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Portfolio Question No	Department Or Agency	Senator	Topic	Question Text	Written Hansard	Proof Hansard Page
SQ24-000001	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Answer to SQ23-000872	<p>Mr Cook: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Senator. I was about to say that once we realised what the concern was, I reviewed both those questions. We have copies, I think, of revised answers in relation to both questions that were raised with us. The confusion we had in relation to the matter was we sought advice from the secretariat about the questions becoming unanswered. We didn't understand how an answer was now categorised as unanswered. We were seeking some procedural advice to help us with responding to the question. We hadn't received that procedural advice. We don't understand a question becoming unanswered. We didn't know whether there was a standing order issue that we needed to be aware of. We have now revised both those questions. We have provided the information. It was an error on my behalf, on the department's behalf. I am happy to accept that. We have now provided that. I think we brought copies. The reason is that I wanted to ensure that the questions were correctly answered.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, you have referred to both questions. We need to clarify. This is both the Yadha Muru—</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Henderson, I am not cutting across your questions. I want to get copies of those responses for the committee.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: This is the Yadha Muru partnership agreement and the—</p> <p>Mr Cook: So 1153 I have.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: And Senator Brockman's question, which is 000872.</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: The question was in relation to how</p>	Hansard	4-5

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				<p>many eligible providers the department sent invitations to— Mr Cook: That's correct. Senator HENDERSON: in the first round of the \$72.4 million workforce subsidies as part of the workforce professional development work. You've responded that it's not in the public interest. Mr Cook, what concerns me about your responses—you have admitted that it is an error—is that it appears to be a response that anyone in the department would know is not within the rules of the Senate. How did that error occur? Mr Cook: Senator, I don't know. I'm happy to take that on notice. I didn't answer the question. When the concern was raised by the secretariat, I took it upon myself to review those questions. We have now provided the response to those questions.</p>		
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SQ24-000002	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Number of FOI applications with charges imposed	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, I note with concern that I made a particular FOI application and the department sought to impose charges on me, which I believe was an attempt to shut down the FOI application. What is your policy in relation to FOI charges with respect to applications made to the department? I've made subsequent FOI applications where you haven't sought or suggested that you will charge me. Could you please provide some insight into that? As part of the accountability of the government, the FOI process is a very important process. I am very concerned that a department with your level of resources, budget and scale has sought to charge any individual. Could you please update the committee on what your position is on FOI charges?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure. Thank you very much for the question, Senator. I will ask Ms Davin, who basically oversees our FOI process, to give details. To the best of my understanding, unless Ms Davin corrects me otherwise, I think it is legislated in relation to charging. We basically are following the law. In terms of, again, having worked in many states and other jurisdictions, it is the same policy in relation to that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, because we have limited time, I ask you to answer my specific question. What is the department's policy, please?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Cook: Thank you, Chair. Senator, I am sorry. I do understand what you are saying about it being directly relevant to the question. Again, my understanding is that it is a legislative requirement. I will ask Ms Davin to provide detail in relation to the charging.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, I have a follow-up question. I understand the legislation. What is your department's approach to charges? How many applicants since the election of this government have been hit with an FOI</p>	Hansard	7-8
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				<p>charge?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Is that a new question, Senator? You didn't ask that originally.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I asked what your policy is in relation to charges imposed on individuals referencing the fact that there is a proposed charge against me. How many times has this occurred?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Against you or against anyone who has applied for an FOI?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No. Any individual.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Thank you. I will hand to Ms Davin.</p> <p>Ms Davin: The department imposes charges consistent with the statutory regime under the FOI act and the regulations. That provides for circumstances where the department is not able to charge—for example, where an applicant is seeking their own personal information. Of course, the department has a discretion not to charge.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: The question was actually on how many applications the department has proposed to charge an applicant.</p> <p>Ms Davin: I'm happy to take that on notice. I don't have the specific figure with me, I don't think.</p>		
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SQ24-000003	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Correspondence and communication between the department and agencies on answers to QoNs	<p>Senator HENDERSON:Secretary, I draw your attention to your response to a question on notice, which is SQ23-000922, where we sought statistics on the number of FOIs received, processed and granted from the minister's office. The answer provided by the department referred to quarterly and annual statistical returns the agency provides to the Information Commissioner and directed me to the Information Commissioner's website. Who in your department is responsible or was responsible for preparing this response?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Senator, it would have been our corporate area. I think the issue might be that we don't manage ministerial FOIs. Again, I will seek some advice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Which executive cleared that response?</p> <p>Mr Markovic: Senator, that would have been me. It would have been prepared by our FOI area and cleared by me.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Cleared by you?</p> <p>Mr Markovic: Senator, I'm responsible for clearing the cross-portfolio QONs for the department.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Did you or another officer in your department provide advice to the Australian Research Council or to TEQSA to align their responses with your response? What I am concerned about is there's identical wording used in these responses. It looks like you are conferring with these agencies in these responses.</p> <p>Mr Markovic: Senator, I did not provide advice to our portfolio entities on how to answer this question, no.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So how come we have identical wording?</p> <p>Mr Markovic: Senator, I can't explain. I've answered the previous question. I did not provide advice to those agencies about responding.</p>	Hansard	8-9
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				<p>Senator HENDERSON: Did anyone in the department?</p> <p>Mr Markovic: Senator, not to my knowledge. When we get the questions on notice, they're given out to the entities. Obviously people have visibility of the QONs and how they are being answered. From time to time, answers will be shared. But certainly we don't direct any of our portfolio entities about how they should answer a question on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I didn't ask that question. I am concerned that there is inappropriate communication between the department and other agencies or bodies. It is just too much of a coincidence that the same wording is being used. I ask you on notice to provide us with correspondence and communications in relation to those FOI claims.</p> <p>Mr Markovic: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you come back to the committee? Someone has been inappropriately dealing with those agencies. As I say, it's—</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Well, you don't know that. You can't say that, Senator Henderson.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: There has been communication.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: You don't know that. They have said they will take it on notice. You shouldn't make allegations of that nature without any evidence.</p>		
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SQ24-000004	Department of Education	Anthony Sheldon	Remuneration Tribunal Guidelines	<p>CHAIR:.....Mr Cook, you were about to partially step us through the Remuneration Tribunal making a decision on remuneration for these committees. Can you step that out for me briefly?</p> <p>Mr Cook: There's a policy. That policy is publicly available, I think. It is about the rates of chairs, deputy chairs and daily rates of members of government boards. It sets it out clearly what those amounts are. As we do for any board, we make determinations about, first of all, whether the board will be remunerated. It depends on the status of the board. This board absolutely is remunerated. They are remunerated against any other board that the Commonwealth establishes, whether people are employed or otherwise. As I said, the only people who are exempt from payment are public servants in the APS.</p> <p>CHAIR: This is consistent with previous Remuneration Tribunal deliberations and guidelines?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's my understanding. Mr Markovic can probably add to it.</p> <p>Mr Markovic: Correct. It's the Remuneration Tribunal guidelines that we follow for these boards.</p> <p>CHAIR: Those guidelines have been in place for more than two years?</p> <p>Mr Markovic: Certainly.</p> <p>CHAIR: More than 10 years?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I would imagine. They are updated, of course, in terms of their rates and things like that. That's the Remuneration Tribunal's decision.</p> <p>CHAIR: It may be helpful for the committee—I know it's accessible—to take on notice exactly when these particular guidelines were in place that you are obliged to abide by.</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's correct. That's right.</p> <p>CHAIR: It's not a matter of choice for the secretary to make a</p>	Hansard	10-11
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				<p>decision contrary to that? Mr Cook: I don't have that choice, Senator, no.</p>		
SQ24-000005	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Australia Day Public Holiday - Levels of staff who worked	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I have a fairly succinct line of questions. Did any Department of Education staff elect to not take the Australia Day public holiday? Mr Cook: Yes. The new agreement that we put in place allows staff to do that now. The previous agreement did not allow staff to do that. Senator O'SULLIVAN: How many this year? Ms Blackwell: We had 21 staff who substituted the day. Senator O'SULLIVAN: What is the total staff that you have? Mr Markovic: We have 1,570 full-time equivalent staff. Senator O'SULLIVAN: What levels were the staff? Ms Blackwell: I don't have that level of information, but I can come back with that. Senator O'SULLIVAN: You can provide that on notice, thank you. How many were SES staff? Ms Blackwell: No SES staff substituted the day. Their</p>	Hansard	12

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				determinations don't actually have the provision for substitution within them.		
SQ24-000006	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Cost of office lease	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN:How much do you pay for the lease of your office space at the moment, or that DEWR pays?</p> <p>Mr Markovic: DEWR basically provide the whole portfolio and then send us a bill for our part.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: What is your contribution, then?</p> <p>Mr Markovic: I would need to take that question on notice to get you the accurate number.</p>	Hansard	13
SQ24-000007	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Follow up to SQ23-001054 - Staff Statistics - Workplace and WFH arrangements	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Finally, on SQ23-001054, you provide details of the locations across Australia that you have offices. I'm happy for you to take this on notice. Can you provide the number of staff at each location and how many of those staff have working from home arrangements as well?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I have some quick numbers now, if you want numbers. We can do it on notice for you.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Let's do it on notice. I'm happy to take that as a table.</p>	Hansard	13
SQ24-000008	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Follow up to SQ23-000829	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to refer you back to SQ23-000829 in relation to the meetings held in various restaurants. We have sought information about these meetings. Could you please advise if they were lunchtime or evening?.....</p>	Hansard	13

