

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
1	EEC-AE21-01	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	5	Attorney-General's Department	Ovato and FEG	<p>Senator PRATT: When did the department become aware of Ovato's plans to use FEG in this fashion? Has it been used in this way before?</p> <p>Mr Carr: I can take the precise date on notice. We were informed of the potential for a scheme of arrangement informally by the company's lawyers. I don't have the date. I don't have the date with me, I'm afraid.</p>	7/05/2021
2	EEC-AE21-02	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	5	Attorney-General's Department	Ovato and FEG	<p>Senator PRATT: That's when the entire company winds up, not when it partially winds up?</p> <p>Mr Carr: That's what occurred here. Of course, it was a corporate group. I am not sure if it was the sole employing entity in the group, but ultimately an employing entity went into winding up.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: As to the company that has emerged, what is its association with the original entity?</p> <p>Mr Carr: Colloquially it was part of the group, but as to its precise relationship in the structure—we may know those details and we could take the question on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
3	EEC-AE21-03	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	7	Attorney-General's Department	FEG general	<p>Senator PRATT: I will need to clarify that. I will skip over that and put it on notice, because I understand it will be quite technical. If you are able, please, on notice or even now to give updated figures on payouts by the Fair Entitlements Guarantee since 1 July, both in the number of employees and the total amounts and compare that to last year?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: Did you say you want that on notice?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: It depends if you have it easily here or not. Mr Hehir: Is that for Ovato or is that for the program overall?</p> <p>Senator Cash: The overall FEG program.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I have moved on, sorry.</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I think we do have those figures.</p>	7/05/2021
4	EEC-AE21-04	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	7	Attorney-General's Department	Ovato and FEG	<p>Senator PRATT: Before we go off Ovato—they were stood down on 29 December. Today is 24 March. I think you gave figures early on that there were 300 workers there. How many workers have received payments through the Fair Entitlements Guarantee scheme? I'd be interested to know what the liability to the government is in the use of the scheme for those workers in terms of what's been paid out and what is yet to be paid out.</p> <p>Ms Saunders: In the Ovato group of companies there are four separate entities. For Hannanprint New South Wales, we to date have received 16 claims; two are still waiting to be made effective. The 14 claims that we have paid to date totalled \$878,352. For Hannanprint Victoria, we've only received one claim. I won't tell you how much that was, because that might be able to be identified. For Inprint, we have received 17 claims and paid \$734,805. For Ovato Print, we have 137 claims still in assessment. We're still working through what amounts are owed. We have paid 24 claims, and \$2.14 million for those 24 claims.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So 24 overall, for all the entities?</p> <p>Ms Saunders: No, for all of the entities we have paid 56 claims—\$3.1 million. Obviously the payments will rely on the individual employees themselves lodging a claim, and there are still 137 claims being assessed.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: How do they go about providing evidence of what their entitlements would have otherwise been? I probably need to save time. Maybe you can take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Saunders: Okay.</p>	7/05/2021
5	EEC-AE21-05	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	8	Attorney-General's Department	FEG superannuation	<p>Senator PRATT: Have you been asked to provide or have you done costings on including the right to claim the superannuation guarantee under the FEG?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: That's a matter that's pursued by the Australian Taxation Office. They've got the statutory right to recover that. We will work with the ATO, where we're undertaking recovery action, to make sure that's one of the priority recoveries. Formal recovery arrangements are the responsibility of the Taxation Office.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: You have previously costed it, haven't you?</p> <p>Ms Saunders: We have. Historically—I think it was about three or four years ago—there was some discussion around what would be the cost of including unpaid superannuation under FEG. I think, from memory, there might have been a Senate inquiry as well. I'd have to take on notice an exact figure. At that time, our estimate was that the cost of including superannuation under FEG would have been an additional \$840 million over the forward estimates.</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
6	EEC-AE21-06	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	9	Attorney-General's Department	FEG- Migrant workers	<p>Senator PRATT: The migrant workers task force recommended the Fair Entitlements Guarantee scheme be extended to migrant workers. The government said that it's an important safety net; it provides financial assistance to those who lose their job because of liquidation. The government committed to considering whether it would extend the FEG to migrant workers; that where those workers have satisfied their taxation requirements and the government considers it reasonable they in turn be protected by the FEG; and that consultation will commence. The department said six months ago they had consulted with 10 agencies and had briefed government, and you are now waiting for the government to make a decision. Has that decision been made? Do migrant workers now have access to the FEG; and, if not, why not?</p> <p>Ms Saint Mr Hehir: There has been no change to the eligibility requirements for the Fair Entitlements Guarantee scheme in relation to migrant workers.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Have you drafted legislation to make that possible? Are you sitting on it because you're worried about the overall liabilities in FEG? Where are you up to?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: That matter is still under consideration by the government.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: It's under consideration by the cabinet? Can I ask you—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: The government or the cabinet?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I said the government.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Minister Cash, can I ask you where the consideration of that issue is up to?</p> <p>Senator Cash: My understanding is it is still under consideration by the minister, but I will take it on notice for you to get further instructions.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Which minister is that?</p> <p>Senator Cash: The industrial relations minister. I'll take that on notice for you.</p>	7/05/2021
7	EEC-AE21-07	Hansard	Benjamin Small	25/03/2021	11	Attorney-General's Department	Amalgamation of unions	<p>Senator SMALL: Can you confirm for me that, in terms of the separately identifiable components of an amalgamated union, this would be considered to apply in the cases of unions, such as the AWU, the AMWU, the CFMEU, the CEPU, the ASU, the CPSU, the TWU and the UWU?</p> <p>Mrs Volzke: I would have to take that on notice for all of those organisations to double-check that, but what I can say is, insofar as there has been an amalgamation either under the registered organisations act or the predecessor law, then that is correct; a separately identifiable constituent part can make the application to seek to withdraw.</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I would have to take those individual unions on notice, and there are some I recognise that would have individual reporting units. There are 103 federally registered organisations, with a total of 344 individual reporting units within their constituent parts. That gives you an idea of the scale.</p>	7/05/2021
8	EEC-AE21-08	Hansard	Benjamin Small	25/03/2021	12	Attorney-General's Department	Disamalgamation of unions	<p>Senator SMALL: Was there any case where a union disamalgamated within the previous three-year period?</p> <p>Mrs Volzke: Do you mean disamalgamated or amalgamated?</p> <p>Senator SMALL: Disamalgamated?</p> <p>Mrs Volzke: Not to my knowledge, but I would have to take that on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
9	EEC-AE21-09	Hansard	Benjamin Small	25/03/2021	12	Attorney-General's Department	Fair Work (Registered Organisations) A	<p>Senator SMALL: If I can just confirm the legislative timeline that the department would be aware of? How long did this bill take to pass through the parliament from the time that it was introduced in the House to the time it passed the Senate—just in days; hours and minutes is irrelevant?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: My recollection is it was introduced and passed within the same day.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: One day? Are you aware of industrial relations legislation like this that has passed the parliament in that sort of time frame?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I would need to take that on notice. Certainly not within the 2½-year time frame that I have been involved in the policy area, but I would need to take it on notice.</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
10	EEC-AE21-10	Hansard	Janet Rice	25/03/2021	19	Attorney-General's Department	Fair Work Act - discrimination	<p>Senator RICE: I want to now move on to the bushfire royal commission implementation. Recommendation 6.6 of the royal commission asks the government to consider whether employment protections under the Fair Work Act are sufficient to ensure that fire and emergency services volunteers will not be discriminated against, disadvantaged or dismissed for reasons associated with their volunteer service during natural disasters, and this action is allocated to the Attorney-General's Department and the minister for employment. On the tracking document about the recommendations on the Department of Home Affairs website, it states that this recommendation has been 'completed', noting that it supports in principle the recommendation that goes through the substantial provisions that are already in place. So I want to know: in terms of it being completed, what steps were taken by the department to determine that the protections for emergency services volunteers were adequate?</p> <p>Ms Durbin: Thank you very much for raising that with us. Obviously, throughout the royal commission process, we did do an initial examination and look at the range of protections under the Fair Work Act for emergency services workers. Relevantly, they include things like access to uncapped unpaid leave. That is a workplace right under the Fair Work Act, so it, again, comes with a range of protections in terms of: the employee can't be dismissed or otherwise adversely affected by exercising that right to take leave. We are also aware that state and territory laws obviously provide a range of other supports for emergency services workers and the Fair Work Act explicitly says: where a state jurisdiction provides more beneficial protections, they override the Fair Work Act provisions. So we did do a range of internal initial investigations. We have had, since you raised it yesterday, some discussions just to touch base with PM&C and Home Affairs, and we will have a look at that completed recommendation because we think there is more work to be done. We're waiting for responses from states and territories. We do want to go through and review the initial examination that we did. I'm happy to give you the outcome of that on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
11	EEC-AE21-11	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	24	Attorney-General's Department	Suite of IR changes initiated by Mr Porter	<p>Senator O'NEILL: Minister Porter indicated that he was going to undertake extensive consultation and deliver a suite of IR changes, and lots and lots of people engaged in that in good faith. What's the status of that? There are many, many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of hours that have been invested by industry groups, employer groups, unions and civic society in what was touted as Mr Porter's great solution to the industrial relations challenges of the nation. What's the status of all that now?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I'm just trying to clarify: the initial process was a discussion paper process where the Minister for Industrial Relations identified a range of subject matter that would be subject to discussion papers. A number of those papers were prepared and received commentary on, including—I'd need the full list of those papers, but I can take that on notice. Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a decision that the Minister for Industrial Relations would chair a series of working groups, which would have representation from both employer and employee organisations. I might ask—</p>	7/05/2021
12	EEC-AE21-12	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	82	Asbestos Safety and Eradication	Amount of asbestos disposed of safely	<p>Senator PRATT: In that context, if we're reducing that 13 million tonnes by 10 per cent per decade, how much has been disposed of safely and how much has been disposed of in a way that wouldn't meet the safety regulation?</p> <p>Ms Ross: I don't know whether we would be able to work that out. We can go back to the department of the environment, which is now the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. They have been doing a hazardous waste report which has a section on asbestos and how much asbestos is disposed of.</p>	7/05/2021
13	EEC-AE21-13	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	25	Attorney-General's Department	Seacare scheme - sunset period of new	<p>Senator SHELDON: ...There are some other questions I have here as well. Related to that, the department's apparently made a policy commitment to change the relevant acts to allow the removal of the minimum employment period in the instruments. That's the Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992 and the Seacare act, and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 and the Comcare act. Given the government has indicated its intention to do this, what will be the sunset period on the new instrument?</p> <p>Mrs Kuzma: There is a sunset period. I want to confirm that and come back to you on it today.</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
14	EEC-AE21-14	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	25	Attorney-General's Department	Seacare scheme - minimum employment	<p>Senator SHELDON: I'm mindful that there are a number of unions representing a lot of those workers who are exposed or have been potentially exposed who have asked for it to be one year. Can the government put on the record now that it does intend to remove minimum employment periods from the act?</p> <p>Senator Duniam: In the context of the questions you've just raised—</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: In the context of the question I asked on Seacare, yes.</p> <p>Senator Duniam: We've taken all of those on notice. Without having any in-depth understanding of the matters you've just discussed, I think I would be best placed to take all of that on notice, although—</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Is it possible to come back to us today on that? I'm just mindful of the dates.</p> <p>Senator Duniam: Understood, best endeavours—but we'll take it on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
