review. It's a genuine attempt at achieving efficiencies for those who engage with the system as well as those who administer the system. Senator KIM CARR: To what extent will cultural differences be taken into account in the review-the cultural differences between the two agencies that administer this scheme, in fact, given that Industry is the lead agency here-in terms of the review process itself? Ms Mrakovcic: The board will do a comprehensive review and it will take account of all of the factors that it needs to, in terms of coming to findings on this issue. To the best of my knowledge, it is not being constrained in any way. It's a genuine attempt at really understanding how the scheme is administered. A number of observations have been made around the administration of the scheme, and this will be an opportunity for the Board of Taxation to explore those in detail. Senator KIM CARR: I'll put the questions on notice. Thank you very much for your indulgence, Chair.	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	23

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BET070	Dean Smith	2019 Kimberley region scam	<p>Senator DEAN SMITH : You are right; the ABC report does credit the ATO with having identified the issue quickly and that only 42 people received incorrect refunds. Is that 42 figure correct? Mr Hirschhorn: I'd have to take that on notice. It does not jar, but I'd have to take it on notice. Senator DEAN SMITH: The ABC report also said that more than 700 people tried to claim an incorrect amount, worth more than \$20 million; is that correct? Mr Hirschhorn: Again, I'll take it on notice, but the numbers do not jar. ... Page 24 Senator DEAN SMITH: How many of the 42 has it been decided that compliance activity not be taken against? Mr Hirschhorn: I'd have to take that on notice. Senator DEAN SMITH: Is it half or three-quarters? Mr Hirschhorn: I don't have a feel for that number. I would say that it's a significant number of the 42 where we did not pursue compliance activity. Senator DEAN SMITH: Has that been communicated to those 42? Mr Hirschhorn: I'd have to take on notice how we communicated those decisions. ... Senator DEAN SMITH: What's the quantum of funds that the ATO has effectively-my word, not a taxation word-forfeited? Mr Hirschhorn: I will take that on notice but, as I said, it is a very small percentage of the \$20 million, the ABC figure. ... Senator DEAN SMITH: Do you recall what might have been the average quantum of money that was owed by those 42? Mr Hirschhorn: I'd have to take that on notice. ... Page 25 Senator DEAN SMITH: What exercise did the Australian Taxation Office go through at a local level to ascertain the scope of the scam, the nature of the people impacted and what additional assets individuals might have had that could have been called upon for them to pay the money back? Mr Hirschhorn: I'd have to take the specifics on notice. Our first priority was to shut down the scam, which we did very quickly. ... Mr Hirschhorn: Yes, so we very much focus on trying to identify the promoter, and this is across the board and not just on this one. We will have looked at the individuals, I suspect, particularly more for those with bigger false claims, to see our potential for recovery, but I'd have to take more specifics on notice. Senator DEAN SMITH: My last question is in regard to the nature of the promotion of the scheme. Was there a promoter or promoters? Mr Hirschhorn: My recollection is that there was a promoter who introduced the idea, and then there were some-it spread. There was a promoter, the information spread through the community and other people who were not introduced by the promoter, I suppose, copied. Senator DEAN SMITH: The promoter, with his or her immediate conspirators: has he or she been prosecuted? Mr Hirschhorn: I'd have to take on notice where that is. Senator DEAN SMITH: That would be great. Mr Hirschhorn: And, indeed, where that is between us and potentially the police. Senator DEAN SMITH: Great. So the matter is not yet resolved. Mr Hirschhorn: Again, I'm not exactly sure, but I will come back with where it's at.</p>	Australian Taxation Office	2/06/2021	23-25
BET071	Ben Small	IGTO report into precious metals	<p>Senator SMALL: That's very helpful. That's exactly what I was looking for, to be honest. Obviously it doesn't come as a galloping shock that the IGTO published a report on 19 March relating to the ATO's conduct with respect to PMT Pty Ltd, a gold refiner on the Gold Coast hinterland. ... Senator SMALL: So this is a public report by the IGTO which clearly assesses the ATO's conduct as anything but reasonable in the circumstances. I guess what I'm looking for is: what is the ATO doing about its actions in this area? I acknowledge that this is a difficult area of taxation collection and indeed there are very legitimate circumstances for the use of those powers. But repeatedly the ATO points to statements like 'the commission has provided on average 19 interactions to engage a taxpayer'. You clearly articulated there are instances where there are in fact no contacts made with the taxpayer before this happens. ... Senator SMALL: I am not looking for a PR exercise; I'm looking for what we're doing about it. Ms Smith: No, I understand that. I don't want to do that. I do want to let you know that we have had a number of reviews done into how we actually go about collecting outstanding debt. We've got a legal obligation. We have a large debt book and we need to, by law, pursue that. We are constantly approving. We have teams that are constantly looking at complaints, looking at how can we do things better. It's our MO. We are constantly looking at this. We have-I am not sure where this actually falls-quite a number of changes that have been progressively made. I've been there for five years. I know there've been quite significant changes over that five-year period that actually put a lot of safeguards around ensuring that circumstances such as these-I don't know the details-where it's been assessed it's not accurate, are not okay. We take this very seriously. We understand the strength of the power and we make sure that we put significant safeguards around that. Senator SMALL: So if on notice you could provide that detail that would be good because the ATO's apology that was issued to PMT says things like, 'I apologise for any impact,' and, 'I apologise for any inconvenience.' The IGTO has found that that apology falls short of the standards which might be expected of a revenue authority. So I guess the point here is self-assessment is no assessment at all. The independent assessment is that we've fallen short in this space. On notice I'd very much appreciate that detail because I do appreciate the sentiment behind that.</p>	Australian Taxation Office	2/06/2021	26

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BET072	Ben Small	Carter & Ors v. ATO - Litigation objections	<p>Senator SMALL: The same taxpayers in this matter, Carter & Ors v ATO, in January 2021 lodged a further objection which demonstrated that the ATO's calculations were incorrect as they ignored significant costs, including interest, borrowing costs, land tax, council rates et cetera-and I am happy to provide on notice all that detail. Ultimately the objection arguably demonstrated that there was no tax for profit capable of being distributed. Never mind the arguments around distribution, the underlying assessment was wrong. Two weeks ago the ATO refused to consider that objection on the basis that it was lodged out of time. Can I ask how the ATO frames that as reasonable to litigate something that has been extensively prosecuted through the courts? You lost at the Full Federal Court unanimously. You're now going to the High Court and you won't review evidence that says the underlying assessment is wrong. I'm not looking for an argument around nuances of tax law. I'm asking if you look down a camera at the Australian people and tell them that that is the responsible and right thing to do on the part of a revenue authority. Mr Jordan: I think we need to understand more precisely what you're talking about. We're very happy to do that because, to state the obvious, if you have trust income someone is entitled to tax. Senator SMALL: The point is, commissioner, that the taxpayer has tried to lodge an objection demonstrating comprehensively, with forensic financial reports and whatever, that there was no income. And yet the ATO has refused to look at that objection whilst prosecuting this in the High Court, having lost a Full Federal Court case unanimously. Mr Jordan: I- CHAIR: I would point out that the commissioner is under certain privacy obligations as well. Mr Jordan: This is at an extreme end of things. I would just need to know what's the background to that matter because if an objection is lodged we have to look at the objection because we've got to determine it one way or another. So you're saying we're refusing to look at the objection. We have a responsibility to make a decision on that objection; so someone must look at it within the ATO. Senator SMALL: I've seen the correspondence from the ATO refusing to look at it. So on notice, I would appreciate a very comprehensive response as to how the ATO justifies that. Mr Jordan: I don't want to sound defensive here but often there are two sides to a story. Senator SMALL: And that's what I'm looking for. Mr Jordan: It sounds somewhat unusual what you're putting. I would like to have the opportunity to see what the background to such a matter is.</p>	Australian Taxation Office	2/06/2021	27-28
BET073	Nick McKim	Petroleum resource rent tax carried forward expenditure	<p>Senator McKIM: Thanks, Mr Hirschhorn. Earlier you spoke about two different classes of carried forward expenditure with regard to the PRRT. If I understand you correctly, there's one class that you're describing as trapped or effectively lost and another class which is functional. Is my understanding correct, that you have separated the carried forward expenditure into those two classes; and could you just unpack for the committee what you mean by those terms? Mr Hirschhorn: This is more a conceptual concept; it's not something that's really possible to quantify at a precise level. Fundamentally, PRRT is based not on a normal taxpayer-by-taxpayer basis but on a project-by-project basis. A particular project could have had a lot of expenditure spent on it, but it's not a very good project; it will never recoup the amount of investment plus uplift that's been put into it. That was particularly the case, can I say, for onshore projects before they were mostly excluded from the PRRT. Most onshore projects would never pay PRRT because they were never going to be profitable enough to recoup the expenditure. So, really, what I was saying is that you should not think that there is a bank of 208 billion of carried forward expenditure and then do a simple, 'Oh, if we're getting 30 billion a year, it will take 10 years to chew through it', because a chunk of that 280 billion is in relation to projects which will never foreseeably pay PRRT because they will never actually recoup the investment with uplift. Senator McKIM: I understand. Thanks, Mr Hirschhorn. You said it's not possible to quantify at a precise level. Do you have any ballpark figures that you'd be prepared to share with the committee? Mr Hirschhorn: I do not have any ballpark figures that I would be able to share with the committee. I can take on notice whether we can provide anything. The trick is that it is project by project. Senator McKIM: Understood. Mr Hirschhorn: There's an additional complication in that we actually publish taxpayer-by-taxpayer specific PRRT data. CHAIR: Would it potentially change year on year? As projects become more or less profitable, the price- Mr Hirschhorn: Indeed. Let's say, for example, there was a massive spike in gas prices and suddenly gas was getting much more, there is a possibility that some projects which, on a particular range of gas prices we thought would never be profitable, might actually become profitable. So there is that potential. I'm not sure that I'll be able to provide anything, but I'm happy to look into seeing whether we can provide something. ... Would you be able to provide, potentially on notice, how many projects there are on which carried forward expenditure is trapped or effectively lost? Mr Hirschhorn: We'll see what we can do. We can certainly provide a number of projects that we have lodgements for. We'll see what we can do in terms of other cuts. Senator McKIM: Thank you. Just to be clear, I think you've taken on notice whether you're able to provide a ballpark figure on how much of the 282 billion that's currently in the carried forward expenditure category is trapped or effectively lost. I think you've taken that on notice; is that right? Mr Hirschhorn: Yes. We'll see what we can do.</p>	Australian Taxation Office	2/06/2021	31-32
BET074	Rex Patrick	Voluntary JobKeeper repayments	<p>Senator PATRICK: Just very quickly, Mr Hirschhorn, yesterday we talked about companies that were repaying JobKeeper. Could you take on notice, in order to find a balance between approval from the companies and obligations to answer the questions of the Senate, whether or not you could perhaps contact those companies, and take on notice a list of companies that have paid back JobKeeper and/or are discussing it positively with you-again, assuming they're comfortable with their name being on a list? Mr Hirschhorn: I spoke about 47 companies; 33 who have paid and 14 who have committed or are in discussions with us about paying. I would say that most of those 47 are on the public record as saying that they were going to repay some or all of their JobKeeper. There are some on that list of 47 who are paying back privately. They have not sought to publicise their repayment. We have been grappling, in the context of taxpayer secrecy, with what would happen if somebody promised to pay back money publicly and then did not pay back money, because that would not be great for the confidence in the tax system. I'm happy to report that at the moment that is a theoretical problem only, not a practical problem. Senator PATRICK: Could you take on notice providing a list of those companies? If you came back and said, 'Here are the companies that agreed to provide their names'-not setting up a contest in any way about oversight- Mr Hirschhorn: We will take that on notice and consider it. Certainly, we can definitely provide a list of those who we are aware have publicly said that they were repaying JobKeeper. We will consider what we can do with those who have not publicly said they will repay.</p>	Australian Taxation Office	2/06/2021	33-34

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BET075	Rex Patrick	Child Support - tax return lodgements	Senator PATRICK: I might go to the commissioner now. I've had a conversation with Social Services about tax returns for paying parents-parents that are obliged to pay child support. Answers were provided on notice that a number of customers hadn't lodged a tax return for five years-79,000; for 10 years, it was 16,000; and for two years, it was 196,000. I note that, as you get closer to that, there are some valid reasons why people may not have lodged a return if they're connected to a company or something like that. ... Page 35 Senator PATRICK: How do we get to these numbers, that Social Security supplies me with, where they say customers haven't lodged a tax return for five years-79,000? ... Senator PATRICK: It was a question on notice to Social Security-SQ2000221. I'm trying to reconcile it. ... Senator PATRICK: Maybe you can have a look at that question on notice and come back with an explanation as to why you think the numbers are so high, noting that, ultimately, it is supposed to be the tax office that enforces the law around those returns. Could you take that on notice? ... Senator PATRICK: Sure. To assist me, have a look at that question and then give me a total number of people who have not lodged tax returns that are not necessarily related to parents, just so that I can see the apportionment of it. I will leave it there, because I have one more very short line of questioning.	Australian Taxation Office	2/06/2021	34-35
BET076	Rex Patrick	Carter & Ors v. ATO - Litigation objections (Patrick)	Senator PATRICK: Thank you for that. I'll almost certainly come back. I'm going to Social Services on this on Friday and I will almost certainly come back. Commissioner, just in relation to the IGT report into PMT, the couple that own the gold company, it concerns me that we're seeing garnishees turning up again, particularly in circumstances where it appears as though communication hasn't really occurred. CHAIR: Senator Patrick, I don't want to interrupt you but Senator Small has actually asked quite extensive questions on this. Correct me if I am wrong, Commissioner Jordan. Ms Smith: That's correct. CHAIR: Senator Small covered this issue in quite a lot of detail. Senator PATRICK: I might go and read the Hansard. There were a couple of recommendations from the IGT. One of them was perhaps to re-apologise to them. Has that occurred? Ms Smith: Can I take that on notice? Wherever we don't get it right we are very quick to want to remediate and apologise. If that's what's necessary, we absolutely will. I've since received a little bit of information regarding the case. So I will make sure that I'm across that and that the remediation that we take is accurate.	Australian Taxation Office	2/06/2021	35
BET077	Rex Patrick	Garnishee comparison data	Ms Smith: I would first like to say the number of garnishees obviously that have been issued in the last few years is very low compared to where it has been. And this is in part because of COVID but it's also in part because, you might recall, we've had inquiries into this-you and I have been involved-and at the time of that inquiry we had 16 of 19 recommendations from an IGT report that we were partly through implementing. We've since had reviews done by the ANAO, the IGT and others as well as our own internal audits. We have a team constantly improving how we do this. There are a couple of things I'd like to say. The first one is that we are putting a lot more effort-we'll be able to show you this numerically-into the early engagement with clients, the letters, the SMSs, so that we don't have to get to firmer and stronger action. It's been quite a deliberate shift and we're looking at exactly how we add that up. I know for example we're already getting the same number of inbound calls from clients who have had so much engagement early with letters and SMSs. We've got more inbound calls coming in now than we used to get pre-COVID. So we're seeing the effects of this and we're seeing actually that in March we had 80,000 payment plans set up and in the month before-I might have got these months wrong-it was 30,000. So we're seeing actually some really positive signs. We're seeing the kept rates, the way that people are actually engaging with us and are paying those payment plans. We're delighted in seeing this getting better. So we're focusing all our metrics on early engagement. In addition, the last thing I'll say is we've put an enormous amount of rigor around what was already a very robust process around garnishees but we've since implemented a panel to ensure that you don't just introduce a lot more safeguards. There are occasions where we do. I'll leave it at that. I don't want to go on and make it a PR exercise. Senator PATRICK: Just on notice then can you provide your statistical and numerical picture and perhaps go longitudinally so that we can see the comparison to what you were doing perhaps back as far as 2015-16 versus where you are now? Ms Smith: Yes.	Australian Taxation Office	2/06/2021	36
BET078	Katy Gallagher	MAAL disputes	Senator GALLAGHER: Could you take this on notice, perhaps? I don't know whether you can break down some of the figures you have just given me into revenue heads. What areas were you able to recover that money in? Was it under the MAAL or diverted profits tax? Mr Hirschhorn: I can give you some figures on MAAL and diverted profits, in particular. Senator GALLAGHER: All right-and they would be part of this? Mr Hirschhorn: They are part of this. The benefit of the MAAL and the diverted profits tax is-like all anti-avoidance rules-not so much the application; it is the behavioural change they prompt. If I talk about MAAL, what we know is that multinational companies are booking about \$8 billion a year extra through their Australian subsidiaries which they previously booked as sales from places like Singapore and Ireland. Under transfer pricing rules they get to pay for the value of what is done overseas. We don't get to tax that. Our estimate is that we are collecting over \$100 million extra in income tax per year from the MAAL. The diverted profits tax is acting more as a deterrent. It is harder to quantify. On the diverted profits tax, we are likely in this next year to issue our first diverted profits tax assessments on a couple of companies that did not change their behaviour. Senator GALLAGHER: You say it is harder to measure, but then you are going to issue your first assessments. Mr Hirschhorn: Yes. Most companies, when we came in with the MAAL and the diverted profits tax, fundamentally changed how they booked their income. They changed to billing from Australia and changed what they did. We will have a couple of assessments- Senator GALLAGHER: You are having a dispute with a couple. Mr Hirschhorn: Yes, we are having a couple of disputes. I don't have the numbers immediately to hand but there is often a lot of focus on e-commerce companies in this space. I think we have issued and collected-again, I might clarify this on notice-well over a billion dollars in back years from multinational e-commerce companies, including about \$1.25 billion since 2016-17 in cash collections on back years. We think a chunk of that activity is because of the MAAL they were prompted to settle the back years. I cannot obviously talk about private matters, but Microsoft, Apple and Facebook have all publicly stated that they have settled tax affairs with the ATO. Probably most recently there was the December 2019 announcement by Google that they had settled their back years with a payment of \$481.5 million.	Australian Taxation Office	2/06/2021	40