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SQ24-000009	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Payment details for Australian Universities Accord Panel member	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, I want to ask about SQ23-001051. You've provided information on payments to members of boards and reference groups. I refer to the Australian Universities Accord panel and the amounts paid to each of the accord panel members. I know the panel members were meeting almost weekly at some point. There are more than 40 meetings in the year. The vice-chancellor of the University of Western Sydney has been paid \$37,000 or so. On what basis did he accept that payment? Did he stand down from his work as vice-chancellor in accepting that payment? The vice-chancellor receives about \$1 million a year. If he is also being paid to do a separate job, did he stand down or forgo some of his salary at the university?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I certainly know he didn't stand down. I don't know—we would have to ask the university—about the second part of your question, about forgoing any of his remuneration. That's a matter between him and his board. As you know, we are not responsible for the running of the university. That is a responsibility of the board. The payment would have been made in relation to the rates of payment that the Remuneration Tribunal would allocate for boards of government. That is a standard payment. We would have met the requirements that the Remuneration Tribunal sets in terms of payment for members.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Cook: I seek a clarification regarding the questions you asked about Professor Glover's payment.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I have been advised that Professor Glover donated that payment to the university and he hasn't taken that payment personally.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Did that payment go into his bank account?</p>	Hansard	9-10, 16-18
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			<p>Mr Cook: To the best of my knowledge, it wouldn't have been. He said he donated the payment after tax to the university.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: After tax.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Therefore, it has gone, I am advised, to the health research centres in the University of Western Sydney.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Wow. So the invoice—</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you very much. I will do the best I can. Secretary, you mentioned that Professor Glover has donated this money after tax. What is the precise amount of money that Professor Glover has now donated?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I will have to take that on notice. I don't know the tax arrangements for Professor Glover.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you confirm that when any member of the accord panel invoices the department, they provide their own personal bank details?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Again, I would have to take that on notice, Senator. If it's a personal payment, yes. Some members may choose to have the payment made to their organisation directly, and the organisation may then pay them. I just don't know. I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could we have a copy of the invoices that Professor Glover has submitted to the department?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Again, I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: We don't want to see his personal bank details. I would like to verify where that money went. Did it go into his own personal bank account? If he is taking this money after tax, it does very much sound like it wasn't a donation directly to the university. He received the money in his own name and he is now rediverting it after hearing about this in Senate estimates.</p> <p>Mr Cook: It was donated in June last year, to be fair.</p>		
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				<p>Senator HENDERSON: Sorry?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I am advised it was donated in June last year.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could we please have a copy of those details, including the copies of the invoices that were submitted by Professor Glover to the department?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure. We will have the invoices. We are happy to take that on notice.</p>		
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SQ24-000010	Department of Education	Dorinda Cox	Australian Indigenous Education Foundation retention rates	<p>Senator COX: At the last estimates, I asked some questions about the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation. I want to follow on from those questions. Does the department have any data around the retention rate for the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation? They are claiming a 90 per cent retention rate. In a report done in 2022, it's really unclear whether this includes students who failed to meet the mandated outcomes of their contract. Does the department have any data on what that retention rate is?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I will ask Mr Mudford to respond to that.</p> <p>Mr Mudford: I have data that confirms the 90 per cent annual retention rate. I don't have data on the students who failed to meet the contract requirements that you have talked about. I don't have that data with me.</p> <p>Senator COX: Are you able to take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Mudford: I'm happy to take that on notice. I will have to follow up with the AIEF.</p>	Hansard	22
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SQ24-000011	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Correspondence relating to the Productivity Commission's Philanthropy draft report	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Do you support the right of school communities to donate to school building funds to support schools build and maintain their infrastructure?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I support the current circumstances that are in place.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So you do support the current DGR status for schools? We're not just talking about non-government schools. The recommendation extends to all schools, including many public schools that have school building funds.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Understood.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: And you support that?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I support the current circumstances.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: This looks like an egregious attack on non-government schools in particular. In order to provide the certainty that these schools need across the country, can you provide them with the certainty that they require that this will not be happening under your government?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I will be clear: it's not something we're considering.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I appreciate what you have said. Can you provide them with the certainty that this is not something you will consider in the future, that this is completely off the table?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I can't be any clearer, Senator Henderson. It's not something we're considering.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Minister, do you understand how upset schools are about this proposal?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Well, it was a draft report from the Productivity Commission, Senator Henderson. It never represented government policy. It's not something we're considering.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, would you be able to</p>	Hansard	26-27
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			<p>provide to the committee all correspondence between your department and the minister's office in relation to this issue? By that I mean all emails, correspondence and any briefing notes, informal and formal? There have been representations made to the minister in relation to this matter, including representations from schools. Can you provide the committee with that correspondence? As I say, this has sent absolute alarm bells ricocheting throughout non-government schools. Secretary, are you able to update the committee on the work that you've done in relation to this matter? Have any concerns been raised with you or your department?</p> <p>CHAIR: Secretary, before you answer, if you want to do a follow-up question, I'll rotate the call following it.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to ask the secretary to answer that question.</p> <p>CHAIR: Absolutely.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thanks, Chair.</p> <p>Mr Cook: The first I knew about it was when the draft Productivity Commission report was released. As you know, the PC is not part of the department. I've had no direct representation to me on the matter, but I am aware of the press releases put out by the independent schools—for example, the National Catholic Education Commission. I'm aware they appeared yesterday, I think, as part of the public consultation in relation to this with PC. But nothing has come to my immediate attention from any one individual. We are happy to take on notice any information we might have given to inform meetings with ministers and stakeholders.</p>		
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SQ24-000012	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Schools Upgrade Fund - Targeted Round - 220 project reports	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you, Chair. I will continue. Secretary, I want to go to the school upgrade fund and the targeted round, which, I put to you, is a slush fund for the Labor Party's election commitments. I will start by asking for a full list of projects and the status of each of the projects funded under the targeted round, including the work completed to date and the projected completion date. If you have anything in writing that you can hand up or table, I would appreciate it. What can you provide to the committee right now?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I don't have a single thing on me, but I will refer to my officers in relation to that.</p> <p>Mr Donovan: Senator, we have information here on the number of projects in the targeted round. But I think the level of detail you're after we would need to take on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So has the number of projects changed since the last estimates? Has the number of projects changed since the last estimates?</p> <p>Mr Donovan: No. It's still 220 projects.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I am referring to question on notice answer 000667. I am particularly concerned about a number of these projects. Can you update me on the new science building at the Mt Eliza School?</p> <p>Mr Donovan: I don't have that quantum.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could someone get that detail?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We can try. We don't have details with us of 220 schools and their project status. When did the last report come to us, do you know?</p> <p>Mr Donovan: We are getting completion reports now, so I can go through the aggregate of the number that we know are already completed and have reported fully to us on that completion. But in terms of a project by project breakdown for each of those 220, I don't have that with me.</p>	Hansard	34-35
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				<p>Senator HENDERSON: Is it possible, Secretary, to get that information?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We can certainly seek it. Remind me of the school again just to help us.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, I'm keen if you have anything that sets out the project status of all of these projects.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I don't think we will necessarily because not all reports will come in at the same time. So we won't have a consistent report of everything.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So you don't have a report of—</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll have some report we can give you, but not everyone has reported.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you provide what you have on notice?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you provide a full report of every project?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm happy to help.</p>		
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SQ24-000013	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Follow up to SQ23-001154: Schools Upgrade Fund - Targeted Round	<p>Senator HENDERSON: That's round 2. I'm talking about the targeted round, which is actually round 1.</p> <p>Mr Donovan: Under round 1, it's a school based program. The agreement that is formed is under the guidelines and through the correspondence with each school that sets out the expectations.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide the correspondence in relation to each school which sets out the expectations, what the school must comply with, how funds are acquitted and how milestones on projects are reported? Could you provide that correspondence in relation to each school? It appears that while the department is setting out the guidelines, there is no formal agreement in place in relation to that funding. I'm concerned that it's taken a few estimates, Secretary, to learn about the project at Greenwood College. Could you describe the nature of that project, please?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No. I don't know the details of that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It's set out in one of your responses to a question on notice.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I am happy to refer to my officers for that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It is question on notice SQ23-001154. We did seek information about a \$2 million improvement to school facilities at Greenwood College. We've only just learned that it is to upgrade swimming facilities. Can you provide any more detail in relation to that?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I will see whether any of my officers can help me. I don't have that information, Senator, sorry.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: We don't have that information with us. Greenwood College is a public school in Western Australia. The funding was to upgrade its swimming facilities. It was provided under the election commitment. I think we said in the question on notice we don't have the itemised costings,</p>	Hansard	36
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				but we are happy to take on notice and provide to you the information we have. We are getting those reports in from the different projects, so we can check what we've got from Greenwood College.		
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SQ24-000014	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Assistant Minister for Education Schools funding document	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Under the school upgrade fund, the funding for these COVID safe improvements, many schools applied and missed out altogether. So some schools applied for grants of up to \$25,000 and thousands of schools, in fact, missed out while some favoured schools, such as the school picked by Minister Anne Aly, received \$2 million. How is that fair? You talk about equity. How is that equitable, Minister?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Well, obviously, all parties in the lead-up to an election make election promises. We obviously did that. I'm sure you did as well. I am sure you will in the lead-up to the next election, Senator Henderson. We also know that we've gone through an open round of funding. I know that many schools across your home state of Victoria have received funding through that program, including in Gippsland, Wannon, Monash, Flinders, Casey, La Trobe and Deakin. It shows you that a range of schools across the country have received support through the open round funding.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you table that document that you are reading from? It appears that you have a list of schools base on electorates, Minister. Could you table that document, please?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I am asking you to table that document that you are reading from.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you have the information and the document, I am asking you to table it.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's not appropriate. I am asking you to table the document from which you are reading. It now appears that you are reading from a document that has categorised school funding grants based on electorates. Is</p>	Hansard	39-40
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				that how the department categorises their grants? Senator Chisholm: I'm happy to take it on notice, Senator Henderson.		
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SQ24-000015	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Follow up to SQ23-000671 - Advice provided by the department to the Secretary	<p>Senator HENDERSON: The unsuccessful schools are very unhappy because they see this as very inequitable. I will move to question on notice SQ23-000671. Secretary, the department advised you that it had received confirmation of the projects to be funded through this round from the minister's office on 24 October 2022. Can you please table this advice?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I don't have that advice with me, so I can't table it. But I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you please provide the committee with that on notice, thank you?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes, sure. I'm very happy to do that.</p>	Hansard	40
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SQ24-000016	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Schools Upgrade Fund COVID safe improvements - advice provided by the Office of Best Practice Regulation	<p>Senator HENDERSON: The funding determination cites Mr Bruce Edwards as the delegate of the minister to distribute the amounts payable for these election commitments. Is Mr Edwards at the table? Is he available?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: No. He has moved to a different role outside of the department.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Were there any questions raised about the appropriateness of this funding with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Secretary?</p> <p>Mr Cook: The appropriateness of the funding?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes. That's right.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Not that I'm aware of, no. Raised by whom, sorry?</p> <p>By the department or by—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: By your department?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No, Senator. We would do what we normally do. Election commitments are verified through the budget process, which would normally happen no matter what government is in place. The scrutiny, therefore, of those election commitments is done through the budget process, which involves central agencies, our department and other departments as well. It would have gone through that process, which is the standard process for election commitments whenever governments come to power.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: In response to that question, you state that the Office of Best Practice Regulation, now known as the Office of Impact Analysis, was engaged in an assessment of the program in the course of the department proposing amendments to the Australian Education Regulation 2013. Can you provide a copy of the advice provided to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I am happy to take it on notice. The only reason I am hesitating is whether it is part of a cabinet budget process or not. Just to be very clear and transparent with</p>	Hansard	40
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				<p>you, that might have been part of the cabinet process. If not, I'm very happy to take it on notice and provide it.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, to be very clear with you, being part of the cabinet process, a document which informs cabinet is not a cabinet document. Please don't try that trick on this committee.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, Senator. To be clear, it may have formed a document, or it may be part of a document, that went to cabinet.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, if it's a cabinet document, I appreciate the rules. But a document which informs cabinet is not a cabinet-in-confidence document. There has been an issue with the minister not handing up documents he should have handed up.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Well, that's a matter for the minister, Senator.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I ask if you could table that advice—</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'll take it on notice.</p>		
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SQ24-000018	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Teach for Australia	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: I'm interested in talking about Teach for Australia. I note that we've put in previous questions at estimates. Our most recent question and response was question No. SQ23-000372. I am wondering whether it's possible—you may be able to do this now or you may need to take it on notice—if we could be provided with some updated figures on the number of people who have commenced in the program. The figures that we have, I think in response to the last question, were up to 2023. We didn't have completion rates for 2022 or 2023. We didn't have the number currently teaching in schools for 2022 or 2023, nor did we have the number currently teaching in their original placement school. Could we get an update on that? I am particularly interested in the most up-to-date figures on the number of people who commenced the program, completed the program and are currently still teaching in schools. Do you have that to hand, or will you need to take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I think we'll need to take that on notice given that we did this response at the end of last year. I am not sure we have up-to-date data yet from Teach for Australia.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: On that, then, can I ask also: in relation to the remaining participant schools— those people who are still teaching in schools—can we get that information broken down by the school's socioeconomic scores? We're interested in knowing where these teachers are staying. My understanding is that the key goal of the program was to put teachers into hard-to-staff schools.</p>	Hansard	41
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SQ24-000019	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Teach for Australia - teacher retention	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: I guess I am really interested in knowing where these teachers are, because it is \$100,000 to put people into a disadvantaged school. What I am hearing is that most of them are no longer in those disadvantaged schools. I think the fact that we've got less than 18 per cent in the school they started in is a pretty poor return on investment, if we're spending \$100,000 to a private company per teacher for them not to actually end up staying. I am really keen to know whether the department is actually keeping track of whether these teachers are remaining in those schools. If not, I suggest to you that maybe it's not the best spend of the government's money.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll do our best on notice to try to identify what you've asked for, which is the teachers who are no longer in their original placement school and the ICSEA value of the schools they may be in.</p>	Hansard	43
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SQ24-000021	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Correspondence with Studio Schools	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, I regret to raise another concern about the failure of the department to provide documents in accordance with Senate rules. I asked during the last hearing for you to provide a copy of a letter you sent to Studio Schools regarding the concerns I raised, particularly about some of the expenditure and some of the other integrity issues in relation to Studio Schools. You took this on notice. The department has now come back and said it can't be released because it may contain sensitive or commercial information. That does not accord with the Senate rules, Secretary. Could you please explain your refusal to provide this document?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I will read the full explanation. I think you have chosen a part of that explanation. Part of it was also about this being a matter of an ongoing investigation and natural justice to the organisation. Our concern is that making that information public will adversely affect an investigation and the natural justice obligations we have in relation to the organisation.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, that doesn't comply with the rules of the Senate. Our job is to scrutinise the operations and the expenditure of your department. Could you please provide a copy of that letter and a copy of the response provided by Studio Schools and the date it was provided?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I will have to check about responses. I am assuming responses have been received. I haven't seen any of that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, you just can't keep on playing these tricks, alright. I'm sorry. You may have concerns, but your response does not comply with the Senate rules. I ask right now that you table these letters, please.</p>	Hansard	44-45
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			<p>CHAIR: Secretary, if you would like to respond first to the question, I will then make a comment.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure. Senator, I was simply trying to say I haven't seen any responses that we've received. I was just checking to see whether we have received a response. I am happy to take on notice the question you've got on that. I literally don't know whether the responses have been received. Other members at the table may be able to assist me on that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, let's start at the beginning. The department wrote to Studio Schools. We asked for a copy of that letter. You are required to give a copy of that letter. You haven't made a public interest immunity claim in relation to that letter, so under the rules of the Senate you are required to provide the committee with a copy of that letter. Could you please arrange to immediately furnish a copy of that letter to the committee?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Senator, I'll take it on notice. I will consider and seek advice from the minister about public interest immunity and whether that is appropriate or not. As I have raised, the issue I have around this is about—</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: In relation to the response provided by Studio Schools and the date that response was provided, was there was more than one response?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I will ask Mr Harding to respond to that.</p> <p>Mr Harding: Senator, we received a response on 21 November.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could I have a copy of that response? Could you table a copy of that response?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Again, we're happy to take that on notice. We don't have a copy—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Hang on. I saw you whispering across</p>		
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			<p>the table. If you have a copy of that document— Mr Cook: I am taking it on notice. Senator HENDERSON: I ask that document be tabled. Mr Cook: I'll take that on notice. Senator HENDERSON: Do you have a copy of that document in your possession? Is that available? Mr Cook: To be clear, I'll take it on notice. Senator HENDERSON: How many responses have been received from Studio Schools? Could you describe? Is it just the one on 21 November? Mr Harding: It was just the single response. Senator HENDERSON: Could I ask for all correspondence between Studio Schools and the department over and above the request that I have already made? Mr Cook: We're very happy to do that. Senator HENDERSON: Sorry, Secretary? Mr Cook: We're happy to do that. We will take on notice any correspondence. We did give some correspondence in terms of email correspondence in the last Senate estimates. So since that date— Senator HENDERSON: I asked for all correspondence between Studio Schools, including individual correspondence. There may well be other correspondence, say, from the ATO in relation to members of the board, but I want all correspondence between the department, the minister's office and Studio Schools. Mr Cook: Since the date of the last question on notice? This is to help me, because we've given you some. Senator HENDERSON: Well, we've asked for your initial letter. Then we've asked for the response of 21 November. I'm also seeking all other correspondence and any other briefing documents, formal or informal, internal advice, messages</p>	
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				<p>and emails in relation to Studio Schools. Mr Cook: Does that include the ones we've already provided you? Do you want them again? I am just checking. Senator HENDERSON: No—not the ones that you have already provided. I'm seeking any further documents— Mr Cook: I'm happy to help. Senator HENDERSON: in relation to the concerns I first raised with you. Mr Cook: Sure.</p>		
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SQ24-000022	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Studio Schools - Update of schools construction program	<p>Senator HENDERSON: in relation to this investigation. Secretary, just very quickly, can you update me on the program of school construction for Studio Schools, putting aside—</p> <p>Mr Cook: My staff can.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Putting aside the investigation?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure. We're very happy to.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: With regard to the construction at Manjali, which is the new site, Studio Schools have advised us that they are now close to resolving the issues around land access for that site and putting in place licences and contracts. They've advised us that the contract for construction will be signed within the next two weeks. They will be building prefabricated modular buildings over the period from the end of April until October. At this stage, they've advised us that they are on schedule for a January opening for 2025.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Is that for Manjali?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: That is for Manjali, yes.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So they've changed their method of construction?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I'm not aware—perhaps my team are—about the original method of construction. They are using modular prefabricated buildings.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Which is exactly what I raised in relation to the tripling of costs that we saw, which of course is what first raised a red flag for me when I saw those costs, which were just inconceivable. Rather than put school buildings or schools on ice, as was proposed, it appears that Studio Schools have now revisited the way in which they are building these schools?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Many schools these days are using prefabricated and modular buildings as a mechanism to move at pace.</p>	Hansard	47-48
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				<p>Senator HENDERSON: Ms Brighton, that's why I actually suggested it initially some months ago—that perhaps Studio Schools should be looking at more affordable ways to build school buildings. Could you please provide all the latest information? The last round of documents was furnished with those original costings. Can you provide any other documents that you hold in relation to the costings of these projects? I can only assume that the costings have been revised. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I'm not aware that they have been revised. But we will take that on notice and see what we have beyond what we provided in our response to those questions on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If we could have all relevant documents, communications, costings, business plans—</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Certainly.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: since you last furnished those documents—</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: which we appreciate.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: We can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: so we can understand the latest plans. It does sound as if things have changed.</p>		
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SQ24-000023	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Minister for Education Correspondence between the Minister's office and Victorian Minister for Education regarding student safety	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to ask you about activism in the classroom. I've raised a number of concerns about the safety of students with the minister, particularly in the wake of the horrific attack by Hamas on 7 October. I raised particular concerns about one school teacher in Victoria, who made comments which seemed to endorse what Hamas did. Can you please respond to my concerns, particularly in relation to the teacher codes of conduct, as to what should be taught in the classroom and what should not be taught in the classroom?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Thanks, Senator Henderson. We believe that teachers should act in accordance with Australian professional standards for teachers and any code of conduct that applies in relation to their employment. I understand that Minister Clare, I think, responded to a letter that you wrote with regard to these issues. He made it explicitly clear in that letter that there's nothing more important than the safety of staff and students. There is no place for anti-Semitism or Islamophobia in our education system, and classrooms should be a place for learning without political biases.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I have written to Minister Clare on a number of occasions on this issue. He certainly did respond to me. He didn't respond to me when I raised specific concerns about the conduct of this teacher, who I won't name. I won't name the school. Are you able to update the committee on whether any action was taken against this teacher?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Well, obviously, the federal government doesn't employ any teachers, so it would be a matter for the jurisdiction that employs that teacher.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But surely you would be concerned, and the minister would be concerned, about such conduct?</p>	Hansard	49
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				<p>Senator Chisholm: I think the minister, in his letter to you, outlined his expectations. Senator HENDERSON: No. He didn't respond to me in relation to this matter.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Well, I think he has outlined his expectations of teachers in general.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to, or could you on notice, provide me with any details as to what the minister may or may not have done on this matter? My understanding is that the teacher has been stood down. I would appreciate it if you could confirm that.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: It wouldn't be a matter that we are involved with.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But you would certainly be concerned about the conduct of teachers?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: And the minister—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: There are national standards. That is a direct matter for the minister.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: And the minister has expressed that teachers should comply with them.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you possibly update the committee on whether the minister sought the advice of Victorian education minister Ben Carroll or made any representations? Could you provide on notice any documentation, letters or emails between the minister's office and the Victorian Minister for Education?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'm happy to.</p>		
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SQ24-000024	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Department data around teacher shortages back to 2010	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you very much. Secretary, do you have any data in relation to teacher shortages? The minister made a comment suggesting that there had been longstanding teacher shortages. This data is quite difficult to compile—I appreciate that—because the states and territories run schools and the data comes from different sources. Could you update the committee on the vacancy rate of teachers across the country? When I last looked, in the Victorian education system, there were around 1,200 teacher vacancies. In New South Wales, it's about 2,000. However, the ratio of teachers to students is actually falling. That suggests that a lot of people who qualify as teachers end up in non-teaching roles, which I think is a big part of the problem. Could you update the committee on that?</p> <p>Mr Cook: You're right: it's public knowledge around teacher shortages. You mentioned a few statistics from some states. I will hand to Ms Birmingham to see whether there is any data we've got. As you would appreciate, we don't hold the data. We ask states and territories for the data. I will ask Ms Birmingham whether she can help with your question.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: There isn't any nationally aggregated data on teacher shortages that we would be able to share with you. There are certainly data points from states and territories, as you have mentioned. This is a longstanding issue that we're trying to grapple with through the national teacher workforce action plan under actions 25, 26 and 27. We've commissioned AITSL to do further work on modelling teacher workforce shortages and future needs. The issue is really about understanding the needs at a local level. We can do modelling at a national level. You would have seen some of that in the past. We put a figure nationally a few years ago on having 4,000 teachers short over the five years to 2025. It's a pretty blunt estimate. We are trying to get a bit more</p>	Hansard	49-50
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				<p>nuance around the needs in different regions to see how that plays into the numbers and around different subject areas and things like that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide the numbers that you do have in relation to teacher shortages? Can you take that back to 2010 so we can have some sort of historical overview as to what data you hold? I understand the difficulties with the data. I appreciate that. In terms of the data—</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: I'm happy to take on notice what we can provide. In terms of going back to 2010, it will be a patchwork of numbers that we would be able to put together. It won't be a consistent or a comparable set of numbers that you could statistically say work as a trend analysis or anything like that. But I'm happy to take it on notice.</p>		
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SQ24-000025	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Teacher Workforce Action Plan - workloads	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: You might recall at an earlier estimates—it might have been the first estimates—I was involved in that I went through the teacher workforce action plan. At the next estimates I asked you a question about following up with the states on things they said they were doing to assist in particular with workload intensification and teacher workload. I pointed out that large numbers of things on those lists—for example, the Queensland list—had been in place for quite some time and that we're not making a difference. I am keen to get an update on whether you've gone back to them and where that currently stands. Certainly what I'm hearing is that people are still drowning under excessive workloads. We are now in a spiral, it would seem, because as more people get more workload, they are leaving the profession. It is going to be very hard to arrest that.</p> <p>Mr Cook: A list of projects is now being worked across the states and territories, I think, Ms Birmingham?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: Yes. That's right. We have a working group with states and territories and other people who are involved in the action plan to bring that kind of clarity to what is going on. We actually do have quite detailed information that comes forward through that process. I know you asked a question on notice that was difficult to aggregate into a single response. One thing we could do is provide some examples under each of those actions, if that's helpful.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Yes. I think you responded last time, Mr Cook. You acknowledged that there were things in the Queensland list that had been around for years. What I am really keen to understand is what is new—</p> <p>Mr Cook: And different?</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: and what knowledge you have of what is new.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes.</p>	Hansard	52-53
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				<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: To me, that's where the rubber is going to hit the road, right?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Exactly. We're happy to take that, Senator, and provide that advice to you.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Thanks.</p>		
SQ24-000026	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Minister for Education Truth telling in the National Curriculum	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to take just a couple of minutes. I indicated that I would table the report in the Australian today, which relates to truth telling in the curriculum. I will hand that over. Minister, I was just doing a quick search of the national curriculum. Are you aware that truth telling is already throughout the curriculum? It comes up in the context of mental health and wellbeing modules, respectful relationships and specifically for cultural awareness as well as history and civics.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Thanks, Senator Henderson. I am not an expert on every aspect of the curriculum.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you very much, Minister. Based on a quick glance as to truth telling in the curriculum—it is</p>	Hansard	53