15	EEC-AE21-15	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	25	Attorney-General's Department	Seacare scheme - notice to unions	<p>Senator SHELDON: Is the department intending also to put the position in writing to the unions—including other parties, obviously—but particularly to the unions that have been involved in these discussions: the MUA, AIMPE and AMOU?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: We'll take that on notice, but certainly that's something that we briefed the minister on. Once we have authority, we'll convey that.</p>	7/05/2021
16	EEC-AE21-16	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	26	Attorney-General's Department	Boland review	<p>Senator O'NEILL: Senator Duniam, can you give me an update on the receipt of advice regarding the Boland review from your department?</p> <p>Senator Duniam: With the information I have before me, there's nothing more I can add. I'm happy to take on notice—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What position are you taking on the recommendations to the meeting on 15 April?</p> <p>Senator Duniam: I can take on notice—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Well, I doubt we'll get an answer in time.</p> <p>CHAIR: The minister—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Can you let us know which ones have government support?</p> <p>CHAIR: Order!</p> <p>Senator Duniam: Maybe I can finish my sentence before I'm spoken over again. I will take on notice what you've just asked.</p>	7/05/2021
17	EEC-AE21-17	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	27	Attorney-General's Department	Boland review - psychological health	<p>Senator O'NEILL: Senator Duniam, can you provide the committee with the recommendations from your department around psychological health?</p> <p>Senator Duniam: I'll take it on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
18	EEC-AE21-18	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	27	Attorney-General's Department	Respect@Work - Sexual harassment	<p>Senator O'NEILL: What advice, if any, have you provided to the Attorney-General in relation to improving laws around sexual harassment?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We've given advice to the Attorney at different points in time around issues relating to sexual harassment, for example in the context of the Respect@work report, so I can't categorically say or list all of the different times we've given advice.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Could you take it on notice?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We will take it on notice and see what we can do.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Have you received, at any point, a request from the Attorney-General about the creation of laws specifically to address the matter of sexual harassment in Australian workplaces?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'd have to take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Given the heated nature of and concern around these issues, I expect you might be aware if such legislation is already underway. Are you sure you can't give me any indication of whether there is any legislation, have you given advice to the Attorney-General or have you begun to prepare any law or improvement to law around sexual harassment at the request of the Attorney-General?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Are you asking specifically about the present Attorney-General or advice to previous—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: The present Attorney-General.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: To be absolutely clear, I'd obviously like to give the correct answer to the Senate. We would need to go back over the period since the Attorney first became the Attorney.</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
19	EEC-AE21-19	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	28	Attorney-General's Department	National labour hire registration schem	<p>Senator O'NEILL: ...The national secretary of the Australian Workers' Union, Daniel Walton, has put exploitative practices on the record in these terms: From violence to harassment, to passports being taken off, to forced slavery, to 76 workers living in a single house, forced to work 12-hour days, seven days a week ... He said blueberry pickers were earning \$3 an hour. Is it correct to say that it has now been two years since the Migrant Workers' Taskforce report made 22 recommendations, one of which was to establish a national labour hire registration scheme focused on the labour hire operators in four high-risk industry sectors, including horticulture? Is that correct? CHAIR: You'll have to take that on notice. Senator O'NEILL: It's a pretty short answer. CHAIR: It is a quarter past 11, so I would like to— Senator O'NEILL: Chair, it's a very simple question to answer. Is it two years since the recommendations for this sector came down? CHAIR: The department and the minister can take it on notice. Considering the long preamble and the seriousness of the question you put to them, looking at the time— Senator O'NEILL: It is very, very troubling that it has been two years and nothing is happening! CHAIR: they can take it on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
20	EEC-AE21-20	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	29	Safe Work Australia	Industries associated with silicosis and	<p>Senator PRATT: In terms of the number of exposures diagnosed with silicosis and lung cancer, can you give me any advice about which industries they've come from? Are they all from the stone benchtop industry, or do they come from others as well ? Ms Baxter: I don't know that we have that level of detail with us at estimates today. Senator PRATT: If you could take that on notice— Ms Baxter: We'll take it on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
21	EEC-AE21-21	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	30	Safe Work Australia	Prosecutions and compensation - silicos	<p>Senator PRATT: How many people have been prosecuted or had compensation? There are 350 workers diagnosed every year with silicosis. Have there been many prosecutions? Ms Baxter: I don't know that. We do have a national prosecutions database that Safe Work Australia is responsible for, but we are dependent upon the states and territories providing us information in relation to prosecutions. I can take on notice to look into whether or not states and territories have advised us of any prosecutions in relation to silica or silica exposure, but it may be that we haven't been notified of any or there may not be any. Senator PRATT: What is your estimation of the compensation payments for people no longer able to work et cetera in terms of their silicosis diagnosis or lung cancer diagnosis? Ms Baxter: The information I've got here is that, over the past 10 years—2009-10 to 2018-19—there were 388 accepted claims for silicosis. Of those claims, 82 per cent were lodged in the 2018-19 financial year following quite a lot of awareness raising and campaigns in relation to silicosis. However, there are limitations to this data. They may not capture all cases. For example, it's possible some silicosis cases have been coded as other lung diseases or that workers may not have submitted workers compensation claims for silicosis. I don't have any data with me in terms of cost of claims related to silicosis. We could take that on notice and have a look and see whether we actually have that data. Senator PRATT: If you could break down those 388 claims by state, on notice, that would be terrific. Ms Baxter: Certainly.</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
22	EEC-AE21-22	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	31	Safe Work Australia	Fatalities - food delivery drivers	<p>Senator SHELDON: We have had this series of deaths. There has been evidence given at various inquiries about the number of injuries that occur amongst those workers. So we're not anywhere closer to getting a dataset, and at this point there's no intention to have a dataset—correct me if I'm wrong—that would tell us whether food delivery workers and rideshare workers are in the high percentage of fatalities in that broad contractor group?</p> <p>Ms M Bryant: We certainly know about where they sit in relation to traumatic injury fatalities, because we do code for food delivery drivers now, since 2019. In terms of injury, that is an area where we are still trying to build, to look at our data gaps and see how we could fill them with a range of other data sources.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Did you say 'delivery drivers' or 'food delivery'—I didn't quite pick that up—in that dataset from 2019?</p> <p>Ms M Bryant: I think it's food delivery drivers. I am hesitating because we collect a range of qualitative information through the notification process and the national coronial information system and media reports, and that's why it does take some time to validate, as Ms Baxter mentioned, because we need to analyse that as a whole. So I would just have to take on notice the specificity of whether it's food delivery drivers or just delivery drivers. But, because we are gleaning that from a range of qualitative sources, I think we could probably get at both.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: If you can come back to us on that-</p>	7/05/2021
23	EEC-AE21-23	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	35	Safe Work Australia	Mental Health Advisory Group	<p>Senator O'NEILL: The Mental Health Advisory Group was constituted when?</p> <p>Ms Costelloe: I will find out when it was constituted. They have met at least once to consider a draft code. I will find out when that was.</p>	7/05/2021
24	EEC-AE21-24	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	35	Attorney-General's Department	Psychological health and sexual harassment	<p>Senator PRATT: Senator Duniam, what is the government's position on amending the Model Work Health and Safety Regulations to deal with psychological health and a code of practice on sexual harassment?</p> <p>Senator Duniam: I'm not sure whether we did take that on notice before or not, but, if we didn't, we will take that on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
25	EEC-AE21-25	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	36	Safe Work Australia	Psychological health and sexual harassment	<p>Senator O'NEILL: If you could provide on notice an update on where your assessment is of current practices around sexual harassment and psychological harm in the workplaces, that would be very helpful. I'd would be very interested.</p> <p>Ms Baxter: Certainly.</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
26	EEC-AE21-26	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	37	Attorney-General's Department	National labour hire registration scheme	<p>Senator PRATT: Yes, but in that context you have Safe Work Australia's role. For example, the Migrant Workers Taskforce report made 22 recommendations, one of which was to establish a national labour hire registration scheme. I note that there are companies that phoenix, that come and go. It's very difficult for workers to access those occupational health and safety rights if the kinds of arrangements that these companies operate under are allowed to continue. So I ask the deputy secretary what consideration the government has given to this report. It's been two years. Last October, in response to our questions, the department claimed that, contrary to the concerns of the report's authors, work was indeed underway to implement the recommendation in relation to a national labour hire registration scheme, but the department could not tell us what had been done. Six months later, I ask you now what progress has been made towards establishing the scheme and when it will be up and running.</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I don't have the officers who are responsible for that here now.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I do understand they were released.</p> <p>Mr Hehir: As I think we advised last estimates, there is ongoing consultation on that. Following the passage of the legislation, we'll brief the minister on options to progress that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: After the passage of which legislation? The legislation before the Senate last week? I don't recall this issue being included in that legislation.</p> <p>CHAIR: Can I just clarify: any questions for the department, because they have been released, should be put on notice now. We have Safe Work Australia here.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay. I did want to ask Safe Work Australia. You appreciate the context: being unable to trace and track employers where, on things like wages, they're exploiting the migrant status of their labour makes it much harder for you to provide protection for their occupational health and safety as well, does it not?</p> <p>Ms Baxter: That's certainly something that jurisdictions' work health and safety regulators in are aware of and taking steps in relation to.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What steps are you aware that the Commonwealth might need to take? Would a national labour hire registration scheme, which was suggested two years ago, help compliance in that regard?</p> <p>Ms Baxter: I'll defer to the department in relation to that question.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Of course.</p>	7/05/2021
27	EEC-AE21-27	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	39	Comcare	Mr Boyce - Fireworks incident	<p>Mr Napier: It relates to an incident that involved a number of members and alcohol consumption, and there is a reference to fireworks. I should say it is very early days in our inquiries at this stage, so none of this is confirmed by us at this point in time.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: So has your investigation actually commenced?</p> <p>Mr Napier: Yes, it has.</p> <p>....</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Have you interviewed any other witnesses?</p> <p>Mr Napier: I might take that on notice at this stage, because it is early on in our inquiries and I'd need to check in with the inspector to get real-time information.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: How many witnesses were at the event?</p> <p>Mr Napier: I don't have that detail at hand. I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
28	EEC-AE21-28	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	40	Comcare	Mr Boyce - Fireworks incident	<p>Senator SHELDON: Is it correct to say that the New South Wales police are also investigating the matter?</p> <p>Mr Napier: I believe so, but I'd need to take that on notice to confirm that.</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
29	EEC-AE21-29	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	42	Comcare	Mr Boyce - Fireworks incident	<p>Senator O'NEILL: You said there were a number of people you were investigating who were at the event. How many people were there and what was the nature of that gathering? Were they all workers in the Fair Work Commission?</p> <p>Ms Weston: I don't think we said we were investigating a number of people.</p> <p>Mr Napier: We were looking at an incident—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: An incident that involved a number of people is what you said.</p> <p>Mr Napier: Can I take that on notice and check in with the inspector. I would need to review more closely the matter as it came to us. I don't have that detail at hand.</p> <p>....</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Mr Boyce plays an important role in our society. He oversees similar disputes that may relate to and cut across the very same issue we are talking about now—allegations of workplace bullying, inappropriate behaviour, employment threats, psychological harassment. He is overseeing those responsibilities yet he still hasn't been interviewed, in five weeks. It raises some serious concerns in my mind. I still haven't had an adequate explanation to say why he has not been interviewed.</p> <p>Ms Weston: We will take it on notice and provide information as soon as we can.</p>	7/05/2021