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BET079	Anthony Chisholm	Charities met with on regional Australia visits	Dr Johns: ...I just want to indicate where I'm travelling to, and I will eventually get to many more during my time. Recently I was in regional South Australia and we met with charities in Whyalla, Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Clare, Balaclava, Gawler and Paralowie. In March, prior to that, I did a run out west to New South Wales to Penrith, Katoomba, Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo, Gilgandra, Coonabarabran, Tamworth, Gunnedah, Muswellbrook and Newcastle. Prior to that, late last year, I was in regional Victoria in Gisborne, Woodend, Lancefield, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Daylesford, Ballarat and Geelong. Just prior to that, I was in regional Queensland in Maroochydore, Tewantin, Gympie, Maryborough, Pinalba, Bundaberg, Cherbourg, Kingaroy, Toowoomba and Ipswich. I'll continue to make those runs into regional Australia because I find that there are literally inspirational stories that come from those charities, which I like to share with whoever cares to listen. ... Senator CHISHOLM: Dr Johns, I wonder whether you could table or provide on notice at some stage a list of which charities you met with on those trips. Dr Johns: I think I can. We always ask permission and we always clear the fact that we're not literally investigating them at the time, so there's no embarrassment; so I think I can do that, yes.	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	2/06/2021	42-43
BET080	Anthony Chisholm	Regulatory impact on charities	Senator CHISHOLM: I'll put this to the minister. This is from Toby O'Connor, the CEO of the St Vincent de Paul Society national council: The administrative burden of monitoring all our activities is enormous and not warranted. Unlawful acts are already covered by existing criminal law. These changes increase red-tape for no good reason. What response do you have to Mr O'Connor about the impact that it's going to have on the work of St Vincent de Paul? Senator Hume: I'm not familiar with the intricacies of the charity. I'll have to take the details of that on notice. Senator CHISHOLM: You're not familiar with what St Vincent de Paul do? Senator Hume: I'm not familiar with the red-tape burden that has been imposed on St Vincent de Paul, so I'll have to take the question on notice. Senator CHISHOLM: Legal experts are similarly floored by the government's approach here. Legal firm Arnold Bloch Leibler's submission to Treasury described the legislation as 'fundamentally inconsistent with our democratic system of government' and described the changes as 'a clear fetter on freedom of political communication and on dissent by civil society'. The Law Council President, Dr Jacoba Brasch, suggested that the proposed changes leave registered charities, including faith-based charities, at grave risk of political interference and, ultimately, will have a disproportionate chilling effect on organisations which have an important voice in matters of public policy. Would you dispute that assessment, Dr Johns? Dr Johns: I can't add to the answers that I've already given. I might add one element: local churches, what we call basic religious charities, are not covered under our governance regulations, so they don't fall into this discussion at all. Senator CHISHOLM: What about you, Minister? Would you have a response to those legal experts? Senator Hume: I'm not familiar with the issues that they're talking about, so I'll have to take it on notice.	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	44-45
BET081	Anthony Chisholm	ACNC submission to Treasury consultation to draft amendment to governance standard 3	Senator CHISHOLM: Are you able to make that submission public? Dr Johns: The board's? Senator CHISHOLM: Yes. Dr Johns: That's a matter for the board. Senator CHISHOLM: Could you take that on notice? Dr Johns: Sure. It is a matter for the board, but I can certainly relay your request to them.	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	2/06/2021	45
BET082	Malcolm Roberts	RSPCA Queensland and RSPCA Australia	Senator ROBERTS: Thank you for being here, Dr Johns. My questions are to do with the RSPCA Australia and Queensland. They're two separate bodies. What body oversees the activities of the RSPCA Australia at either state or federal government level? Dr Johns: I'd have to take that on notice. We'd have to look at the register and look at its details. Senator ROBERTS: You'll be excused if you have to take a lot of these on notice. It surprised me when I learned about this. Why in Queensland are RSPCA state inspectors who lay charges also the prosecutors in the same cases? Shouldn't they be merely witnesses? Dr Johns: I will take that on notice, thank you. Senator ROBERTS: Why are RSPCA Australia staff referring owners to particular vets and refusing to recognise the expertise of others? Dr Johns: I'll take that on notice, thanks, and I'll interrupt to this extent. We will have a look at any charity's fitness for registration. We don't go beyond that remit. Senator ROBERTS: Why would RSPCA Australia be the recipient of fines levelled at an owner of an animal when prosecuted by a state RSPCA staff member? Dr Johns: I'll take that on notice, thank you. Senator ROBERTS: Aren't RSPCA Queensland and RSPCA Australia separate bodies? Dr Johns: I'll take that on notice. Senator ROBERTS: If an RSPCA Queensland inspector tells an owner of an animal to pay a large sum of money in order to get their unreasonably seized animal returned, and if not paid the animal will be killed, doesn't that sound like extortion? Dr Johns: I don't know, but I'll take it on notice. Senator ROBERTS: How many animals are put down by the Queensland RSPCA in a year? Dr Johns: I'll take that on notice. Senator ROBERTS: Is it true that animals held by the Queensland RSPCA are given to organisations for laboratory experimental purposes? Dr Johns: I'll take that on notice. Senator ROBERTS: Are the RSPCA Queensland and the RSPCA Australia genuine charities or non-profit organisations and worthy of receiving Commonwealth grants? Dr Johns: I'll take that on notice. Senator ROBERTS: How can the Queensland RSPCA seize valuable animals from registered breeders and then on-sell them for thousands of dollars in profit for the RSPCA? Dr Johns: I'll take that on notice, thank you. Senator ROBERTS: How much do the RSPCA Australia and RSPCA Queensland receive from the Commonwealth in grants? Dr Johns: I'll take that on notice. I'm sure it's on the register. Senator ROBERTS: I don't expect you to know these. It surprised me when we found out what we found out. I'm not at all surprised that you're taking it on notice; I appreciate that. Why would anyone donate to the RSPCA Australia and RSPCA Queensland when their practices are not very charitable? Is it time for the RSPCA Australia and RSPCA Queensland to be investigated for their offensive practices? Dr Johns: I'll take all of those matters on notice, thank you.	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	2/06/2021	48-49

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BET083	Jess Walsh	Proxy adviser complaints	Senator WALSH: Yes. Is that something where you're able to assist us in terms of numbers? For example, do you have a total number of complaints that you've received about proxy advisers? Ms Armour: The information I have is that we received two reports of misconduct in relation to proxy advisers. They are, if you like, formal concerns. Senator WALSH: Yes, they're formal concerns that you're looking into? Ms Armour: That we looked into. Senator WALSH: Okay. Did either of those complaints come from the clients of proxy advisers? Ms Armour: I don't have that information, I'm sorry, in front of me, so I'd have to take that on notice. ... Senator WALSH: So without identifying detail of those complaints that it's not your practice to identify, would you be able to tell us on notice whether those two complaints came from clients or whether they came from companies that received reports? Ms Armour: Yes, I can go back, have a look and see what information I can provide. CHAIR: Sorry, could I just add to that, were there any complaints prior to the report as well? Ms Armour: We can have a look. CHAIR: I'm happy for you to take it on notice. You don't need to go back indefinitely.	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	2/06/2021	52
BET084	Jess Walsh	Advice to government on proxy advisers	Senator WALSH: Okay, that's an area of interest for you. Has ASIC provided any briefings or advice to the government in relation to proxy advisers in the past 12 months? Ms Armour: Personally I'm not aware if we have, but I would like to check that. I wouldn't be surprised if there have been discussions; I would need to go and check that. Senator WALSH: Okay, so you'll take that on notice? Ms Armour: I'll take that on notice, yes. Senator WALSH: Was ASIC consulted prior to release of the Treasury consultation paper on proxy advisers? Ms Armour: Again I would need to come back to you on notice with an answer to that, and we can let you know on notice the extent of any conversations with us in relation to that matter. Senator WALSH: Yes, that would be good, if you could take on notice if you were consulted by Treasury, when you were consulted by Treasury and also what information ASIC has provided to Treasury in relation to that consultation paper Ms Armour: Yes, and I must say we are in discussions with Treasury in relation to this proposal at the moment, so it's not that there aren't conversations occurring.	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	2/06/2021	52
BET085	Jess Walsh	Examined JobKeeper entities	Senator WALSH: Are you able to give us any numbers on how many entities you specifically examined in relation to their reporting of JobKeeper for the previous financial year? Ms Armour: We are very close to putting together some public reporting on our reviews of financial reports, and I can give you, on notice, some information on the number of financial reports that we have looked at from, I guess, 30 June 2020 and any half-yearly or full reports to 31 December 2020. We won't have necessarily specifically looked just at JobKeeper; we will have looked at the whole report. That is one of the factors that we have flagged to the market that we take into account when we're doing our look at that report, but we can certainly give you that sort of information. Senator WALSH: Yes, that would be helpful. If you could do that, that would be great. But your evidence to us today is that, on your reviews of this particular issue on how entities are reporting JobKeeper, on the available information that you have, you have not identified any instances of companies not reporting JobKeeper appropriately? Ms Armour: So far, we haven't found contraventions of the act. That is a reasonably high standard because it's based on materiality requirements and accounting standards. But, so far, yes. Senator WALSH: Thank you. Are you able to tell us, on notice or now, the total number of companies that have actually reported receiving JobKeeper in their reporting to ASIC since that advice? Ms Armour: I'm not able to tell you, and I think that that would be quite an exercise. There are like 2,300 listed companies. The size of the total population of companies in Australia is over 2 million, and to- Senator WALSH: Are you able to do that for the listed companies? Ms Armour: Even that would be a significant exercise. But we can see what sample information we could put together. We'll see what we can usefully do without devoting our entire regulatory effort to that.	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	2/06/2021	60-61
BET086	Jenny McAllister	Advice to Treasurer on availability of data	Senator McALLISTER : Can I ask you to table-and I accept that this will be notice-the correspondence in relation to your data requirements that you've provided to the Treasurer and also any briefs, correspondence or emails that you've provided to Treasury about the same matter? Ms Chester: I'm happy to take that on notice, but, rest assured, the engagement that we've had with the Treasurer's office has been very positive about this just being very mindful about the legislative reform program with COVID. The things that don't seem to be the immediate must-haves tend to get pushed to the bottom of the pile, but we've been on notice for five years that we need this data. I think it does need to come to the top, so I thank you for asking the question.	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	2/06/2021	61
BET087	Malcolm Roberts	Enforcement action against AMP	Senator ROBERTS: Thank you for attending today. Firstly, to ASIC, congratulations on your recent enforcement action against AMP for fees for no service and charging fees to dead people. I hope that goes well. I know that is a comment without a question, but I do appreciate that. In your most recent ASIC enforcement actions bulletin to December 2020, you list 11 actions still pending from the Hayne royal commission. With AMP now underway, is that now reduced to 10? Can we expect further enforcement actions for bad banking behaviour? Mr Longo: I haven't got the statistics in front of me. Perhaps-Commissioner Armour? Ms Armour: I think Commissioner Hughes might be best able to answer that. Mr Hughes: Yes. Thanks. Good afternoon. We can take that one on notice. I think your assumption is probably correct, because we have been netting down, if I can put it that way, the number of matters as we've gone through. If I can just make this point: we had 13 matters referred to us by the Hayne royal commission and we are going through all of those matters, as well as 32 case studies that were examined by the royal commission, which we took on. But we will give you a specific answer to your question. I think you are correct but I just want to be crystal clear on that.	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	2/06/2021	62-63
BET088	Malcolm Roberts	Total amount of civil penalties and other regulatory outcomes achieved	Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. Do you have a dollar figure for the total cost to Australian ADIs-that's banks-for bad banking behaviour in the last five years as a result of ASIC enforcement action ? Mr Hughes: We don't have a total cost of the behaviour. What we would be able to provide to you on notice is the total amount of civil penalties and other regulatory outcomes achieved over the period since the royal commission. Senator ROBERTS: That, in fact, Mr Hughes, is what I'm asking for. Thank you.	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	2/06/2021	63

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BET089	Malcolm Roberts	Numbers of enforcement actions before the courts for credit misconduct	Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. To confirm: you currently have 11 enforcement actions before the courts for credit misconduct. Is that correct? Mr Hughes: That's my understanding. Senator ROBERTS: That's for breaches of responsible lending laws? Mr Hughes: No. Sorry. I thought you meant in relation to matters arising from the royal commission. I didn't hear you correctly. Just in relation to credit? Senator ROBERTS: It just happens to be the same number in both cases-11. For credit misconduct, I think you have a total of 11 before the courts? Mr Hughes: I'm going to have to check those numbers. I'm sorry. I don't have whatever it is that you're referring to in front of me. Senator ROBERTS: I have 'ASIC enforcement update July to December 2020', page 7. There's a table there. Mr Hughes: Can I take that on notice?	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	2/06/2021	63
BET090	Slade Brockman	Increase in the ASIC funding levy	CHAIR: That would be good. Thank you for the response to my questions on notice from the last estimates round. I'm still struggling a little bit to understand the difference between the increase in the ASIC funding levy that I am being told about by individual financial advisers, which is in excess of 100 per cent, and the 29 per cent that you, Commissioner, quoted. I believe it was at the last estimates round. Can you talk me through where that differential is coming about? What is the difference between the 29 per cent and the 100, 110 or 112 per cent that I'm hearing about from financial advisers? How is that differential explained? Ms Press: Again, I would prefer to take that one on notice. The funding levy is quite complex and difficult to explain, and I'm not sure that I will be able to do it justice with the numbers on the run. There are a lot of factors that are impacting the funding levy for advisers at the moment. We've talked about a number of them. I really don't think I have anything useful to say. CHAIR: Okay. Also on notice then, could I get an explanation of the drivers behind the cost increase? I'm happy for you to take this on notice. My understanding is that to some degree it's been put down to an increase in enforcement activity, so could I have a breakdown of the drivers behind the increase as well? I'm happy to do that as part of a private briefing or as a question on notice-whichever you would prefer.	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	2/06/2021	65
BET091	Slade Brockman	Payment to retail clients	CHAIR: Perhaps you could take this one on notice as well: you won a High Court case last year against Westpac relating to superannuation funds who were positioning themselves as providing general advice. The High Court found that they were providing personal advice. Given that this issue related to super funds that were operating on a general advice model, did financial advisers who provided personal advice to retail clients end up paying any of the costs of that action? Ms Press: I would need to take that on notice as well, as to which bucket that funding went into and therefore where the costs would go back to.	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	2/06/2021	66
BET092	Andrew Bragg	New Daily funding	Senator BRAGG: Okay. I'm conscious of time and I want to wind up, so I ask you to take this on notice, because I think it's important. This is an organisation which has now wasted \$30 million of superannuation money, so can you please take this on notice: what is your guidance on this particular investment, expense or whatever it is? I think the market needs to know. As policymakers, we need to know how these sorts of things, which are now material, are treated. So, if you could take that on notice, I would be grateful. Mr Rees: I think I can clarify one thing. Since 2016, the New Daily has been owned by ISH, not by any fund directly. It is, if you like, an operating part of ISH. ISH has a range of shareholders, as you probably know, and they're all super fund trustees. Senator BRAGG: Sure. Mr Rees: How ISH as a company uses the money it has available to it to fund various parts of its activities is a matter for ISH. ISH is not regulated by APRA, and neither is the New Daily or any of the operating subsidiaries of ISH. Senator BRAGG: Sure. Mr Rees: It would be helpful, from my point of view, just to understand what it is that you want us to respond to, because ISH is not APRA regulated. Senator BRAGG: Okay. There is a super guarantee system which is compulsory, and that money has been used to set up this organisation through various structures. The question is: What is the treatment that APRA is applying to that particular money that has come through the compulsory super system? Is it going to sit as an expense or as an investment? Given the scale of money that's gone into this particular program, I think it's important to provide some guidance. So, if you could take it on notice, I think the committee would be grateful. Mr Byres: We'll take it on notice.	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	2/06/2021	71-72

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Qn No.	Senator	Subject	QuestionText	Department or agency	Hearing date	Hansard p. no. / Written qn
BET093	Susan McDonald	Banking sector biases	<p>Senator McDONALD: Following the royal commission, banks have been meeting the responsible-lending criteria and there have been a whole lot of iterations about moving from the old, more paper-based systems to using technology, going forward. I ask these questions in that context. I'm concerned that business owners in northern Australia are still telling me that they're finding it difficult to access finance for viable opportunities which they're being told would be approved in other parts of the country. It's been put to me that there may be coded biases within the algorithms that banks are using to calculate risk and assess lending. Is this possible? Mr Byres: Well, you can never rule out anything, can you? But I would suspect that, if the banking system saw an opportunity to lend to a good customer, and if somehow that was being missed and a bank was losing market share over another bank, they would be looking at why that was and responding to it. So I'm not sure that that's a likely outcome. Mr Lonsdale: I'm not aware of that, but if you would like us to have a look at it we are very happy to. When we talk to banks about lending to business-and small business in particular-what we hear is that they look critically at the application. As Mr Byres said, if it's a good business model, they're lending. They certainly have the capital to lend, and APRA have said to the banks that they can push down on unquestionably strong applications. The key issue, though, is the macrocircumstances and confidence, I think. To the earlier question from Senator McAllister, credit growth for business has been much more anaemic than for housing, so I think that is probably the key issue. Senator McDONALD: As a specific example, I've heard of people who tried to borrow for a home-one in Normanton and one in Richmond-and they were both told that they would get finance if they were to buy in Townsville. Would you consider investigating the possibility that there is a coded bias that is unfairly impacting rural and regional Australia, please. Mr Lonsdale: I'm happy to take that on notice. Senator McDONALD: We know that, when calculating risk, banks use different risk inputs based on industry. I believe this is normally done through the use of ANZSIC codes. Are banks also using different risk inputs based on geography? What about sex? What about marital status? Mr Byres: I think banks will to some extent use all of those things and probably more that are relevant to assessing the borrower's financial circumstances. Certainly ANZSIC codes are a pretty standard set of codes. I can't think who produces them, but they're an Australian/New Zealand coding system that produces standardised industry codes and identification. There's nothing particularly controversial about them. Banks will obviously look at postcodes. They will look at borrower personal circumstances. They'll look at the full range of things in making an informed credit decision. Senator McDONALD: I'm referring to an article that you are quoted in in the Financial Review, 'APRA ties climate change to director duties and risk management'. The suggestion was that businesses could use different mechanisms to balance their exposure to risk, and one might be financial cost. I'm sorry, I don't have that reference, so I'll leave that out and come back to that. I'm just trying to understand that as banks respond to APRA's signals around risk assessment for insurance and capital they're not utilising things like postcode shading and other markers for what they're perceiving as risk. But then it does build in a bias, whether it be geographically or in some of those other things that I've mentioned-marital status, if you're a single parent-because we know that the banks weren't able to comply with the amount of paperwork that they're now required to assess for responsible lending. They're using algorithms and electronic decision-making. I'm constantly getting feedback from banks that, once a credit department makes a decision, the bank is no longer able to make practical interventions the way they used to be able to in the past. Mr Byres: I think that probably goes to the question before. You've asked us to have a look at that issue, and we'll happily have a look at that issue and come back to you. ... Senator McDONALD: Is there any data available showing industry-wide differences in risk appetite based on geography or regions across the country or things like sex and marital status? Mr Lonsdale: I'm not aware of lending data on sex and marital status. There may be on geography. We're happy to check what is available on that if you're interested.</p>	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	2/06/2021	72-74
BET094	Rex Patrick	Competitive neutrality policy responsibility	<p>Senator PATRICK: Okay. I'm trying to get to where that occurs. You say it's not APRA. Maybe the minister can help me out as to who carries responsibility within the Commonwealth for ensuring that the government's competitive neutrality policy is not breached in some way. Senator Hume: That's a very good question which I'll have to take notice. Senator PATRICK: Okay. Senator Hume: I'm actually trying to google it right now. There is a competitive neutrality complaints process, apparently. Senator PATRICK: I understand that. Who looks after that? I think we looked at that during the committee stage. Senator Hume: That's a very good question. It's a separate unit of the Productivity Commission. Senator PATRICK: Okay, that's the PC. We had them as well. Maybe you'd take it on notice: who holds responsibility for that area of policy in government? Maybe we'll have to call them to future estimates. Senator Hume: My understanding is that, when policy and legislation are being developed, a competitive neutrality lens is put over it, but I may well be wrong, so I will take it on notice. Senator PATRICK: But we are just hearing from APRA's perspective that it is not, in that sense, for them. So who places the lens and looks through it when we're developing policy? That is the question. Senator Hume: Okay. I think that if it's Treasury policy it would be Treasury that would put a competitive neutrality lens on policy development. Senator PATRICK: Would you take it on notice? Senator Hume: I will take it on notice.</p>	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	76
BET095	Perin Davey	Climate vulnerability assessment	<p>Senator DAVEY: I think a lot of the concern is about how groups such as shareholder activists interpret your guidelines. I've been told I've got one question left. Last time you were before me, you took a question on notice, AT061, where I was asking: as you're developing the pilot and you're working with the banks, were you also working with the resources sector or agricultural industries? You responded, and thank you for responding, that you're engaging with the five ADIs and the Australian Banking Association in the design of the climate vulnerability assessment-that's paraphrasing-so you still didn't clarify. Have you had any discussions with the resources sector or agricultural industries to design this pilot because they will be very significantly impacted by the behaviour? Mr Byres: Sorry if that wasn't clear enough. We were trying to say that's who we've spoken to and, by implication, we haven't spoke to others yet and it remains the case that we haven't spoken to, for example, the agricultural sector yet. We're now expanding the list. I'm not sure whether the CSIRO and others are on that list since we sent the last response, so we are broadening it out as we go along and we'll continue to do so. CHAIR: Can you send us the updated list? Mr Byres: Happy to.</p>	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	2/06/2021	77-78