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				<p>part of, as I say, history and civics and other modules—is the minister taking seriously Minister Burney's suggestion?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I don't know, Senator Henderson. I'm not aware. I haven't had a conversation with him about it so I can't really add to that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could take that on notice and just find out, including whether the minister has had a discussion or met with Minister Burney in relation to this proposal?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'm happy to.</p>		
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SQ24-000027	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Initial Teacher Education enrolment data	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, I want to pick you up on the domestic enrolments in all teacher education courses. I am looking at some data from 2009 to 2021. It's actually at a record high. There have never been more people enrolled in ITE degrees. In 2009, it was about 84,000. In 2014, it got up to 108,000. There's a bit of a decline. Now it is sitting at 109,861 as of 2021; that is the most recent data I have. I want to challenge you—</p> <p>Mr Cook: But there has been a decline, Senator. Is that what you said?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No. I am saying that there has been an increase since 2009, which was 84,000. It is now sitting at 109,000. I want to ask for some clarity in relation to—</p> <p>Mr Cook: It would be useful to have the information you're referring to. I don't know what that information is, so I can't comment on that information.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I am looking at my own data.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Senator, I'm happy to look at your data.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide the committee with what data you have in relation to initial teacher education students? Based on what I am looking at, which is just my own notes, it appears that there are not falling numbers of ITE students.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Senator, just to clarify—and apologies—I didn't give a time line. I don't think I did. I am happy to look at the Hansard. From the data I have in front of me from 2021 to 2022, there was a decline in IT enrolments of about four per cent. I am happy to find a data source. I don't know what data source you're utilising. We would normally use the information from universities to inform us of that. I think we have that information. I am happy to correct the record.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: ACARA also reports on this.</p> <p>Mr Cook: ACARA reports on ITE?</p>	Hansard	53-54
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			<p>Ms Brighton: AITSL?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I wouldn't have thought ACARA reports on initial teacher education.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, there's a report that ACARA did. I can come back to you on this. I am keen from what you hold. What figures do you have for 2022?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Ms Brighton has those figures, so I will hand to her.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: There are two lots of figures at the moment available to us. AITSL released a publication on Tuesday, I think, which is the initial teacher education pipeline publication. That goes to initial teacher education to 2021. AITSL are here, so they can take any questions on that. In addition to that, the most recent higher education statistics data that we have on our website goes up to and includes 2022. What that data shows on the higher education statistics collection is a decline in ITE enrolments between 2021 to 2022. So it's a time series issue. I'm sure AITSL—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, that has obviously happened under this government. As I say, based on the data I have, it was going up—</p> <p>Mr Cook: We can give a year-by-year comparison, Senator, to help you about how to view this decline.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: to 109,000. There has been a decline in 2022. Do you have 2023 statistics?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Do you have a source? We really can't comment unless we know what you are referencing.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, I'm just saying that I have my own internal notes at this point, Secretary. I am just keen on the data you hold.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I want to clarify in case I misspoke. This data of the four per cent decline is on initial teacher education enrolments in 2022. You usually do your application to universities at the end of the prior year, and then your</p>		
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				<p>enrolment takes place early in the year of, in that case, 2022. But we're happy to take it on notice. If you're able to share with us, we can look at the different data sets and provide you with it year by year as we've got it available.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What we are seeing without any doubt is that there are fewer students per teacher. So the ratios are improving. Do you have any data as to how many teachers end up in non-teaching roles? I think, as I indicated before, that is a big issue.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We wouldn't have that data.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'll come back to you on notice.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure.</p>		
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SQ24-000028	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Teacher shortages in rural, regional and remote areas	<p>Senator DAVEY: I want to return quickly—I will be brief because I know people want to move on—to the issue of teacher shortages, particularly in rural, regional and remote areas. Is the department keeping a watching brief on that? Do you collect data of teacher numbers and what the shortages are in those areas?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Certainly yes to the first one. As you are aware, there are Commonwealth initiatives I mentioned before about HECS relief for teachers in very remote locations. We don't, however, collect the data per se. That's something the states and territories have. We don't collect that data ourselves. They can provide it to us, but we don't employ them. We rely on the states and territories providing that information to us.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Is it possible for you, noting that it is state data, to collate that data for the committee to look at so we can get an understanding of that?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We can ask the states and territories to provide that data. I can't compel them to, but I can certainly request them. I'm happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: That would be appreciated. I totally understand that the states and territories are in charge of employing teachers.</p>	Hansard	57
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SQ24-000029	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Qualified teachers in non-teaching roles	<p>Senator HENDERSON: That is the enrolment data. I also want to draw your attention to the ABS report on scores released yesterday. That is abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools under the heading 'Latest release'. So that's the schools report. In very general terms, between 2006 and 2023, that is showing that the number of full-time equivalent teachers has increased by 30 per cent and the number of full-time equivalent students has increased by 21 per cent. There are fewer students per teacher. Again, based on that data, I would ask why we've got a deteriorating situation in the last couple of years.</p> <p>Mr Cook: In terms of teacher shortage?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: In terms of teacher shortages or vacancies.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll go back to the data we've got, which includes the university data as well. As you said, the data source is our department. I wouldn't mind interrogating some of those things. We also know that in some of those courses less than 50 per cent of those teachers who enrol finish. They are actually not completing the initial teacher education course. You would be aware of that as well, which we're gravely concerned about, which is why we're trying to improve what is happening in initial teacher education. I absolutely take your point. Let me take the data. We'll also look at the ACARA data website that you've just referenced to us as well.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Certainly the ABS data released just yesterday paints a rosy picture in terms of teachers coming through the system and more attractive ratios. That is making many more teachers in the system compared to students. The question that remains is: where are things going wrong? If there are thousands of teacher vacancies, what is going wrong? Are you able to verify how many qualified teachers move into non-teaching roles?</p>	Hansard	58-59
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				<p>Mr Cook: We'll do our best. I just don't think we have that data, Senator, to be honest with you. We don't ask teachers where they go after they graduate. We don't have that data set. I hear what you are saying. We'll take it on notice and do our best to answer.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But there is data which shows how many teachers are teaching in each system. The ABS released the latest data yesterday.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I understand that. But your question was about how many teachers go into non-teaching roles.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Sure. I appreciate that.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I don't think I've got that. I am happy to see what we can do to assist in terms of that data.</p>		
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SQ24-000030	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Compliance with the national curriculum	<p>Senator HENDERSON: What does ACARA do when schools step outside the national curriculum? There were concerns raised in relation to a school in Sydney teaching critical race theory. A number of parents were very concerned about that. What's ACARA's role in that respect?</p> <p>Mr Gniel: Ms Brighton can talk about that part of that question. ACARA doesn't regulate any schools. That's a state and territory role in terms of what's happening in each of their schools. They have their own legislation around child safety and all of those sorts of things that is part of that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I was just wondering about the extent to which ACARA—</p> <p>Mr Gniel: We don't have a role.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: has any sort of role or raised any concerns?</p> <p>Mr Gniel: No, we don't have a role.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Ms Brighton, can you add to that?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I was going to say what Mr Gniel said; that's a matter for states and territories in terms of the regulation of the school. If it's an independent or a non-government school there's also a role for the Commonwealth in that. The states and territories provide authorisation for the school to operate, and then we also have a compliance role for the non-government sector. We will often work hand in glove with the states and territories on compliance matters.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So, this was a non-government school, this particular school.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: It would be a matter that the jurisdiction would have taken the initial leading hand on, and then we would have usually done an assessment from our perspective about compliance with expectations under the Australian Education Act.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Have there been any issues raised in</p>	Hansard	71-72
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				<p>relation to that and other concerns about compliance with the national curriculum?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Usually when it's a curriculum concern being expressed, the state and territory will take responsibility for the consideration, gathering the evidence and making the determination. We look at it in the context of the fit and proper person, the funding under the Australian Education Act. We both have a compliance role and a regulatory role, but they are separate in terms of what they look at. The specifics of that particular school I'd have to take a look at, but I'm pretty sure the jurisdiction would have looked into the compliance.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could advise what action you took as the department and any discussions that were had between that school system or school and the department and any regulatory concerns that were raised as a result?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: We'll happily take that on notice and give you what we can.</p> <p><i>Clarification provided through Committee Secretariat on 6 March 2024: The school referenced by Senator Henderson was Newington College. The issues were raised by a parent and discussed by Ben Fordham of 2GB on 7 February 2024.</i></p>		
SQ24-000031	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Appointment of ACARA Acting CEO	<p>Senator HENDERSON: What was the date? When was Mr Gniel appointed as acting CEO?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I don't have that with me. But I'm happy to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	68

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SQ24-000032	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA The National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Recommendation 19	<p>Senator HENDERSON: The National Teacher Workforce Action Plan recommended that the federal Department of Education monitor the implementation of the national curriculum and really track that very closely. So, are you saying based on the advice you've received it's only Tasmania and some states? Which states have adopted parts of the national curriculum, the current one?</p> <p>Mr Gniel: All jurisdictions have.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: When I say 'adopted', I mean implemented.</p> <p>Mr Gniel: We can try to get that information from the jurisdictions and we'll have to then provide that to you through that process. I'm happy to take that on notice and give you what we can. In terms of the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: There was a recommendation.</p> <p>Mr Gniel: Are you talking about a specific recommendation about the Australian government?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Recommendation 19. It's fine if you take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	70
SQ24-000033	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL AITSL Board travel costs	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: How many times does the board meet per year?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Typically, four or five times.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: So, at least four?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Does the board always meet in person?</p> <p>Mr Misson: No, it's been mixed over the last few years.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you provide for us—and I'm happy for you to take this on notice for the sake of time—the travel costs to date for the meetings of the 2023-24 year?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Yes, we'll provide that on notice.</p>	Hansard	73

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SQ24-000034	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Registered teacher data	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you provide data as to how many registered teachers there are in this country? Mr Misson: Our best estimate of that is 515,000.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to provide on notice where those teachers are based, and also the gender breakdown of teachers? I know there's quite a lot of data that came out through the ABS yesterday. What's the source of your data?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Our data is from the data held by teacher regulatory authorities. It will be higher than the ABS. My understanding is that the ABS counts those teachers who are actually working in schools, whereas we have all registered teachers.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: And you don't have insight into teachers working in schools?</p> <p>Mr Misson: We have that through a survey. It's probably less accurate than the ABS, I'd say.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could provide us with the data that you do have, that would be appreciated.</p>	Hansard	75
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SQ24-000036	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Data on provider fee increases	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: The ACCC reported that the average fee increase in 2023 was around 10 per cent— 10.2 per cent for private providers and 8.1 per cent for not-for-profit providers. Does the government have any data on which centres are imposing 12, 15 or 20 per cent increases?</p> <p>Mr Reed: Our administrative data will show us which providers have increased their fees by which amount. I don't have that on me, but we do analyse that and we have access to that data.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you provide that?</p> <p>Mr Reed: So, you want a list of providers that have charged—</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes, and I'd also like to know what steps the minister has taken. He said that back in October last year he was pretty tough on naming and shaming providers. So, have there been any steps to name and shame and take some tough action against providers that are way in excess of the averages?</p> <p>Mr Reed: Shortly, we will be publishing on the Starting Blocks website yearly fee increases dating back to 2022. That will go on the Starting Blocks website shortly, so parents will be able to see for every provider what their fee increases have been, and that will be updated every year. That is one step the government has taken. Over the last six months, the ACCC, as you know, has been requesting a lot of information from providers on their fee-charging practices. We have felt that it probably would be duplicative if we had done the same over the last six months. But it will be something we'll consider doing into the future.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Have you provided the minister with a list of providers that are in excess of the averages?</p> <p>Mr Reed: No.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Has the minister requested it?</p> <p>Mr Reed: Not that I'm aware of.</p>	Hansard	78-79
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				<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Minister Clare said he was going to be tough, that he was going to name and shame. Why hasn't the minister requested this?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Obviously, that's why we asked the ACCC to look at this in the first place, because we wanted to ensure that for families, when we did deliver the cheaper childcare reforms, it did have an impact in bringing costs down. That's what the ACCC has delivered in its report to show that those reforms have been working, which is what we took to the Australian people.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: We've just learnt that the department knows who is charging fees in excess of averages. So, you wouldn't need the ACCC to provide that information; you could go straight to the minister's own department?</p> <p>Mr Reed: There are limitations on what we will be able to provide. We can only provide information as it relates to our obligations under the family assistance law. Even what we provide to the minister and what we might be able to provide to this community would be limited by that so I'd have to take on notice exactly what we can provide.</p>		
SQ24-000037	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Minister for Education Communication with Minister Aly regarding education workforce statement	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Look, I'm raising concerns. Everyone can make mistakes, Assistant Minister. The department, in good faith, gave Minister Aly the advice that she needed to fix her wording to make it clear that all of those new workers weren't delivered under the Albanese government. My concern is that there was no attempt by her office to correct her language. And rather than take the advice of the education department, she's then gone out and blamed everyone but herself. Can I ask you on notice? I'm happy for</p>	Hansard	89-90