30	EEC-AE21-30	Hansard	Jacqui Lambie	25/03/2021	43	Comcare	Claims by MOP employees	<p>Senator LAMBIE: You might need to take this on notice, but, for the previous five years, how many claims have been made by MOP employees, how much has been paid out for each of those years, and how much has been paid out for claims relating to psychological injuries for MOP(S) Act employees? Could you also give me the number of claims made by APS employees and the amounts that have been paid, for the previous five years. Do you keep track, at the APS level, of the employees that submit a claim? If so, could you give me the number of claims and the amount paid, by the APS level. Do you track information or hotspots on the divisional area that an employee was working in inside a department? If so, is there a way to provide details of the top 10 divisions or teams that have had the most claims lodged against them in the previous five years?</p> <p>CHAIR: I think it's probably best that you take those on notice.</p> <p>Senator LAMBIE: I'll give you those on notice. That's fine. I can do that.</p>	7/05/2021
31	EEC-AE21-31	Hansard	Jacqui Lambie	25/03/2021	43	Comcare	Claims by MOP employees	<p>Senator LAMBIE: No, it doesn't; I can tell you now. Minister, maybe you can answer that? Are there no protocols in place, when somebody else might get hurt in your office from another employee that's there? The member of parliament is not told, and there is no counselling for that person that has been done with the bullying and harassment.</p> <p>Senator Duniam: I don't want to seem unhelpful, but I'll take on notice what you have just asked. Obviously there is relevance to Comcare, but I wonder whether the Department of Finance and the Special Minister of State might also have some information to provide. Let me take it on notice and see what we can provide to directly answer your question.</p>	7/05/2021
32	EEC-AE21-32	Hansard	Larissa Waters	25/03/2021	44	Comcare	Percentage of Comcare claims that relate to workplace bullying and sexual harassment	<p>Senator WATERS: So you can code and you do code for sexual harassment. What is the number or percentage of Comcare claims that relate to workplace bullying and to sexual harassment?</p> <p>Ms Weston: Are you talking generally, about the departments and agencies?</p> <p>Senator WATERS: As a whole, yes.</p> <p>Mr Hughes: We probably should take that on notice, if we can.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: That's fine.</p> <p>Mr Hughes: In terms of the question on notice, if you've got a particular interest—if it's bullying or harassment or a particular type et cetera—the more information you can give us the better—</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I'm not aware of the categories that you use to code, so it'll be a bit hard for me to give the specificity. I'm interested, primarily, in the proportion of the overall complaints that are sexual harassment but also workplace bullying. More information, rather than less, would be great.</p> <p>Ms Weston: Those two things are possible.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I'm interested also in the aggregate amount of compensation paid in response to both bullying and sexual harassment claims. How much is this bad behaviour costing, when it could be avoided in the first place, is the reason I'm asking those questions.</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
33	EEC-AE21-33	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	46	Comcare	Complaints against South Australian do	<p>Senator SHELTON: ... We've got a doctor who's got 66 complaints against him. South Australian authorities subsequently stopped using him from 2010, and yet you say you have a system that's looking to review these faults. What's happening with this doctor? Is he still on the payroll?</p> <p>Ms Weston: No.</p> <p>Senator SHELTON: He's now been discontinued. What date was he discontinued?</p> <p>Ms Weston: I'll probably have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Swainson: We will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SHELTON: Was it last year, this year?</p> <p>Mr Swainson: Last year.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Are you reviewing the cases that he gave evidence on?</p> <p>Mr Swainson: We'll have to take that on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
34	EEC-AE21-34	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	46	Comcare	Complaints against South Australian do	<p>Senator PRATT: You can take on notice the review of cases that have had complaints about him and the outcomes but also the fairness of cases that he had influence over that weren't complained about or appealed but might in hindsight have been unfair.</p> <p>Ms Weston: Yes,</p>	7/05/2021
35	EEC-AE21-35	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	47	Comcare	Commonwealth PCBUs	<p>Ms Weston: I'm saying to you that it is a complex workplace. There are two key Commonwealth PCBUs: Department of Finance and Department of Parliamentary Services. But there are multiple duty holders in the parliament workplace.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: You might want to give me the list of those more fully on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
36	EEC-AE21-36	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	47	Comcare	Difference between inspection and inv	<p>Senator O'NEILL: ... In relation to the alleged rape of Ms Brittany Higgins and given that Minister Reynolds in is PCBU, have you conducted an interview with her or her office to determine whether a breach of WHS laws has occurred?</p> <p>Ms Weston: We have an open inspection. We are at the moment—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Is that an investigation?</p> <p>Ms Weston: No. It could become an investigation, but at the moment it's an inspection.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: What does that mean?</p> <p>Mr Napier: At this stage we haven't exercised powers consistent with criminal law, so at this stage it's an inquiry.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: How serious does it have to get, Mr Napier, before Comcare steps?</p> <p>Mr Napier: We stepped in. Let's be clear. We have an open monitoring compliance activity underway, and, if it turns out that there is evidence that emerges that is of a very serious nature, we would escalate to an investigation. We would continue the inquiry, we'd just take a different approach as an investigation.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: If you can clarify for me on notice the difference between an inspection and investigation, and if you can provide for this committee the actions you have taken to date and the dates on which those occurred, I'd very much appreciate it.</p>	7/05/2021
37	EEC-AE21-37	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	47	Comcare	Communication with the department, t	<p>Senator O'NEILL: Are you keeping the Minister for Industrial Relations up to date with what you're doing—or his representative?</p> <p>Ms Weston: We are an independent agency. We may have in passing mentioned that, but I don't think there's been a formal brief to the minister.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: If you could provide any communications you've had with the department, the minister or their staff, that would be helpful. How many enforcement actions, including prosecutions, have Comcare undertaken in relation to sexual harassment in this building?</p> <p>Mr Napier: We'd have to take that on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
38	EEC-AE21-38	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	47	Comcare	Enforcement actions in respect of sexu	<p>Senator O'NEILL: How many enforcement actions, including prosecutions, have Comcare undertaken with regard to sexual harassment in this building, the Parliament of Australia?</p> <p>Mr Napier: We will take that on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
39	EEC-AE21-39	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	48	Comcare	Communication with Senator Reynold's	<p>Senator O'NEILL: Clearly there was a very big problem in Senator Reynolds's office with regard to this reported serial assailant. Did you have any interactions with Senator Reynolds's office prior to becoming aware of this issue through the press?</p> <p>CHAIR: Could you take that on notice, please?</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
40	EEC-AE21-40	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	49	Attorney-General's Department	Type of action that can be taken in rela	<p>Mr O'Sullivan: Again, there's not a contravention of the Fair Work Act that's screaming out at me. The relevant question you've just asked is, could there be potential? The reason I'm being a little technical here is that the adverse action provisions require the person taking adverse action to be in a certain class of people. So, obviously in the scenario we've been talking about it would be, say, a principal or an employer taking adverse action against an independent contractor in, for example, deciding whether or not to give them a contract or work. We're at the stage where there are so many facts that I don't have, that I'm not possibly aware of, that I couldn't give you a sensible answer to that other than to say I could not rule out a potential offence if somebody in, say, acting on that advice on the website actually took adverse action against someone.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: It's very difficult to prove, I'm sure. Mr Hehir, are there any other breaches of laws that you would be aware of that could come into play? I'm not saying 'will' but 'could'.</p> <p>Mr Hehir: The adverse action provision is the obvious one to be looking at. Mr O'Sullivan would be correct in that the act is specific about who has to take the action. You're right: it may be difficult to prove that a potential employer has looked at that information and decided not to employ someone on the basis of that action. It's certainly something I'm happy to take on notice and get back to you on.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Yes, if you could. There is no reason why with this particular circumstance of blacklisting people that, now it's certainly in the public domain, others couldn't follow suit and put it up anonymously and the website publishes it. You may be able to help me with this. I am interested in where there is any specific action. What are the types of action that could be taken against the website itself, even though it is not evident to be the employer?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I will take that on notice. I'm very happy to.</p> <p>Mr O'Sullivan: Perhaps I could give a little bit more assistance. If the adverse action or general protection provisions come into play and the outline of a potential breach of those can be established then there is, for want of a better word, a reverse onus so that the person who took the adverse action would have to prove that they didn't take that action for an impermissible reason or that an impermissible reason formed any part of their reasons, say, not to give someone a job. It's not a complete or happy answer for you, but it's something.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Let's see how we go on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
41	EEC-AE21-41	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	51	Fair Work Ombudsman	Crown wage theft investigation	<p>Mr Ronson: Yes. Without going into commentary on the investigation, because I don't think that's appropriate, from a high-level perspective I can assure the committee that the Fair Work Ombudsman's investigation is one that will seek to determine—let me reframe it. Just because Crown says something is the case, it doesn't mean that the Fair Work Ombudsman accepts it. Our investigation is looking into all assertions and information provided by Crown, and we have been requesting and sourcing information all through 2020 and into 2021. From a Crown perspective, they came very early on in the life of their identification of potential breaches. They responded to a letter from the Fair Work Ombudsman, which we think is a good thing. So it's a good thing that they came. But it was very early on, and they've had to do a fair bit of work themselves, and we've had to do a lot more digging work to get the information out. So there's still a fair way to go in this investigation.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: When did they first notify you?</p> <p>Mr Ronson: From late March or early April.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: You mention there are 230 persons who are potentially affected.</p> <p>Mr Ronson: Approximately. At this point, that's what we're aware of.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Have you contacted the 230, and have you contacted other employees who may also be affected, although you've only been able to identify 230 so far?</p> <p>Mr Ronson: I don't believe we have, but I can come back on that. I'll take that on notice as well.</p>	7/05/2021
42	EEC-AE21-42	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	57	Attorney-General's Department	Compliance and enforcement - Schedu	<p>Senator PRATT: In the context of this legislation, when are you going to reintroduce that schedule as separate legislation? It was the earliest piece of work in the context of the so-called COVID package. This work had been done a long time before COVID even struck.</p> <p>Senator Duniam: When will the government reintroduce it? I'll take that on notice, but I presume that, in that question, you're indicating Labor's support for that measure.</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
43	EEC-AE21-43	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	60	Fair Work Ombudsman	Harvest trail	<p>Senator O'NEILL: Let me go to the details of the 245 that were checked, including farms and labour hire firms. There were 162 that have gone out of business, 83 that are still operating, and 38 that were breaching workplace laws.</p> <p>Ms Parker: Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: The last evidence was that you'd recovered \$64,000 for 279 workers at 22 firms and issued seven penalty notices totalling \$13,020.</p> <p>Ms Parker: Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Is there any update that I need to receive on those numbers?</p> <p>Ms Parker: On that particular matter, no. There are other horticulture matters, but not on that one. But compliance was done—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: I am going particularly to Harvest Trail, rather than horticulture more broadly. Could I ask a question about definitional nature of 'no longer operating'. What does that mean? Does it mean they're dormant, or does it mean they're wound up? What does it actually mean?</p> <p>Mr Ronson: It means a mixture of both. No longer operating means they could be in liquidation, voluntary administration or just no longer trading.</p> <p>Ms Parker: Disappeared.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Could you provide on notice an outline of the status of each of those that you consider are no longer operating.</p>	7/05/2021
44	EEC-AE21-44	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	62	Fair Work Ombudsman	Third party audit firms engaged by FWOC	<p>Senator SHELDON: In the earlier evidence we were talking about Crown. You mentioned a third-party auditor that was engaged. Was it by Fair Work?</p> <p>Ms Parker: I think it was a generic answer. I said we do engage third-party auditors. We do that where we might have a complex set of calculations to do. We've got quite a lot of work, a lot of investigations, on hand so we may, for example, get help from an expert firm. But, in this case, no. I was talking broadly.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Which are the firms that you would engage?</p> <p>Ms Parker: You're probably aware that the corporate sector task force or unit that we're setting up is relatively new. We're still working out our model. We investigate each one of them. But there comes a time when there's a lot of work on and calculations take a long time—sometimes we get 3,000 pieces of information coming back from companies—so we'll do that on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I was asking specifically which firms you're using? You can take that on notice, but you could name some of them now.</p> <p>Ms Parker: I'll take it on notice, if you don't mind. I'm certainly happy to provide some information on that.</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
 Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
 Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