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BET096	Nick McKim	Statistics on residential mortgages	<p>Senator McKIM: From your statistics that you published in March 2021 that have got a subhead, I guess, of 'Residential mortgages-new loans funded' and then you've got three high-risk categories there: interest-only, LVR of greater than or equal to 95 and debt-to-income greater than or equal to six times. Mr Byres: Yes. Senator McKIM: These are then your stats, are they not? Mr Byres: Yes. Debt-to-income greater than six has certainly gone up, LVR greater than 95 per cent has, I think, gone up but from a low base and probably from a low historical level, and interest-only has, I think, ticked back up, but again it's coming off a low base relative to historical average levels. Senator McKIM: The yearly growth of those, in your figures, is over 31 per cent growth in interest-only, just over 27 per cent growth in LVR greater than or equal to 95, and 26 per cent growth in debt-to-income greater than or equal to six times household incomes. They're pretty significant growths, are they not? Mr Byres: They sound it. Unfortunately, I haven't got the figures in front of me, so I'll take your word for it. But anything that's growing at 30 per cent is growing reasonably quickly, yes. Senator McKIM: That is significant growth in high-risk earning. You said that you haven't got the figures in front of you. But, just to assist you, they were published in March this year and, I believe, they relate to the previous financial year. I'm wondering if you've got any figures that are any more up to date than those, or perhaps you can take them on notice. Mr Byres: I'll take that on notice. We update the numbers each quarter, because we get a quarterly data feed from the banks, so we can take that on notice and give you the latest available data.</p>	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	2/06/2021	78
BET097	Ben Small	Language in FASEA exam	<p>Senator SMALL: If I could turn to the FASEA exam, I'm advised that one of the questions that is asked during the enrolment process is whether English is the candidate's first language. What's the purpose of that question, and is there anything in the design or operation of the exam that takes into account the challenges that people for whom English is a second language, for instance, might face in sitting the exam? Mr Glenfield: Thank you for the question. You're right, the question is asked to enable us to determine which candidates do actually have English as a second language. As part of the marking process, ACER, the exam provider, benchmarks each question and looks at who made the response to see whether there was any disadvantage to a particular group. One of the particular things they look at is whether an ESL group had trouble answering a particular question-that is, did it favour against them because of the way it was written? It may come across very well may to an English speaker but it might be difficult to understand for someone with a second language. If that question proved to be very problematic for that group, it is removed from the marking so that they are not disadvantaged. That's the reason why we do it. Senator SMALL: Has there been any such occurrence? Mr Glenfield: To date, I don't believe we've had one that we've had to remove. ACER are very experienced at writing exam questions, and a lot of effort is put into making sure the grammar is in a way that will be understood by all. Senator SMALL: Perfect. If something crops up on notice, that will be fine. Otherwise, I'll move on.</p>	Financial Adviser Standards and Ethics Authority	2/06/2021	92
BET098	Ben Small	FASEA exam pass rates	<p>Senator SMALL: Thank you. I understand-and it's good that it's in your opening statement here as well-that 1,437 advisers who have attempted the exam are yet to pass. For those advisers who have attempted the exam more than once, what's the greatest number of attempts a candidate has had in total and then ultimately passed? And, therefore, what is the overall pass rate for advisers who have sat the exam more than once? Ms Constantinidis: The most times someone has sat the exam to date is five and that particular person did actually pass. I'd have to take on notice the exact pass rates for each of the ones who have resat the exam. I don't have that complete information. Senator SMALL: Of those advisers who have failed and are yet to pass, do you have any data on how many of them received a result of between 50 per cent and the credit standard required to pass and be accredited? Mr Glenfield: I'll take that one on notice. I don't have it with me.</p>	Financial Adviser Standards and Ethics Authority	2/06/2021	93
BET099	Ben Small	Suspended advisers	<p>Senator SMALL: That's understood. If, on notice, you can follow up with that detail around what the credible alternative is for a suspended adviser to come back without doing a degree et cetera, that would be great.</p>	Financial Adviser Standards and Ethics Authority	2/06/2021	93
BET100	Malcolm Roberts	Further information on Barmah choke	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Page 185 of your report indicates that in 2018-19, 63 gigalitres of water was traded from above the Barmah choke to below the choke. Is that correct? Mr Sims: There are only 780 or so pages, Senator. If it's in the report, it's very likely to be correct. No-it is correct. Senator ROBERTS: It is correct, okay. Is this figure net or gross? In other words, we know that 63 was traded from above and moved to below the Barmah choke-was there a corresponding trade moving water from below the choke to above the choke? Mr Bezzi: That would be taking the water upstream, and that's a very difficult thing to do. Senator ROBERTS: It is. Mr Bezzi: Conceptually, there are ways in which trades can occur where that happens. Senator ROBERTS: But that figure would be- Mr Bezzi: I expect it's a gross figure, but it would be pretty close to being a net figure. We can take that on notice. Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. In Senate estimates last Friday, Andrew Reynolds, the Executive Director of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, testified that there was no transfer of water from above to below the choke, since any trade below was matched by a trade back the other way. This is not what your thorough and detailed investigation has found, according to my staff. Is that correct? Mr Sims: Look, I think it's best we take it on notice. We've got the question and we'll certainly get back to you. We should have the information.</p>	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	2/06/2021	103-104
BET101	Malcolm Roberts	Further information on debanking	<p>Senator ROBERTS: This is my last question for the ACCC. How about Westpac shutting down banking facilities for cash-handling companies so that it can direct their retail customers to use one specific cash-handling company that they have a financial arrangement with, essentially debanking? Where does this slippery slope end if we let banks to do this and they eventually own everything and force companies they don't own out of business? Mr Sims: I'm not aware of that particular issue. I'm happy to take that on notice and have a look at that. We certainly are interested in debanking. We made recommendations about that when we did an inquiry into foreign exchange, because we think there has to be rules that people can meet so that they can't be debanked in an ad hoc way. We're very concerned about debanking, but I don't think we're aware of that particular- Mr Bezzi: Sorry, Mr Sims. We are aware of certain commercial arrangements that have been made that have been having an impact in the cash delivery market. There are a couple of firms that dominate that market. We've had a close look at some of the arrangements there. It'd be interesting though to understand whether you're referring to one of the things that we've looked at or whether it's a new issue. That might best be done by taking your question on notice.</p>	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	2/06/2021	104-105

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BET102	Anthony Chisholm	Hardware-based monitoring devices deployed into households	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: In September 2017 the government announced that the ACCC would receive \$7 million in funding to conduct a speed-monitoring program over four years. This is cost recovered through a telecommunications industry levy. In a media release from 7 April 2017 the ACCC said: The program will use hardware-based devices to perform remote testing of around 4,000 households to determine typical speeds on fixed-line NBN services at various times throughout the day. How many active hardware based monitoring devices were deployed into households as part of the program? Mr Sims: I don't know whether Ms Proudfoot is on the system or not. She did speak earlier. I don't know whether she has that to hand or we have to get back to you. Ms Proudfoot: I am on the call, Mr Sims, but would like to take that on notice please. ... Senator CHISHOLM: Who did the ACCC contract to deliver the program? Ms Proudfoot: The program is delivered by SamKnows. Senator CHISHOLM: What's their background? Where are they based? Ms Proudfoot: They're based in the UK and they were contracted through a tender process. Mr Sims: But they also do the same work for in other countries- Ms Proudfoot: including New Zealand. Senator CHISHOLM: Were there no locally based companies that were capable? Mr Sims: It's been a long time since we did that tender, but I think we certainly wanted companies that had the experience to do it, and this company had done it around the world. But we'd have to take that on notice. We did that tender some years ago. I honestly cannot remember. ... Senator CHISHOLM: On 29 March this year the ACCC had to issue a correction to a media release. The correction was issued and said: The error occurred because four broadband performance measuring devices, called whiteboxes, were allocated to services that couldn't be correctly validated. The updated figures now exclude data from these four units. Is the sample size so sensitive that four incorrectly allocated monitoring devices were enough to have the ACCC update its entire report and issue a public correction? Mr Sims: That does not ring true to me. Again, we'd have to get back to you. I'm sorry; we don't have the expert on that online. But the statistical significance of our results is extremely robust. It's taken a while to get some of the smaller players in who don't have many customers. We've also had issues about people using the 12/1 service, because often people using the 12/1 service aren't interested in having their speed monitored, because they're not that interested in the speed. But, for the vast bulk of our findings, four white boxes being inoperable would not make a difference. I will have to take that on notice.</p>	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	2/06/2021	105
BET103	Claire Chandler	Working group participants and timeline in developing ABS standard	<p>Senator CHANDLER: Was there a biologist on the working group that put this standard together? Ms Dickinson: We'll have to take that on notice. Senator CHANDLER: I thought that might be the case. Ms Dickinson: There was a very wide variety of people that were involved and consulted. Senator CHANDLER: On notice, then, could you perhaps tell me the names of all of those organisations that were involved in the working group? Ms Dickinson: We can do that. Dr Gruen: Yes, we can do that. Senator CHANDLER: Thank you. I also understand that the ABS consulted with international statistics departments and entities on the sex and gender standard. Do you know if the UK's Office for National Statistics was one of those organisations? Dr Gruen: We can take that- Ms Dickinson: Yes, they were. Senator CHANDLER: Was that consultation before March this year when the ONS was found in court to be providing incorrect guidance on sex and gender questions? Ms Dickinson: That I don't know. We'll find out the time line. Senator CHANDLER: That would be appreciated. Thank you very much.</p>	Australian Bureau of Statistics	2/06/2021	110
BET104	Jenny McAllister	ABS annual spending on family, domestic and sexual violence data	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Will the ABS be spending any more on family, domestic and sexual violence data per year as a result of this measure? Ms Wilson: I'll have to take that on notice. Some of the details are still to be worked out with the Office for Women, and we will also be partnering with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare as we think about how we're going to undertake that work.</p>	Australian Bureau of Statistics	2/06/2021	111
BET105	Anthony Chisholm	ABS provisional classification for the Transport Asset Holding Entity	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Are you absolutely certain that there was no engagement from the ABS with the New South Wales bureaucracy about how they'd achieve this? Dr Gruen: I'm happy to take that on notice, but certainly the information that I have before me is that this classification is based on the System of National Accounts 2008. Those are the criteria on which we base these decisions, and I don't think there have been any changes to those criteria since 2015. Senator CHISHOLM: I feel as though you're dealing in the abstract and we're putting to you the specifics of what was in the article. I just feel there's potentially a disconnect there. Dr Gruen: We're happy to take on notice whether there was any interaction in 2016 with the New South Wales government. Senator CHISHOLM: You'd presume the cabinet-in-confidence document was based on some sort of discussion that they'd had with the ABS. Ms Wilson: We have not seen the cabinet document, obviously, so we can't comment. Senator CHISHOLM: Have you been through any of the documents or correspondence that the ABS might hold from that time? Dr Gruen: Not in detail, but I'm happy to take it on notice.</p>	Australian Bureau of Statistics	2/06/2021	112
BET106	Jess Walsh	Correspondence with NSW government regarding the Transport Asset Holding Entity	<p>Senator WALSH: In terms of taking Senator Chisholm's question on notice, can you tell us what correspondence there might have been between the ABS and the New South Wales government in relation to this matter? Can we have copies of that? Dr Gruen: I'll take it on notice, certainly. ... Senator WALSH: You're describing how you would deal with it today. The article and the questions that we have are about what happened in 2015 and whether there were things that should have happened after that as well. Are you able to tell us that, when the provisional classification was given, it met all of the relevant criteria at the time? Dr Gruen: I'm not aware that it was a provisional classification that was given. Ms Wilson: No. We'll take that on notice. Dr Gruen: I thought there was a classification given. I don't know whether it was provisional. ... Senator WALSH: Is there not information contained in that article that would prompt you to reconsider the classification-for example, the various reports that are referred to in the article? Dr Gruen: Let's take that on notice. We certainly haven't reconsidered the classification in the time since we read this article this morning. What we were doing was preparing for possible questions about this rather than reconsidering the classification. We are very happy to take it on notice and answer those questions. ... Senator WALSH: I guess I'm genuinely now unclear from the evidence that I'm getting across the table about whether you are going to do some work, some form of investigation, to assess the merits of the original decision and to assess whether the classification is appropriate today. Dr Gruen: I wouldn't put it that way. The way I'd put it is: you have asked us, is there anything in this article that would lead us to change our view about this classification? As far as I know there is nothing. But you are asking that question and we are taking it on notice. So, on the basis of the question that you are asking us, we are happy to respond to that question.</p>	Australian Bureau of Statistics	2/06/2021	112

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BET107	Jenny McAllister	Correspondence with NSW government regarding initiation of Transport Asset Holding Entity consideration	Senator McALLISTER: Just a final question about documentation. Senator Walsh asked you to provide, I think on notice, any documentation that was provided to the New South Wales government back when this classification was first provided. In addition to that, can you please provide the correspondence from the New South Wales government to the ABS that initiated consideration of this entity on the first occasion? Dr Gruen: Happy to take that on notice.	Australian Bureau of Statistics	2/06/2021	115
BET108	Susan McDonald	Concerns on EFA contract	Senator McDONALD: Has the board ever expressed concerns to you about the oversight and performance of the EFA contract? Mr Dal Bon: Not that I recall, but I will take that on notice and make sure that that is the case.	National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation	2/06/2021	118
BET109	Susan McDonald	Average level of NHFIC funding	Senator McDONALD: Alright. Across all other new-build projects that NHFIC has funded, what is the average level of NHFIC funding as a percentage of the total build cost? Mr Dal Bon: I'd have to take that question on notice.	National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation	2/06/2021	119
BET110	Susan McDonald	Projects that NHFIC funded to provide social and affordable housing	Senator McDONALD: Well, perhaps I could just ask, on notice, how many regional Victorian projects has NHFIC funded to provide social and affordable housing? You can take that on notice and give a more-detailed answer. Mr Dal Bon: Yes, sure. Obviously we've funded Haven, which is a community housing provider that has projects across regional Victoria. But in terms of trying to identify the exact number of properties that have been located, I'm happy to come back to you on notice. Do you want it just for Victoria, or do you want the metro-versus-regional numbers for other jurisdictions as well? Senator McDONALD: That would be terrific. I'd like to see it for every state.	National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation	2/06/2021	119
BET111	Mehreen Faruqi	Family Home Guarantee modelling	Senator FARUQI: So, questions like modelling around the scheme-in terms of whether there are any estimates of how many single parents you expect will default on their loan or whether the department estimated how many years single parents will be left paying off this debt-are questions for Treasury as well, as to whether they have done any modelling around that? Mr Dal Bon: I think they're best directed at Treasury. Senator FARUQI: So you don't know anything about whether there has been any modelling to answer those sorts of questions? Mr Dal Bon: I don't know. Senator FARUQI: Could you take that on notice? Mr Dal Bon: Yes, sure.	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	120
BET112	Mehreen Faruqi	Value and breakdown of loans to community housing providers	Senator FARUQI: My question is very specific: what is the value of loans provided to the community housing providers since October 2020? Mr Dal Bon: Do you mean the additional loans compared to where we were at October? Senator FARUQI: Yes. Mr Dal Bon: I'd have to take precise number on notice. Senator Hume: I can probably help you a little bit there, Senator. We've continued to make significant ongoing investments in housing, with more than \$9 billion in housing homelessness programs announced in the budget this year. That's up on last year. That includes \$1.6 billion paid to the states and territories under the NHA, the National Housing And Homelessness Agreement, that supports housing outcomes for about 1.7 million Australians. There is an expected \$3.5 billion in Commonwealth Rent Assistance to help eligible Australians on welfare payments pay their rent. And we've also announced an additional \$124.7 million in funding, which will allow the states and territories to bolster public housing stock or to meet their social and community housing responsibilities. Senator FARUQI: Thanks for that, Minister. My questions were specifically about the bond aggregator. You've taken that on notice. Since the bond aggregator was set up, what has been the value of loans provided to community housing providers in total? Mr Dal Bon: The total commitment, as I say, is just over \$2.5 billion. In terms of just some of the other key statistics that relate to those figures, we've had \$1.5 billion in terms of NHFIC bonds. That includes a bond we issued last week to support the Victorian transaction that Senator McDonald was referring to. We estimate that we have supported close to 13,000 dwellings and saved the CHP sector close to \$420 million in interest savings over the time of the loans. Senator FARUQI: Do you have a sense of how many social housing dwellings those loans have been able to facilitate building? Mr Dal Bon: In terms of social housing dwellings, Senator, I would need to come back to you. Senator FARUQI: If you could come back to me and let me know. Do you have any idea, like is it a thousand or 1,500? Any idea? Mr Dal Bon: In terms of the 13,000, we produce a social bond report on an annual basis, and that gives a breakdown of all the transactions that we've supported over the course of the year. Typically the proportion of social to affordable is quite high for the community housing providers. Typically you would look at at least 80 per cent, for example, as a rule of thumb. But in terms of precise numbers, I'm happy to come back to you. Senator FARUQI: The precise number of social homes. That will be good. Mr Dal Bon: Just to clarify, you will be looking at the property supported, so that would include refinancing as well as new supply. Is that what you are interested in? Senator FARUQI: Yes. So you don't keep those numbers with you? I'm surprised you provide these loans and you don't have any idea of how many homes- Mr Dal Bon: We have the numbers in terms of the total homes we provide, but in terms say that split between social and affordable- Senator FARUQI: Okay. So 13,000 is the total homes you said. Mr Dal Bon: That's right. Senator FARUQI: Since the bond aggregator. Mr Dal Bon: Started, correct. In three years. Just under three years. Senator FARUQI: So in three years it's 13,000 homes and some are affordable but you said there was a percentage. Mr Dal Bon: Yes. So just in terms of the social bond report that we put out once a year, that goes through and profiles all the transactions that we have supported in terms of community housing providers. When you have a look at the profile, we have a split in that profile in terms of the proportion between social and affordable. Senator FARUQI: Okay. If you could take that on notice and provide it to me. Mr Dal Bon: Sure. No problems.	National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation	2/06/2021	121
BET113	Gerard Rennick	Structured Finance Support Fund	1. Did the federal government offer any support to Afterpay during the Covid crisis through the Federal government's \$15 billion Structured Finance Support Fund (SFSF), which will allow smaller authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADIs) and non-ADI lenders to access funding at competitive prices. 2. When will the Structured Finance Support Fund be closed down? 3. Why should taxpayers underwrite the private money lenders?	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	Written