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				<p>you to take it on notice. Has Minister Aly been spoken to by the Minister for Education in relation to this matter?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Not that I'm aware of.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could take that on notice, I'd be grateful.</p>		
SQ24-000038	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	A Collaboration with other jurisdictions - preschool activity test	<p>Senator FARUQI: Minister, the Victorian, New South Wales and ACT governments are now funding three-year-olds, mostly, through long day care, I think, but the government's activity test exemption for preschool programs only covers four-year-olds in the year before school. Have the states asked the Commonwealth to extend the preschool activity test exemption to three-year-olds?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I defer to the department, Senator.</p> <p>Ms Crane: We can confirm, but I don't believe so.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Is there a reason why the government has given exemption to four-year-olds but not to three-year-olds, especially given that they most benefit from access to preschool and that if they don't meet the activity test, they would face the highest out-of-pocket costs and it would disadvantage them?</p> <p>Ms Crane: I will start the answer and Ms Twyman might jump in. On the preschool side of things, there are some clear definitions around what constitutes preschool and the year before full-time school. Certainly the focus with the states through the Preschool Reform Agreement and other things has been very much on that year, which for the purpose of this conversation I'll say is four-year-olds. And there is a lot of work in that around ensuring that you get maximum take-up. Under the reform agreement, the focus there has been around funding following child, a new attendance measure—because obviously enrolment is one thing; attendance is</p>	Hansard	90

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				<p>actually important to get that dosage. And then the third big piece of that has been around a preschools outcome measure to actually support those teachers in the room. So the conversation with jurisdictions has rightly been on trying to get that right before then expanding out to others. So, yes, individual jurisdictions have made independent decisions around that but it hasn't been a conversation with the Commonwealth in the context of—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Minister, is that going to be a conversation? Because it is counterproductive in a way to have universal access but then have people, because of the activity test barriers, not being able to do that.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'm happy to try to provide more information on notice, Senator Faruqi. I know we're committed to working collaboratively with the states and other jurisdictions on this.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: If you could please provide further information—thanks Chair; I'm done.</p>		
SQ24-000039	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Fee-free TAFE and educators in training pathways	<p>Senator DAVEY: The pace has been set. Before I move on to my questions, I've just read this tabled Hansard where Minister Aly says she informs the House that 'since the Labor government came to office, there are 14,000 new educators in the sector and 123,000 in training pathways, in no small part due to the efforts of this government through fee-free TAFE'. Can you—and I'm happy if you take it on notice—tell us how many of the 123,000 in training pathways are there because of fee-free TAFE?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll take it on notice, Senator, yes.</p>	Hansard	90

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SQ24-000040	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Data on cheaper childcare policy	<p>Senator DAVEY: I hope so, too. Quickly, before I go to the Community Child Care Fund, after the June estimates you replied to our question on notice No. SQ23000282, where we asked for some numbers by electorate on how many families would be better off under Labor's cheaper childcare policy. The data that you provided, and thank you for providing that data, just shows the families that will be getting the cheaper childcare subsidy. It doesn't actually show which families are actually better off, does it?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We are just pulling it up, Senator. We have 500 questions on notice to choose from, so we're just trying to find the right one.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator, how much longer will you be? We've got a few minutes and then I might go back to the coalition.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: I've got one or two on this and then I have some questions on the cheaper childcare fund. Does it just say how many families are receiving the payment—not specifically that they are actually going to be better off?</p> <p>Mr Reed: No, this is how many families we estimate are better off.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Can you explain why the data appears to be from 2021, which well pre-dates the cheaper childcare subsidy?</p> <p>Mr Reed: What makes you say it's from 2021?</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: That's what my notes are telling me. It seems to be that the data comes from 2021.</p> <p>Mr Reed: No, this would have been—</p> <p>Mr Cook: It says, 'Families that would be better off following the July 2023 changes is in the table below.' There's no reference to 2021 anywhere.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Okay. I'm happy for you to take it on notice, because I like making you work really hard—</p> <p>Mr Cook: We like helping.</p>	Hansard	91-92
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				<p>Senator DAVEY: Can you provide that data back to us but broken down into electorate, local government area and also the modified Monash model area, so we can understand how many in rural, regional and remote areas are also better off? One of the big comments I keep getting is, 'It's all well and good but it doesn't trickle down into the regions, because half of the regions don't have child care anyway.'</p> <p>Mr Reed: I'll have to check what level we can break that down to. But I'll take that on notice and we'll provide what we can.</p>		
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SQ24-000041	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Community Childcare Fund - priority areas	<p>Senator DAVEY: Thank you. That brings me quickly to the Community Child Care Fund, which is designed to help services located in regional, remote and very remote areas. Can you provide—and I'm again happy if it's on notice—how you define regional, remote and very remote?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: We can talk to you about how we define the priority areas, as well, for those locations, if that's at all helpful. What we're looking at in terms of the priority areas is that we currently, as you may be aware, have round 4 out, which is the \$84 million round, which is open now, from 12 February, and closes on 8 March. What we're looking at in those priority areas for that round is we use the statistical standards. It's the SA2 which identifies those priority areas. We then also determine the AEDC, the Australian Early Development Census results.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: The priority areas are online, but what I'm looking for is the definition of rural, regional and remote. Do you base it on something like the modified Monash model, or do you have your own definitions?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We're using SA2 data and then we overlay that with—</p> <p>Ms Twyman: AEDC and SEIFA, and the population data as well, the ABS data on population in the age range, as well as the SEIFA data and the AEDC results on vulnerable and disadvantaged.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We can take it on notice if you want more information around that, Senator. I hear what you're saying. Is it a locational definition? It's partly that, but we're adding other information to it as well. But if it's easier on notice for you, we're happy to do that.</p>	Hansard	92
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SQ24-000042	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Community Childcare Fund - SA2 data	<p>Senator DAVEY: Sure. While we're talking about the CCCF, last estimates we also asked about the list of communities that were eligible to apply for the \$19 million round that was finalised last year. In another question on notice response, SQ23000879, the department provided the SA2 data. That showed the data that the original 200 approved locations were selected from, and that data actually has 2,000 locations on it. Are you able to tell us how you broke it down and how you selected the 200 successful ones from a list of 2,000?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: I will take that one on notice, Senator, to make sure I have the absolute detail on it.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: I'd appreciate that.</p>	Hansard	93
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SQ24-000035	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Child Care Subsidy - Out-of-pocket costs	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: My definition of 'out-of-pocket cost' is what are you pulling out of your household budget after tax that you're giving to the childcare provider.</p> <p>Mr Reed: That's right. That's exactly what the average out-of-pocket costs are per hour—\$3.68 an hour, which is the lowest they've been since December 2018. The other measurement we use for out-of-pocket costs is the childcare CPI, which is measured by the ABS, and that's 10.4 per cent lower than it was in June 2023, and it's lower now than it was in September 2017.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Are you going to update this modelling? Could you come back to us with a figure?</p> <p>Mr Reed: Yes, I could take that on notice and come back to you.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: That's on the \$120,000 household income. How many parents with children under eight were not currently working? Do you have the cameo? Do you have the data that was relied on with you now?</p> <p>Mr Reed: I feel like this is the first estimates I haven't brought a list of cameos to in a long time, but I don't think—</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: The government was spruiking this group, people on \$120,000, a family on \$120,000.</p> <p>Mr Reed: I know the example you mean.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I want to revisit where we started on the out-of-pocket costs. I've refined my questions a little to try to get—hoping that you can provide answers, knowing that—</p> <p>Mr Reed: Someone has rerun the cameo for post 2023. I can tell you the new estimated saving benefit of that family would be \$2,000.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Let me dig down into that a little. I want to table a table that was used during the election campaign by the Labor Party. It's from Alicia Payne's website—the member for Canberra, I think. On</p>	Hansard	77, 93-95
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			<p>that table, you can see there are different income brackets. I would like you to take on notice to answer the questions that I'm about to ask in their entirety right down each of those different income brackets. But I'll just focus on one particular bracket now. We'll use that \$120,000 figure, if we can, just to help me understand, and then if you can expand it further on notice, that would be really helpful. Does the department have CCCS data from Q4 2023? Do you have that with you now? Mr Reed: Calendar year? Senator O'SULLIVAN: Q4 of the calendar year—so December quarter 2023? Mr Reed: No, we don't have finalised data for the December quarter. We have it for Q3, the September quarter. Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay. How many families are in that \$120,000 income bracket for that Q3? Mr Reed: How many families are there in total? Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes. Mr Reed: There are 1,009,500 families. That's total families. That's what you're asking? Sorry, no—you're asking for the \$120,000? Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes. Mr Reed: I wouldn't have that breakdown, sorry. Senator O'SULLIVAN: You don't have that broken down by income bracket? Mr Reed: No, sorry. That's the total families in that quarter. The total families that access care in that quarter is just over a million, but I don't have it by income. We can definitely get it. Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you tell me the average out-of-pocket cost for a family in that \$120,000 bracket, using the average hourly rate, with two children attending child care five days a week? Mr Reed: I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: When we asked questions like this before, we got a response back. I'll point you to SQ23001109. You said that you weren't able to provide answers to the more general questions because, you said: 'Out-of-pocket costs paid by families depend on a number of factors, including the fee charge, how much child care they use,</p>	
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			<p>whether the family is in receipt of additional childcare subsidy, how many children are in family or using care, and the application of the activity test. They'll therefore range for each income bracket from zero to 100 per cent of the fees charged.' So what I'm trying to do here is narrow it down to a particular example.</p> <p>Mr Reed: We can definitely pick a scenario, pick a cameo of a particular family and compare that cameo to where that family would be at a different point in time. We could do that. I think the question, from memory, though, went to the minimum and maximum that a family under each one of those pays. And essentially the minimum/maximum is zero to 100 per cent of the fee, depending on their circumstances. So if we went to our system and said, 'What is the minimum someone in this family income would pay,' they could pay zero because they're, for instance, on additional childcare subsidy, receiving 100 per cent of their fees covered; whereas another family could have zero hours under the activity test, so have to pay the full fee. That's why we've said it could range from zero to whatever the fee is, because of those situations. But we could pick a cameo where we just say, 'This is a typical family,' and compare them from a point in time to another point in time.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Let's go with an average family.</p> <p>Mr Reed: I just don't know whether I can do it on average income.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I'm happy with that. I'm just trying to discuss it so we get the right question, so we get the answer. Does that make sense? I realise that it might be something that's difficult to do across the table, but I really want to get an answer rather than have come back, wait the time to get an answer and just get one saying you can't answer it. So I want to make sure we tease out the question so that you can</p>	
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			<p>answer it in a way that gives us that. Ultimately what we're trying to understand is the actual out-of-pocket money that someone's paying, not compared to what it would have been if fees were going up and they were trying to match up to that. Does that make sense? I want to make sure that we're getting the actual amount, the dollar amount that people are actually having to pay out—how different it is from what it was before this policy was put in place.</p> <p>Mr Reed: Sure. We can tell you that as an average level already. But if you've got a particular family scenario—</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Have you got an average now?</p> <p>Mr Reed: I think the average out of pocket we did earlier. The average out of pocket is \$3.68 an hour. For all families in the system, that is their average out-of-pocket cost per hour, which is the lowest it's been since December 2018.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Well, if you can come back to us, then, let's work on what the average out-of-pocket cost would be for each of those income brackets on that table, using the average hourly rate with two children in care for five days a week.</p> <p>Mr Reed: I'm assuming we're talking about centre-based long day care?</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Correct. As opposed to what—family?</p> <p>Mr Reed: We would need ages. We'll assume they're both under six.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Daycare age.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Reed: So the second child will get the higher subsidy rate because there are two children under six.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes. What we're trying to do is standardise it so that we get a consistent response across all of those brackets. That will be very helpful to us. Thank you.</p>		
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012024-01	Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACECQA Follow up to SQ23-001024 - Staff classifications/levels	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: All right, we'll follow it up at the next estimates. Changing the subject, in response to a question on notice, SQ23001024, you advised that you've got 140 full-time staff. Are you able to give us a brief breakdown of which levels those staff members are? I understand they're not APS staff. Do you have similar levels to the APS?</p> <p>Ms Sinclair: Sorry, Senator, I don't know what the levels of the APS are. I can take that on notice, but we have our own.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Rather than try to do a comparison if you're not familiar with it, that's fine. Can you just tell us what levels you have? You have different levels of staff, I take it?</p> <p>Ms Sinclair: We do. I'll take it on notice because I don't think it'll make much sense, because I don't really know what APS levels are. So I'll take that on notice and provide that to the committee.</p>	Hansard	96
012024-01	Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACECQA Organisational structure - Number of staff per stream	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay. On your website, you've got an organisational structure. Can you advise how many staff members you have under each of the streams? I'm also happy for you to take this on notice because it might take some detail to come back to me. And how many staff work on national projects? Also, how many are in leadership, quality and regulatory support? That would be quite helpful. We want to know where the majority of ACECQA staff are as well.</p> <p>Ms Sinclair: I'll take it on notice</p>	Hansard	96
012024-03	Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACECQA Chief Executive Officer remuneration	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay. And is your salary as well set by the Remuneration Tribunal?</p> <p>Ms Sinclair: No, it's not. That's determined by the board.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: And may I ask what your salary is set at for this year?</p> <p>Ms Sinclair: The full remuneration package, I'm not sure of. So can I take that on notice, please, Senator?</p>	Hansard	96

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				<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes, sure. If you could give any information like total remuneration, including any bonuses or other incentive payments that might make that up, that would be good.</p>		
012024-04	Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACECQA Office location	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: So that's will be over \$10,000 per workstation. Did you look at—1 Oxford Street is a pretty salubrious location. Did you look at other places that you could go that might be a cheaper alternative, particularly given the transient use of the facility? Did you look at other places?</p> <p>Ms Sinclair: We did indeed, Senator. Thank you for the question. We looked at many of them. The floor that we're on now in 1 Oxford Street, used to belong to the New South Wales Department of Education. They used to lease it and it was there for early childhood before they moved early childhood to Parramatta. So for nearly eight years, that floor was vacant. So the landlord was very keen to offer us an extremely good price to occupy the space that used to be occupied by early childhood New South Wales.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Is it optimal for you to have a situation where you can't have all the staff in there at once? Would it have been better to get a bigger premises where the cost per square metre might be less—say, out in Parramatta—where you could have more utilisation?</p> <p>Ms Sinclair: That is a very good question. The board did consider not only the cost but also the location for staff and for others, because we serve the nine governments—how they could get to the premises when we have meetings such as the regulatory practice committee. But, as I said, the landlord gave us extremely good terms and conditions for that rental because it had been vacant for so long. Also, even</p>	Hansard	97-98