45	EEC-AE21-45	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	65	Attorney-General's Department	Process for removing a statutory officer	<p>Senator O'NEILL: Mr Furlong, I'm going to have to dispute that in some way, given that we're asking these questions about the unsafe practices that were absolutely manifest in Mr Boyce's office and interactions with people. We all get a bad name from individuals who do the wrong thing, but he is a deputy commissioner. I want to observe that, while you're talking about a lot of policies, procedures and changes that have been implemented, we are—and I will hand to Senator Sheldon now—about to ask more questions about Mr Boyce's behaviour that relate to the matter that you summarised in your first remarks. How bad does Mr Boyce have to be before he gets the sack? How long do we have to put up with this sort of behaviour? How many times are we going to have to ask questions about a deputy commissioner of the Fair Work Commission breaching—constantly, it would seem—standard expectations about safe workplaces for Australians, particularly as women? How much more?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: The process for removing a statutory officer is outside the direct control of the General Manager of the Fair Work Commission. I'm happy to take on notice the process that's required and provide it to the committee. The General Manager of the Fair Work Commission doesn't have the power to remove a statutorily appointed officer.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Because they are appointed by whom, Mr Hehir?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: They're appointed by the Governor-General.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: On the recommendation of whom?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: The government of the day.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: So the government's responsible for Mr Boyce being in the position. It is the government's recommendation to the Governor-General that Mr Boyce take the position, Mr Boyce has been in the position and we have this list of absolutely unacceptable, outside the bounds of acceptable behaviours from him over a long period of time. It's the government's responsibility to get rid of Mr Boyce, isn't it?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: As I said, I'm happy to take on notice and provide on notice the process required—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Is there anybody else who can get rid of him other than the government? They put him in. It's their responsibility to get rid of him.</p> <p>Mr Hehir: My recollection is that it requires a joint sitting of parliament. I'm happy to clarify that.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Thank you very much.</p>	7/05/2021
46	EEC-AE21-46	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	66	Fair Work Commission	Mr Boyce incident report	<p>Senator O'NEILL: Is there a reason why she's Ms Bernadette O'Neill is unable to be here today?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: She's on approved leave.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Does Ms O'Neill have an incident report?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: I'm not aware of that.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Would you be able to provide an incident report on notice?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: I can certainly take that on notice.</p>	7/05/2021
47	EEC-AE21-47	Hansard	Malcolm Roberts	25/03/2021	69	Fair Work Commission	Chandler McLeod enterprise agreement	<p>Senator ROBERTS: How is it, then, that the operational services enterprise agreement, which was put forward last year, I think, failed the BOOT test? It pays substantially more than the Chandler Macleod enterprise agreement.</p> <p>Ms Luby: Each application is considered on its merits at the time that it's lodged, using the test time as the date the application is lodged with the Fair Work Commission. There may have been different circumstances and different underpinning award rates at the time each of those was lodged.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Is it possible to inquire into the actual BOOT test that was done?</p> <p>Ms Luby: I could take that on notice. I don't have that with me.</p>	7/05/2021
48	EEC-AE21-48	Hansard	Malcolm Roberts	25/03/2021	70	Fair Work Commission	Policy for false or misleading information	<p>Mr Furlong: We have a policy for when a member believes that they've received information that may be false or misleading in a statutory declaration. That process is well established and communicated with members. They will refer it to the general manager who will then, on the basis of the information that's available to them, decide whether to refer the matter.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Are we able to have a copy of that policy?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: Absolutely.</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
49	EEC-AE21-49	Hansard	Malcolm Roberts	25/03/2021	70	Fair Work Commission	Casuals under the black coal mining ind	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. The failure of the commission to protect workers like those in the Hunter Valley from rogue employers and rogue union bosses, like Peter Jordan, it seems, who did shonky deals that caused the abuse of injured casual coal production workers, is an example of where the commission should have a proactive role. The lack of a definition for a casual black-coal miner has existed for years. Why did the commission not do anything to help close this gap? Basically, the CFMEU in the Hunter Valley signed an enterprise agreement, even though there were no provisions for casuals under the black coal mining industry award. It signed that agreement. It didn't have any casual conversion in it, so the union was basically locking those miners into permanent casualisation at a vastly lower pay rate—a 40 per cent lower pay rate—than people working side by side for the employer, BHP. What can be done to ensure that problems like this are identified early and reported to the minister for action, or were they?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: The commission's activities in relation to this particular issue—specifically in relation to the four-year review—were dealt with on notice. I can certainly provide you with the response to the question on notice. The relevant QON was SB19-25.</p>	7/05/2021
50	EEC-AE21-50	Hansard	Malcolm Roberts	25/03/2021	71	Attorney-General's Department	Fair Work Act - less lawyers and more f	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Minister—I know this is not your area, but you're sitting in the chair—I neglected to bring a copy of the Fair Work Act, but it's very thick. How the hell can small businesses and employees work their way through that? Even unions have difficulty, with access to lawyers. I asked Michael Wright, who is the lawyer for the ETU in Townsville, and I asked Mr Alex Bukarica, who spoke with integrity and courage in acknowledging the errors of the union in the Hunter Valley, but they both said to me very, very clearly, 'We need fewer lawyers in industrial relations.' To give you some background, we've also had senior members of large unions and the heads of the ACTU, the secretary and the president, say that they'd be willing to engage in a process to remove that complexity and that mess, because it's holding back business in this country. Has the government got any appetite for going back to basics—focusing on worker' needs and businesses' needs, and coming back with something that's based on principles?</p> <p>Senator Duniam: As you rightly highlight, it's not my area. I think everyone, government and outside, would agree simpler systems are better, so simplifying things is an important thing to do. But allow me to get you a proper answer about government's intentions around that. I'll take that on notice and make sure you have a proper answer to that.</p>	7/05/2021
51	EEC-AE21-51	Hansard	Benjamin Small	25/03/2021	71	Fair Work Commission	Timing of Comcare investigation - Mr B	<p>Senator SMALL: Mr Furlong, can you confirm for me when the Fair Work Commission received the Comcare investigation into the anime figures.</p> <p>Mr Furlong: Yes. It was on 6 July 2020.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: When did the Fair Work Commission inform Deputy President Boyce of the outcomes of that investigation?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: I don't have that information to hand. I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: Okay. Could you tell us not only when that occurred but the way in which deputy president was informed.</p>	7/05/2021
52	EEC-AE21-52	Hansard	Benjamin Small	25/03/2021	71	Fair Work Commission	Findings of investigation - Mr Boyce	<p>Senator SMALL: ... Finally, given the public nature of this entire matter and the fact that it was a matter of public record that Comcare was investigating the matter, why didn't the Fair Work Commission make public the findings of the same investigation until yesterday, which was some nine months after the investigation report was received by the commission?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: I'm not sure it was made public yesterday.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: It appeared in the media, so I assume the outcomes are a matter of public record.</p> <p>Mr Furlong: They certainly are, but the Fair Work Commission didn't release that information. I want to clarify that. We can certainly take it on notice</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
53	EEC-AE21-53	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	76	Registered Organisations Comm	Contraventions relating to elections - p	<p>Senator SHELDON: And the hotels association in Queensland, if I remember correctly, failed to carry out elections for a large series of years?</p> <p>Mr Bielecki: Yes, we took proceedings against the Australian Hotels Association for a number of contraventions of the act, one of which was its failure to hold elections and others of which were related to recordkeeping failures and failures to notify changes.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: And the damages sought, was it in the higher range, the middle range or the lower range?</p> <p>Mr Bielecki: In the AHA case there were 34 contraventions in relation to recordkeeping, which had a maximum penalty of \$203,000. That maximum is established by the parliament. The penalty imposed by the Federal Court, which was the agency that does the imposition of penalties, was \$50,750. That was 25 per cent of the maximum. The contraventions relating to elections received significantly higher penalties of between 36 per cent and 60 per cent of the available maxima. I don't have the numbers available for those maximum penalties, but I can get them for you on notice if you would like them.</p> <p>The position generally speaking is that penalties have been quite low in this jurisdiction, but the court did impose a penalty of between 36 and 60 per cent of the available maximum in relation to that elections contravention.</p>	7/05/2021
54	EEC-AE21-54	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	77	Registered Organisations Comm	Penalties imposed on registered organi	<p>Senator SHELDON: How much in financial penalties has been imposed on registered organisations since May 2017? Do you have that?</p> <p>Mr Bielecki: I can take it on notice. I'm not sure of the amount.</p>	7/05/2021
55	EEC-AE21-55	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	77	Registered Organisations Comm	Expenditure on consultants in 2020-21	<p>Senator SHELDON: ... How much is the ROC spent on consultants in the 2020- 21 financial year to date?</p> <p>Mr Bielecki: I'd have to take that on notice. By 'consultants' do you have any particular discipline in mind?</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Consultants outside the core group; engagement of consultants, and if you could specify the consultants, what they were engaged for and the amount of money spent.</p> <p>Mr Bielecki: I'll take that on notice</p>	7/05/2021
56	EEC-AE21-56	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	77	Registered Organisations Comm	Expenditure on consultants since May 2	<p>Senator SHELDON: Can you give me a list of all of the consultants, in the broadest possible terms, the work that you pay for, what it constitutes, who they are and how much is spent. That would be great.</p> <p>Mr Enright: We can provide that. I will indicate that in response to questions on notice over the last 12 months, we've provided precisely those and every aspect of every consultant and what they cost and what they were doing has been responded to in questions on notice. What we will need to do, if that's what you are asking to do, is to bring that up to date to today, if that's what you're asking us to do.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Every payment that is made for every consultant for the period since May 2017 would be very much assistance.</p> <p>Mr Enright: We can do that. It has been done. It will be a significant resource, but it won't be as significant because it's already been dealt with in questions on notice</p>	7/05/2021
57	EEC-AE21-57	Hansard	Eric Abetz	25/03/2021	80	Registered Organisations Comm	AWU Victoria Branch - Melhem matter	<p>Senator ABETZ: I do recall a media release issued by the Australian Workers Union, dated 13 February 2005, entitled 'Netball stars join AWU'. Are you aware of that media release?</p> <p>Mr Enright: I can't immediately say.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If not, I'll be able to provide it to you if needed. But I think one Mr Shorten, now the member for Maribyrnong, was boasting about the fact that he had signed up these netball stars to the AWU, and so I'm just wondering how far back Mr Melhem's claiming of these members goes and whether they were already on the books, inappropriately, at the time that you looked. How far back did you reach?</p> <p>Mr Enright: Our matter was referred by the trade union royal commission. It went back as far as when Mr Melhem was the secretary of the Victorian branch of the AWU, so it did not involve an earlier period, as best as I can recall. We can take it on notice. It was a defined period, and Mr Melhem was the secretary of the Victorian branch for the period in which these contraventions occurred. It didn't involve other, previous secretaries or officials.</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
58	EEC-AE21-58	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	84	Asbestos Safety and Eradication	Existing exposure of people in fibro houses	Senator PRATT: How many people currently are living in fibro houses that might have an existing exposure? Ms Ross: I don't know. I don't have that information. We can try to find that information. This is just people being asked a series of questions about where they think they may have been exposed: did you have an occupation where you may have been exposed? Were you a carpenter, an electrician or something like that? Did you live in a house that had exposure? Did you do some renovations? That type of stuff. They might go, 'Yes.'	7/05/2021
59	EEC-AE21-59	Hansard	Malcolm Roberts	25/03/2021	90	Coal Mining Industry Long Service	Payments to current directors	Senator ROBERTS: How many board members or members of the bodies they represent have been on either registered or unregistered companies that made contributions and/or received reimbursements from Coal LSL? Could you provide a list of them and the entity names and the dollar value of all the transactions? Ms Perks: Their current directors? Senator ROBERTS: Yes. Ms Perks: I'll take that on notice.	7/05/2021