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BET114	Gerard Rennick	Consultation Paper 332	1. How much has ASIC spent to date on Consultation Paper 332 Promoting access to affordable advice for consumers? 2. Has ASIC published the submissions made to CP 332? 3. Will ASIC release to the Committee, copies of the submissions made to ASIC?	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	2/06/2021	Written
BET115	Gerard Rennick	Rent derived on residential properties	How does the ATO know if rent being derived on residential properties is being declared by foreigners if they don't have a TFN or Australian bank account.	Australian Taxation Office	2/06/2021	Written
BET116	Gerard Rennick	Tax file number requirement for house buyers	Media accounts are reporting cashed up foreign buyers are buying luxury housing property in Australia - isn't it about time every purchaser of a house had to have a tax file number before they buy a house?	Australian Taxation Office	2/06/2021	Written
BET117	Gerard Rennick	Costs of tax exemptions	1. Large measured benchmark variations E7 and E8 in Table 5:11 showed CGT housing concessions were \$66 billion in 18/19 and now they are \$47 billion despite a significant increase in housing valuations - can you please provide your workings and assumptions as to how these figures are calculated. 2. Large measured benchmark variations on superannuation concessions C2 and C4 were \$37.3 billion in 18/19 and now they are \$35.8 billion despite a significant increase in superannuation funds under management - can you please provide your workings and assumptions as to how these figures are calculated? 3. Could the cost of the tax exemption on the interest deduction granted to Australian companies on interest incurred against NANE income please be provided? 4. Could the cost of the tax exemption granted under S59-15 and S59-50 of the 1997 ITAA please be provided? 5. Could the cost of the tax exemption on Capital Gains Tax for foreign non-portfolio interests please be provided? 6. If there is insufficient data available could consideration be given to improving the tracing of such concessions by asking for more information in the tax return. 7. For the Main Residence exemption E7 and E8 in the ATO's estimates of large measured benchmark variations, could the amount be split out for house valuations in the range of less than \$2 million, \$2 million to \$5 million and greater than \$5 million? If these can't be provided could workings as per previous questions, please be provided. 8. For superannuation concessions C2 and C4 in the ATO's estimates of large measured benchmark variations, could the concessions be split out for incomes in following ranges of a) below \$45,000 b) \$45,000 to \$120,000 and c) \$120,000 to \$180,000 and d) greater than \$200,000? 9. Noting the comments given to me in estimates regarding difficulty in providing a breakout of super concessions by tax bracket - if the tax office can match incomes over \$250,000 with the superannuation levy surcharge why can't it match incomes against all superannuation payments to determine the cost of tax concessions?	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	Written
BET118	Andrew Bragg	Australian Super / New Daily data breach inquiry	1. What the scope of the inquiry into the Australian Super / New Daily data breach? 2. What is the timing on the inquiry and what type of report will be generated? 3. What type of protections are being put in place to ensure there is no repeat? 4. If the New Daily creates legal liabilities such as defaming someone, could there be a liability that is incurred by the super funds invested in ISH? 5. Does this answer depend on whether funds have classified their investment in the New Daily as an asset or as an expense?	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	2/06/2021	Written
BET119	Gerard Rennick	Treasury staffing levels	1. Why does Treasury need an extra 700 people reported as reported in the Australian - given most processes are automated shouldn't staff numbers be falling. 2. Why did Treasury increase the number of staff to 1,048 operative employees at June 2020, an increase from 895 operative employees at 30 June 2019. (Page 50 - The Treasury Annual Report 2019-20).	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	Written
BET120	Bridget McKenzie	Performance assessments	1. Do you have all the data needed to run the test? a. Can you assure this Committee that APRA has all the required data for including administration fees in the performance assessment, for every MySuper fund that will be assessed? Is that all administration fees, expenses and costs paid from reserves? b. ASIC RG97 (fees and cost disclosure) requires funds to disclose 'costs paid from reserves' by 30 September 2022. Until then, is there a gap in APRA's historical MySuper fee data for some funds? c. If there is a gap in historical fee data for some funds, how can APRA run the performance test with missing data? How can APRA determine a benchmark administration fee if there are funds missing? 2. Do you have work underway to fix the gaps in time for the test? a. Can you give this Committee a guarantee that you will collect all the required administration fee data, including administration costs paid from reserves, going back 8 years? When will this be completed and how accurate will it be? b. The Government has proposed to run the first performance assessment under Your Future, Your Super in 2021. Will APRA have all the required data for administration fees by that time? c. If not, what impact will that have on APRA's ability to run the first performance assessment in accordance with the Government's timeline? How can the performance assessment be run if the administration fee data is missing and inconsistent? 3. Did you ever raise these problems with Treasury or the Minister? a. Earlier this week Ben Doleman from Treasury, in response to a question on whether data issues had been raised by APRA with Treasury, said 'We've had discussions with APRA, they haven't raised any concerns at this point.' Can you confirm this? b. Before the addition of administration fees into the proposed performance assessment announced in April this year, did you discuss data integrity with Treasury and the Government? c. Did APRA confirm to Treasury and the Government that you have complete and consistent data in relation to administration fees going back 8 years all available for inclusion in the performance assessment?	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	2/06/2021	Written
BET121	Gerard Rennick	JobSeeker rate	On what basis did Treasury decide that Newstart/Jobseeker should be doubled at the start of the Covid outbreak?	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	Written
BET122	Gerard Rennick	JobKeeper rate	On what basis did Treasury decide that Jobkeeper should be paid at a fixed \$1500 per fortnight instead of matching existing incomes with a cap at \$1500 per fortnight?	Department of the Treasury	2/06/2021	Written

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BET123	Anthony Chisholm	Grant funding	1. For all grants programs or funds administered by the department, please provide: a. Name of the program or fund b. Total budgeted funding c. Total funding paid out to grant recipients d. Final decision-maker 2. Were there any new grants programs or funds to be administered by the department introduced in the 2021-22 Budget? If so, please provide: a. Name of the program or fund b. Total budgeted funding c. Final decision-maker (or intended final decision-maker) 3. Were there any grants programs or funds to be administered by the department provided with additional funding in the 2021-22 Budget? If so, please provide: a. Name of the program or fund b. Funding profile for the additional funding over the forward estimates	Department of the Treasury	7/06/2021	Written
BET124	Anthony Chisholm	HomeBuilder applications and eligibility	HomeBuilder applications 1. Please advise the total number of HomeBuilder applications received by 14 April 2021. 2. Please advise how many of the applications received were made by first home buyers. 3. Please advise how many applicants have been paid their HomeBuilder Grant to date. 4. Please advise how many of the applications received were withdrawn by applicants. 5. Please advise how many applications received were deemed ineligible/rejected by the Treasury Department and/or the State Revenue Offices. 6. During Budget Estimates the Treasury Department confirmed that state and revenue offices are reopening the HomeBuilder application process for applicants who had their application deleted on 14 April 2021. Please advise how many applicants will have the opportunity to complete their application. Exemptions to HomeBuilder eligibility criteria 7. Treasury stated in Budget Estimates in October 2020 that there were no exemptions to the eligibility criteria. However, some state and territory revenue offices established an objection process for people who were not satisfied with the outcome of their HomeBuilder application. After Additional Estimates in March a Question on Notice was lodged, asking if any state or territory revenue offices had offered any exemptions to the HomeBuilder Eligibility criteria. Treasury's answer states: "HomeBuilder is administered by States and Territories in line with the eligibility criteria as outlined in the HomeBuilder NPA". a. Please confirm how many applicants who lodged an objection through the relevant State or Territory Revenue Office have been granted an exemption to the eligibility criteria. b. Please advise why this objection process has been established.	Department of the Treasury	7/06/2021	Written
BET125	Anthony Chisholm	National Housing and Infrastructure Facility	1. Please advise how much of the \$1 billion National Housing and Infrastructure Facility (NHIF) has been: a. Approved b. Committed c. Dispersed 2. According to the Auditor-Generals Performance report from earlier this year the Government has provided \$200 million a year over five years (\$1 billion between 2018/19 to 2022/23) to be dispersed by the NHIF. Please advise if the NHIF has meet this target. 3. Please advise whether funding provided by the Government for the NHIF will be repurposed if it is not dispersed by 2022/23. 4. In March, during Additional Estimates, when asked about the Auditor-General's report that highlighted that the NHIF is falling short of expectations set in the internal budget projections. Mr Dal Bon said: "Demand for the infrastructure facility has not matched that [\$200 million a year over five years (\$1 billion between 2018/19 to 2022/23)] appropriation profile". a. Please advise on what basis the NHFIC believe there isn't demand for infrastructure to unlock new housing supply, particularly social and affordable housing. b. Please advise what the NHFIC has done to actively generate greater demand for the NHIF. c. Please advise what engagement NHFIC has had with state governments and other stakeholders to generate greater demand for the NHIF. 5. During Additional Estimates in March it was suggested that the \$225 million in equity investments may be converted to concessional loans given there have been no equity investments allocated. a. Please advise whether any equity investments have been allocated since this time. b. Please advise what further consideration has been given to the decision to convert the unused \$225 million into concessional loans.	National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation	7/06/2021	Written
BET126	Anthony Chisholm	First Home Loan Deposit Scheme	1. What is the total number of scheme places/guarantees allocated under the FHLDS and FHLDS (New Homes)? Please provide a break down for both programs according to allocation by: a. financial year b. state/territory; and c. electorate. 2. What is the total number of scheme places/guarantees issued under the FHLDS and FHLDS (New Homes)? Please provide a break down for both programs according to allocation by: a. financial year b. state/territory; and c. electorate. 3. Please advise how many unissued guarantees are expected to rollover into the next financial year.	National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation	7/06/2021	Written
BET127	Anthony Chisholm	Family Home Guarantee	1. On the NHFIC website there is a note for single parents warning that the "necessary legislative changes to the NHFIC legislation, the NHFIC Investment Mandate and the Scheme Rules are not yet in force. Accordingly, the final form of the Family Home Guarantee scheme may differ from that described in the fact sheet". a. Please advise what differences single parent families should expect. b. Please advise when single parent families can expect the Investment Mandate and Scheme Rules to be finalised and publicly available. 2. Please advise whether the finalised Investment Mandate will cap the Scheme at 10,000 places over four years. 3. Please advise what will happen to any unissued Family Home Guarantees at the end of the four years. 4. During Budget estimates the Minister advised that the "applications won't be available until the scheme is finalised and that will be done as soon as possible". Please advise whether the scheme will begin on 1 July 2021 as intended. 5. During Budget Estimates the Minister advised that there are only "124,000 single parent families that Treasury estimated would potentially qualify for this scheme". Given there are almost one million single parent families in Australia, please advise what assistance the families who miss out on this scheme can expect from the Government. 6. During Budget Estimates, when asked about the property price caps set for the Family Home Guarantee, the Minister stated that the Family Home Guarantee was a new scheme and "if it doesn't work or if the uptake isn't correct then it will be adjusted accordingly" and that the Government wants "to make sure it's calibrated appropriately". Please advise what NHFIC is doing to recalibrate the scheme to address the very limited available housing stock that meets the property price caps set for the Family Home Guarantee.	Department of the Treasury	7/06/2021	Written
BET128	Janet Rice	Standard for Sex, Gender, Variations of Sex Characteristics and Sexual Orientation Variables	1. In relation to the Standard for Sex, Gender, Variations of Sex Characteristics and Sexual Orientation Variables - what steps is the ABS taking to ensure it's used as widely as possible across government? 2. Has the ABS provided briefings to the Minister's office on the development or implementation of the Standard for Sex, Gender, Variations of Sex Characteristics and Sexual Orientation Variables?	Australian Bureau of Statistics	7/06/2021	Written

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BET129	Anthony Chisholm	Cryptocurrency donations	1. With regard to charities accepting donations in cryptocurrency or using cryptocurrency, the ATO currently provides charities with the same guidance as is provided to business. Does the ACNC have any guidance specifically for charities about accepting donations in cryptocurrency or using cryptocurrency? 2. If there is no guidance about receiving cryptocurrency donations, when will guidance from the sector regulator be available as charities are already facing this issue?	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	9/06/2021	Written
BET130	Anthony Chisholm	Public benevolent institutions	1. How many PBIs are currently registered? 2. How many PBIs were registered this year compared to the last two years? 3. How many PBI applications were rejected this year compared to the last two years? 4. How many PBI applications did not continue their application to a decision this year compared to the last two years? 5. How many PBIs have been removed from the ACNC register this year compared to the last two years? 6. How many Administrative Appeal Tribunal cases are in progress where the charity is claiming PBI status this year compared to the last two years? 7. How many Federal Court cases are in progress where the charity is claiming PBI status this year compared to the last two years? 8. How many court cases generally is the ACNC involved in this year compared to the last two years? 9. What is the policy of the ACNC in capping court cost recovery where the charity applicant is represented by lawyers acting pro bono?	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	9/06/2021	Written
BET131	Anthony Chisholm	JobKeeper received by businesses	1. Where an entity is entitled to enter a tax treatment on the basis of self-assessment, but is later found to have done that inaccurately, does the ATO typically move to reclaim the tax advantages the tax-payer accessed through that self-assessment? For example, an entity self-assesses as not-for-profit, claims exemption from income tax and GST, but is later judged to be acting for profit. Can the ATO move to recoup the lost taxes? 2. From the data you hold, can you tell me how many businesses saw increased revenue or profit over the last financial and calendar years? And you can do that quarterly on the basis of Business Activity Statements? 3. Can you confirm that every business who claimed JobKeeper provided an ABN? 4. This means you can match a business who received JobKeeper with their Business Activity Statement reporting, correct? 5. What is the current figure for JobKeeper paid out? 6. What could the final figure for JobKeeper paid out be, once your existing legal challenges have been resolved? 7. How many individual companies received JobKeeper? a. How many with revenue above \$10m? And \$100m? 8. How many companies received JobKeeper on the basis of a forecast fall in earnings (as opposed to those who demonstrated fall in earnings)? a. How many of these had revenue above \$10 million? And above \$100 million? b. What was the total dollar value of JobKeeper that went to these firms? 9. How many businesses who received JobKeeper saw an increase in revenue or profit last year? a. What was the total value of JobKeeper that went to these firms? b. How many of these had revenue above \$10 million? And above \$100 million? c. Have you done or commissioned any analysis of that? d. If not, why not? 10. Have you done or commissioned any analysis of the number of businesses who received JobKeeper on the basis of a forecast reduction in earnings but who subsequently did not see a fall in earnings? a. What would you expect such an analysis to show? b. Can you provide that to the committee? c. Have you done, commissioned or discussed any scoping for a project to conduct such an analysis? 11. Have you considered or done any analysis of mechanisms which could be used to reclaim money paid out to firms that increased their profits at the same time they were also receiving JobKeeper payments? a. Can you provide that analysis to the committee? b. Have you provided any advice of that kind to the government, or to other agencies or departments? c. To who? When? d. Why have you taken this approach, rather than the approach you described in answer to question 1? 12. Have you done any analysis of the JobKeeper program to find ways it could be improved for next time? a. If not: i) why not? ii) Wouldn't you agree that one of the biggest government spending programs in history, and certainly the largest corporate welfare spend in history, should be examined to see how it could be improved for next time? iii) When will you? b. If yes i) Who was it provided to? When? ii) Can you provide it to the committee? iii) What did it show?	Australian Taxation Office	9/06/2021	Written
BET132	Anthony Chisholm	Tax avoidance taskforce	1. The Tax Transparency Taskforce is funded for another 18 months, are there new initiatives on the workplan to be completed before that end point? 2. Has the Treasurer's office requested any new lines of activity or advice since the election of Joe Biden? What? 3. In each financial year since they started, please provide the revenue generated by each of the MAAL and the diverted profits tax? 4. Since the government abandoned the digital services tax in 2019, has the Treasurer requested updates on the viability of that policy or requested work on alternative approaches to taxing digital services? If yes, what?	Australian Taxation Office	9/06/2021	Written
BET133	Anthony Chisholm	Annual taxation statistics	The Annual Taxation Statistics are usually released before the Budget, when will they be released this year?	Australian Taxation Office	9/06/2021	Written
BET134	Anthony Chisholm	Charities and JobKeeper	1. How many charities claimed Jobkeeper between September 2020 and December 2020 - and between January 2021 and the end of Jobkeeper in April? 2. How many staff were employed in charities by Jobkeeper support across both these periods?	Australian Taxation Office	9/06/2021	Written
BET135	Larissa Waters	Family, domestic and sexual violence data collection	At the last estimates, DSS advised that the ABS was working on a framework project for more consistent data collection re family, domestic and sexual violence. 1. Can you provide an update on that project? 2. How does that project differ from the work that the AIHW has been funded in the 21-22 Budget to undertake? The Revised Scale of Economic Abuse (Adams et al, 2020) includes additional questions regarding economic exploitation including whether a person's partner: - uses their own money for non-necessities, while requiring the other partner to use their money to pay for necessities - has taken out a loan or used credit in the other partner's name without their permission - has pressured them to take out a loan or buy something on credit - has insisted that household bills are put in one partner's name only. 3. Is there a proposal for future iterations of the Personal Safety Survey to include similar questions?	Australian Bureau of Statistics	9/06/2021	Written