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			<p>though we've got that many workstations, as I mentioned, we have a board room and training rooms that we make available to our nine governments for use, free of charge of course, when they want to meet at a location in Sydney that's relatively easy to get to.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Did you engage a real estate agent at all to provide you with other options, or was it just through that—</p> <p>Ms Sinclair: We did. We engaged the services of someone who took us personally—I think I went to four or five different locations to have a look at the size and what was on offer in terms of fit-out. We could have gone with much bigger premises, and the board did consider having two floors in all the premises we looked at. But it was more economical to face the reality that we have staff across the country and that it would be more prudent to take a smaller footprint so that we were able to keep the costs down.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I'm not overly familiar with Sydney prices, so I'm not going to make any judgment over the actual price. I'm just very keen to understand: is the taxpayer getting value for money? If you could provide us with some evidence that would assist this line of inquiry in relation to the other options that you considered, so we can get a bit of a feel for whether or not value for money has been achieved—is that something you can provide on notice?</p> <p>Ms Sinclair: Of course.</p>		
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SQ24-000047	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	International student enrolments cancelled by universities	<p>Senator FARUQI: This might go to the Migration Strategy but I guess it is kind of related to the Department of Education. Yesterday it was reported that international student enrolments have been cancelled by universities en masse by some universities in a bid to protect their risk ratings after the government's latest Migration Strategy. Do you know how many international student enrolments have been cancelled.</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: Student enrolments are cancelled on a regular basis.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: En masse?</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: It is quite common, particularly around the start of an academic period, be it a semester or other study period, for there to be a lot of change in student enrolments.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: But the report is particularly about enrolments being cancelled for international students en masse because universities want to protect their risk rating under the latest Migration Strategy. So I'm asking a specific question, not what happens every year. Do you know how many international student enrolments have been cancelled?</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: We're aware of those reports and the specific institutions associated with them. What I was trying to explain, Senator, is that we can't differentiate the reasons for student visa cancellations.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Do you have the numbers of enrolment cancellations this year?</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: We would have numbers of enrolment cancellations at points in time, but they will be very large. We won't be able to differentiate around numbers that have been reported in the media associated with individual institutions.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: That's fine. Do you have the numbers of enrolment cancellations now as the year starts?</p>	Hansard	102
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				<p>Ms Sandercock: I don't have them with me. We do have those at the high level and could provide them on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: That would be great.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: Could we have that reference?</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: It was a report, I think in the Sydney Morning Herald, yesterday. You said you couldn't relate back the numbers to each university that has cancelled.</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: We can at the high level, but not for a reason.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Sure, but you can give us the numbers—and maybe you could give us the numbers from last year as well at the same time.</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: On that, as I recall, the numbers are broadly consistent with last year, having looked at this at a high level.</p>		
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SQ24-000048	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Temporary Graduate Visas	<p>Senator FARUQI:.....I want to go to another aspect of the migration strategy which says that the government plans to reduce the maximum eligible age for a temporary graduate visa from 50 to 35. There have been concerns raised by international students who did not know this would come into play when they started studying in Australia with the intention to apply for a TGV after completing their studies. They are no longer eligible because they will be over 35 by the time they graduate, and these students feel that reducing the maximum eligible age of TGV's would unfairly thwart their legitimate expectations and will significantly disrupt their life plans. Did you speak to the Department of Home Affairs about the need to make transitional arrangements to ensure that at least current international students who will be over 35 once they graduate can still be eligible for a TGV?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We're aware, in broad terms, of the concerns that you're talking about—we've read the media reports—but they're really matters about the visa policy settings for Home Affairs.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: I understand that Home Affairs sets policies, but international students are being affected by those policies, and the Department of Education does have some responsibility to international students. I am just asking did you ever talk to Home Affairs about the impacts this would have on international students, and would they set up some kind of transitional arrangement for students who are here now who might actually cross the 35 years of age limit while they're studying.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: The are two parts to your question. Did we talk to Home Affairs about this matter? We talked to Home Affairs about the whole migration strategy.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: No—this matter! I don't care about any other matter. This is the matter I'm asking you about.</p>	Hansard	104-105
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			<p>Mr Rimmer: I'd have to take on notice whether we had a specific discussion about this specific issue. The second part of your question is really asking me to go to matters of the nature of the advice that was provided, rather than the fact of the advice, and I don't think it's appropriate for us to answer that.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Why not?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Because you're asking us to go to advice that was provided to government to support government deliberations.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Did you provide the advice? Don't give me the advice. Did you provide any advice? Mr Rimmer: I'd have to take that specific question about that specific issue on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Sure. Experts, including Professor Tran from Deakin University, have said that reducing the maximum eligible age for TGVs means that a large number of students would become ineligible for TGVs, and Australia would fail to retain highly desirable research talent. Of the current cohort of international students undertaking PhDs in Australia, do you know how many will be aged over 35 when they complete their studies?</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: We'll take that on notice. The matters that you refer to, as they have been raised in the media, are something that we have, of course, sought advice on from the Department of Home Affairs. We understand they're having conversations with a range of institutions who have raised these concerns. One of the relevant pieces of information that they have shared with us is that most PhD students do not progress to a TGV.</p> <p>They access other visas that align with skill visas and reflect the high degree of skill PhD candidates typically bring. We understand that this is something that is being discussed by</p>	
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				<p>the Department of Home Affairs.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: I'm very surprised that you find out about these things through media reports as well and then the department tells you that they are consulting with universities and completely bypassing the Department of Education. International students have said that reducing the eligible age for TGVs will have a particularly detrimental effect on women undertaking postgraduate studies, because they often take time out and generally are older. Perhaps the department analysed how many international students who are women would be disadvantaged? You can take this on notice. Is the department considering any measures to make the TGV changes more equitable for women—or is it again Home Affairs's job?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We'll will take on notice the question of whether we have done analysis on that, but, as you've foreshadowed, the substantive policy issue is one for Home Affairs.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: But the impact is on students, who are your responsibility in some ways. If you could take those on notice, I would appreciate that.</p>		
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SQ24-000049	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	International Student Visas	<p>CHAIR: Yes, you have the call. It is not the appropriate place to ask specifics about matters that are for another portfolio area, which is Home Affairs. I appreciate that, if you're asking questions about impact, that's a different question, but asking details about visas—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm asking questions about impact; I'm asking Mr Rimmer and the Secretary: What is going on? Are you aware of other issues with visa processing of international student visas?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I wouldn't characterise myself as being particularly aware of visa processing issues at all. What I would say is that some universities are experiencing healthy international education demand and conditions at the moment. Others are experiencing market impacts that are flowing from decisions the government took in the context of the migration strategy. I'm really not aware, at the current time, of impacts of the migration strategy in relation to the private vocational education sector or the private higher education strategy because the migration strategy has been in operation for barely eight weeks. The data coming through the system has some lags. We do have some aspects of that through our CRICOS data, but really not the kind of data that would be necessary to understand this matter. But, of course, we've had a letter written to the minister for education raising some concerns. We'll take steps to find out and provide advice to the minister.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you please provide the committee with all correspondence, emails, letters, advices—informal and formal—in relation to international student visas between 1 July 2023 and now, currently, and going forward, because I refer to a media release issued by the minister for education on 28 February 2023, 'Australia-India visit to boost Australian higher education sector'. Certainly, in</p>	Hansard	107-108
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			<p>relation to private providers, that seems to have fallen through the floor. Do you have any other data or are you aware of any other issues with the processing of Indian international student visas?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: No, and I would say that the Indian relationship on higher education and education more generally is very important in the bilateral relationship. It's an important part of the discussions that happen between the two governments—between India and Australia—at all times and there is a very healthy engagement both with Australian universities offering courses in India and Indian students coming to Australia.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'll ask you to take that on notice, in relation to that, because this is ringing alarm bells. Are you aware of any policy or any decisions or has any university raised concerns about visa processing rates or a deliberate strategy of the government not to process international student visa applications, creating a deliberate backlog? They're not being rejected, because that would impact on the student. They're just not being processed. In fact, my understanding is that students are being advised to withdraw their application so they don't effectively get a black mark against their name. Are you aware of this happening at other universities?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I think we've answered that question. Yes, we are broadly aware of the concerns that some universities have, we're aware of this media article and we're in discussions with universities about some of those matters, but I wouldn't characterise it in the way that you did in some parts of your question.</p>	
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SQ24-000050	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Housing shortage for university students	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, can I ask you about the modelling. There's been some modelling undertaken by several universities which suggests that a five per cent levy on universities, with respect to international students, would reduce international students by between 27,000 and 30,000. Are you aware of that modelling?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No, I haven't seen that modelling. Do you have the reference there at all, or the modelling itself?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I do have the reference. I'll need to track it down.</p> <p>Mr Cook: My team may have, but, honestly, I have not seen it myself. I'm assuming the panel has, but I haven't.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So you're not aware of any of that work?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I haven't seen it. I'm sorry.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: We've seen record high enrolments of international students.</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's correct, yes.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: This is placing enormous pressure on universities, but particularly on housing in Sydney and Melbourne. With respect to the scope of the minister's responsibilities, what's being done to make sure that domestic students can access affordable housing, particularly in Sydney and Melbourne?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I think Ms Sandercock has talked before about the work that we do with universities about housing, I think it might have been during questions that Senator Faruqi might have asked in past estimates. I'll bring Ms Sandercock back to talk about the work we do with universities and particularly with some of the accommodation private providers as well, where—was there a forum, or we've had a discussion or meeting? I'm sorry, I don't mean to—</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: That's right. As the secretary said, we have</p>	Hansard	110-111
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			<p>regular discussions, particularly with our counterparts in the states and territories. We convene a Commonwealth, state and territory international education forum. Accommodation is regularly a topic of discussion at that forum, where we work to build a picture of accommodation solutions that are being effectively deployed in different jurisdictions based on different models. That can vary from things that we've seen. I may perhaps have answered on notice—apologies—about some of the study hub activities, be it from homestays or other initiatives, that aim to find increased accommodation for international and domestic students. That's an ongoing topic of conversation at the Commonwealth—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Have you done any work on the vacancy rate for student accommodation? This is anecdotal, but I'm advised that, for the first time in over a hundred years, the residential colleges at the University of Melbourne have closed early, because ordinarily students would go and live in a share house after a couple of years but the shortage of housing in Sydney and Melbourne is at such a critical point that students are deferring. Students from regional and rural Australia, wanting to go to university in Sydney and Melbourne, are literally not able to find anywhere to live.</p> <p>Mr Cook: The question was around the vacancies?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: The question was about vacancy rates. Do you have any data in relation to the housing shortage, the accommodation shortage, because, anecdotally, I'm suggesting that it is absolutely dire?</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: I'll take your specific request for data on notice, but I can say that we do ask the states and territories and the peak bodies to share that information with us as they have it. We ask them to provide us with vacancy rates; they're often publicly reported and through other industries, as you would be aware. Similarly, we ask peak bodies, who</p>		
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				are typically part of parallel conversations, to share with us information on accommodation pressures. We'll provide what we can on notice in relation to the data.		
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SQ24-000051	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Independent Student Ombudsman	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you. I want to go to the proposed student ombudsman, which was a proposal the coalition has championed over a long period of time. Could you update the committee on progress with implementing an independent student ombudsman?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I think Mr Rimmer actually provided some of that evidence in relation to a question from Senator Grogan just a minute ago, but we're very happy to provide that information again.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: The draft action plan on gender based violence included the proposal to implement a student ombudsman. That was put out as a draft. It's not yet a final action plan. It's not yet agreed to, finally, by education ministers. We anticipate that education ministers will talk about this at their next meeting—which is tomorrow week—among other things, and make whatever decisions are made in that meeting.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Mr Rimmer, if you could provide, on notice, all messages, emails, correspondence, notes and briefings—in informal or formal—on the independent student ombudsman, I would be grateful. The student ombudsman is meant to deal with issues far greater than just issues of student safety, though, isn't it?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Yes.</p>	Hansard	111
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SQ24-000052	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Startup Year programs	<p>Senator HENDERSON: But I would ask you if you can on notice provide the committee with details as to how many students, because if the courses start this year then one would think there would be applications in train right now.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Sure, but it may not surprise you, having dealt with us over a number of estimates, that we don't have real-time data about enrolments at our fingertips. I can tell you that Flinders University's course will start in March. They are offering 50 places. The University of Western Sydney will start in just a little while, in roughly the same time period, with 40 places. The University of New South Wales, which is very excited about this program, will be offering 100 places. And I think the universities involved are very clear about how the Startup Year program fits into the wider ecosystem of Startup Year activities that are offered by universities and in fact by other participants in the—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: On notice, could you provide the details of the universities offering Startup Year programs, including how many places, please?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Sure.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Is it possible for someone in the department to ring those universities and check on their enrolments? I don't mean now.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, what I was saying is that this is a shambles of a loan scheme. And I would strongly suggest to students to look at other options, particularly free courses, rather than take on a full-fee-paying loan, which is perilous at the best of times, particularly on top of other student debt. Going back to my question about the universities, could you please provide on notice the name of the course, the universities offering the course, the number of places and</p>	Hansard	112-113
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				any update that you can possibly find in relation to enrolments?		
SQ24-000053	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Universities Accord interim report - First Nations students	<p>Senator FARUQI: I just have one question about accessibility for First Nations people. Minister, if the government is serious about improving First Nations university participation—as was said in the Universities Accord interim report—why didn't it listen to the recommendations of NATSIPA and CAPA and look at extending Commonwealth supported places to postgraduate First Nations students? I did move an amendment at that stage, which wasn't accepted by the government. But the average cost, as you know, for postgraduate degrees is \$28,000 and this is a significant barrier for First Nations people to actually transition from undergrad to postgrad. Is that something the department is modelling, or the government is looking into?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I can recall that from the Senate chamber. I don't know if the department can help or if they're aware of anything. I'd have to take it on notice and try and come back to you with something more fulsome other than, obviously,</p>	Hansard	116

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				<p>the full report of the accord is due out soon. Senator FARUQI: But the number is very low for First Nations students transitioning from undergrad to postgrad so that is a serious issue, and I would really appreciate you looking into that. Senator Chisholm: Okay.</p>		
SQ24-000054	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	Draft ARC review response bill	<p>Senator BROCKMAN:.....The draft ARC review response bill—where is that? Is it finalised? Is it close to be finalised? Is it with the minister? Mr Cook: The bill's in the Senate. Senator BROCKMAN: Sorry, that's my mistake. Senator O'SULLIVAN: You'd expect us all to be across it. Senator BROCKMAN: You would. The submissions received by the department to the draft bill—are they publicly available? Mr Cook: I'll turn to the expert on this topic. Mr English? Mr English: That's an excellent question. I would need to check that they've been published, but I believe they should've been published by now. Senator BROCKMAN: They should have been published? Mr English: I can double-check. Senator BROCKMAN: Would there be any reason why they wouldn't have been made publicly available? Normally, they would be. Mr English: The only reason we don't publish submissions in such processes is if the author themselves asks that we don't. Senator BROCKMAN: Okay. If for any reason they're not publicly available, can we receive a copy of those submissions and all correspondence received in relation to</p>	Hansard	116-117

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				<p>the bill? If it didn't qualify as being a formal submission but you received correspondence directly about the bill, could we also receive a copy of that? Do we know how many submissions were received?</p> <p>Mr English: To be clear, there were two processes of discussion with the sector about the bill. There were more than 230 submissions, I think, made to the inquiry run by the team led by Professor Shield from the Queensland University of Technology. That then was followed up by some targeted consultations we made on the elements of the bill that we were drafting. We received 11 submissions to that process in addition to the meetings we had with a whole range of people across the sector. I would need to double-check that 11 and confirm they've been published. I will take on notice the provision of those, or the location.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: We'd like to see a copy of them.....</p>		
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SQ24-000055	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	AUKUS - Allocated Commonwealth supported places	<p>Senator BROCKMAN:.....Just quickly on Commonwealth supported places allocated to AUKUS, I know there's a link to the department's website for which universities have been allocated places. Can you quickly talk through the phasing of those Commonwealth supported places allocated to AUKUS over the four years?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: There are 4,000 places over four years. They are, to my knowledge, split equally over the four years.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: They're split equally?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Yes—except in the allocation process that changes slightly. I think we might need to take that on notice. The original plan was to do 1,000 a year, but I think in the application process providers suggested a slightly different phasing, so we might need to come back to you on notice on that.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: And are the institutional allocations equal over four years or do they shift between years?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Each provider made a different submission in terms of when they wanted the places to start and how they wanted that to flow over time.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Can we have that phasing broken down by year and institution?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll provide that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: This is a minor thing. You mentioned 4,000 places, yet I believe that there are 4,001 that have been announced. Why the one?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I think that's correct. We have grown a place.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Is that just—</p> <p>Mr Cook: It could have been rounding.</p>	Hansard	117
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SQ24-000056	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	AUKUS - courses provided by universities	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I have another question in relation to the AUKUS places. Are you able to provide a breakdown of the courses being provided by each university?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We'll be able to do that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I know Melbourne, for instance, is providing what everyone is calling the 'submarine course'. But it would be helpful to understand the nature of the course and the qualification being offered.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll have that information; we can certainly provide that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you.</p>	Hansard	118
SQ24-000057	Department of Education	Perin Davey	University Hubs	<p>Senator DAVEY: Are you monitoring not just how many students enrol at a university hub but how many walk through the doors? Are you monitoring that data as well?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: There is an evaluation process in place for the regional hubs. The main metric that I'm aware of is, as you've described, student numbers. We can take on notice whether we're collecting other data from the hubs on a regular basis.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Take this on notice as well: when you give me that information, if you've got any information over the last three years of enrolments and also completion, graduation, so that we can—my understanding anecdotally is they're very successful and they've got a very high completion rate. I'd like to keep up-to-date with and abreast of that.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Happy to help.</p>	Hansard	120
SQ24-000058	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Second certificate enrolments for international students	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: We asked a question of TEQSA at the last estimates. On the number of second certificate enrolments of international students, they said it is a matter for the department—so I'm bringing this question to you now. The question reference is SQ23-001253. The question was: can you provide us with the number of second certificate enrolments for international students, can we get a list of the providers that have these enrolments, and are</p>	Hansard	120