60	EEC-AE21-60	Hansard	Anthony Sheldon	25/03/2021	93	Australian Building and Construction	Rectification of underpayments	Senator SHELTON: By all means, talk about some of the questions somebody asked about the underpayment of wages. But sham contracting is the area I have a specific interest in. Senator SHELTON: So, for a serious issue in the industry, you look for a rectification, you don't prosecute? Ms Jepson: Mischaracterisation. I don't have that number. I'd have to take that on notice for you. Ms Jepson: Our priority is to get money back to the employees as quickly as possible. Our experience over the last few years has been that most employers do not underpay their staff through ill intent; most of them are underpaying their employees because of a failure to understand the law or through having systems and processes which are inadequate and don't pay according to the award or the enterprise agreement. Wherever possible, we work with employers to rectify that, to get an immediate payment, and also to implement processes for enduring change so the mistakes don't occur again. Senator SHELTON: You just said 'most'. What percentage form that category, and what is the other category of the ones which you described—I might have a different description—as intentional?	7/05/2021
61	EEC-AE21-61	Hansard	Benjamin Small	25/03/2021	95	Attorney-General's Department	Changes to sham contracting threshold	Senator SMALL: A final question. If we go back to 2012, where the first report on the issue of sham contracting was provided to the previous government and made a recommendation, which I believe was recommendation 48, that the bar for sham contracting be lowered to that of a lack of reasonable care rather than recklessness, the former government chose not to act on that recommendation—is that correct? Mr McBurney: I defer to the department. Mr Hehir: I'd need to take that on notice. I'm not aware of any proposal to change legislation in that particular clause.	7/05/2021
62	EEC-AE21-62	Hansard	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021	100	Australian Building and Construction	Materials found to be in violation of Section 13(2)(j)	Senator PRATT: Could you take on notice how many notices you have issued in relation to section 13(2)(j) of the building code, and a demonstration of all the materials that you have found in violation of that code? Mr McBurney: In this particular case? Senator PRATT: In all cases. Mr McBurney: I think Ms Drennan might be able to answer your first question as to how many compliance notices the agency has issued addressing section 13(2)(j). Ms Drennan: This is the first and only compliance notice that's been issued in relation to section 13(2)(j) of the building code. Senator PRATT: I beg your pardon? Mr McBurney: She said it's the only instance of a compliance notice issued in respect of section 13(2)(j) of the building code.	7/05/2021
63	EEC-AE21-63	Written	Louise Pratt	25/03/2021		Comcare	Staffing numbers and agency not staffing	Please advise: Current ASL cap Current ASL, ongoing and non-ongoing Current headcount, ongoing and non-ongoing Current number of labour hire staff by classification or work level and functional area	7/05/2021
64	EEC-AE21-64	Written	Jacqui Lambie	25/03/2021		Comcare	Responsibility to inform employers of a workplace injury or illness	What responsibility does Comcare have to inform employers about a compensation claim for a workplace injury or illness?	7/05/2021
65	EEC-AE21-65	Written	Jacqui Lambie	25/03/2021		Comcare	Criteria for reasonable administrative action	In assessing a claim, how does the claims manager establish whether a workplace-related injury or illness did not arise from a workplace-related injury or illness?	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
 Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
 Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
66	EEC-AE21-66	Written	Jacqui Lambie	25/03/2021		Comcare	Compensation claim for work-related ill	With regards to a compensation claim for work-related illness or injury by a current or former MOPs Act employee: a. Does Comcare ever rely solely on evidence provided by the Department of Finance when assessing a claim for a workplace injury or illness from a current or former MOPs Act employee? b. Does Comcare have a responsibility to engage with the employing member or senator when assessing the validity of a claim? If so, can Comcare guarantee this always occurs?	7/05/2021
67	EEC-AE21-67	Written	Jacqui Lambie	25/03/2021		Comcare	Claims made by current or former MOP	Please provide the following information about claims made by current or former MOPs employees as year-on-year data for the previous five years: * a. the number of claims for work-related injury or illness that have been made; b. the number of claims for work-related injury or illness for which liability has been accepted; c. the amount paid in relation to those claims; d. the number of claims for work-related psychological injury or illness; e. the number of claims for work-related psychological injury or illness for which liability has been accepted; and f. the amount paid in relation to those claims. * if this data is not available for administrative or privacy reasons, please provide as much information as is feasible. For example, if year-on-year data cannot be provided on privacy grounds, please aggregate to the minimum level required to ensure an individual claim is not identifiable in the data.	7/05/2021
68	EEC-AE21-68	Written	Jacqui Lambie	25/03/2021		Comcare	Claims made by current or former APS	Please provide the following information about claims made by current or former APS employees as year-on-year data for the previous five years: * a. the number of claims for work-related injury or illness that have been made; b. the number of claims for work-related injury or illness for which liability has been accepted; c. the amount paid in relation to those claims; d. the number of claims for work-related psychological injury or illness; e. the number of claims for work-related psychological injury or illness for which liability has been accepted; and f. the amount paid in relation to those claims. * if this data is not available for administrative or privacy reasons, please provide as much information as is feasible. For example, if year-on-year data cannot be provided on privacy grounds, please aggregate to the minimum level required to ensure an individual claim is not identifiable in the data.	7/05/2021
69	EEC-AE21-69	Written	Jacqui Lambie	25/03/2021		Comcare	Claims made by current or former APS	For the previous calendar year, please provide the following information by the APS level of the claimant at the time the injury or illness occurred: * a. the number of claims for workplace-related injury or illness; b. the number claims for which liability has been accepted; and c. the amount paid in relation to those claims. * if this data is not available for administrative or privacy reasons, please provide as much information as is feasible. For example, please group APS levels together if necessary to ensure an individual claim is not identifiable in the data.	7/05/2021
70	EEC-AE21-70	Written	Katy Gallagher	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Labour-hire contracts	1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by: • APS ongoing: headcount and ASL; • APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL; • Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and • Other contractors.; headcount and FTE 2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount. 3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
71	EEC-AE21-71	Written	Katy Gallagher	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Home-based work requests	<p>1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020?</p> <p>2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.</p>	7/05/2021
72	EEC-AE21-72	Written	Bridget McKenzie	25/03/2021		Asbestos Safety and Eradication	Staffing profile and home-based work	<p>1. How many staff does ASEA have working in capital cities, including Canberra?</p> <p>2. Does ASEA have any staff based in regional or rural locations?</p> <p>a. If yes, how many?</p> <p>b. What percentage of ASEA's staff are based in capital cities, as opposed to regional and rural locations?</p> <p>3. How many staff worked form home for the period of October 2020 to March 2021?</p> <p>4. Responding to question 2, how does ASEA intend to maintain the static level of productivity when staff return to the office?</p> <p>a. Apart from manager observations, does ASEA use any other methods to measure productivity levels?</p> <p>b. What opportunity exists for ASEA to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>5. Responding to question 3, figures show that personal/sick-days taken reduced by 38% in 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. What does ASEA attribute this to?</p> <p>a. How does ASEA intend to maintain the reduction in personal leave/sick-days taken?</p> <p>b. If ASEA has staff based in regional or rural locations, is there a comparison of personal leave/sick-days taken between these staff and those based in capital cities?</p>	7/05/2021
73	EEC-AE21-73	Written	Bridget McKenzie	25/03/2021		Australian Building and Construc	Staffing profile and home-based work	<p>1. How many staff does ABCC have working in capital cities, including Canberra?</p> <p>2. Does ABCC have any staff based in regional or rural locations?</p> <p>a. If yes, how many?</p> <p>b. What percentage of ABCC's staff are based in capital cities, as opposed to regional and rural locations?</p> <p>3. How many staff worked form home for the period of October 2020 to March 2021?</p> <p>4. Responding to question 2, how does ABCC intend to maintain the static level of productivity when staff return to the office?</p> <p>a. What opportunity exists for ABCC to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>5. Responding to question 3, figures show that personal/sick-days taken reduced by 18.5% in 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. What does ABCC attribute this to?</p> <p>a. How does ABCC intend to maintain the reduction in personal leave/sick-days taken?</p> <p>b. If ABCC has staff based in regional or rural locations, is there a comparison of personal leave/sick-days taken between these staff and those based in capital cities?</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
74	EEC-AE21-74	Written	Bridget McKenzie	25/03/2021		Coal Mining Industry Long Service	Staffing profile and home-based work	<p>1. How many staff does Coal LSL have working in capital cities, including Canberra?</p> <p>2. Does Coal LSL have any staff based in regional or rural locations?</p> <p>a. If yes, how many?</p> <p>b. What percentage of Coal LSL's staff are based in capital cities, as opposed to regional and rural locations?</p> <p>3. Did any of Coal LSL's staff work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>a. If yes, how many of Coal LSL's staff worked from home each month for the period of March 2020 to October 2020?</p> <p>b. How many of Coal LSL's staff worked from home each month for the period of October 2020 to March 2021?</p> <p>4. Responding to question 2, how does Coal LSL intend to maintain the static level of productivity when staff return to the office?</p> <p>a. Apart from the pulse survey in April 2020, what other methods were used to measure productivity during the work from home period?</p> <p>b. What opportunity exists for Coal LSL to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>5. Responding to question 3, figures show that personal/sick-days taken reduced by 33% in 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. What does Coal LSL attribute this to?</p> <p>a. How does Coal LSL intend to maintain the reduction in personal leave/sick-days taken?</p> <p>b. If Coal LSL has staff based in regional or rural locations, is there a comparison of personal leave/sick-days taken between these staff and those based in capital cities?</p>	7/05/2021
75	EEC-AE21-75	Written	Bridget McKenzie	25/03/2021		Comcare	Staffing profile and home-based work	<p>1. How many staff does Comcare have working in capital cities, including Canberra?</p> <p>2. Does Comcare have any staff based in regional or rural locations?</p> <p>a. If yes, how many?</p> <p>b. What percentage of Comcare's staff are based in capital cities, as opposed to regional and rural locations?</p> <p>3. How many staff worked from home for the period of October 2020 to March 2021?</p> <p>4. Responding to question 2, given employees and managers indicated productivity increased during the work from home period, how does Comcare intend to maintain this increased level of productivity when staff return to the office?</p> <p>a. What opportunity exists for Comcare to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>5. Responding to question 3, figures show that personal/sick-days taken reduced by 38% in 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. What does Comcare attribute this to?</p> <p>a. How does Comcare intend to maintain the reduction in personal leave/sick-days taken?</p> <p>b. If Comcare has staff based in regional or rural locations, is there a comparison of personal leave/sick-days taken between these staff and those based in capital cities?</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
76	EEC-AE21-76	Written	Bridget McKenzie	25/03/2021		Fair Work Commission	Staffing profile and home-based work	<p>1. How many staff does the Commission have working in capital cities, including Canberra?</p> <p>2. Does the Commission have any staff based in regional or rural locations?</p> <p>a. If yes, how many?</p> <p>b. What percentage of the Commission's staff are based in capital cities, as opposed to regional and rural locations?</p> <p>3. How many staff worked form home for the period of October 2020 to March 2021?</p> <p>4. Responding to question 2, how does the Commission intend to maintain the static and increased level of productivity when staff return to the office?</p> <p>a. Did staff hours increase with the increased lodgements and implementing a new jurisdiction?</p> <p>b. What opportunity exists for the Commission to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>5. Responding to question 3, figures show that personal/sick-days taken reduced by 31% in 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. What does the Commission attribute this to?</p> <p>a. How does the Commission intend to maintain the reduction in personal leave/sick-days taken?</p> <p>b. If the Commission has staff based in regional or rural locations, is there a comparison of personal leave/sick-days taken between these staff and those based in capital cities?</p>	7/05/2021
77	EEC-AE21-77	Written	Bridget McKenzie	25/03/2021		Fair Work Ombudsman	Staffing profile and home-based work	<p>1. How many staff does the FWO have working in capital cities, including Canberra?</p> <p>2. Does the FWO have any staff based in regional or rural locations?</p> <p>a. If yes, how many?</p> <p>b. What percentage of the FWO's staff are based in capital cities, as opposed to regional and rural locations?</p> <p>3. How many staff worked form home for the period of October 2020 to March 2021?</p> <p>4. Responding to question 2, the FWO saw an increased demand during the COVID-19 pandemic, did productivity levels decline, remain static or increase during this period?</p> <p>a. How did the FWO measure productivity levels during the work from home period?</p> <p>b. Did staff hours increase during to the increased demand for service?</p> <p>c. What opportunity exists for the FWO to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>5. Responding to question 3, figures show that personal/sick-days taken reduced by 25% in 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. What does the FWO attribute this to?</p> <p>a. How does the FWO intend to maintain the reduction in personal leave/sick-days taken?</p> <p>b. If the FWO has staff based in regional or rural locations, is there a comparison of personal leave/sick-days taken between these staff and those based in capital cities?</p>	7/05/2021
78	EEC-AE21-78	Written	Bridget McKenzie	25/03/2021		Registered Organisations Comm	Staffing profile and home-based work	<p>1. How many staff does ROC have working in capital cities, including Canberra?</p> <p>2. Does ROC have any staff based in regional or rural locations?</p> <p>a. If yes, how many?</p> <p>b. What percentage of ROC's staff are based in capital cities, as opposed to regional and rural locations?</p> <p>3. How many staff worked form home for the period of October 2020 to March 2021?</p> <p>4. Responding to question 2, how does ROC intend to maintain or increase the current productivity level when staff return to the office?</p> <p>a. What opportunity exists for ROC to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>5. Responding to question 3, figures show that personal/sick-days taken reduced by 25% in 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. What does ROC attribute this to?</p> <p>a. How does ROC intend to maintain the reduction in personal leave/sick-days taken?</p> <p>b. If ROC has staff based in regional or rural locations, is there a comparison of personal leave/sick-days taken between these staff and those based in capital cities?</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