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BET136	Larissa Waters	Individual disability income insurance	In response to a question I asked at the previous estimates (AET124), APRA noted that no changes had been made to measures for Individual Disability Income Insurance policies to account for parental leave. However, APRA advised that the final measures "gave life companies the necessary flexibility to design their products to address specific circumstances" and "there are different ways in which life companies can design their IDII products to ensure that claimants on parental leave are not unfairly disadvantaged". 1. Can you confirm that life companies can make income protection insurance available that would assess a claimants' income at the time they were on parental leave, rather than their expected wage on returning to work? 2. Has any guidance been provided to companies about ways to design their policy to avoid this outcome? 3. Has any guidance been provided to clients to raise awareness of the potential risk to their insurance claim if they are on parental leave at the time of a claim?	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	9/06/2021	Written
BET137	Larissa Waters	Superannuation threshold	The Budget commits the govt to removing the \$450 threshold for employer super contributions from "the next financial year following passage of legislation to remove the threshold." 1. Was Treasury consulted on the budget implications of that measure taking effect from 1 July 2021 vs 2022? 2. Do you have an estimate of how many workers will be affected by the change? How many of those workers are women? How many of those workers are under 30? 3. Can you estimate the cost of bringing that measure forward to 1 July 2021? 4. Can you estimate the total increase in retirement savings for low income workers if the measure was brought forward to 1 July 2021?	Department of the Treasury	9/06/2021	Written
BET138	Larissa Waters	Paid parental leave reforms	1. KPMG and the Business Council recently released a paper calling for reforms to move to a more equal parenting model. Has Treasury been asked to provide any advice regarding any of the following reforms? - Increasing the government-funded scheme to 26 weeks? - Introducing "use it or lose it" provisions to encourage more men to take paid parental leave? - Paying parental leave under the government scheme at parent's replacement wage? - Paying parental leave under the government scheme at Average Weekly Earnings? 2. The inequity of the paid parental leave earnings limit where the primary caregiver is not the birth mother has been raised with the government before. What action has been taken to address that?	Department of the Treasury	9/06/2021	Written
BET139	Anthony Chisholm	JobKeeper review	On 2 June, during questions from Senator McKim, Jeremy Hirschhorn confirmed that Treasury would be conducting a review of the JobKeeper program including some analytical work to determine how many recipients were profitable. 1. When will the review, including analysis of how many recipients were profitable, be conducted? 2. When will the review be completed? 3. Where will the substance and findings of the review be reported? 4. What steps are anticipated to result from this analysis? 5. Which future decisions will the analysis inform?	Department of the Treasury	9/06/2021	Written
BET140	Anthony Chisholm	Support to charities	The government is providing significant support to business via asset write-offs and similar deductions, to support employment in the COVID-19 recovery phase. However, while charities are private sector employers, and employ 1 in 11 of the workforce, they cannot access these measures. Has Treasury given any consideration to how government might provide comparable support to charities so they can continue in their role as significant employers and service providers?	Department of the Treasury	9/06/2021	Written
BET141	Anthony Chisholm	Employee share schemes - removing cessation of employment as a taxing point	1. In designing this scheme, what types of employee did you find to hold the greatest value of share options? 2. In designing this measure, did the Treasurer ask for a breakdown of the levels at which employees holding share options sit? For example, indicators like what percentage of share options are held by employees based on the duration of their employment or their salary. 3. Were the differences in wealth or career stage of employees holding share options considered at any time during the design of this measure? 4. Will there be anything in the legislation of this measure that limits its application? For instance, to only apply to options held by employees below executive level? 5. What percentage of the share options that would be affected by this change are held by ASX200 executives? 6. In terms of the overall cost of this measure, what does the percentage of affected share options that are held by ASX200 executives translate to?	Department of the Treasury	9/06/2021	Written
BET142	Anthony Chisholm	Digital economy strategy - self-assessing the effective life of intangible assets	1. What's the upper limit of the cost projections of this measure - the previous iteration of this tripled in cost from what was announced while the government worked on implementation. How have you reassured yourselves that won't happen again? 2. What's the medium term cost of this measure? 3. Given the costings blowout on this measure last time it was proposed, you must have looked at the conditions that could lead to a similar spike. What are those, and what's the probability that they will or won't eventuate? 4. In consulting on the design or future legislation to enact this item, has the government requested any provisions or checks that allow the scheme to be revisited if growth and productivity returns are not commensurate to the predicted or actual cost of the measure? 5. The Digital Economy Strategy includes small business but there is no mention of charities or community organisations. Charities employ over 1.38 million Australians (11% of the workforce) and turn over \$166 billion annually. Are they included in any way in the Digital Economy Strategy? If not, why not?	Department of the Treasury	9/06/2021	Written
BET143	Janet Rice	Coal, oil and gas financing	In relation to the Asian Development Bank proposal to end coal, oil and gas financing: 1. What meetings has the Department held with Board member counterparts in relation to the proposal? On what dates? 2. What position has Australia's representative to date advocated for in board discussions to date?	Department of the Treasury	9/06/2021	Written

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BET144	Anthony Chisholm	Classification for the proposed Transport Asset Holding Entity	<p>1. What was the date that NSW Treasury approached the ABS about a classification for the proposed Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE)? 2. Who in NSW Treasury approached the ABS? 3. Who in the ABS received that approach? 4. How did NSW Treasury approach the ABS - that is what form of communication did the approach take: email, phone call, text message? 5. Did a member of the NSW Government, whether a minister in the NSW Government or a staffer of a minister in the NSW Government, approach the ABS in relation to the proposed TAHE's classification? If so: a. Who was it? b. When did that occur? c. What form of communication did the approach take? 6. Did the ABS advise a Commonwealth Treasury portfolio Minister or their office at the time that the NSW Treasury and/or NSW Government had approached the ABS about a classification for the proposed TAHE? If so: a. Which Minister or office was it? b. When did that occur? c. What form did that advice take - email, phone call, text message, written brief? 7. Who in the ABS was responsible for providing the advice back to the NSW Treasury and/or NSW Government in relation to the proposed TAHE's classification? 8. Was a Commonwealth Treasury portfolio Minister or their office advised of this ABS position? If so: a. Which Minister or office was it? b. When did that occur? c. What form did that advice take - email, phone call, text message, written brief? 9. Over the life of the TAHE, have Commonwealth Treasury portfolio Ministers or their offices been provided with updates - briefs, other documents, other forms of communication - regarding its classification by the ABS? If so: a. Which Minister or office was it? b. When did that occur? c. What form did those update/s take - email, phone call, text message, written brief? 10. Over the life of the TAHE, has NSW Treasury provided any information or update to the ABS in relation to the TAHE? If so: a. What was the nature of that information or update? b. How many times has this occurred? c. When did this occur? d. What form did that information or update take - email, phone call, text message, written letter? 11. Did the ABS provide briefing to any Commonwealth Treasury portfolio Minister or their office as a result of the Sydney Morning Herald's stories on Wednesday 2 June 2021 or Thursday 3 June 2021 relating to the TAHE? If so, did they ask for it, or did the ABS generate that on their own? 12. Did the ABS communicate with the NSW Treasury or Government as a result of the Sydney Morning Herald's stories on Wednesday 2 June 2021 or Thursday 3 June 2021 relating to the TAHE? If so: a. Who in the ABS communicated with the NSW Treasury or NSW Government? b. Who in the NSW Treasury or NSW Government did the ABS official communicate with? c. When did this occur? d. What form did that communication take - email, phone call, text message, other? 13. Did the ABS and NSW Treasury consult each other prior to issuing their respective media statements in relation to the TAHE on Wednesday 2 June 2021? If so: a. Who initiated that consultation? b. What form did that consultation take - email, phone call, text message, other? c. Was a Commonwealth Treasury portfolio minister or their office advised that a media statement would be released by the ABS and/or the NSW Treasury in relation to the Sydney Morning Herald story of Wednesday 2 June 2021 relating to the TAHE? i) If so, who was it? ii) When did that occur? iii) What form did that advice take - email, phone call, text message, other? 14. Would a delay in the TAHE charging access fees to generate revenue give rise to reconsidering the TAHE's classification as a Public Non Financial Corporation (PNFC) If not, why not? 15. At what point does a delay in the TAHE's transition to a commercial entity give rise to reconsidering the TAHE's classification as a Public Non Financial Corporation (PNFC) If it doesn't, why? 16. Does the ABS have a copy of the KPMG report that is referred to in the Sydney Morning Herald's story of Wednesday 2 June 2021 relating to the TAHE? If not, will the ABS be requiring the NSW Government to provide it? 17. If the TAHE loses its PNFC classification, will the ABS review the status of holding companies in Victoria?</p>	Australian Bureau of Statistics	10/06/2021	Written
BET145	Anthony Chisholm	JobKeeper received by businesses	<p>1. On 7 July 2020, ASIC announced that entities should disclose JobKeeper receipts, specifically stating: Entities should appropriately account for each type of support and assistance from government, lenders, landlords and others. Both the financial report and OFR should prominently disclose significant amounts, the commencement date and expected duration of support or assistance. Examples include JobKeeper, land tax relief, loan deferrals and restructuring, and rent deferrals and waivers. a. How many companies who received JobKeeper have done so? b. What steps have you taken to ensure you know which entities have received JobKeeper, so that you know which should report it? c. How many large propriety companies which are not reporting entities have included JobKeeper receipts in their reporting to ASIC? How many should have? i) Given that these reports are available to the public, can you provide a list of companies who have reported JobKeeper in their reporting? d. What is the total number of companies who have reported receiving JobKeeper in their reporting to ASIC? i) Please provide a list of these companies to the committee</p>	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	10/06/2021	Written
BET146	Stirling Griff	Charity assessments and investigations	<p>1. With regards to disqualifying purposes: Please explain what factors the ACNC considers when assessing whether a charity is engaging in or promoting activities that are contrary to public policy. 2. In response to my questions on notice from Estimates in March (AET0568), the ACNC noted that to be registered as a health charity with ACNC, an entity's "principal activity" must be "promoting the prevention or the control of diseases in human beings". a. Does this allow entities pushing bogus treatments to be registered as health charities? b. What is the ACNC's obligation, if any, to ensure that a health charity is not promoting potentially harmful, unauthorised, or medically unsupported health activities or treatments? 3. I understand the Australian Council on Smoking and Health has written to you saying the Australian Tobacco Harm Reduction Association's (ATHRA) charity status should at least be investigated because it is engaging in activities that are "contrary to public policy" - such as failing to declare conflicts of interest such as industry-linked sources of funding and support, and pushing for e-cigarettes to be made more freely available as a consumer product in opposition to Australia's evidence-based precautionary approach - and this would amount to a disqualifying purpose. What is your response to that proposition? 4. Given your response in AET0568 to questions 3, 4 and 5 has the ACNC revisited ATHRA's registration or sought any additional information from the charity regarding any relationship it has had with any tobacco industry associated entities? If not, why not? 5. Does the ACNC consider it has sufficient resources and/or powers to investigate where there is a concern that a charity is not meeting the Governance Standards or External Conduct Standards due to an offence being committed or otherwise? 6. Re the response to AET0568: Can you advise what progress the ACNC and Treasury have made on Recommendations 18 and 23 of the Legislation Review? Are any other recommendations under discussion/ being progressed (aside from Recommendation 20)? 7. Regarding your previous evidence (Oct 2020) that the ACNC is only able to investigate 5% of the complaints it receives: What would you require to be able to investigate 100% of the complaints you receive? Is it a question of resourcing? IS ACNC limited by the powers under the Act? a. What happens with the other 95% of complaints? Do they go unanswered? If so, what does the ACNC tell the complainant (if you respond at all)? 8. Given there is no ACNC requirement for a small charity to have its financial report reviewed or audited, in what circumstances would a small charity's accounts be reviewed - is it only if they were brought to the ACNC's attention because they were doxxed in for impropriety?</p>	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	10/06/2021	Written

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Qn No.	Senator	Subject	QuestionText	Department or agency	Hearing date	Hansard p. no. / Written qn
BET147	Stirling Griff	Charities linked to the Greek Orthodox Church	1. Regarding the registered charities linked to the Greek Orthodox Church: A number of news articles have pointed to what appear to be financial improprieties with regards to the above-markets rents registered charity St. Basil's Homes for the Aged in Victoria has paid to the Greek Orthodox church (another registered charity) and the \$6.5m paid by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia Consolidated Trust (another registered charity) for the Archbishop's luxury residence. 2. Has the ACNC followed up on any of these reports with any of these charities to assess whether there have been any financial irregularities? 3. Has the ACNC received any complaints within the past year regarding any charities connected to the Greek Orthodox church and associated entities, including St Basils? a. If so, how many complaints have been received? b. What was the nature of the complaints? c. How many has the ACNC responded to? 4. If it hasn't already done so, does the ACNC intend to initiate an own investigation into any of the matters raised regarding the handling of finances by the church and its associated entities? If not, why not?	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	10/06/2021	Written
BET148	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial - departmental staff in Minister's office	1. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of departmental staff seconded to ministerial offices, including: a. Duration of secondment. b. APS level. 2. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of DLOs/CLOs for ministerial offices including APS level.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET149	Kristina Keneally	Treasury - executive office upgrades	Have any furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries been upgraded for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive).	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET150	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial - functions	1. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021, can the following be provided: a. List of functions. b. List of all attendees. c. Function venue. d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e. Details of any food served. f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. g. Any available photographs of the function. h. Details of any entertainment provided.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET151	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial - meals	1. In relation to any breakfasts, luncheons, dinners or other meals hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021, can the following be provided: a. List of dates and types of meals. b. List of all attendees. c. Function venue. d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e. Details of any food served. f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. g. Any available photographs of the function. h. Details of any entertainment provided.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET152	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial - acting Minister arrangements	1. Can the Department provide all leave periods of the portfolio Minister from 24 August 2018 to 30 May 2021. 2. Can the Department further provide acting Minister arrangements for each leave period.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET153	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial - domestic travel	1. Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all domestic travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021, please be provided including: a. Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel. b. Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. c. Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed. d. Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided. e. Any available photographs documenting the Minister's travel should also be provided.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET154	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial - stationery	How much has been spent on ministerial stationery requirements in each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021?	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET155	Kristina Keneally	Treasury - appointments - briefs prepared	1. How many times has the Department prepared a brief for statutory authorities, executive agencies, advisory boards, government business enterprises or any other Commonwealth body which includes a reference to a former Liberal or National member of parliament at a state, territory or federal level. 2. For each brief prepared, can the Department advise: a. The former member. b. The board or entity. c. Whether the request originated from the Minister's office. d. Whether the appointment was made.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET156	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - congestion busting	1. Can the Department/agency advise how it is "congestion busting" in relation to bureaucratic bottlenecks and regulatory bottlenecks. 2. Have any additional resources been allocated within the Department to achieve "congestion busting" within the department?	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET157	Kristina Keneally	Treasury - Comcare	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021 can the Department advise whether it has been the subject of any investigations involving Comcare. If yes, please provide details of the circumstances and the status. 2. Can the Department advise the number of sanctions it has received from Comcare in the each of the periods; 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written

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Qn No.	Senator	Subject	QuestionText	Department or agency	Hearing date	Hansard p. no. / Written qn
BET158	Kristina Keneally	Treasury - secretarial travel	1. Can an itemised list of the costs of all domestic and international travel undertaken by the Secretary of the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021 be provided including: a. Flights for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the airline and class of travel. b. Ground transport for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. c. Accommodation for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed. d. Meals and other incidentals for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided. e. Any available photographs documenting the Secretary's travel should also be provided.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET159	Anthony Chisholm	Advertising costs for JobMaker Hiring Credit	How much has been spent on advertising for the JobMaker Hiring Credit since it was announced in the budget last year? Please provide a breakdown of this spending.	Australian Taxation Office	11/06/2021	Written
BET160	Kristina Keneally	Treasury - freedom of information	1. Please list the number of Freedom of Information Act requests ('FOI requests') received by the Department for the following years: a. 2013-14; b. 2014-15; c. 2015-16; d. 2016-17; e. 2018-19; 2019-20, and; f. 2020-21 to date. 2. For each year above, please provide: a. The number of FOI requests the Department granted in full; b. The number of FOI requests the Department granted in part; c. The number of FOI requests the Department refused in full; and d. The number of FOI requests the Department failed to make any decision on for practical reasons under the Freedom of Information Act. 3. For each year above, please also provide: a. The number of times the Department failed to make any decision on a FOI request within the 30 day statutory period; and b. The number of times a request to the Department resulted in a practical refusal (i.e. no decision was made on the request). 4. For each year above, please also provide: a. The number of times the Department's FOI decisions have been appealed to the OAIC; and b. The number of times has the OAIC overturned - in whole or in part - the Department's decision to refuse access to material. 5. Please provide the staffing (both ASL and headcount) of staff at the Department who work exclusively on FOI requests, broken down by APS level (e.g. three EL1s, four AP56s, one SES) for each of the following years: a. 2013-14; b. 2014-15; c. 2015-16; d. 2016-17; e. 2018-19; f. 2019-20, and; g. 2020-21 to date. 6. For each of the years above, please also list the number of officers who are designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Department. 7. In the past 12 months, has the Department seconded additional resources to processing Freedom of Information requests? If so, please detail those resources by APS level. 8. Please provide the number of officers who are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Minister's office. 9. Please provide the number of FOI requests currently under consideration by the Department. Please also provide the number of these requests that are currently overdue in response. 10. Does the department consult or inform the Minister when it receives Freedom of information requests? If so: a. How many times has this occurred in the past twelve months; and b. Please outline the process by which the Department consults the Minister. 11. Has the Department consulted or informed another Department or agency about any FOI request in the past twelve months. If so, please provide the legal basis on which that consultation occurred (e.g. third party consultation, transfer of request).	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET161	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial - overseas travel	1. Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all international travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021, please be provided including: a. Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel. b. Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. c. Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed. d. Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided. e. Any available photographs documenting the Minister's travel should also be provided.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET162	Kristina Keneally	Treasury - departmental equipment	What was the estimated value of all Departmental equipment that was lost, damaged, stolen or written off during each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021?	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET163	Anthony Chisholm	Small businesses on JobKeeper	On 24 March 2021 at additional estimates, Fiscal Group advised that: ".91 per cent of JobKeeper recipients, in our most current data, are from microbusinesses." (p. 74) 1. Can the Department advise on the number of entities that were on JobKeeper when it ended? Please provide this by microbusinesses, small, medium and large enterprises? 2. How many of these businesses were expected to close after the end of JobKeeper? 3. Based on the ABN for these businesses, can the department advise on the number of these businesses that have filed for insolvency? 4. Based on the ABN for these businesses, can the department advise on the number of these businesses that have not reported any taxable income?	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET164	Anthony Chisholm	JobMaker - small business employee sizes	Please provide the number of businesses accessing the JobMaker Hiring Credit based on the number of employees they have split as follows: - Non-employing businesses - 1 - 4 employees - 5 - 19 employees - 20 - 199 Employees	Australian Taxation Office	11/06/2021	Written
BET165	Anthony Chisholm	Apprenticeship numbers in the budget speech	The Treasurer's speech on budget night, states 'we will create more than 170,000 new apprenticeships and trainees'. 1. In which year are the 170,000 new apprenticeships and trainees expected to be created? 2. How many apprentices and trainees were assumed to commence in that year/years before measures in the 2021-22 Budget? 3. Please provide the assumptions for commencements of apprentices and trainees in each year over the forward estimates at the 2020-21 MYEFO. 4. Please provide the assumptions for commencements apprentices and trainees in each year over the forward estimates at the 2021-22 Budget.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written