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				<p>you able to advise the home countries of students with secondary enrolments? Have you got that information at hand?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No. I wouldn't have that level of detail for thousands of students to hand. I will just check with Ms Sandercock.</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: That's correct.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: If you could take that on notice; that's fine.....</p>		
SQ24-000059	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	PII Claim - Review of HELP ATO payment system	<p>Senator HENDERSON:.....I want to quickly go to a letter I wrote to the Minister for Education on 8 December 2023, raising concerns about what I would call a dodgy PII claim. The minister declined to provide some documents in relation to his review of the HELP ATO payment system, asserting that documents were cabinet-in-confidence and therefore subject to a public interest immunity claim. I've raised concerns about this because his claim didn't meet the test as set out in Odgers'. I am concerned that there's an increasing tendency of the government to use this and, in fact, with respect, Secretary, you did reference this before. The 14th edition of Odgers', page 665, reads:</p> <p>A claim that a document is a cabinet document should not be accepted; as has been made clear in relation to such claims in court proceedings, it has to be established that disclosure of the document would reveal cabinet deliberations. Minister Chisholm, are you able to provide any insight into the failure of the Minister for Education to provide documents in accordance with an order for the production of documents which was made by the Senate on 7 November 2023?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Is this in regard to general business notice of motion No. 374?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I don't have the motion in front of me,</p>	Hansard	122-123

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				<p>but I have the letter to the minister, which is dated 8 December. The Senate agreed to the order for the production of documents on 7 November 2023.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I don't know if what I've got matches up with what you've got, sorry, Senator Henderson.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm happy to put it on notice, but I would just raise quite genuine—I am always genuine—and serious concerns about the government's suggestion that it's not required to disclose documents because there's a connection with cabinet, or because they inform cabinet. It does not meet the test. I've set that out.</p>		
SQ24-000060	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Final report of the Australian Universities Accord	<p>Senator HENDERSON: given that the final report of the university accord is not a cabinet document and it doesn't reveal cabinet deliberations, can I ask you to provide a copy of that report to the committee, please.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, Senator. How are you aware that it's not a cabinet document—just to help me understand that?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It doesn't meet the test because it's not a document which discloses cabinet deliberations, and therefore it's not protected. It's not a protected document. On that basis, can I ask for a copy of that document.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'll take that on notice and seek advice on that matter.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you very much, Secretary. I appreciate that.</p>	Hansard	123

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SQ24-000061	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill 2023	<p>Senator FARUQI: Good evening, everyone. Thanks for being here at this time of the night. On 7 November last year the government published a draft of their Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill 2023. Many prominent researchers have expressed serious concerns about this bill because it would make it illegal to conduct research with foreign citizens using any dual-use technologies unless a permit is obtained. As an example, the Australian Academy of Science president, Professor Chennupati Jagadish, said that he would need permits for everything they do, and, 'Without them, my collaborations would see me jailed.' This would have an effect on a large proportion of science projects also funded by the ARC. Many people have pointed out that it could have a really chilling effect on international collaboration and the employment of visiting researchers. This new legislation would directly affect how research you fund is conducted. Was the Australian Research Council consulted before 7 November 2023 about the draft bill?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Thank you, Senator, for that question. There may be elements of it that we need to take on notice regarding the specifics of your question. But we've certainly been in consultations with the department, and I think Ms Forsyth will be able to give you a flavour of those consultations, perhaps even some of the dates of them.</p> <p>Ms Forsyth: We—it wasn't me but two people in my branch—did meet with the Department of Defence prior to that date. I don't have the date on me, so I'm happy to take that on notice. We then met with them I want to say early this year, but it could have also been late last year, so I will take that date on notice as well. It was after the submissions were received. So we've met with them twice to talk about the bill and what implications that may have for researchers and how we will adjust our processes accordingly.</p>	Hansard	128
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				<p>Senator FARUQI: Okay. But did you give any advice to the government? Specifically, did the ARC advise against the new requirement to obtain a permit every time that researchers want to work with foreign citizens where dual-use technologies are involved?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator FARUQI:.....I'll ask this question of the department: how many submissions were received in the consultation process for that bill?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I don't have that information to hand. I know who will have it to hand, but unfortunately they're not here.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: That's alright. Could you take that on notice, and maybe also give us a list of who made submissions. Will those submissions be made public?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Of course.</p>		
SQ24-000062	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Mehreen Faruqi	TEQSA International students affected by Swinburne University's policies	<p>Senator FARUQI: In the October 2023 estimates—you probably recall this—I raised concerns with you about Swinburne university's policies which automatically stripped hundreds of international students of their scholarships with only 10 days and very strict conditions for appeal, while the national code required 20 working days for students to access internal complaints and appeals processes. In a written update from 22 December last year, TEQSA said that it was waiting to receive all the materials it had requested from Swinburne university. Have you not received all the materials you requested from Swinburne university?</p> <p>Prof. Coaldrake: The matter has advanced significantly since October. In the first instance, Swinburne commissioned an external party to investigate matters that had been raised,</p>	Hansard	123-124

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				<p>and you'll be aware that the issues related to the circumstances of scholarships being withdrawn. As a result of that, I think a period of grace was proposed, and that's been implemented by Swinburne so the scholarship holders who fell slightly below a threshold would actually have an opportunity to remediate their position. The latest is that we are shortly due a further tranche of information from Swinburne to help close the matters off. I think we feel somewhat reassured to date through the actions that they've taken, having acknowledged the issues, and they're progressing from the perspective of the students.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Do you know how many students have been affected by the issue?</p> <p>Prof. Coaldrake: I don't.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Could you take that on notice, please.</p> <p>Prof. Coaldrake: Yes, we could.</p>		
SQ24-000063	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Mehreen Faruqi	TEQSA Follow up to SQ23-001083 - Expert assistance for investigations and compliance assessments	<p>Senator FARUQI: In response to questions on notice, SQ23001083 from October 2023, TEQSA stated, 'For any investigation or compliance assessment that requires expert knowledge, TEQSA obtains relevant expert assistance.' Can TEQSA advise which experts in sexual assault and sexual harassment it has obtained assistance from?</p> <p>Dr Russell: I can't tell you that at this time. We can take that on notice and provide you with that information.</p>	Hansard	125

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SQ24-000064	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Mehreen Faruqi	TEQSA University of Sydney	<p>Senator FARUQI: In response to another question on notice, SQ23001252 asked on 26 October 2023, TEQSA advised that one university, the University of Sydney, 'is currently subject to annual reporting in relation to sexual assault and harassment'. Could you tell us for how many years the University of Sydney has been subject to annual reporting?</p> <p>Dr Russell: I can't, but we can tell you on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: What information is the University of Sydney required to provide to TEQSA in its annual reporting?</p> <p>Dr Russell: We will also provide that to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: What expertise does TEQSA possess to evaluate the effectiveness of actions taken by the University of Sydney to address sexual assault and sexual harassment?</p> <p>Dr Russell: The evaluation that TEQSA undertakes relates to the extent to which the university's actions are compliant with the Higher Education Standards Framework. That it is a different expertise from what would be needed by a different type of agency to look at other aspects of responses to sexual harm. Some of that expertise has been acquired by members of the compliance team as part of additional training. Some of that expertise sits within the expertise of the commission, who have a long history of senior administrative and policy roles within universities. If there were a question around compliance with the standards framework, we would seek relevant expertise in relation to that. I do hasten to add that that is different from consulting providers who might provide expertise about individual response matters.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: So you would acquire that expertise to be able to evaluate whatever annual reporting Sydney university does on sexual assault and sexual harassment? Is that what you're saying?</p>	Hansard	125
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				<p>Dr Russell: It would depend on the nature of the reporting that's been required.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Isn't there a standard annual report that Sydney university provides you?</p> <p>Dr Russell: There is but we will need to look into the details and provide that to you.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: I will put the rest of the questions on notice, Chair, in the interests of time.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you very much.</p>		
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SQ24-000065	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Service targets	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I'll race through these as quickly as I can. TEQSA has the following in its service charter: 80 per cent of general email inquiries responded to in five business days, 80 per cent of telephone calls answered on the spot, 80 per cent of web inquiries responded to in five days et cetera. Can I get a breakdown of how these service targets have been met, whether the information is public and if the targets have not been met why not?</p> <p>Dr Russell: There are some technical limitations in our ability to actually generate accurate data about that, which we are addressing in the current rebuild of our customer-relationship management system. I'm happy to take on notice to obtain what information we can, but that is not something that we can track at an automated level at the moment. It is something we are working to be able to track at an automated level.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Why do you have that in your service charter then?</p> <p>Dr Russell: I believe it's in the service charter because we see that as a reasonable expectation to set of ourselves and our staff, to share with providers and to provide a basis for providers to engage with us when they feel that their contact with us or the service that we're providing to them doesn't meet the standard. I don't have a way of systematically reporting that to you yet, but I do assure you we're working to obtain that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you provide any information in the regard on notice, I'd appreciate it.</p> <p>Dr Russell: Yes.</p>	Hansard	127
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SQ24-000066	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Number of complaints	<p>Senator HENDERSON: How many complaints has TEQSA received in the last two financial years, and how long, on average, does it take to substantively respond to a complaint? Could you also detail how many complaints are outstanding for longer than 90 days, 180 days and 270 days?</p> <p>Dr Russell: We'll take that on notice, but can I just clarify: you're referring to complaints about TEQSA rather than complaints about providers?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Complaints about any matter. Complaints about compliance matters, but if there are also complaints about TEQSA, I'd welcome information on that as well!</p> <p>Dr Russell: Very happy to be transparent, but we will need to take that on notice for you.</p>	Hansard	127
SQ24-000067	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Staff movement and attrition	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I will quickly go to your attrition rate for the agency. Do you have that information for the last three financial years?</p> <p>Dr Russell: I believe we have it for part of that period.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could I ask you to take that on notice. I'm keen to understand your level of staff movement and staff attrition. If you could take that on notice, I'd be grateful.</p> <p>Dr Russell: I could provide it to you—</p> <p>CHAIR: If you could take it on notice, that would be wonderful.</p>	Hansard	127

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SQ24-000068	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Senior staff travel	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you also take on notice the travel of your senior staff each year. I'm wanting to understand the travel that you incur for the last three financial years, including this year to date. Do you do a lot of travel or international travel?</p> <p>Prof. Coaldrake: I'll have a go first, if you like. I'm one of the travellers. We're very attentive to this. The main travel costs in the agency are those of commissioners not based in Melbourne travelling to Melbourne. Sometimes we meet in Melbourne and sometimes we meet virtually. The international travel otherwise is negligible, apart from Helen Gniel, who runs the Higher Education Integrity Unit, which is focused on artificial intelligence. They're very internationally connected with what's going on, and she's had, I think, two trips in the last year. So, descriptively, that's the answer; we can give you the stats. But, descriptively, that's the answer.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Dr Russell, what about you?</p> <p>Dr Russell: I have had no international travel in my time at TEQSA, and I would estimate that 85 per cent of my travel is to Canberra.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Aren't you lucky! Alright. Could you take that on notice and provide further details.</p> <p>Dr Russell: I have provided that information in a recent question on notice, but I'll check whether there's an update we can provide to that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you can provide an update, including each international trip, the reason for the trip and the cost, and the overall cost on an individual basis—per person—we'd be really grateful. Thank you very much.</p>	Hansard	127-128
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SQ24-000069	Australian Research Council	Mehreen Faruqi	ARC Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill 2023	<p>Senator FARUQI: Good evening, everyone. Thanks for being here at this time of the night. On 7 November last year the government published a draft of their Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill 2023. Many prominent researchers have expressed serious concerns about this bill because it would make it illegal to conduct research with foreign citizens using any dual-use technologies unless a permit is obtained. As an example, the Australian Academy of Science president, Professor Chennupati Jagadish, said that he would need permits for everything they do, and, 'Without them, my collaborations would see me jailed.' This would have an effect on a large proportion of science projects also funded by the ARC. Many people have pointed out that it could have a really chilling effect on international collaboration and the employment of visiting researchers. This new legislation would directly affect how research you fund is conducted. Was the Australian Research Council consulted before 7 November 2023 about the draft bill?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Thank you, Senator, for that question. There may be elements of it that we need to take on notice regarding the specifics of your question. But we've certainly been in consultations with the department, and I think Ms Forsyth will be able to give you a flavour of those consultations, perhaps even some of the dates of them.</p> <p>Ms Forsyth: We—it wasn't me but two people in my branch—did meet with the Department of Defence prior to that date. I don't have the date on me, so I'm happy to take that on notice. We then met with them I want to say early this year, but it could have also been late last year, so I will take that date on notice as well. It was after the submissions were received. So we've met with them twice to talk about the bill and what implications that may have for researchers and how we will adjust our processes accordingly.</p>	Hansard	128
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				<p>Senator FARUQI: Okay. But did you give any advice to the government? Specifically, did the ARC advise against the new requirement to obtain a permit every time that researchers want to work with foreign citizens where dual-use technologies are involved?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I think we'll take that on notice. As Ms Forsyth has indicated, we were certainly in discussions with the department about that. Whether we gave specific advice—we'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Okay, and could you provide that advice as well. ...</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: I know you may have given advice, but did the ARC make a submission in response to the draft bill?</p> <p>Ms Forsyth: No, we didn't.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Why not?</p> <p>Ms Forsyth: We met with them directly prior to the bill. We discussed it then and we didn't feel that we needed to make a submission. We made representations privately.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: I do find that incredible. The ARC Act says that the ARC's purpose includes advising government on research matters, and the proposal in this bill could have a very significant impact on the research that you fund, and yet you didn't provide a submission which would be publicly available. Hopefully we can get the advice that you gave. Do you think this is an important enough research matter to give written advice to the government on?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: It's often a matter of judgement. There are numerous government processes where an agency may or may not choose to make a submission. There's no black-and-white answer to any given situation. It is a matter of judgement, but we can—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: If it's an important enough issue, though, surely you would make a submission.</p>		
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				<p>Dr Johnson: We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: You said you didn't make a submission and you're not sure whether you gave advice.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: No, we didn't say that; we said we'd take it on notice, and Ms Forsyth said—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Surely, as the ARC, you should know whether you gave advice to the government or not.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We haven't answered that in the way that you're characterising. What we said was that we'd take your question on notice, and we're very happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Did you give advice to the government? Why do you have to take that on notice?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We've talked about the consultation and collaboration process that we've been involved in, and then you've asked us further. We want to make sure that we're giving you the most accurate answer. Some of the detail to the question we don't have to hand, so we're very happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Can you take on notice whether you gave advice and then what advice you gave.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We'll certainly take those questions on notice</p>		
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SQ24-000070	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Centre of Excellence travel and events	<p>Senator HENDERSON: At the last hearing I raised concerns with the previous CEO about excessive expenditure by a research centre. The question was taken on notice—the reference number is SQ23-000896— however, you didn't address the concerns that I raised. Did you look into the expenditure of \$630,000 on travel by the Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society, or event expenditure of \$222,000?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Thank you for raising that at the last estimates hearing. Since that matter was raised we have followed up with both the university and the centre. As you would be aware, the contracting parties to research projects are the ARC and the university, so it was appropriate to also have a conversation with the university. Professor Twomey will be able to give you some detail of the nature of that follow-up.</p> <p>Prof. Twomey: Based on the information we received from the university, RMIT, and the centre director, we are satisfied that the travel costs incurred were within the budget and that the expenditure that was incurred was eligible within our guidelines. For context and understanding the situation, the scale of the centre is relevant, I think. It has 247 participants across nine different universities, together with international partners. It's important to also keep in mind that one of the aims of the Centre of Excellence scheme is to foster collaboration to deepen research networks. Inevitably, travel and collaboration and meeting together is one of the ways in which the aims of the scheme are facilitated.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to provide a breakdown of the expenditure on both travel and events?</p> <p>Prof. Twomey: The centre will complete an annual report that is submitted, so we will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could seek that information and</p>	Hansard	129
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				<p>provide it to the committee? Dr Johnson: We're very happy to take that on notice.</p>		
SQ24-000071	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Education focused research projects	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you. I asked at the last hearing in October how many projects have been funded with a focus on education. You've responded using the terms 'education research', 'explicit instruction' and 'evidence-based teaching'. Only one project was funded in 2022 and 2023. Can you confirm if this was the only project submitted for funding, or if it was the only one that was funded? Dr Johnson: We may take on notice one element of your question, which is how many proposals were submitted in a particular scheme. We can confirm, based on the information that we provided through that QoN that there is one currently under way. We're very happy to take on notice to have a look at how many applications may have been falling under that particular thematic.</p>	Hansard	129