79	EEC-AE21-79	Written	Bridget McKenzie	25/03/2021		Safe Work Australia	Staffing profile and home-based work	<p>1. How many staff does SWA have working in capital cities, including Canberra?</p> <p>2. Does SWA have any staff based in regional or rural locations?</p> <p>a. If yes, how many?</p> <p>b. What percentage of SWA's staff are based in capital cities, as opposed to regional and rural locations?</p> <p>3. How many staff worked from home for the period of October 2020 to March 2021?</p> <p>4. Responding to question 2, how does SWA intend to maintain the static level of productivity when staff return to the office?</p> <p>a. Apart from the two self-assessed surveys, does SWA use any other methods to measure productivity levels?</p> <p>b. Why did working hours and workload increase during this period?</p> <p>c. How does SWA intend on combatting the increased workload?</p> <p>d. What opportunity exists for SWA to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>5. Responding to question 3, figures show that personal/sick-days taken reduced by 48% in 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. What does SWA attribute this to?</p> <p>a. How does SWA intend to maintain the reduction in personal leave/sick-days taken?</p> <p>b. If SWA has staff based in regional or rural locations, is there a comparison of personal leave/sick-days taken between these staff and those based in capital cities?</p>	7/05/2021
80	EEC-AE21-80	Written	Malcolm Roberts	25/03/2021		Coal Mining Industry Long Service	Repayment of bulk sums to employers	The data you provided me with covering the past few years shows that you repay bulk sums to employers including	7/05/2021
81	EEC-AE21-81	Written	Malcolm Roberts	25/03/2021		Coal Mining Industry Long Service	Discrepancies in payments	I have seen a number of discrepancies in the data you provided including payments made to an accounting business	7/05/2021
82	EEC-AE21-82	Written	Malcolm Roberts	25/03/2021		Coal Mining Industry Long Service	Transactions with non-mining entities	I note in some instances that the businesses registered with Coal LSL do not seem to operate on mine sites and/or	7/05/2021
83	EEC-AE21-83	Written	Malcolm Roberts	25/03/2021		Coal Mining Industry Long Service	Union bosses or board members/mining	There seems to be a question that some union bosses and or board member mining executives may have shares or	7/05/2021
84	EEC-AE21-84	Written	Malcolm Roberts	25/03/2021		Coal Mining Industry Long Service	Payments by unregistered businesses	You seem to be happy to take money from unregistered businesses, why and what is this for? Why do you continue	7/05/2021
85	EEC-AE21-85	Written	Malcolm Roberts	25/03/2021		Coal Mining Industry Long Service	Coal LSL governance	Coal LSL governance seems to be 'patchy', why is this so and what has been done since the last round of estimates	7/05/2021
86	EEC-AE21-86	Written	Malcolm Roberts	25/03/2021		Coal Mining Industry Long Service	Treatment of casuals	From our recent discussion, I note that a casual employee working the same weekly shifts as a permanent employee	7/05/2021
87	EEC-AE21-87	Written	Malcolm Roberts	25/03/2021		Coal Mining Industry Long Service	Coal LSL guidance note on treatment of	The above in question 7 is all based on a Coal LSL guidance note which interprets the act. Given the potential for su	7/05/2021
88	EEC-AE21-88	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Safe Work Australia	Silicosis	<p>1. What is the current progress of state and territory workplace health and safety agencies in encouraging or enforcing compliance with the Managing the risks of respirable crystalline silica from engineered stone in the workplace code?</p> <p>2. What, if any, contribution has the implementation of the code made towards reducing the incidence of dust diseases among workers working with engineered stone?</p> <p>3. Is Safe Work Australia aware of any progress on the development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • national guidance on screening workers working on engineered stone products as per recommendation 4 of the National Dust Disease Taskforce interim report? • A national dust disease registry as per recommendation 2 of the report? <p>4. How does Safe Work Australia intend to use the data from these processes when available? Will it feed into further development or refinement of the code?</p> <p>5. Is Safe Work Australia involved in the development of a National Prevention Strategy as per recommendation 1 of the Taskforce's interim report and if so what is the progress of the development of this strategy?</p>	7/05/2021
89	EEC-AE21-89	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Safe Work Australia	Gig workers	<p>1. Please provide the guidance produced with respect to delivery rider safety.</p> <p>2. Please identify and provide any research, analysis, modelling, submissions, correspondence or any other information which was referenced, utilised or otherwise the basis for the content of the guidance it has produced with respect to delivery rider safety?</p> <p>3. Please advise the feedback it received from Members at its April meeting with respect to the guidance on delivery rider safety?</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
90	EEC-AE21-90	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Use of Fair Entitlements Guarantee to f	<p>In regards to any precedence set by Ovato's use of the Fair Entitlements Guarantee to fund a restructuring arrangement, in his evidence to the Committee Mr Hehir said: "But as I said, we are looking at it. It was the first time we'd seen that arrangement. We're certainly looking at it from a policy context".</p> <p>Further, Mr Hehir said "but it does draw a deeper policy question in terms of FEG and that's the policy question we're looking at".</p> <p>Given the evidence of Mr Hehir stated the use of the scheme in that way was legal, can you please provide further information as to what alternate policy options the Department might be considering?</p>	7/05/2021
91	EEC-AE21-91	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Gig workers	<p>1. In the Department's evidence it was stated that the former Attorney-General had rider safety added as a priority agenda item for the coming meeting of workplace health and safety ministers of the Commonwealth, states and territory which is coming up on 15 April.</p> <p>What specifically did the former Attorney-General put to the ministers' meeting to support adding rider safety as a priority agenda item?</p> <p>2. Could the Department share any correspondence or direction it has received from the Attorney-General with respect to undertaking research, policy or legislative work on worker status, safety, rights or entitlements in the gig economy?</p> <p>3. Could the Department share any research, analysis, modelling, correspondence or recommendations it has produced with respect to regulating worker safety, status, rights or entitlements in the gig economy?</p>	7/05/2021
92	EEC-AE21-92	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Wage underpayments	What actions are available against either the publisher or author of 'blacklists' published online which identify wor	7/05/2021
93	EEC-AE21-93	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	FWC Deputy President Gerard Boyce	Has the Department or the Attorney-General received any formal or informal correspondence, either verbally or w	7/05/2021
94	EEC-AE21-94	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Black economy taskforce	<p>1. Has the Department ever undertaken any work, modelling, analysis, research or policy development with respect to implementing the recommendations of both the Productivity Commission and the Black Economy Taskforce, that the test of 'recklessness' in the Fair Work Act should be lowered to a test of 'reasonableness'?</p> <p>2. Has the Department ever been asked, or received any correspondence, from the Attorney-General with respect to implementing these recommendations?</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
95	EEC-AE21-95	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	National Labour Hire registration scheme	<p>1. In the past year there have been terrible stories and reports about the exploitation of horticultural workers. The National Secretary of the Australian Workers Union, Daniel Walton, "From violence to harassment, to passports being taken off, to forced slavery, to 76 workers living in a single house, forced to work 12-hour days, seven days a week." We have also heard of blueberry pickers earning \$3 an hour.</p> <p>It has now been two years since the Migrant Workers Taskforce Report made 22 recommendations, one of which was to establish a National Labour Hire Registration Scheme – focussed on labour hire operators in four high risk industry sectors including horticulture.</p> <p>Last October in response to questions the Department claimed that, contrary to the concerns of the report's authors, that work was underway to implement this recommendation, but could not tell Senators exactly what work had been done.</p> <p>Almost six months later, what progress has been made towards establishing the Scheme, and when will it be up and running?</p> <p>2. Has this Scheme been established?</p> <p>3. If not – why not?</p> <p>4. What, if any progress has been made?</p> <p>5. Why does it take two years to set up a scheme that might stop some of this rampant and disgraceful exploitation happening?</p> <p>6. When do you expect the Scheme to start?</p> <p>7. What is the cost of the Scheme? How much has been spent to date on setting up the scheme?</p>	7/05/2021
96	EEC-AE21-96	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Comcare	Complaint investigations	<p>1. How does Comcare determine whether to pursue an investigation once a workplace incident has been reported?</p> <p>2. Please provide an outline of the process followed by Comcare following a notification or complaint in a workplace.</p> <p>3. What is the average length of time taken to complete a Comcare investigation over the last three (3) year period – from complaint to final report?</p> <p>4. What is the average length of time taken to determine whether or not to launch an investigation into a workplace incident over the last three (3) year period?</p> <p>5. Once commenced, what is the average length of time taken to conduct an investigation over the last three (3) year period?</p>	7/05/2021
97	EEC-AE21-97	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Comcare	Complaints against Deputy President Gerard Boyce	<p>1. When did Comcare commence and conclude its investigation into the matter relating to Deputy President Gerard Boyce of the Fair Work Commission displaying erotic figurines in his office?</p> <p>2. Can Comcare provide the final report on the matter and the conclusions</p> <p>3. With respect to Comcare's investigation into the conduct of Fair Work Commission Deputy President Gerard Boyce, could Comcare advise the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the current status of the investigation? • Has Comcare interviewed Mr Boyce, and if not, does Comcare intend to interview him? • Has Comcare interviewed anyone else, and if so, who? • Does Comcare intend to interview anyone else, and if so, who? • How many witnesses were present at the incident in question? • Was anyone injured (either physically or psychologically), or otherwise adversely impacted by the incident in question, and could the nature of those injuries or impacts be provided? • Are NSW Police or any other entity other than Comcare also investigating the incident? 	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
 Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
 Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
98	EEC-AE21-98	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Comcare	Complaints against a Doctor used by Co	With respect to the Doctor who has been subject of 66 complaints since 2000, please Comcare advise: 1. On what date was Comcare first made aware of any of the 66 complaints which have been made against the Doctor? 2. On what date was his engagement by Comcare terminated? 3. How many cases or claims did the Doctor provide an assessment for between when Comcare was made aware of any of the 66 complaints, and when it terminated their engagement? 4. How many total cases or claims has the Doctor been involved with? 5. What proportion of these cases or claims were rejected, and how does this compare to the average? 6. Is Comcare reviewing its decisions on cases or claims which have relied on or otherwise referenced an assessment made by the Doctor? 7. What changes has Comcare made, or is Comcare planning to make, to its systems to ensure that a Doctor subject to numerous complaints cannot continue to assess claims?	7/05/2021
99	EEC-AE21-99	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Comcare	Psychological injury	1. On average, what proportion of claims for psychological injury are approved? 2. How does this compare to the proportion of claims which are approved for physical injury or disease? 3. On average, how many independent medical exams (IMEs) are claimants for psychological injury required to undergo? 4. How does this compare to the number of IMEs claimants for physical injury or disease are required to undergo? 5. On average, how many different doctors or psychiatrists are claimants for psychological injury required to visit for an IME? 6. How does this compare to the number of different doctors claimants for psychological injury are required to visit for an IME? 7. Does the assessment process, criteria or threshold for psychological injury differ to that for physical injury or disease, and if so, how? 8. How many doctors or psychiatrists were flown from interstate or overseas to conduct an IME for a psychological injury in the 19/20 financial year? 9. Does Comcare allow for female claimants to request to see a female doctor rather than a male doctor? 10. Has Comcare ever created a list of preferred doctors or psychiatrists, or has Comcare ever recommended or directed the use of specific doctors or psychiatrists to self-insured licensees or insurers? If so, could this list or correspondence be provided to the Committee? 11. Could Comcare advise of the circumstances in which it requires claimants to obtain IMEs from different doctors?	7/05/2021
100	EEC-AE21-100	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Fair Work Ombudsman	Blacklisting	1. What actions are available to the Fair Work Ombudsman against either the publisher or author of 'blacklists' published online which identify workers who have spoken out about underpayments or other breaches of the Fair Work Act? 2. Has the Ombudsman ever undertaken any investigation or action with respect to online blacklisting, and if so, what action? 3. Has the Ombudsman ever developed any research, analysis or recommendations on the use of online blacklisting, or how it could be addressed, and if so could these be provided? 4. Could the Fair Work Ombudsman provide an update on its investigation into FunTea and related entities?	7/05/2021
101	EEC-AE21-101	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Fair Work Ombudsman	Underpayments at Crown	1. How many potentially impacted workers have been identified? 2. How many potentially impacted workers have been contacted by the FWO? 3. How many potentially impacted workers have the FWO been unable to contact? 4. How many potentially impacted workers were working for Crown on temporary visas? 5. How many potentially impacted workers no longer work for Crown? 6. How many potentially impacted workers no longer reside in Australia?	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
102	EEC-AE21-102	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Fair Work Ombudsman	Third party auditors	1. Which firms does the FWO engage as third-party auditors? 2. Does the FWO ensure that any third-party auditors it engages to review underpayments information provided by companies, are not separately engaged by the company as their auditor? 3. Which firm has been engaged to conduct third-party auditing for the Crown underpayments investigation?	7/05/2021