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Qn No.	Senator	Subject	QuestionText	Department or agency	Hearing date	Hansard p. no. / Written qn
BET166	Anthony Chisholm	Carnival shows ride operations insurance	We have been contacted by some Carnival Operators who raised an issue regarding Public Liability Insurance facing the Amusement Industry in Australia. What advice have you provided regarding issues facing Carnival Operators who have not been able to secure Public Liability Insurance as a result of the pandemic?	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET167	Ben Small	FASEA exam	1. In my questions at the 2 June 2021 Senate Estimates hearing, I asked about what the options are for a financial adviser who has not passed the exam by the end of this year. You advised that they have two options. One is to go through the new entrant pathway including completing an undergraduate degree and the professional year, before coming back to do the exam. The other was to be suspended until they have passed the exam and then they could be re-authorised. This option would enable them to avoid the requirement to do the degree and the professional year. The advisers that I have spoken to do not seem to be aware of this option. Can you please explain how this option works and what piece of legislation or regulation enables this to happen? 2. It has been reported that FASEA is notifying advisers who are close to passing the exam that they could consider asking for a remark, however not doing this for people who are not close to passing. If FASEA is prepared to do this, then why don't you just give these unsuccessful candidates their marks? 3. How many advisers have requested a remark of their exam and of these, how many have been successful in having the result changed from a fail to a pass? 4. Whilst I am aware that only recently FASEA have done more to provide feedback to those who fail the exam, what I am hearing is that this feedback is still very brief and generic in nature. Is there anything more that FASEA can do to provide more meaningful individualised feedback to advisers who fail the exam? 5. What special support services is FASEA providing to those advisers who fail the exam on multiple occasions? 6. In your opening statement for the Senate Estimates Hearing on 2 June 2021, you advised that 1,437 financial advisers have attempted the exam, however are yet to pass. Can you please advise how many of them will have received a result between the 50% level and the credit standard that is required to pass the exam? 7. I understand that the pass rate has been trending downwards in recent exams and particularly with respect to those who are making a second or subsequent attempt. What are the key trends that FASEA is observing in respect to the exam and what, if any, action should be taken? 8. I have received a number of complaints from risk only advisers that the FASEA exam does not include any questions that are relevant to an adviser who focusses on providing life insurance advice. Can you please explain why these advisers are not disadvantaged when sitting the exam? 9. To this point, what is the total number of attempts to sit the FASEA Exam and what has been the total cost to those advisers?	Financial Adviser Standards and Ethics Authority	11/06/2021	Written
BET168	Slade Brockman	FASEA exam statistics	1. In your opening statement for the Senate Estimates Hearing on 2 June 2021, you made the statement that "To date, 882 unsuccessful candidates have re-sat the exam with 578 (66%) passing at a first or subsequent re-sit", however in the FASEA Media Release of 11 May 2021 on the results from the March 2021 FASEA exam you said "To date, 1182 unsuccessful candidates have re-sat the exam with 65% passing at a re-sit". Can you please clarify this difference? 2. How many financial advisers in total have been unsuccessful in the FASAEA exam on one or more occasion? 3. How many of these advisers have ultimately passed the exam? 4. In terms of total unsuccessful sittings, how many times has an adviser sat the exam and not passed? 5. How many of those people who have passed the exam are no longer on the Financial Adviser Register? 6. How many financial advisers, who are on the Financial Adviser Register, have not attempted the exam at all?	Financial Adviser Standards and Ethics Authority	11/06/2021	Written
BET169	Slade Brockman	Study requirements for new and existing advisors	1. In your opening statement for the Senate Estimates Hearing on 2 June 2021, you made the statement that "new and existing advisers are enrolled in 33,000 individual units of study". How many existing advisers are enrolled in a program of study and how many new advisers are enrolled in a FASEA approved course? Do you know how many existing advisers have already complied with the degree equivalent requirement? If so, how many? 2. In your opening statement for the Senate Estimates Hearing on 2 June 2021, you made the statement that "The number of new entrants commencing their professional year is steadily rising from 46 in 2019 to over 400 today". How many advisers commenced their professional year in 2019, 2020 and 2021? 3. How many are currently enrolled as at 1 June 2021? 4. Has FASEA examined ways for other graduates to enter the financial advice profession without the need to do a full Graduate Diploma?	Financial Adviser Standards and Ethics Authority	11/06/2021	Written
BET170	Ben Small	Insurance premium increases	1. At the Senate Estimates hearing on 2 June 2021, I asked a question about very large life insurance premium increases for existing clients occurring at the same time as the life insurers are discounting the premiums for new clients. Seemingly this is a cross subsidy between existing clients and new clients. I also asked whether these discounts encouraged product replacement by financial advisers, which is an issue that the Parliament addressed through the LIF legislation? The answer was that seemingly APRA was not aware of these discounting practices. I understand that a number of the life insurers are currently discounting premiums in the first year or first few years. One life insurer advertises that they offer a 25% discount in the first year. I am aware that a number of others also do this. a. How is it that APRA would not be aware of this practice, and given that clients will incur a substantial increase in year 2, isn't this going to incentivise both clients and advisers to move to another product to get the benefit of another upfront discount? b. Isn't upfront discounting of risk pooling products, like life insurance, a poor business practice? c. What is APRA doing to address these practices? 2. Is APRA aware that the combination of these large premium increases and first year or first three years discounting practices is making it very difficult for financial advisers to provide advice on appropriate products for their clients? APRA has chosen to intervene in the IDII market. Is there more that APRA can do to ensure that the pricing is more stable and that it is not so complex for advisers trying to recommend an appropriate product for their clients? 3. At the Senate Estimates hearing on 2 June 2021, the response from APRA was that these large premium increases were largely limited to the IDII product. I am hearing from financial advisers that large increases have been occurring across the other products, including Life, TPD and Trauma. What scale of increases has APRA observed in the market place across all four products? 4. What role does APRA play in oversighting practices in the life insurance industry, including large premium increases? I understand that some of the increases in this market have been as much as 70% in recent years. Does APRA capture data on these large premium increases and if not then why not? 5. In the context of these large premium increases by life insurance companies and obvious problems with lack of profitability, can you please explain what is happening in the life insurance market and what the consequences are for all stakeholders, but particularly the clients of these life insurers?	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	11/06/2021	Written

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Qn No.	Senator	Subject	QuestionText	Department or agency	Hearing date	Hansard p. no. / Written qn
BET171	Ben Small	Carter v Commissioner of Taxation	<p>1. The Commissioner of Taxation applied for special leave to appeal from the unanimous decision by the Full Federal Court in Carter v Commissioner of Taxation [2020] FCAFC 150. Am I correct in understanding that the case put by the Commissioner in the Carter High Court appeal is that it is now the Commissioner's view that after 30 June, a taxpayer beneficiary cannot retrospectively disclaim their entitlements to a trust distribution? 2. Why is the Commissioner seeking to change the position that disclaimers can operate retrospectively and prospectively, which has been accepted and advocated by the Commissioner since at least 1991? See for example: a. Taxation Ruling IT 2651 (1991), refer to paragraphs [10] - [13] b. ATO Interpretive Decision ATO ID 2010/85; c. Yazbek v Federal Commissioner of Taxation (2012) 88 ATR 672 at 681 [72]; d. Moignard v Federal Commissioner of Taxation (2014) 98 ATR 723 at 737-738 [68]; e. Private Ruling 1051189979183 (14 February 2017); and f. Nemesis Australia Pty Ltd v Federal Commissioner of Taxation (2005) 150 FCR 152 (at 163-164 [50]). 3. Do you accept that the case being advanced by the Commissioner before the High Court in the Carter appeal directly contradicts the above long-standing view of the ATO? 4. Is the effect of success for the ATO in the Carter High Court Appeal such that anyone could establish a discretionary trust and distribute a taxable profit to an unknown and non-consenting beneficiary, and that same beneficiary after 30 June would face a potentially significant tax liability - irrespective of whether the beneficiary actually received money? 5. Did the ATO consider the potential detriment and the potential for fraud against unknown and non-consenting taxpayer beneficiaries, if the Commissioner's view is upheld by the High Court? To illustrate the point, a distribution could be declared by a trustee to the Commissioner in his personal capacity, and that after 30 June, the Commissioner could not then disclaim that entitlement notwithstanding that he didn't receive any money, just as the beneficiaries in the Carter case did not actually receive any money? 6. Did the responsible ATO stakeholders consult Treasury before pursuing the appeal of the Carter case to the High Court? If not, why not? 7. Did the responsible ATO stakeholders consult with the Inspector General of Taxation and Tax Ombudsman before pursuing the appeal of the Carter case to the High Court? If not, why not? 8. The Commissioner has offered the taxpayers/respondents Test Case litigation funding for the appeal before the High Court. Does the Commissioner intend to treat the case as a pure "test case", meaning if the outcome is favourable to the ATO will the law be applied moving forward? Or does the Commissioner intend to enforce judgement against the taxpayers if the Commissioner is successful? And how is the Commissioner currently treating taxpayers who have disclaimed their rights to trust distributions (after 30 June)? 9. The same taxpayers in this matter, in January 2021 lodged a further objection which demonstrated that the ATO's calculations were incorrect, as they ignored significant costs, including interest, and borrowing costs, land tax, council rates, etc. Ultimately, this objection arguably demonstrated there were no taxable profits capable of being distributed. On 20 May 2021, the ATO refused to consider that objection on the basis it was lodged outside of the prescribed time frames and the ATO would not extend the time to consider the objection. Does it seem appropriate that Government resources are being used to pay for an appeal to the High Court, where the underlying tax liabilities in question are disputed by the taxpayer and the ATO has refused to even consider the taxpayer's further objection? 10. During Senate Estimates, Acting Second Commissioner Kirsten Fish commented that all taxpayers have a right to independent review, including by way of statutory right of objection. The taxpayer's further objection in the Carter matter was delegated within the Review and Dispute Resolutions (Objections) to a team under the management of Ms Andrea Jennings, the same ATO officer who acted as a solicitor for the Commissioner against the taxpayers in the Carter case in at least eight separate proceedings, including bankruptcy proceedings against the same taxpayers. How can anyone have reasonable confidence that the decision not to allow the objection in the Carter case (lodged out of time) was independent? Is it appropriate for an independent review (i.e. objection) to be allocated to an ATO officer who has been previously involved with the same taxpayers? Does the Commissioner consider the apprehension of bias, whether actual or apparent before delegating an independent review (i.e. objection) to an ATO officer?</p>	Australian Taxation Office	11/06/2021	Written
BET172	Anthony Chisholm	Individual tax residency rules	<p>In relation to the 2021-22 Budget measure "Modernising the individual tax residency rules" 1. Can the proposed changes in the budget measure be implemented by regulation? 2. What are the secondary tests that are mentioned in the measure description? 3. How many of the secondary tests must be met in order for someone to be considered to be an Australian tax resident? 4. Who will decide whether someone meets a secondary test? 5. On what standard are the secondary tests 'measurable and objective' if they were not identified in the measure description? 6. Will people have a right of appeal against a decision of whether they meet a secondary test? 7. How many people who are overseas that do not meet the current tax residency test will be reclassified as Australian tax residents under the new test? Please provide the profile of people expected per financial year.</p>	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET173	Anne Urquhart	SnowyHydro utilisation	<p>1. Is the utilisation rate at SnowyHydro's Colongra plant on the lower end of the spectrum compared with other similar assets/market players? 2. What are the utilisation rates of SnowyHydro's other assets by comparison? 3. What do you think SnowyHydro owning Kurri Kurri will do to the Residual Supply Index in NSW? 4. Would it be fair to say the addition of Kurri Kurri and Snowy 2.0, SnowyHydro will end up being a 'pivotal supplier' for a significant amount of time?</p>	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	11/06/2021	Written
BET174	Anthony Chisholm	Cryptocurrency tax compliance	<p>1. The US Treasury has announced that the Internal Revenue Service will require cryptocurrency transactions of more than \$10,000 be reported. Has Treasury considered mandatory reporting for cryptocurrency transactions of over \$10,000 in Australia? 2. Has Treasury sought advice from AUSTRAC on the utility of such a reporting mechanism? 3. Has Treasury sought advice from the AFP on how such a mechanism could be used? 4. Does Treasury believe such a reporting requirement could help track illicit cryptocurrency transfers that fund cyber-crime?</p>	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET175	Anthony Chisholm	Cryptocurrency regulation - Global Travel Rule / Swiss Rule	<p>1. Is Treasury aware of the Financial Action Task Force's proposed 'Travel Rule'? 2. Did Treasury make a submission to the Financial Action Task Force's public consultations on a risk-based approach to digital currencies and digital currency exchange providers, in particular on the implementation of the 'travel rule'? If so, please provide a copy of your submission. 3. How could the Travel Rule help with identifying and prosecuting ransomware operators and other cyber criminals? 4. Would Treasury support the introduction of the Travel Rule for cryptocurrency transfers? 5. Has Treasury considered the benefits of expanding of 'know your customer' obligations to transactions to or from privately hosted cryptocurrency wallets, also known as the 'Swiss Rule'?</p>	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written

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Qn No.	Senator	Subject	QuestionText	Department or agency	Hearing date	Hansard p. no. / Written qn
BET176	Slade Brockman	ASIC funding levy	In my Questions on Notice from the March 2021 Senate Estimates hearing, I asked for an explanation of the difference between the 112% increase in the ASIC Funding levy for financial advisers from 2018/19 to 2019/20 and an answer from Commissioner Press during the March hearing where she said "The increase in cost per adviser has been about 29 per cent over the last 12 months". The response from ASIC to my Question on Notice was "Commissioner Press was not describing the increase in the graduated component of the levy between 2018-19 and 2019-20 in her evidence at Estimates on 25 March 2021". 1. Isn't the cost per adviser the "graduated component", and if we are not talking about the same thing, then what does the 29% increase, referred to by Commissioner Press, relate to? I asked this question again at the Senate estimates hearing on 2 June 2021, and it was taken on notice. Can you please explain this discrepancy? 2. In your response to the Questions on Notice from the March Senate Estimates hearing you stated that a large part of the increase in the costs for financial advisers from the ASIC Funding Levy over the last couple of years are due to enforcement action. ASIC has also made the point that "Where ASIC is successful in court, any costs awarded and paid to ASIC will be credited to the relevant subsector, with the levy for that subsector reduced accordingly". Can you please advise what proportion of the fully allocated costs that are charged to financial advisers as a result of enforcement/court action would typically be recovered through a court award of expenses? 3. In the event that ASIC is successful in a court action and penalties are awarded, do these penalties reduce the ASIC Funding Levy or do they go into consolidated revenue?	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	11/06/2021	Written
BET177	Slade Brockman	Westpac-owned superannuation funds	In the recent Estimates hearings we briefly discussed the court decision regarding Westpac owned superannuation funds who were positioning themselves as providing general advice to the members of the funds, however the High Court found that they were providing personal advice. 1. Given that this was an issue related to super funds, and ones that were operating on a general advice model, did financial advisers, who provide personal advice to retail clients, end up paying for any of the costs of this action against Westpac, and if so then how much and why? 2. What were the costs, what costs have been recovered and when will this credit be recognised?	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	11/06/2021	Written
BET178	Slade Brockman	Financial adviser exam implications	In the event that a financial adviser has failed to pass the FASEA exam by the end of this year, can you please advise what the options and implications are for licensees, advisers and their clients. In particular what are the implications for self-licensed or sole practitioner authorised representatives (ie where there is no obvious alternative for someone else to advise and support the clients.)?	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	11/06/2021	Written
BET179	Slade Brockman	Frontier Advisors	During the Senate Estimates hearing on 2 June 2021, I asked you about an AFSL, that is licensed to provide personal advice to retail clients and is owned by four super funds, that is using the term "independent"(Frontier Advisors). Can you please explain why it is permissible for this entity to still use the restricted term 'independent'?	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	11/06/2021	Written
BET180	Slade Brockman	Caddick response	With respect to the high profile case of Melissa Caddick, can you please advise when ASIC was first made aware of issues with respect to her, either through a complaint or another form of feedback and what ASIC did as a result of this notice?	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	11/06/2021	Written
BET181	Slade Brockman	Sole purpose test	When I asked APRA at the 2 June 2021 Senate Estimates hearing about the guidance on the Sole Purpose Test, which dates back to February 2001, I was told that the review of this guidance that was announced in December 2018 was put on hold due to the Your Future, Your Super legislation and that the changes in that Bill relating to the "Best Financial Interests" requirement had potentially superseded the need for any review of the Sole Purpose Test. 1. Can you please explain why you believe that the Your Future, Your Super reforms remove the need for a review and update of the Sole Purpose Test guidance? With reference to current guidance on the sole purpose test: 2. Does the Sole Purpose Test apply in the case of a pension client, where they have already met a condition of release? 3. Is advice on reducing expenditure to enable a member to salary sacrifice into super, compliant with the Sole Purpose test? 4. Where someone is due to receive an inheritance, and they want advice on what to do with their inheritance and the advice is to put some of the money into superannuation, then does this comply with the Sole Purpose Test? 5. Given the above examples, provided to me by financial advisers, do you accept that current guidance on sole purpose is insufficient? It has recently been suggested that intra fund advice should be [wording missing - waiting on committee confirmation] 6. Would the extension of intra fund advice to allow for the provision of advice to the spouse of a member breach the Sole Purpose Test? Has APRA looked at this issue?	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	11/06/2021	Written
BET182	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - recruitment	1. What amount has been expended by the department/agency on external recruitment or executive search services in each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021? 2. Which services were utilised? Can an itemised list be provided.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET183	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - staffing	1. How many full-time equivalent staff are engaged at each of 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020, 31 May 2021? 2. How many of these positions are (a) on-going and (b) non-ongoing. 3. How many redundancies have occurred in each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021. How many were: a. voluntary b. involuntary. 4. How many of those redundancies occurred as a result of departmental restructuring. What is the total cost of those redundancies. 5. What was the total value in dollar terms of all termination payments paid to exiting staff. 6. How much overtime or equivalent has been paid to staff in each of the 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021. 7. How many section 37 notices under the Public Service Act 1999 have been offered in each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written