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SQ24-000072	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Gifts register	<p>Senator HENDERSON: You can't be that ambitious. On review of your gifts and hospitality register, there are two items recorded on 20 October 2023. It stipulates that these gifts were received in 2015 by the CEO—I assume it was the CEO at the time. Can I ask why these were only declared eight years after the CEO received them, around the time of the CEO's resignation?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: You certainly can ask, and we're very happy to make inquiries on that and take it on notice. I'm not in a position to answer that. Did you say the gift register was updated in October 2023?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It was recorded on 20 October 2023.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Thank you, that's helpful. We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Is that normal practice? It seems extraordinary that it would take eight years.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Before I can make a judgement about whether it's ordinary practice, I'd really have to look closely at the matter, but we're very happy to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	130
SQ24-000073	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Update to SQ23-000967 - Brief redrafts	<p>Senator HENDERSON: In question on notice SQ23-000967, it states that two briefs were returned from the minister's office to the ARC for redrafting; can you tell me the nature of those briefs and why they were returned for a redraft?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I don't think I have that to hand. I'm looking at my team and they may not have it either, so we will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It's quite unusual to return briefs for a redraft.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Again, I can't characterise the particular circumstance until we have a look at it.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could we also have a copy of those briefs?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I'll certainly take that on notice, but it would be</p>	Hansard	130

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				<p>unusual to provide advice provided to ministers. I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Sure, please take that on notice.</p>		
SQ24-000074	Department of Education	James McGrath	Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. To what extent is Artificial Intelligence (AI) being utilised in the Department of Education?</p> <p>2. Has the Department been advised by any federal departments or agencies on how to develop policies and procedures on the utilisation of AI in the workplace? If so, please table this advice and correspondence.</p> <p>3. Does the Department have any internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Department? If so, please table these internal policies and/or procedures.</p> <p>4. If there are internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Department, has there been any breaches of these policies and procedures? Please provide de-identified summaries of such breaches since May 2022.</p> <p>5. Please provide any correspondence, briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to internal policies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>6. Please provide any briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to correspondence between</p>	Written	N/A

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				<p>the Department and other federal departments and agencies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>7. Has the Department completed an assessment on the benefits of AI in the Department? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>8. Has the Department completed an assessment on the risks that AI poses to the ability for the Department to successfully execute its aims and objectives? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>9. Are there any cases of staff being reprimanded for the misuse of AI, such as using ChatGPT to complete reports or inputting confidential information into online chat boxes?</p>		
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SQ24-000075	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	James McGrath	AITSL Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. To what extent is Artificial Intelligence (AI) being utilised in the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited?</p> <p>2. Has the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited been advised by any federal departments or agencies on how to develop policies and procedures on the utilisation of AI in the workplace? If so, please table this advice and correspondence.</p> <p>3. Does the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited have any internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited? If so, please table these internal policies and/or procedures.</p> <p>4. If there are internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited, has there been any breaches of these policies and procedures? Please provide de-identified summaries of such breaches since May 2022.</p> <p>5. Please provide any correspondence, briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to internal policies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>6. Please provide any briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to correspondence between the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited and other federal departments and agencies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>7. Has the Australian Institute for Teaching and School</p>	Written	N/A
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				<p>Leadership Limited completed an assessment on the benefits of AI in the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>8. Has the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited completed an assessment on the risks that AI poses to the ability for the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited to successfully execute its aims and objectives? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>9. Are there any cases of staff being reprimanded for the misuse of AI, such as using ChatGPT to complete reports or inputting confidential information into online chat boxes?</p>		
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SQ24-000076	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	James McGrath	ACARA Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. To what extent is Artificial Intelligence (AI) being utilised in the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority?</p> <p>2. Has the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority been advised by any federal departments or agencies on how to develop policies and procedures on the utilisation of AI in the workplace? If so, please table this advice and correspondence.</p> <p>3. Does the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority have any internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority? If so, please table these internal policies and/or procedures.</p> <p>4. If there are internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, has there been any breaches of these policies and procedures? Please provide de-identified summaries of such breaches since May 2022.</p> <p>5. Please provide any correspondence, briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to internal policies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>6. Please provide any briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to correspondence between the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority and other federal departments and agencies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>7. Has the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting</p>	Written	N/A
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				<p>Authority completed an assessment on the benefits of AI in the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>8. Has the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority completed an assessment on the risks that AI poses to the ability for the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority to successfully execute its aims and objectives? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>9. Are there any cases of staff being reprimanded for the misuse of AI, such as using ChatGPT to complete reports or inputting confidential information into online chat boxes?</p>		
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SQ24-000080	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	James McGrath	TEQSA Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. To what extent is Artificial Intelligence (AI) being utilised in the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency?</p> <p>2. Has the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency been advised by any federal departments or agencies on how to develop policies and procedures on the utilisation of AI in the workplace? If so, please table this advice and correspondence.</p> <p>3. Does the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency have any internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency? If so, please table these internal policies and/or procedures.</p> <p>4. If there are internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, has there been any breaches of these policies and procedures? Please provide de-identified summaries of such breaches since May 2022.</p> <p>5. Please provide any correspondence, briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to internal policies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>6. Please provide any briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to correspondence between the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency and other federal departments and agencies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>7. Has the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency completed an assessment on the benefits of AI in the Tertiary</p>	Written	N/A
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				<p>Education Quality and Standards Agency? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>8. Has the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency completed an assessment on the risks that AI poses to the ability for the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency to successfully execute its aims and objectives? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>9. Are there any cases of staff being reprimanded for the misuse of AI, such as using ChatGPT to complete reports or inputting confidential information into online chat boxes?</p>		
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SQ24-000078	Australian Research Council	James McGrath	ARC Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. To what extent is Artificial Intelligence (AI) being utilised in the Australian Research Council?</p> <p>2. Has the Australian Research Council been advised by any federal departments or agencies on how to develop policies and procedures on the utilisation of AI in the workplace? If so, please table this advice and correspondence.</p> <p>3. Does the Australian Research Council have any internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Australian Research Council? If so, please table these internal policies and/or procedures.</p> <p>4. If there are internal policies or procedures relating to the utilisation of AI in the Australian Research Council, has there been any breaches of these policies and procedures? Please provide de-identified summaries of such breaches since May 2022.</p> <p>5. Please provide any correspondence, briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to internal policies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>6. Please provide any briefing notes, file notes, memoranda, emails, or other records relating to correspondence between the Australian Research Council and other federal departments and agencies on AI since May 2022.</p> <p>7. Has the Australian Research Council completed an assessment on the benefits of AI in the Australian Research Council? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p>	Written	N/A
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				<p>8. Has the Australian Research Council completed an assessment on the risks that AI poses to the ability for the Australian Research Council to successfully execute its aims and objectives? If so, when was this completed and what is the criteria for assessing a benefit? Please provide a copy of this assessment if applicable.</p> <p>9. Are there any cases of staff being reprimanded for the misuse of AI, such as using ChatGPT to complete reports or inputting confidential information into online chat boxes?</p>		
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SQ24-000079	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Appendix A of TEQSA's Cost Recovery Implementation Statement	<p>Senator HENDERSON:Could I ask you to outline TEQSA's fee increases that came into effect from 1 January 2024, and what are the efficiencies that will be provided? Dr Russell: Can I ask you to clarify what your focus is there on efficiencies?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm asking about the fee increases that came into effect on 1 January. TEQSA's justification for increasing the fees is to make an adjustment to reflect the actual cost to deliver its regulatory activity. What does that actually mean in practical terms?</p> <p>Dr Russell: One of the activities that was undertaken in relation to the evaluation and review of the cost-recovery model in its first year was to look at where we identified that we had made process improvements. There were certainly some improvements in some areas around CRICOS related work and in some of our other regulatory processes that meant we needed to actually capture that data and reduce those fees, and there were other areas in which it appeared that we needed to adjust those fees upwards.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to outline those fee increases?</p> <p>Dr Russell: Yes. Mr Riordan will speak to that.</p> <p>Mr Riordan: Those are set out in Appendix A to our published updated cost-recovery implementation statement, which is available on our website.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you please table a copy of that for efficiency. I understand that it's on your website, but it would be very helpful if you could table a copy of that to the committee.</p>	Hansard	126-127
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SQ24-000081	Australian Education Research Organisation	Sarah Henderson	AERO Guides and other work for teachers and schools	<p>Senator Henderson:Dr Donovan, can you give the committee any more details on some of the guides and other work that you've prepared for teachers and schools? You are doing an awful lot of practical work to support schools.</p> <p>Dr Donovan: We have been. We have three main purposes. One is to undertake research, to do analysis and to build the evidence base that we have about what works in education in this country. The second is about making sure that information is accessible and available to practitioners, school leaders and policymakers in education. Our third purpose, by the way, is about implementation. It is about making sure that we don't just know this and we make it available but that we understand what it takes for teachers to change practice and to adopt evidence based practice. We have had a big focus on ensuring that resources are available and that evidence is translated into consumable, engaging, usable formats for teachers. We've done the piece of work I described at the beginning. Since I spoke to this panel, we've also published a comprehensive suite of resources around effective practices for classroom management. This has been work commissioned by the Australian government, actually, ahead of the report from the committee. It provides a kind of curriculum I suppose, that describes in great deal the practices that are effective for managing classrooms that are not disruptive and that are conducive to learning happening. I could go on. It's probably quicker to say let's take it on notice and I can send you the complete list of work that we've done, if that's helpful.</p>	Hansard	61
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SQ24-000082	Australian Education Research Organisation	Penny Allman-Payne	AERO Production of publications	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Two hundred plus and 300 is an extraordinary number of publications. Are they all produced in house?</p> <p>Dr Donovan: They are all produced in house. They're not all produced by my staff necessarily. We very often, especially on our bigger research projects, partner with academic partners, universities, sometimes jurisdictional partners and experts in the field. Some of our work is commissioned to other bodies to do for us. What we do is the quality assurance and ensuring that it looks like and meets the standards of AERO's work. No, my staff don't hold the pen on absolutely everything.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: It's a combination of stuff that's produced in house and it's externally contracted out?</p> <p>Dr Donovan: Or partnered, collaborated on.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: What would you say is the percentage? For example, how many publications last year, did you say?</p> <p>Dr Donovan: Can I take that on notice so I can give you an accurate figure? It was around 200.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Of those 200, roughly what percentage would have been wholly completed and worked on in house within AERO and what percentage would have been either partnered out or worked on by external people?</p> <p>Dr Donovan: I know the point of your question. I would say that zero per cent would have been wholly produced in house without any kind of consultation or review by anybody else. Everything we do goes through a process of review that involves people who are external to the agency. I would like, if I can, to take on notice that balance. I would like to get you an accurate figure. It's not available off the top of my head, I'm sorry.</p>	Hansard	63
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SQ24-000083	Australian Education Research Organisation	Penny Allman-Payne	AERO Staff qualifications	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: How many staff are there at AERO who you would consider are educational experts?</p> <p>Dr Donovan: I don't want to guess. I would rather give you the answer that you are looking for by taking—</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Ballpark? Are we talking five, 10, 20 or 30? Roughly? I'm happy for you to give me the exact number on notice. I would be keen to know now roughly.</p>	Hansard	63
SQ24-000084	Australian Education Research Organisation	Penny Allman-Payne	AERO External input on research and quality assurance framework	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: On notice would you be able to provide us with a list of all research that's had external input, and to clarify exactly what contributions have been made in relation to that research? I would also like a copy of the framework that you used to quality assure that work.</p> <p>Dr Donovan: Yes.</p>	Hansard	64
SQ24-000085	Australian Education Research Organisation	Penny Allman-Payne	AERO Peer review of publications	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: When research is being produced externally, can you talk me through the safeguards you have in place and your methods to check the veracity of that research?</p> <p>Dr Donovan: I mentioned earlier the standards of evidence that we have on our website that we apply both to our own work and to anybody else's work, and any work we might want to be endorsing or promoting for any other reason. We're very clear that it needs to meet our standards so that it can be trusted and advocated for. I'm not sure if that answers your question, though. Do you want to follow up?</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: I'm particularly interested to know what safeguards you have in place to check the veracity of the work that's going out.</p> <p>Dr Donovan: The usual review processes. It goes through quality assurance internally and it goes through review using—</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Is that peer reviewed? Do you utilise the peer review process at AERO for all of the work?</p> <p>Dr Donovan: Very often. With our data analysis we always</p>	Hansard	64

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				<p>use peer review. Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Maybe on notice, if you could indicate for us in that list of research what's been peer reviewed and what hasn't? Dr Donovan: Yes.</p>		
SQ24-000086	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000901 - Ministerial briefs	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister? a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? b. Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide: a. the previous turnaround requirement; and b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>4. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p> <p>5. How many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000087	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000902 - Hospitality in the Ministers' offices	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2023, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000088	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000903 - Staffing in the Ministers' offices	<p>1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio? a. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister. b. Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p> <p>2. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer? a. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister. b. Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000089	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000904 - Meetings with Ministers	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000090	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000905 - New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000091	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000906 - Paper	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000092	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000907 - Committee and taskforce memberships	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since October 2023.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since October 2023.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</p> <p>a. the name of the interdepartmental committee;</p> <p>b. a list of the membership;</p> <p>c. the date it was established; and</p> <p>d. its purpose.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000093	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000908 - 2022-23 October Budget savings	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? 2. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 3. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? 4. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? 5. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 	Written	N/A
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				<p>6. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>c. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
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SQ24-000094	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000909 - Department functions/official receptions expenditure	In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following: a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000095	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000910 - Ministers or Assistant Minister functions/official receptions	In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following: a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000096	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000911 - Facility upgrades	1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted. 2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments,	Written	N/A

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				<p>bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>		
SQ24-000097	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000912 - Travel costs	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-0000098	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000913 - Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000099	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000914 - Credit Cards	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2023/24 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? d. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof? 	Written	N/A
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				<p>8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2023/243 to date?</p> <p>a. What that amount actually repaid, in full?</p> <p>b. If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>11. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
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SQ24-000100	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000915 - Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters	<p>In relation to the department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator. 	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000101	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000916 - Number of reviews	<p>1. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed. <p>2. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office. <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2023. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; 	Written	N/A
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				<p>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</p>		
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SQ24-000102	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000917 - Entities (including advisory boards and agencies)	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000103	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000918 - Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000104	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000919 - ASL Allocation	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 February 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000105	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000920 - Market research provided	Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign?	Written	N/A

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			to the Ministers' offices	Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.		
SQ24-000106	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000921 - Freedom of Information applications	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned. <p>2. How many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000107	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000922 - Freedom of Information applications in the Minister's Office	<p>How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue. 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000108	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000923 - Portfolio estimates variations and movement of funds	<p>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</p> <p>2. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000109	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000924 - Flexible work arrangements	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <p>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</p> <p>b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</p> <p>c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</p> <p>d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</p> <p>e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p> <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the</p>	Written	N/A

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				amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.		
SQ24-000110	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000925 - Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network?</p> <p>a. If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>2. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000111	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Senate Estimates and QoNs	<p>1. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister's office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>3. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</p> <p>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 12 February to 16 February 2024.</p> <p>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of the Question on Notice; b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister's office; d. the date the Minister's office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; e. the date the Question on Notice was tabled; and f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response. 	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000112	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Communications campaigns	<p>1. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>b. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Has the Department/Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000113	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Conflict of interest declaration	<p>1. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</p> <p>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000114	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Secretary leave and acting arrangements	Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2023, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000115	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Staff positions	<p>1. Please provide a list of positions that are currently vacant within the Department as at 1 February 2024.</p> <p>2. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>3. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>4. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p>	Written	N/A