103	EEC-AE21-103	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Fair Work Ombudsman	Non-public investigations of underpayment	At the September hearings of the Senate Standing Committee on Economics' Inquiry into the Unlawful Underpayment of Employees' Remuneration, Fair Work Ombudsman Sandra Parker said the FWO was investigating 70 large corporations for underpayments, but only around 30 were in the public record. 1. How many are now being investigated? 2. How many are now on the public record? 3. Could you provide a list of all those on the public record? 4. Have any of these investigations been completed, and if so, what were the outcomes?	7/05/2021
104	EEC-AE21-104	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Fair Work Ombudsman	National Disability Insurance Scheme	On 21 September 2020, the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission sent out a provider alert stating that FWO had alerted them that a number of NDIS providers were not complying with their obligations under the Fair Work Act, please provide the following: a. The names of providers the FWO had raised with the NDIS Quality and Safety Commission b. The nature of their breaches under the Fair Work Act; c. The amounts in unpaid entitlements if any by provider; d. Any other relevant findings or recommendations	7/05/2021
105	EEC-AE21-105	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Registered Organisations Comm	Financial penalties against employer as	1. How much in financial penalties has the ROC obtained against employer associations since its inception?	7/05/2021
106	EEC-AE21-106	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Registered Organisations Comm	Consultants	1. How much has the ROC spent on consultants of any discipline in the 2020-21 financial year to-date? 2. What services have these consultants been engaged to provide? 3. What outcomes have been delivered through this spend?	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
107	EEC-AE21-107	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Australian Building and Construction	Recovery of unpaid wages and superannuation	<p>1. How much in unpaid wages (exclusive of superannuation) has the ABCC recovered in the following financial years:</p> <p>a. 2020-2021 (to date)</p> <p>b. 2019-2020</p> <p>c. 2018-2019</p> <p>d. 2017-2018</p> <p>e. 2016-2017</p> <p>f. 2015-2016</p> <p>2. How much in interest lost on unpaid wages has the ABCC recovered in the following financial years:</p> <p>a. 2020-2021 (to date)</p> <p>b. 2019-2020</p> <p>c. 2018-2019</p> <p>d. 2017-2018</p> <p>e. 2016-2017</p> <p>f. 2015-2016</p> <p>3. For how many workers has the ABCC recovered unpaid wages (exclusive of superannuation) for in the following financial years:</p> <p>a. 2020-2021 (to date)</p> <p>b. 2019-2020</p> <p>c. 2018-2019</p> <p>d. 2017-2018</p> <p>e. 2016-2017</p> <p>f. 2015-2016</p> <p>4. How much in unpaid superannuation has the ABCC recovered in the following financial years:</p> <p>a. 2020-2021 (to date)</p> <p>b. 2019-2020</p> <p>c. 2018-2019</p> <p>d. 2017-2018</p> <p>e. 2016-2017</p> <p>f. 2015-2016</p>	7/05/2021
108	EEC-AE21-108	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Australian Building and Construction	Lowering the 'recklessness' test in the Fair Work Act	<p>1. Has the ABCC ever undertaken any research, modelling or analysis, with respect to the recommendations of both the Productivity Commission and the Black Economy Taskforce, that the 'recklessness' test in the Fair Work Act for sham contracting should be lowered to a test of reasonableness, on whether this would enable the ABCC to more effectively prosecute sham contracting?</p> <p>2. Has the ABCC ever had any form of correspondence with the Government, the Attorney-General, the Attorney-General's Office, or the Attorney-General's Department, about the recommendations of the Productivity Commission and the Black Economy Taskforce with respect to lowering the 'recklessness' test in the Fair Work Act for sham contracting?</p>	7/05/2021
109	EEC-AE21-109	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Australian Building and Construction	Unpaid superannuation wage theft	<p>1. According to Australian Taxation Office figures, non-payments of the superannuation guarantee in the construction industry make up 15.4 percent of all complaints per industry. This is consistently the second highest only to the food and accommodation industry. What is the ABCC doing to combat this form of wage theft?</p> <p>2. Given this appears to be a persistent issue in the industry along with other forms of underpayments in the industry, doesn't this indicate the ABCC is not allocating sufficient resources to combat wage theft in all its forms in the construction industry?</p> <p>3. Is the ABCC working with the ATO on this issue?</p> <p>4. What meetings have you had with the ATO on this issue?</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
110	EEC-AE21-110	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Fair Work Commission	Deputy President Gerard Boyce and the	<p>1. Was an incident report developed and could this be shared with the Committee?</p> <p>2. Was there any physical or psychological injury reported to NSW Police, the Commission, Comcare or Safe Work as a result of this incident? What is the process by which Members of the Commission can be removed?</p> <p>3. If a Member of the Commission is convicted of a criminal offence, are they disqualified from their role?</p> <p>4. Did any other Members or senior officials of the Commission attend Mr Boyce's social event, and if yes, who?</p> <p>5. Are any other Members or senior officials of the Commission being investigated for participating in the setting off of firecrackers, and if yes, who?</p> <p>6. Has the Commission received any correspondence or direction from the Government, the Attorney General, the Attorney General's office, or the Attorney General's department with respect to the repeated instances of misconduct by Mr Boyce?</p> <p>7. Has the President of the Fair Work Commission spoken with Mr Boyce directly regarding his conduct in this incident or any previous incident?</p>	7/05/2021
111	EEC-AE21-111	Written	Don Farrell	25/03/2021		Fair Work Commission	Deputy President Gerard Boyce, erotic	<p>1. In line with the recommendations of the Comcare report into Mr Boyce's display of lewd figurines, has Mr Boyce undertaken all of the training recommended in the report?</p> <p>2. Could a full list of the training Mr Boyce was required to undertake be shared, together with detail on which training has or hasn't been undertaken?</p>	7/05/2021
112	EEC-AE21-112	Written	Kimberley Kitching	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Engagement with Services Australia	<p>1. Did the department/agency engage with Services Australia in any capacity in the 2019-20 financial year? If yes, please provide full particulars.</p> <p>2. Has the department/agency engaged with Services Australia in any capacity in the current financial year to 31 March 2021? If yes, please provide full particulars.</p> <p>3. In the 2019-20 financial year, did the department/agency supply services or information to Services Australia? If yes, please provide full particulars.</p> <p>4. In the current financial year to 31 March 2021, has the department/agency supplied services or information to Services Australia? If yes, please provide full particulars.</p> <p>5. Does the department/agency employ technology or apps for users to access its services? If yes, did/does Services Australia have any involvement in the creation, development or ongoing maintenance of that technology or those apps? Please provide full particulars.</p> <p>6. Does the department/agency receive data, statistics or research information from Services Australia? If yes, please provide full particulars.</p>	7/05/2021
113	EEC-AE21-113	Written	Jacqui Lambie	25/03/2021		Comcare	Number of claims made for workplace-	<p>For the previous calendar year, please provide the following information by Commonwealth department: *</p> <p>a. the number of claims for workplace-related injury or illness;</p> <p>b. the number claims for which liability has been accepted; and</p> <p>c. the amount paid in relation to those claims.</p> <p>* if this data is not available for administrative or privacy reasons, please provide as much information as is feasible. For example, if some Commonwealth departments received a small number of claims in the previous year, please only disclose information for departments that received more than five claims.</p>	7/05/2021
114	EEC-AE21-114	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Executive Management	<p>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:</p> <p>a. The total number of executive management positions</p> <p>b. The aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.</p> <p>c. The change in the number of executive manager positions.</p> <p>d. The change in aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.</p>	14/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
 Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
 Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
115	EEC-AE21-115	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	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, 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.	14/05/2021
116	EEC-AE21-116	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	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. 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.	14/05/2021
117	EEC-AE21-117	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Staff travel	1. What is the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31	14/05/2021
118	EEC-AE21-118	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Legal costs	1. What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019	14/05/2021
119	EEC-AE21-119	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	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	14/05/2021
120	EEC-AE21-120	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Departmental staff allowances	1. Can a list of Departmental/agency allowances and reimbursements available to employees be provided.	14/05/2021
121	EEC-AE21-121	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	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 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.	14/05/2021
122	EEC-AE21-122	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	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. 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.	14/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
123	EEC-AE21-123	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	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. 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.	14/05/2021
124	EEC-AE21-124	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	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. 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.	14/05/2021
125	EEC-AE21-125	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	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. 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.	14/05/2021
126	EEC-AE21-126	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	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.	14/05/2021
127	EEC-AE21-127	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	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.	14/05/2021
128	EEC-AE21-128	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	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. 2. Which services were utilised. Can an itemised list be provided.	14/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
129	EEC-AE21-129	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Staffing	1. How many full-time equivalent staff are engaged at each of 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020 10 November 2020. 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. 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. 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 to date.	14/05/2021
130	EEC-AE21-130	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Fair Work Commission	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.	14/05/2021
131	EEC-AE21-131	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Fair Work Ombudsman	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.	14/05/2021
132	EEC-AE21-132	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Office of the Merit Protection Commission	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.	14/05/2021
133	EEC-AE21-133	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	Public Interest Disclosures	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.	14/05/2021
134	EEC-AE21-134	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	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.	14/05/2021
135	EEC-AE21-135	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Attorney-General's Department	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 10 November 2020.	14/05/2021
136	SQ21-000026	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	112	Department of Industry, Science and Technology	Reduced protections for Small Business	Senator O'NEILL: That's right. Mr Billson went into that role, which he didn't declare here, and he was the executive chairman of the Franchise Council of Australia. He was already working for them before he left here in parliament. That's why we've been discussing why he was censured. Did Mr Billson as chairman of the franchise lobby make any representations to the government that reduced protections for small businesses? Senator Cash: I would need to take that on notice for you. But you can also ask him—he will be here later on today. But I will take that on notice for you.	7/05/2021
137	SQ21-000027	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	123	Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Adviser	Franchise Council of Australia dates	Senator O'NEILL: The report says: The committee also observes that the FCA opposed almost all the recommendations submitted to this inquiry by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. You were the executive chairman of that association. How much were you paid while you were a member of parliament from the Franchise Council of Australia? Mr Billson: I wasn't paid at all during that time, but I was commencing the role as a director and received remuneration. Sorry. I don't know the exact dates. I can find out. But the role as executive chairman attracted an annual director's fee of \$75,000 a year. It was a role that I took on with lots of encouragement, including from Labor, and it was widely published in every media outlet going around. My error, an error I'm happy to own up to, was the next action step to lodge the paperwork with the House to convey formally an announcement that was known, publicised and, in fact, welcomed from people across the parliament. That's my error. I own that error. I apologise for that error. The attribution of a whole range of other mischief was factually incorrect, able to be made under parliamentary privilege with no opportunity for me to correct the record. And when the committee came out and found none of those allegations were substantiated by the committee was there ever a retraction of those allegations? I'm afraid not.	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
138	SQ21-000028	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	124	Australian Small Business and Fa	Resignation of Chairman of Franchise C	<p>Senator O'NEILL: I'm just trying to understand Mr Billson's role at the FCA. He has indicated that he got that initial stipend and then a further additional role and monetary compensation. Is it also correct, Mr Billson, that from the FCA you received an additional payment to your personal consultancy firm during the time that you worked there?</p> <p>Mr Billson: No, that's incorrect. The dates and my period of activity are not as you describe them either. I was with the FCA I think for under three years. I think you suggested that I was there last year. That's not correct.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: So when did you resign as the chairman of the FCA?</p> <p>Mr Billson: I think that was well publicised. Let me have a quick look, if I may, at the material that I have brought along in anticipation of the question. It would have been in 2018—I think the summer of 2018. The exact date—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: You can take it on notice, thank you very much. Mr Billson: You're welcome.</p>	7/05/2021