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BET184	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - media monitoring	1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to each Minister's office for each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021. a. Which agency or agencies provided these services. b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2020-21. 2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021. a. Which agency or agencies provided these services. b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract Notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2020-21.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET185	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - communications staff	1. For all departments and agencies, please provide - in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff - the following: 2. By Department or agency: a. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location. b. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location. c. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location. d. How many are graphic designers. e. How many are media managers. f. How many organise events. 3. Do any departments/agencies have independent media studios. a. If yes, why. b. When was it established. c. What is the set up cost. d. What is the ongoing cost. e. How many staff work there and what are their classifications.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET186	Kristina Keneally	Treasury - CDDA payments	1. How many claims have been received under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration scheme (CDDA) by the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021? 2. How many claims were: a. Accepted. b. Rejected. c. Under consideration. 3. Of the accepted claims, can the Department provide: a. Details of the claim, subject to relevant privacy considerations b. The date payment was made c. The decision maker.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET187	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - executive management	1. In relation to executive management for the Department and its agencies, can the following be provided for 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021: a. The total number of executive management positions b. The aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions. c. The change in the number of executive manager positions. d. The change in aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET188	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - departmental functions	1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021 can the following be provided: a. List of functions. b. List of all attendees. c. Function venue. d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e. Details of any food served. f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. g. Any available photographs of the function. h. Details of any entertainment provided.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET189	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - facilities upgrades	1. Were there any upgrades to facility premises at any of the Departments or agencies for each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021. This includes but is not limited to: staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment. 2. If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrades be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). 3. If so, can any photographs of the upgraded facilities be provided.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET190	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - staff travel	What is the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees for each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET191	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - legal costs	What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET192	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - briefings	1. Has the Department/agency or the Minister's office provided briefings to independents/minor parties in the Senate or House of Representatives. If so, can the following be provided: a. The subject matter of the briefing. b. The location and date of the briefing. c. Who proposed the briefing. d. Attendees of the briefing by level/position	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET193	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - departmental staff allowances	Can a list of departmental/agency allowances and reimbursements available to employees be provided.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET194	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - market research	1. Does the Department/agency undertake any polling or market research in relation to government policies or proposed policies. 2. If so, can the Department provide an itemised list of: a. Subject matter b. Company c. Costs each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021. d. Contract date period 3. Can the Department/agency advise what, if any, research was shared with the Minister or their office and the date and format in which this occurred.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET195	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - advertising and information campaigns	1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021. 2. What advertising and information campaigns did the Department/agency run in each relevant period. For each campaign, please provide: a. When approval was first sought. b. The date of approval, including whether the advertising went through the Independent Campaign Committee process. c. the timeline for each campaign, including any variation to the original proposed timeline. 3. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in each period be provided.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written

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BET196	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - promotional merchandise	1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise for each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021. 2. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period please be provided. 3. Can photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise please be provided.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET197	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - collateral materials	1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on collateral materials, including banners, publications, maps, charts and high visibility or protective clothing for events, functions, conferences, meetings, press conferences and site visits, including Ministerial events, functions, conferences, meetings, press conferences and site visits for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021. 2. For each event or function where the Department/agency expended funds on collateral materials, provide details of the event, including the date and location of each event, and details of the types of materials.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET198	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - social media influencers	1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on social media influencers for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021. 2. What advertising or information campaigns did the Department/agency use social media influencers to promote. 3. Can a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts please be provided. 4. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts please be provided.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET199	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - Fair Work Commission	For each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Commission within the Department or agency?	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET200	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - Fair Work Ombudsman	For each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Ombudsman within the Department or agency?	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET201	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner	For each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021, how many references have been made to the Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner within the Department or agency?	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET202	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - public interest disclosures	For each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021, how many public interest disclosures have been received?	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET203	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - travel and expense claim policy	1. Please produce a copy of all travel and expense claim policies. 2. Please produce a copy of all claim forms. If the forms are digital, please provide a screen shot of each section, including all dropdown options.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET204	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - declarations of interest	1. Please produce a copy of all relevant policies. 2. Please produce a copy of the register of declarations of interest as at 31 May 2021?	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET205	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - declarations of gifts and hospitality policy	1. Please produce a copy of all relevant policies. 2. Please produce a copy of the register of declarations of gifts as at 31 May 2021?	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET206	Kim Carr	Board of Taxation review of RDTI	1. Will submissions to the review by the Board of Tax be confidential? 2. What direct consultation with industry will be undertaken? Can details be provided of industry organisations and major firms to be consulted? 3. What external consultancies have been engaged to assist with the review and on what contract terms? 4. The Board's role description says that it will supply "real time advice" to the Government. Is it possible to be more specific about the timing? 5. The Board is being asked to consider the work and recommendations of the "Three Fs" review as part of its review? To what extent have the recommendations of this and other reviews, such as "reviewing the two agency delivery model", been implemented or evaluated? 6. Has the Board been given sufficient additional funding to undertake this review? 7. Does the Government intend to implement any recommendations coming from the review? 8. Can the Board go beyond the terms of reference if it believes it would lead to a better outcome? 9. As an objective of the review is to "reduce duplication" and the Government has an objective of cuttings billions of dollars from the RDTI program, has the Board been given a savings target to achieve from the review? 10. Is the Board/ATO aware of any cultural differences between the ATO and AusIndustry that may have adversely impacted on the administration of the Program? 11.As the R&DTI is jointly administered by the ATO and AusIndustry - but on behalf of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science Australia (DIIS), does this mean DIIS is the lead agency and will have the final say over the implementation of the review findings? 12. Will the analysis "of comparative jurisdictions" noted in the Board's terms of reference include analysis of the report of the Centre for Business Research at Cambridge Judge Business School in the UK which revealed significant failings in that country's R&D scheme? 13. Will the review take into account the circumstances surrounding successful appeals against adverse RDTI determinations in the last three years? 14. Have the outcomes from these appeals led to any changes in assessment processes or advice to potential claimants under the RDTI? 15. Can the ATO supply an annual breakdown of RDTI compliance activities undertaken since 2012 in terms of: a. Number of audits undertaken; b. Number and percentage of audits that found inappropriate or fraudulent claiming; c. Penalties applied to cases under (b); d. Total \$ amount recovered from inappropriate or fraudulent claimants; e. Penalties applied to R&D consultancies.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written

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BET207	Nick McKim	Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry	What is the status of the government's response to each of the recommendations of the Royal Commission?	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET208	Nick McKim	Petroleum resource rent tax	1. What is the amount of carried forward expenditure in each category of deductible expenditure under the PRRT? 2. What is the amount of carried forward expenditure for which the uplift rate is the LTBR +15%? 3. What is the amount of carried forward expenditure for which the uplift rate is the LTBR +5%? 4. What is the amount of carried forward expenditure for which the uplift rate is the calculated using the GDP deflator method?	Australian Taxation Office	11/06/2021	Written
BET209	Nick McKim	JobKeeper payments	1. What is the value of all JobKeeper payments? Please provide this data in as much granularity as is available, ideally a table including: a. No. employees nominated for JobKeeper. b. Size of business (e.g. pre-COVID turnover used as a baseline), including the number of SMEs. c. Industry sector. d. Company structure (i.e. publicly listed, private, sole trader, etc.). 2. What is the value of all JobKeeper payments made to non-government schools? Please provide this data in as much granularity as is available, ideally a table including: a. No. employees nominated for JobKeeper. b. Size of business (e.g. pre-COVID turnover used as a baseline), including the number of SMEs. 3. What is the value of all JobKeeper payments made to Registered Training Organisations? Please provide this data in as much granularity as is available, ideally a table including: a. No. employees nominated for JobKeeper. b. Size of business (e.g. pre-COVID turnover used as a baseline), including the number of SMEs. 4. What is the value of JobKeeper payments made to companies that recorded a profit? Please provide this data in as much granularity as is available, ideally a table including: a. No. employees nominated for JobKeeper. b. Size of business (e.g. pre-COVID turnover used as a baseline), including the number of SMEs. c. Industry sector. d. Company structure (i.e. publicly listed, private, sole trader, etc.). 5. What is the value of profit recorded by companies that received JobKeeper payments? Please provide this data in as much granularity as is available, ideally a table including: a. Size of profit. b. No. employees nominated for JobKeeper. c. Size of business (e.g. pre-COVID turnover used as a baseline), including the number of SMEs. d. Industry sector. e. Company structure (i.e. publicly listed, private, sole trader, etc.). 6. What is the value of dividends paid by companies that received JobKeeper payments? Please provide this data in as much granularity as is available, ideally a table including: a. Value of dividends paid. b. No. employees nominated for JobKeeper. c. Size of business (e.g. pre-COVID turnover used as a baseline), including the number of SMEs. d. Industry sector. e. Company structure (i.e. publicly listed, private, sole trader, etc.).	Australian Taxation Office	11/06/2021	Written
BET210	Nick McKim	Wealth distribution statistics	1. What is the distribution of net wealth by quintiles? a. What is the amount of wealth in each quintile held in each of the following asset types? i. Owner occupied dwelling ii. Other property iii. Other non-financial assets iv. Superannuation v. Other financial assets b. What has been the change in the distribution of net wealth by quintiles since 2013-14, including by asset type? 2. What amount of net wealth is concentrated in the top 10%? a. What is the amount of wealth held by the top 10% in each of the following asset types? i. Owner occupied dwelling ii. Other property iii. Other non-financial assets iv. Superannuation v. Other financial assets b. What has been the change in the distribution of net wealth among the top 10% since 2013-14, including by asset type? 3. What amount of net wealth is concentrated in the top 5%? a. What is the amount of wealth held by the top 5% in each of the following asset types? i. Owner occupied dwelling ii. Other property iii. Other non-financial assets iv. Superannuation v. Other financial assets b. What has been the change in the distribution of net wealth among the top 5% since 2013-14, including by asset type? 4. What amount of net wealth is concentrated in the top 1%? a. What is the amount of wealth held by the top 1% in each of the following asset types? b. Owner occupied dwelling i. Other property ii. Other non-financial assets iii. Superannuation iv. Other financial assets c. What has been the change in the distribution of net wealth among the top 1% since 2013-14, including by asset type?	Australian Bureau of Statistics	11/06/2021	Written
BET211	Nick McKim	Financial planning license fees	1. On average, what proportion of revenue earned from financial advice by large vertically integrated entities (e.g. IOOF, AMP) goes towards financial planning licences? 2. On average, what proportion of revenue earned by all financial advisers goes towards financial planning licences?	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	11/06/2021	Written
BET212	Nick McKim	Trio Capital	1. Has ASIC investigated reports that some of the beneficiaries of the Trio Capital fraud reside in Guernsey? 2. What avenues does ASIC have to pursue this matter in respect of an individual who resides in Guernsey?	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	11/06/2021	Written
BET213	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - commissioned reports and reviews	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020; 1 July 2020 - 31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021 - 31 May 2021, how many Reports or Reviews have been commissioned. Please provide details of each report including: a. Date commissioned. b. Date report handed to Government. c. Date of public release. d. Terms of Reference. e. Committee members and/or Reviewers. 2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost. 3. The background and credentials of the Review personnel. 4. The remuneration arrangements applicable to the Review personnel, including fees, disbursements and travel 5. The cost of any travel attached to the conduct of the Review. 6. How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level. 7. What is the current status of each report. When is the Government intending to respond to each report if it has not already done so?	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written
BET214	Kristina Keneally	Portfolio - board appointments	1. Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members. 2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio 3. Please detail any board appointments made from 30 June 2020 to 31 May 2021. 4. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid. 5. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors. 6. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors.	Department of the Treasury	11/06/2021	Written

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BET215	Anthony Chisholm	Your Future, Your Super consultation	1. Which government agencies did Treasury consult with when developing the new regulation making powers contained in the YFYS bill? 2. Which federal government departments or agencies made submissions to Treasury on this aspect of the Bill? 3. Which agency, if any, submitted that new regulation making powers were needed in the national interest? Please provide this. 4. Can Treasury provide examples of investments by super funds that contravene the national interest? Has Treasury provided any advice to the Minister about these? 5. Did Treasury advise Minister Hume these new powers were needed in the national interest? On what evidentiary basis? 6. What advice has Treasury provided to Minister Hume about the national interest? 7. Why does the explanatory memorandum contain no information about the new powers being used to defend the national interest?	Department of the Treasury	15/06/2021	Written
BET216	Anthony Chisholm	Treasury staffing	Could you provide an ASL break down of each group, division and branch in the department?	Department of the Treasury	15/06/2021	Written
BET217	Rachel Siewert	Government funding for charities	1. The ACNC has published guidance to charities that it is "best practice" to itemise sources of government funding in their accounts and in their returns to the ACNC. Could the Commission explain why this is best practice? 2. Given the Commissioner's previous comments in the book "The Charity Ball", which question the authenticity of charities receiving government funding or tax assisted funding, can the Commission understand why charities would be reluctant to share this information with the regulator?	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	15/06/2021	Written
BET218	Rachel Siewert	Charity application times	1. What is the current delay between filing an application for charity registration and an application being allocated to analysts within the ACNC? 2. Does the ACNC give charities an indication of when applications may be considered? Why or why not? 3. What is the Commission's service standard for commencing consideration of an application and why is the waiting period so long?	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	15/06/2021	Written
BET219	Malcolm Roberts	RSPCA activities	Are you aware that RSPCA staff are seizing pets and stock on fabricated grounds and selling them on the open market for profit or extorting money from the owners for their return?	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	15/06/2021	Written
BET220	Anthony Chisholm	Super Consumers Australia	The Budget (Budget Paper No 2 page 192) provided \$0.8 million in 2021-22 and \$0.8 million in 2022-23 to Super Consumers Australia to support stronger consumer outcomes on behalf of superannuation fund members. 1. Was this the first grant of funding by the Treasury to Super Consumers Australia? If not, please provide details of prior funding arrangements. 2. Was this funding allocated on a competitive basis, or was this a direct grant to this organisation specifically? 3. What are the performance measures and/or deliverables associated with this funding?	Department of the Treasury	15/06/2021	Written
BET221	Anthony Chisholm	Underutilisation and underemployment forecasts	Budget 2020-21, Budget Paper No. 1, Box 3: Labour market capacity through the COVID-19 pandemic, included some detailed commentary on underutilisation and underemployment. It shows a sharp uptick in underemployment and this was mirrored in the ABS data on hours worked showing a significant drop in average hours per employed persons. 1. How is Treasury forecasting for both measures (underemployment & average hours worked per worker) through the pandemic recovery over coming years? How is this reflected in the Budget's forward estimates? 2. How does these forecast impact Treasury's forecasts for income tax collected? 3. As a matter of standard practice how does Treasury build in or account for expected changes in both underemployment and average hours worked per employed person into the budget forecasts? 4. What adjustments, if any are made year on year or within years for changes in underemployment and average hours? 5. Is this same approach for underemployment and average hours applied as a component in the calculation of tax revenue?	Department of the Treasury	15/06/2021	Written
BET222	Rex Patrick	Industrial capabilities and foreign ownership	1. Is the FIRB provided guidance on the industrial capabilities and capacities of strategic importance to Australia? a. If so, who provides this advice? 2. Australia is now in the situation where all the Tier 1 infrastructure contractors are foreign owned. This was a progressive transfer, how does the FIRB consider the broader ramifications of foreign ownership across a sector when assessing foreign investments? 3. How does the FIRB stop the progressive transfer of ownership in a specific industrial capability and/or capacity?	Department of the Treasury	15/06/2021	Written
BET223	Rex Patrick	R&D tax incentive statistics	1. How many companies are registered for the R&D tax incentive? a. How many are SME's? 2. What has the trend been over the past 5 financial years? 3. Does the ATO capture any insight into the: a. nature of the R&D activities being undertaken by the entity? b. business activities of the entity? 4. Does the ATO seek to capture any information about the returns that have come from the intellectual property developed under earlier R&D activities that benefitted from the tax incentive?	Australian Taxation Office	15/06/2021	Written
BET224	Anthony Chisholm	JobKeeper data updates	1. An update of AET105 - SQ21-000116 for latest available data, specifically: a. The number of businesses and number of individuals that received Job Keeper in January, February and March. Please breakdown by state and territory. b. Please break this down by those receiving the Tier 1 payment and Tier 2 payment. c. Please break this down by Gender of recipients 2. Please provide an update of IQ21-000015 from the Senate Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 3. How many firms increased their turnover while receiving Job Keeper? 4. An update of AET020 for latest available data, specifically: a. Proportion of employees on the higher tier rate b. Also provide this by gender c. JobKeeper breakdown by industry d. JobKeeper breakdown by gender	Department of the Treasury	15/06/2021	Written
BET225	Malcolm Roberts	Small business regulation	1. Will the Small Business Ombudsman develop support programs and engage in the development and the promotion of information and guidelines for small business in relation to casual employment and casual conversion? 2. Since the last round of Senate estimates questions, has there been any work done to identify opportunities for small business including red tape reduction and when will they be delivered? 3. Will the Small Business Fair Dismissal Code be reviewed and updated and integrated into Fair Work regulation to ensure fairness for small business employers and employees? When will this happen and what are the terms of reference for the review?	Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman	15/06/2021	Written
BET226	Anthony Chisholm	Proxy advisers feedback	1. Has ASIC received any complaints about proxy advisers since the publication of its 2018 report into proxy advice? 2. Have any of those complaints come from the clients of proxy advisers? 3. If so - what was the content of those complaints? 4. What other complaints have been received? From whom? 5. Have there been any cases of misleading or deceptive conduct by proxy advisers identified by ASIC?	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	15/06/2021	Written