139	SQ21-000029	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	130	Australian Small Business and Fa	Child care assistance for women in sma	<p>Senator O'NEILL: I have a couple of questions here with regard to women and business owners. I think this is a very important issue, particularly for women. I think that it deserves some attention. Ms Carnell urged the government in February to reform the childcare system, including making it more tax effective or by phasing in an expanded subsidy scheme. Her words were that it is 'essential to support women in small business'. The way that the current childcare subsidy scheme is structured means that the second income earner—frequently a woman, who might start their own small business—could actually have to pay to work additional hours because taxes and the cost of child care add up to more than their take-home pay. Labor announced a plan where, were we to win the next election, the subsidy rate would be increased to reduce the subsidy tapering. That would mean that when parents' earnings go up they would retain the higher subsidy and, therefore, increase the tax that they pay. As the ombudsman in this role now, would you support your predecessor Kate Carnell's advocacy to make child care more efficient to support women in small business?</p> <p>Mr Billson: I can't give you that assurance because I'm not across the detail.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Are you aware of the problem, Mr Billson?</p> <p>Mr Billson: I am absolutely aware of it. Thank you. I'm also aware that most of the feedback that I've received in my various roles as a champion of small business and child care was about flexibility—around occasional-care access and around hours of support well outside the centre based care arrangements. That has been my feedback.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: All of those things clearly matter, but my question goes to the cost as well and the cost-incentive ratio that drives people to invest in their own small businesses, grow them and grow the jobs that flow from that. There are women leading this—</p> <p>Mr Billson: I understand the context. I was just sharing with you my lack of expertise around the particular thing that you were asking—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: You can take that on notice. Mr Billson: Certainly.</p>	7/05/2021
140	SQ21-000030	Hansard	Deborah O'Neill	25/03/2021	110	Department of Industry, Science	Appointment of Mr Bruce Wilson	<p>Senator O'NEILL: Was the Prime Minister aware at the time that you were requesting the appointment of Mr Bruce Billson?</p> <p>Senator Cash: I would need to take that on notice to see what point in time—I'd need to take that on notice for you.</p>	7/05/2021
141	SQ21-000100	Written	Katy Gallagher	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Fa	Staffing profile - ASBFEO	<p>1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APS ongoing: headcount and ASL; • APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL; • Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and • Other contractors.; headcount and FTE <p>2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount.</p> <p>3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.</p>	7/05/2021
142	SQ21-000101	Written	Katy Gallagher	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Fa	Working from home - ASBFEO	<p>1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020?</p> <p>2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.</p>	7/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
143	SQ21-000102	Written	Bridget McKenzie	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Development	ASBFEO Staffing	Follow-Up Question On Notice To SQ20-001689 1. How many staff does ASBFEO have working in capital cities, including Canberra? 2. Does ASBFEO have any staff based in regional or rural locations? a. If yes, how many? b. What percentage of ASBFEO's staff are based in capital cities, as opposed to regional and rural locations? 3. How many staff worked from home for the period of October 2020 to March 2021, including the senior management team? 4. Responding to question 2, given that small businesses have needed more support than ever during this time, have staff workloads increased? a. How does ASBFEO intend to maintain or increase its current productivity level when staff return to working from the office? b. What opportunity exists for ASBFEO to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic? 5. Can the ASBFEO provide personal leave/sick-days data for the COVID-19 lockdown period in 2020?	7/05/2021
144	SQ21-000103	Written	Alex Gallacher	25/03/2021		Department of Industry, Science and Technology	Analysis of the impact of ending JobKeeper	Did the department undertake any analysis of the impact of ending JobKeeper on small business?	7/05/2021
145	SQ21-000104	Written	Alex Gallacher	25/03/2021		Department of Industry, Science and Technology	Appointment of Small Business Ombudsman	Did the department provide advice to the Minister about recruiting the next Small Business Ombudsman before the end of the financial year?	7/05/2021
146	SQ21-000164	Written	Kimberley Kitching	25/03/2021		Department of Industry, Science and Technology	Services Australia	1. Did the department/agency engage with Services Australia in any capacity in the 2019-20 financial year? If yes, please provide full particulars. 2. Has the department/agency engaged with Services Australia in any capacity in the current financial year to 31 March 2021? If yes, please provide full particulars. 3. In the 2019-20 financial year, did the department/agency supply services or information to Services Australia? If yes, please provide full particulars. 4. In the current financial year to 31 March 2021, has the department/agency supplied services or information to Services Australia? If yes, please provide full particulars. 5. Does the department/agency employ technology or apps for users to access its services? If yes, did/does Services Australia have any involvement in the creation, development or ongoing maintenance of that technology or those apps? Please provide full particulars. 6. Does the department/agency receive data, statistics or research information from Services Australia? If yes, please provide full particulars.	7/05/2021
147	SQ21-000174	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Development	Executive Management - ASBFEO	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: 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.	14/05/2021
148	SQ21-000177	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Development	Ministerial functions - ASBFEO	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, 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.	14/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
149	SQ21-000180	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Support	Ministerial meals - ASBFEO	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, 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.	14/05/2021
150	SQ21-000183	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Support	Departmental functions - ASBFEO	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, 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.	14/05/2021
151	SQ21-000187	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Support	Facilities upgrades - ASBFEO	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. 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.	14/05/2021
152	SQ21-000190	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Support	Staff travel - ASBFEO	1. 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.	14/05/2021
153	SQ21-000201	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Support	Legal costs - ASBFEO	1. 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.	14/05/2021
154	SQ21-000205	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Support	Briefings to independents and minor parties	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	14/05/2021
155	SQ21-000209	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Support	Departmental staff allowances - ASBFEO	1. Can a list of Departmental/agency allowances and reimbursements available to employees be provided.	14/05/2021
156	SQ21-000212	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Support	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 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.	14/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
157	SQ21-000215	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Fa	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. 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.	14/05/2021
158	SQ21-000218	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Fa	Promotional merchandise - ASBFEO	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. 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.	14/05/2021
159	SQ21-000221	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Fa	Collateral materials - ASBFEO	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. 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.	14/05/2021
160	SQ21-000224	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Fa	Ministerial overseas travel - ASBFEO	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 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.	14/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
161	SQ21-000227	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Development	Ministerial domestic travel - ASBFEO	<p>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 please be provided including:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>e. Any available photographs documenting the Minister's travel should also be provided.</p>	14/05/2021
162	SQ21-000230	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Development	Social media influencers - ASBFEO	<p>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.</p> <p>2. What advertising or information campaigns did the Department/agency use social media influencers to promote.</p> <p>3. Can a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts please be provided.</p> <p>4. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts please be provided.</p>	14/05/2021
163	SQ21-000233	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Development	Commissioned Reports and Reviews - ASBFEO	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, how many Reports or Reviews have been commissioned. Please provide details of each report including:</p> <p>a. Date commissioned.</p> <p>b. Date report handed to Government.</p> <p>c. Date of public release.</p> <p>d. Terms of Reference.</p> <p>e. Committee members and/or Reviewers.</p> <p>2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost.</p> <p>3. The background and credentials of the Review personnel.</p> <p>4. The remuneration arrangements applicable to the Review personnel, including fees, disbursements and travel.</p> <p>5. The cost of any travel attached to the conduct of the Review.</p> <p>6. How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level.</p> <p>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.</p>	14/05/2021
164	SQ21-000236	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Development	Board appointments - ASBFEO	<p>1. Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</p> <p>2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio</p> <p>3. Please detail any board appointments made from 30 June 2020 to date.</p> <p>4. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid.</p> <p>5. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors.</p> <p>6. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors.</p>	14/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
165	SQ21-000240	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise	Media monitoring - ASBFEO	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. 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. 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.	14/05/2021
166	SQ21-000243	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise	Communications staff - ASBFEO	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.	14/05/2021
167	SQ21-000248	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise	Congestion busting - ASBFEO	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.	14/05/2021
168	SQ21-000251	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise	Recruitment - ASBFEO	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. 2. Which services were utilised. Can an itemised list be provided.	14/05/2021
169	SQ21-000254	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise	Staffing - ASBFEO	1. How many full-time equivalent staff are engaged at each of 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020 10 November 2020. 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. 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. 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 to date.	14/05/2021
170	SQ21-000258	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise	Fair Work Commission - ASBFEO	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.	14/05/2021
171	SQ21-000261	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise	Fair Work Ombudsman - ASBFEO	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.	14/05/2021
172	SQ21-000264	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise	Office of the Merit Protection Commission - ASBFEO	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.	14/05/2021
173	SQ21-000267	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise	Public Interest Disclosures - ASBFEO	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.	14/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
174	SQ21-000270	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Growth Centre	Travel and expense claim policy - ASBFEO	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.	14/05/2021
175	SQ21-000273	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Growth Centre	Declarations of interest - ASBFEO	1. Please produce a copy of all relevant policies. 2. Please produce a copy of the register of declarations of interest as at 10 November 2020.	14/05/2021
176	SQ21-000276	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Growth Centre	Declarations of gifts and hospitality - ASBFEO	1. Please produce a copy of all relevant policies. 2. Please produce a copy of the register of declarations of gifts as at 10 November 2020.	14/05/2021
177	SQ21-000280	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Department of Industry, Science and Technology	FOI - ASBFEO	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 refused 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 OAI; and b. The number of times has the OAI 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 APS6s, one SES) for each of the following years: a. 2013-14; b. 2014-15; c. 2015-16; d. 2016-17;	14/05/2021
178	SQ21-000281	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Department of Industry, Science and Technology	Appointments – briefs prepared - ASBFEO	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.	14/05/2021
179	SQ21-000286	Written	Kristina Keneally	25/03/2021		Department of Industry, Science and Technology	Departmental equipment - ASBFEO	What was the estimated value of all Departmental equipment that was lost, damaged, stolen or written off during	14/05/2021

Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
Last updated: 4 May 2021

QON No	PDR No	Hansard / Written	Question Submitted By	Hearing Date	Proof Hansard Page	Department or Agency	Subject	Full Question Text	Date Due
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Education and Employment Committee 2020-21 Additional estimates - Questions on Notice Index
Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
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Employment and Industrial Relations matters, including Small Business
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