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BET227	Anthony Chisholm	ASIC policy work	Has ASIC received a clear directive from the Government to not engage in policy work?	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	15/06/2021	Written
BET228	Anthony Chisholm	Parliamentarian correspondence with ASIC	Would you say the level of correspondence from parliamentarians (backbenchers) to ASIC over the past few years has increased or decreased? a. Please provide a list of correspondence received over the past 5 financial years and the current financial year to date that includes: i. The aggregate number of items of correspondence for that year ii. A list of each year containing the parliamentarian who sent it and the general topic of the correspondence.	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	15/06/2021	Written
BET229	Anthony Chisholm	Your Future, Your Super regulations	1. When was Treasury made aware that the Opposition would be moving amendments to the Treasury Laws Amendment (Your Future, Your Super) Bill 2021? a. When did Treasury first receive a copy of the Opposition's amendments? Including draft amendments, drafting instructions, or any summary of the amendments that would be moved by the Opposition? b. Did Treasury officials provide or participate in any briefings to crossbench members or members of the Government backbench where Opposition or potential Opposition amendments were discussed? c. Separately, did Treasury officials provide or participate in any briefings to members of the Government backbench where concerns with the regulation-making powers included in the Bill were discussed? d. Who was briefed and when? e. Please outline the content of those briefings. f. Please provide copies of any written information provided by Treasury in relation to those briefings. 2. When did Treasury begin preparing the amendments to the Treasury Laws Amendment (Your Future, Your Super) Bill 2021 moved by the Government in the House of Representatives? When was a draft provided to Government? 3. Has Treasury or any Treasury agency produced any modelling on how many super products would fail the performance test set out in the draft Your Future, Your Super regulations? a. Has that modelling considered the potential impact on choice products? b. How many choice super products would fail the draft performance test if it was applied?	Department of the Treasury	15/06/2021	Written
BET230	Anthony Chisholm	Super guarantee compliance	Compliance resourcing 1. Which part of the ATO is responsible for enforcing SG contribution compliance? 2. How many people in in that team? 3. How many FTE employees' job is are dedicated to recovering unpaid super on behalf of victims? How many are dedicated to enforcing compliance? 4. What is current best practice around the world on the lag between wages and super being paid? What is the reason for this gap? Penalties 5. How many fines were issued to businesses that failed to comply with their SG obligations? Please provide a breakdown for the last 3 financial year and this financial year to date, and the level of each fine (%) 6. Also, what was the aggregate \$ amount in each penalty category? 7. How many maximum fines of 200 per cent have been issues in the past five financial years? Please provide a breakdown. 8. Since the end of the Amnesty, how many businesses have come forward? How many fines (and for what amounts) have been issued since the end of the amnesty? COVID 9. What impact has COVID-19 had on compliance reporting? (If a decrease, why?) What activities is the ATO undertaking to determine the impact of COVID on compliance? 10. Did the ATO defer issuing or payment of penalties for unpaid super during COVID? Single Touch Payroll (and amnesty) 11. The Minister is on the record saying that as Single Touch Payroll (STP) roll outs compliance should increase including mandating super is paid on payday - what activities is the ATO undertaking to progress this? How far advance is this work? 12. How is the ATO using the STP roll out to increase compliance? 13. Can you please provide: a. Copies of ATO protocols for the use of STP data for detecting unpaid superannuation compliance? b. Any internal reports on the use of STP for SG compliance c. Updated data on the SG amnesty - breakdown by state, age, gender and how the amnesty period compared to non-amnesty periods d. Does the ATO publish its protocols for this publicly? If not, why not?	Australian Taxation Office	15/06/2021	Written
BET231	Anthony Chisholm	Super fund data	1. What data does APRA collect on superannuation fund performance? a. In particular, what data does APRA collect that is used in the development of the "MySuper" performance heatmaps? b. Is there any difference between the data collected in relation to MySuper products and choice products? c. What are the data sets that APRA lacks in relation to Choice products that it has in relation to MySuper products? 2. What data does APRA have on the performance of choice products? Does the data held by APRA in relation to the performance of choice products support the findings of the Productivity Commission - namely, that fees are likely to be higher and that performance is likely to be lower in choice products than in MySuper products? a. Why does APRA not collect that data in relation to Choice products? When will it begin collecting that data? 3. When does APRA intend to produce performance heatmaps in relation to Choice products? 4. Does APRA collect any data on dividends paid to shareholders of retail super fund trustees? a. How much was paid in dividends to shareholders of retail super funds in 2019-20? b. How much was charged in administration fees by retail super funds in 2019-20?	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	15/06/2021	Written
BET232	Anthony Chisholm	APRA policy work	Has APRA received a clear directive from the Government to not engage in policy work?	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	15/06/2021	Written
BET233	Anthony Chisholm	Parliamentarian correspondence with APRA	1. Would you say the level of correspondence from parliamentarians (backbenchers) to APRA over the past few years has increased or decreased? a. Please provide a list of correspondence received over the past 5 financial years and the current financial year to date that includes: i. The aggregate number of items of correspondence for that year ii. A list of each year containing the parliamentarian who sent it and the general topic of the correspondence.	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	15/06/2021	Written
BET234	Anthony Chisholm	Household surveys	1. In relation to Household spending surveys, does the ABS undertake any (close to) real time data analysis (e.g. of banking or credit card data) to determine spending patterns? 2. Would the use of real-time data rather than self-reported surveys based on participants' intentions give a more accurate read of spending patterns? ie: data based on actual use rather than self-reported intentions. 3. In relation to Household Financial Resources Survey methodology released on 21 April, 2021. a. What was the sample size of the survey? b. How many of those people had withdrawn super? c. Considering that the survey only sampled 362 people out of a program that involved 3.5 million accessing their super - what is the survey's margin of error?	Australian Bureau of Statistics	15/06/2021	Written

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BET235	Anthony Chisholm	Victorian support package	1. In relation to the COVID-19 Disaster Payment announced on 3 June 2021, when did the Government begin developing this policy? 2. When did the Treasurer first ask for advice from the Treasury on support during lockdowns post JobKeeper? 3. When did ERC first consider a Payment for those who lost hours during a lockdown? 4. When did ERC agree to the support? 5. The Budget assumed ongoing lockdowns after the end of JobKeeper, why were no support packages already in place and factored into the Budget estimates?	Department of the Treasury	15/06/2021	Written
BET236	Anthony Chisholm	Our Comeback public awareness campaign	1. What is the Budget for the "Our Comeback" website + "public awareness" campaign? 2. Which business has designed this material? 3. How much of that Budget has been allocated? 4. What has that money been spent on? a. We're aware of television, radio, print, Facebook, Twitter, and linkedin, how has the budget been broken up between these? b. Has anything been spent on TikTok, Games, WeChat? 5. What is the design brief? a. What is the campaign meant to communicate? b. What are the key messages? 6. When was the campaign commissioned? 7. When was the campaign approved? 8. When were the contracts with advertising business signed? 9. When were each wave of ads rolled out? a. How much has been spent in each wave? Can we get a breakdown of spending by state, postcode and federal electorate?	Department of the Treasury	15/06/2021	Written
BET237	Anthony Chisholm	Vaccine scenario modelling	Please provide any upside or downside scenario modelling about vaccines (ie benefit of getting them done quickly, cost of them getting done more slowly) that has been prepared by Treasury. a. Please include the economic cost or benefit of these scenarios	Department of the Treasury	15/06/2021	Written
BET238	Anthony Chisholm	Aged Care Royal Commission recommendations	1. Did Treasury undertake any costings during the Aged Care Royal Commission hearings about cost of implementing the recommendations submitted by the Counsel Assisting? 2. What would implementing of the recommendations cost? a. Could you break those down by measure?	Department of the Treasury	15/06/2021	Written
BET239	Jenny McAllister	Women's Budget Statement superannuation new initiatives	1. What proportion of the recipients of the Government's policy to remove the \$450 a month threshold for superannuation guarantee are expected to be women? 2. To date, how many men and how many women have accessed the downsizer contribution? 3. What has been the average benefit for women accessing the downsizer contribution and what has been the average benefit for men accessing the downsizer contribution? 4. What is the total financial impact of the downsizer contribution measure to date? a. What proportion of benefits have gone to women and what proportion of benefits have gone to men? 5. How many people will benefit from removing the work test over the forward estimates? a. What proportion of recipients are estimated to be women? b. What proportion of benefits will flow to women? 6. Pages 59 and 60 of the Women's Budget Statement list "a range of measures to help address the gap between men's and women's superannuation balances." For each of the measures listed, please provide: a. What is the total cost of the measure to date b. Since the measure's introduction, what proportion of recipients have been women and what proportion have been men c. What is the average benefit to women recipients and what is the average benefit to male recipients d. Since the measure's introduction, what is the value and proportion of benefits that have flowed to women and what is the value and proportion of benefits that have flowed to men	Department of the Treasury	16/06/2021	Written
BET240	Jenny McAllister	Women's Budget Statement	1. Which section of the Treasury was responsible for pulling together the Women's Budget Statement? 2. When did you become aware that a Women's Budget Statement was being produced as part of this year's Budget? a. Who was responsible for making the decision? b. If they say ERC - is the Minister for Women an member of ERC? 3. Were any staff seconded from the Office of Women to the Treasury to work on the document? a. When were staff seconded? 4. Did the Department, or other Departments, conduct gender impact assessment on the measures in the Budget prior to consideration by ERC and Cabinet? 5. Is the Government committed to continuing the Women's Budget Statement next year?	Department of the Treasury	16/06/2021	Written
BET241	Jenny McAllister	Minister for Women's Economic Security	1. How will the Department be supporting Minister Hume in her new role as Minister for Women's Economic Security? 2. Will some form of women's economic security unit or branch be established in the Department? 3. If yes - what will its role be?	Department of the Treasury	16/06/2021	Written
BET242	Anthony Chisholm	Research and development tax incentives	How many cases have there been where companies have claimed RDTI and have been forced to pay it back? What is the monetary value of these claims?	Department of the Treasury	17/06/2021	Written
BET243	Kim Carr	R&D tax incentive impacts	1. Can you confirm that the \$2 Billion decrease to the underlying cash balance noted on Page 20 of Budget Paper Two is caused by losing the save that would have resulted from the measures now dropped from the last Budget? 2. Does the Government have any record of the number of small businesses that are forced to borrow for survival at rates of interest up to 15% to 20%?	Department of the Treasury	18/06/2021	Written
BET244	Louise Pratt	JobMaker hiring credit participants	1. Can we have the latest data on the number of Job Maker Hiring Credit participants? 2. As this program has not received any further funding what will happen to current participants? 3. Will there be a phasing out of the program for the nearly 100 participants and businesses involved?	Australian Taxation Office	18/06/2021	Written
BET245	Malcolm Roberts	Australia's COVID-19 policy response	Ross Garnaut, when recently speaking to the Treasury Secretary in Canberra, stated: "Experience showed there was no trade-off, the countries that did best dealing with pandemic ended up doing best economically . countries with less health impact did better economically." Yet, Australia has done much worse economically than Taiwan especially in terms of debt, while nobody was perfect, why didn't Australia more closely apply the lessons learned from countries like Taiwan that kept business going?	Department of the Treasury	18/06/2021	Written
BET246	Malcolm Roberts	Government economic analysis	Who did the government use to inform your economic analysis and how did you ensure that jobs, business and the economy was protected for both the short and the long term? Please provide a copy of any report/s.	Department of the Treasury	21/06/2021	Written

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BET247	Andrew Bragg	AFCA rule-making powers	<p>1. At Budget Estimates, I asked the Deputy Chair of ASIC, Karen Chester about their role with respect to AFCA. Deputy Chair Chester said the following: "We do have a modest role with respect to AFCA and their rule-making powers, but you're raising issues of their accountability to the parliamentary, to the Senate, so that's better put to the Treasury portfolio."</p> <p>Is that a fair characterisation?</p> <p>2. The Treasury Laws Amendment (Putting Consumers First – Establishment of Australian Financial Complaints Authority) Act 2018 sets out ASIC's role in respect of AFCA The explanatory memorandum provides that: - ASIC had a directions power over the AFCA scheme - ASIC has the power to approve material changes to the AFCA scheme - AFCA will be required to report their activities to ASIC. - ASIC has the right to receive information from AFCA about their activities on request Would you characterise this as 'modest'?</p> <p>3. Which is why I was surprised when, in Senate Estimates the Deputy Chair of ASIC, Karen Chester, said the following 'We do have a modest role with respect to AFCA and their rule making powers'. Can you clarify this difference of opinion?</p>	Australian Securities and Investments Commission	23/06/2021	Written
BET248	Anthony Chisholm	Super fund performance	<p>1. Is the super fund performance test proposed by the government consistent with what the PC proposed in its 2019 report on super?</p> <p>2. The PC provided a response to Senate Estimates in 2020 that referred to a section of its report that said the performance test should include "virtually all choice products", "retirement phase products" and "single-class options" – as it stands the government's test includes none of those things. Would you agree then that it is inconsistent?</p>	Productivity Commission	15/06/2021	Written
BET249	Concetta Fierravanti-Wells	Port of Darwin Lease	Given the retrospectivity aspect to the Bills, do you believe that it is open to the Commonwealth to declare the Port of Darwin lease invalid? If so, do you believe that just compensation would equate to the outstanding portion of lease (94 years)? If not, what do you consider would be just compensation?	Department of the Treasury	29/06/2021	Written
BET250	Don Farrell	Government Advertising	1. What is the expenditure on the Economic Recovery Phase 1 campaign to date? 2. What is the expenditure on the Economic Recovery Phase 2 campaign to date?	Department of the Treasury	29/06/2021	Written
BET251	Gerard Rennick	Gold holdings / Interest rates	<p>1. In regards to not releasing the findings of audits in Australia's gold holdings because it may damage relations with the Bank of England - I'm not asking for custody arrangements – I'm just asking that the gold is inspected and counted yearly by Australian officials and that the serial numbers are reported annually as being inspected to the Senate Economics committee. Is the RBA prepared to satisfy these conditions?</p> <p>2. Could the RBA state when Australia's gold was sent to London or if it was ever in Australia in the first place?</p> <p>3. The response from the RBA as to why they are lending gold doesn't make sense and I quote: "To manage their financial risk, gold producers may wish to arrange forward sales of their future production. The market-makers that are counterparties to the miners' sales seek to be able to limit their exposure to the gold price by selling gold in turn. The existence of a lending market means that the market-makers' offsetting sales do not need to be arranged for the same delivery date as their forward purchases. In this way, a well-functioning lending market adds to the depth and liquidity of the market for outright sales and purchases of gold. When a gold loan by the RBA matures (and is not rolled), ownership of the requisite amount of gold is transferred from the counterparty to the RBA by book entry transfer to the RBA's allocated account at the Bank of England. While, other things equal, this increases the RBA's account holdings at that point in time, it is reversing the decline in the RBA's account holdings that occurred at the origination of the loan"</p> <p>If the RBA is offsetting the risk of Australian miners' production or the market makers position, they would be buying/borrowing the gold from either as they forward sell/lend it. The RBA cannot also be selling it! Given the RBA is lending gold who exactly is it lending it to? If the RBA cannot answer this question – can it confirm they are not selling it to Bullion banks who then on sell to buyers of synthetic gold products?</p> <p>4. The lowering of interest rates by the RBA has meant the government has had to increase pension payments as retirees receive less and less interest on their fixed income portfolios. Given RBA decisions impact fiscal policy shouldn't the power to set interest rates be in the hands of elected officials not unelected bureaucrat?</p> <p>5. How does the RBA intend to raise interest rates without crashing the economy?</p>	Reserve Bank of Australia	2/06/2021	Written

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Qn No.	Senator	Subject	QuestionText	Department or agency	Hearing date	Hansard p. no. / Written qn
BET252	Anthony Chisholm	Wages	<p>What if any uplift in wages would the RBA expect to see if the SG increase did not proceed? What evidence base do you have on this?</p> <p>The RBA's latest statement on monetary policy commentary suggests pandemic related wage freezes and public sector wage settings are having a larger impact. Regarding public sector wages, could more generous public sector wage outcomes be expected to have a materially positive impact on private sector wage growth?</p>	Reserve Bank of Australia	2/06/2021	Written
BET253	Jess Walsh	Housing Supply	<p>Senator WALSH: I think you've pointed very broadly to things around supply like planning and tax concessions that could assist with supply. Can you elaborate on that at all?</p> <p>Dr DeBelle: There is a need for planning as long as it's appropriate and we understand why it needs to be there. We wrote a while back—I can't remember how far back—about some of this. We hear about it through our liaison program when we're talking to home builders, which we do a lot of generally but also particularly at the moment. They have their views. It's not something I can give you a detailed answer on right now. We can provide you with something.</p>	Reserve Bank of Australia	2/06/2021	84
BET254	Malcolm Roberts	NPP	<p>Senator ROBERTS: I'll move on to the new payment platform. Firstly, good job on the level of communication because these monthly bulletins are very informative from my staff. They are excellent. Just out of curiosity, the largest single transaction on the NPP was one transaction for \$19.8 billion. So we've got to ask: who the hell paid \$19.8 billion in one transaction?</p> <p>Dr DeBelle: I don't know the answer to that one off the top of my head. That one I really will have to take on notice.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: This is not from government to government. It's another transaction.</p> <p>Ms Bullock: It's if a private sector transaction it is probably private, but can we take that on notice?</p>	Reserve Bank of Australia	2/06/2021	89
BET255	Malcolm Roberts	NPP	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Has the system ever been audited?</p> <p>Ms Bullock: The individual banks?</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: The new payment system.</p> <p>Dr DeBelle: We do seek assurance on that and we're looking at the end-point security right at the moment again.</p> <p>Ms Bullock: That's SWIFT end-point security, so that's a different concept again. The network itself individually is SWIFT communication hubs, if you like. The banks individually have to give affirmations or ascertain to NPP that they've met the various security requirements on their equipment, if you like, their hubs that they've got within their own environments. They have to do that.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Do you audit that?</p> <p>Ms Bullock: We don't audit it, no.</p> <p>Dr DeBelle: Does NPP?</p> <p>Ms Bullock: They don't audit the individual financial institutions. They ask for the individual financial institutions to attest to them that they have met the various security requirements.</p> <p>Dr DeBelle: Can we confirm with you on notice whether there's an independent audit of that, because in some of those attestations the bank will then need to have their own audit opinion on that?</p>	Reserve Bank of Australia	2/06/2021	90