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				5. What is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?		
SQ24-000116	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Property - Location, maintenance & costs	<p>1. As at 1 February 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2023. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000117	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Longest continuing serving member of the Department	As at 1 February 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000118	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Public Holidays	<p>1. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the</p>	Written	N/A

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				<p>Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>		
SQ24-000119	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Staff Training	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. How many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000120	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Funding for operational expenditure	How many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000121	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Election commitments	<p>1. Has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000122	Department of Education	Jane Hume	External guest speakers	Has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000123	Department of Education	Jane Hume	External retreats for staff	Has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000124	Department of Education	Jane Hume	International Travel	How many official international visits have been taken by staff since 1 July 2023?	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000125	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Security clearances	<p>1. How many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>2. How many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000126	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000927 - Ministerial briefs	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Department?</p> <p>b. Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a. the previous turnaround requirement; and</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>4. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p>	Written	N/A

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				5. How many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?		
SQ24-000127	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Hospitality in the Ministers' offices	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2023, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000128	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Staffing in the Ministers' offices	<p>1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p> <p>2. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?</p>	Written	N/A

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				<p>a. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p>		
SQ24-000129	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000928 - Meetings with Ministers	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000130	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000929 - New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000131	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000930 - Paper	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000132	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000931 - Committee and taskforce memberships	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since October 2023.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since October 2023.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</p> <p>a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose.</p>	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000133	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000932 - 2022-23 October Budget savings	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? 2. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 3. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? 4. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? 5. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 	Written	N/A
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				<p>6. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>c. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
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SQ24-000134	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000933 - Agency functions/official receptions expenditure	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000135	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000935 - Facility upgrades	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for</p>	Written	N/A

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				<p>example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>		
SQ24-000136	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000936 - Travel costs	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000137	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000937 - Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000138	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000938 - Credit Cards	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2023/24 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? d. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof? 	Written	N/A
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				<p>8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2023/243 to date?</p> <p>a. What that amount actually repaid, in full?</p> <p>b. If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>11. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
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SQ24-000139	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000939 - Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters	<p>In relation to the department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator. 	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000140	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000940 - Number of reviews	<p>1. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed. <p>2. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister’s office. <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2023. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; 	Written	N/A
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				<p>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</p>		
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SQ24-000141	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Entities (including advisory boards and agencies)	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000142	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000941 - Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000143	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000942 - ASL Allocation	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 February 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000144	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000943 - Market research	<p>Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign?</p>	Written	N/A

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	Reporting Authority		provided to the Ministers' offices	Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.		
SQ24-000145	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000944 - Freedom of Information applications	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned. <p>2. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue. 	Written	N/A

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				3. How many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?		
SQ24-000146	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Portfolio estimates variations and movement of funds	<p>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</p> <p>2. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000147	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000945 - Flexible work arrangements	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week? b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week? c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week? d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week? e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week? <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000148	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000946 - Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data? 	Written	N/A

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	Reporting Authority			2. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.		
SQ24-000149	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Senate Estimates and QoNs	<p>1. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister’s office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>3. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</p> <p>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 12 February to 16 February 2024.</p> <p>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of the Question on Notice; b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister’s office; d. the date the Minister’s office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; e. the date the Question on Notice was tabled; and f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response. 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000150	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Communications campaigns	<p>1. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>b. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Has the Department/Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000151	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Conflict of interest declaration	<p>1. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</p> <p>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000152	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Agency Head leave and acting arrangements	Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2023, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	N/A

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SQ23-000153	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Staff positions	<p>1. Please provide a list of positions that are currently vacant within the Agency as at 1 February 2024.</p> <p>2. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>3. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>4. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>5. What is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000154	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Communication with Minister Aly regarding education workforce statement	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Look, I'm raising concerns. Everyone can make mistakes, Assistant Minister. The department, in good faith, gave Minister Aly the advice that she needed to fix her wording to make it clear that all of those new workers weren't delivered under the Albanese government. My concern is that there was no attempt by her office to correct her language. And rather than take the advice of the education department, she's then gone out and blamed everyone but herself. Can I ask you on notice? I'm happy for you to take it on notice. Has Minister Aly been spoken to by the Minister for Education in relation to this matter? Is there any change in processes or checks or approvals that have been implemented as a result of this incident? And if you've got any advice you could provide now—is there any other process that's been</p>	Hansard	89-90

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				<p>implemented by the department to make sure that where the department has concerns about the accuracy of statements, its advice can be properly regarded? Senator Chisholm: Not that I'm aware of. Senator HENDERSON: If you could take that on notice, I'd be grateful.</p>		
SQ24-000155	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Property - Location, maintenance & costs	<p>1. As at 1 February 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2023. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000156	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Longest continuing serving member of the agency	As at 1 February 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000157	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Public Holidays	<p>1. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000158	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Staff Training	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. How many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000159	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Funding for operational expenditure	How many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000160	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Election commitments	<p>1. Has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000161	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA External guest speakers	Has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000162	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA External retreats for staff	Has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000163	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA International Travel	How many official international visits have been taken by staff since 1 July 2023?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000164	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Security clearances	<p>1. How many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>2. How many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000165	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000947 - Ministerial briefs	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister? a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? b. Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide: a. the previous turnaround requirement; and b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>4. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p> <p>5. How many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000166	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Hospitality in the Ministers' offices	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2023, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000167	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Staffing in the Ministers' offices	<p>1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio? a. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister. b. Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p> <p>2. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer? a. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister. b. Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000168	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000948 - Meetings with Ministers	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000169	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000949 - New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000170	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000950 - Paper	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000171	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000951 - Committee and taskforce memberships	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since October 2023.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since October 2023.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</p> <p>a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000172	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000952 - 2022-23 October Budget savings	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? 2. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 3. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? 4. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? 5. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 	Written	N/A
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				<p>6. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>c. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
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SQ24-000173	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000953 - Agency functions/official receptions expenditure	<p>In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000174	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000955 - Facility upgrades	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for</p>	Written	N/A

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				<p>example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>		
SQ24-000175	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000956 - Travel costs	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000176	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000957 - Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000177	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000958 - Credit Cards	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2023/24 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? d. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof? 	Written	N/A
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				<p>8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2023/243 to date?</p> <p>a. What that amount actually repaid, in full?</p> <p>b. If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>11. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
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SQ24-000178	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000959 - Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters	<p>In relation to the department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator. 	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000179	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000960 - Number of reviews	<p>1. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed. <p>2. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister’s office. <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2023. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; 	Written	N/A
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				<p>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</p>		
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SQ24-000180	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Entities (including advisory boards and agencies)	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000181	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000961 - Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000182	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000962 - ASL Allocation	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 February 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000183	Australian Institute for Teaching and School	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000963 - Market research	Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign?	Written	N/A

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	Leadership Limited		provided to the Ministers' offices	Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.		
SQ24-000184	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000964 - Freedom of Information applications	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned. <p>2. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue. 	Written	N/A

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				3. How many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?		
SQ24-000185	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Portfolio estimates variations and movement of funds	<p>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</p> <p>2. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000186	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000965 - Flexible work arrangements	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week? b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week? c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week? d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week? e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week? <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000187	Australian Institute for Teaching and School	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000966 - Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data? 	Written	N/A

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	Leadership Limited			2. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.		
SQ24-000188	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Senate Estimates and QoNs	<p>1. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister’s office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>3. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</p> <p>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 12 February to 16 February 2024.</p> <p>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of the Question on Notice; b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister’s office; d. the date the Minister’s office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; e. the date the Question on Notice was tabled; and f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response. 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000189	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Communications campaigns	<p>1. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>b. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Has the Department/Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000190	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Conflict of interest declaration	<p>1. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</p> <p>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000191	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Agency Head leave and acting arrangements	Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2023, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000192	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Staff positions	<p>1. Please provide a list of positions that are currently vacant within the Agency as at 1 February 2024.</p> <p>2. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>3. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>4. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>5. What is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000193	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Property - Location, maintenance & costs	<p>1. As at 1 February 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2023. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000194	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Longest continuing serving member of the agency	As at 1 February 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000195	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Public Holidays	<p>1. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000196	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Staff Training	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. How many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000197	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Funding for operational expenditure	How many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000198	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Election commitments	<p>1. Has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000199	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL External guest speakers	Has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000200	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL External retreats for staff	Has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000201	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL International Travel	How many official international visits have been taken by staff since 1 July 2023?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000202	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL Security clearances	<p>1. How many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>2. How many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance? a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p>	Written	N/A

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				b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?		
SQ24-000203	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000967 - Ministerial briefs	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Department?</p> <p>b. Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a. the previous turnaround requirement; and</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>4. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p> <p>5. How many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000204	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Hospitality in the Ministers' offices	1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.	Written	N/A

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				2. Since 1 July 2023, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment		
SQ24-000205	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Staffing in the Ministers' offices	<p>1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p> <p>2. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000206	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000968 - Meetings with Ministers	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000207	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000969 - New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000208	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000970 - Paper	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000209	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000971 - Committee and taskforce memberships	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since October 2023.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since October 2023.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose. 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000210	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000972 - 2022-23 October Budget savings	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? 2. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 3. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? 4. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? 5. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 	Written	N/A
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				<p>6. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>c. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
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SQ24-000211	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000973 - Agency functions/official receptions expenditure	<p>In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000212	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000975 - Facility upgrades	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for</p>	Written	N/A

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				<p>example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>		
SQ24-000213	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000976 - Travel costs	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000214	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000977 - Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000215	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000978 - Credit Cards	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2023/24 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? d. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof? 	Written	N/A
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				<p>8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2023/243 to date?</p> <p>a. What that amount actually repaid, in full?</p> <p>b. If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>11. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
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SQ24-000216	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000979 - Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters	<p>In relation to the department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator. 	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000217	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000980 - Number of reviews	<p>1. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed. <p>2. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister’s office. <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2023. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; 	Written	N/A
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				<p>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</p>		
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SQ24-000218	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Entities (including advisory boards and agencies)	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000219	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000981 - Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000220	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000982 - ASL Allocation	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 February 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000221	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000983 - Market research	<p>Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign?</p>	Written	N/A

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			provided to the Ministers' offices	Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.		
SQ24-000222	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000984 - Freedom of Information applications	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned. <p>2. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue. 	Written	N/A

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				3. How many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?		
SQ24-000223	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Portfolio estimates variations and movement of funds	<p>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</p> <p>2. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000224	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000985 - Flexible work arrangements	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week? b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week? c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week? d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week? e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week? <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000225	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000986 - Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data? 	Written	N/A

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				2. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.		
SQ24-000226	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Senate Estimates and QoNs	<p>1. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister’s office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>3. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</p> <p>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 12 February to 16 February 2024.</p> <p>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of the Question on Notice; b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister’s office; d. the date the Minister’s office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; e. the date the Question on Notice was tabled; and f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response. 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000227	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Communications campaigns	<p>1. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>b. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Has the Department/Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000228	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Conflict of interest declaration	<p>1. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</p> <p>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000229	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Agency Head leave and acting arrangements	Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2023, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000230	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Staff positions	<p>1. Please provide a list of positions that are currently vacant within the Agency as at 1 February 2024.</p> <p>2. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>3. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>4. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p>	Written	N/A

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				5. What is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?		
SQ24-000231	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Property - Location, maintenance & costs	<p>1. As at 1 February 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2023. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000232	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Longest continuing serving member of the agency	As at 1 February 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000233	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Public Holidays	<p>1. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000234	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Staff Training	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. How many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000235	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Funding for operational expenditure	How many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000236	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Election commitments	<p>1. Has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000237	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC External guest speakers	Has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000238	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC External retreats for staff	Has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number	Written	N/A

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				of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.		
SQ24-000239	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC International Travel	How many official international visits have been taken by staff since 1 July 2023?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000240	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Security clearances	<p>1. How many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>2. How many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000241	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000987 - Ministerial briefs	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Department?</p> <p>b. Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a. the previous turnaround requirement; and</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p>	Written	N/A

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				<p>4. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p> <p>5. How many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>		
SQ24-000242	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Hospitality in the Ministers' offices	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2023, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000243	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Staffing in the Ministers' offices	<p>1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p> <p>2. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?</p>	Written	N/A

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				<p>a. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since October 2023.</p>		
SQ24-000244	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000988 - Meetings with Ministers	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000245	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000989 - New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000246	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000990 - Paper	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000247	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000991 - Committee and taskforce memberships	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since October 2023.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since October 2023.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose. 	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000248	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000992 - 2022-23 October Budget savings	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? 2. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 3. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? 4. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? 5. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 	Written	N/A
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				<p>6. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>c. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
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SQ24-000249	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000993 - Agency functions/official receptions expenditure	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000250	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000995 - Facility upgrades	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for</p>	Written	N/A

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				<p>example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>		
SQ24-000251	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000996 - Travel costs	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000252	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000997 - Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000253	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000998 - Credit Cards	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2023/24 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? d. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof? 	Written	N/A
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				<p>8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2023/243 to date?</p> <p>a. What that amount actually repaid, in full?</p> <p>b. If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>11. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
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SQ24-000254	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000999 - Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters	<p>In relation to the department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator. 	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000255	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-001000 - Number of reviews	<p>1. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed. <p>2. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office. <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2023. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; 	Written	N/A
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				<p>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</p>		
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SQ24-000256	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Entities (including advisory boards and agencies)	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000257	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-001001 - Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000258	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-001002 - ASL Allocation	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 February 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000259	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-001003 - Market research	<p>Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign?</p>	Written	N/A

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	Standards Agency		provided to the Ministers' offices	Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.		
SQ24-000260	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-001004 - Freedom of Information applications	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned. <p>2. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue. 	Written	N/A

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				3. How many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?		
SQ24-000261	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Portfolio estimates variations and movement of funds	<p>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</p> <p>2. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000262	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-001005 - Flexible work arrangements	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week? b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week? c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week? d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week? e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week? <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000263	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-001006 - Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data? 	Written	N/A

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				2. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.		
SQ24-000264	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Senate Estimates and QoNs	<p>1. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister’s office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>3. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</p> <p>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 12 February to 16 February 2024.</p> <p>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of the Question on Notice; b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister’s office; d. the date the Minister’s office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; e. the date the Question on Notice was tabled; and f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response. 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000265	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Communications campaigns	<p>1. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>b. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Has the Department/Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000266	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Conflict of interest declaration	<p>1. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</p> <p>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000267	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Agency Head leave and acting arrangements	Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2023, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000268	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Staff positions	<p>1. Please provide a list of positions that are currently vacant within the Agency as at 1 February 2024.</p> <p>2. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>3. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>4. As at 1 February 2024, how many positions within the</p>	Written	N/A

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				<p>Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>5. What is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?</p>		
SQ24-000269	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Property - Location, maintenance & costs	<p>1. As at 1 February 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2023. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000270	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Longest continuing serving member of the agency	As at 1 February 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000271	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Public Holidays	<p>1. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 February 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000272	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Staff Training	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. How many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000273	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Funding for operational expenditure	How many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000274	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Election commitments	<p>1. Has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000275	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA External guest speakers	Has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	N/A

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	Standargs Agency					
SQ24-000276	Tertiary Education Quality and Standargs Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA External retreats for staff	Has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000277	Tertiary Education Quality and Standargs Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA International Travel	How many official international visits have been taken by staff since 1 July 2023?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000278	Tertiary Education Quality and Standargs Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Security clearances	<p>1. How many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>2. How many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000279	Department of Education	Bridget McKenzie	Executive Travel	<p>1. Can the department please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's air travel for the 2023-24 financial year to date, including costs of flights and airline used?</p> <p>2. Can the department please provide an itemised list of the air travel for each Deputy Secretary for the 2023-24 financial year to date, including costs of flights and airline used?</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000280	Department of Education	Bridget McKenzie	Department Travel Processes	<p>1. What processes does the Department have in place for staff to book domestic air travel?</p> <p>2. What processes does the Department have in place to ensure staff are offered the cheapest available domestic flight for the requisite destination and date of travel by the corporate travel services provider?</p> <p>4. What processes does the Department have in place to monitor, audit or otherwise ensure that staff are selecting the cheapest available domestic flight for the requisite destination and date of travel to minimise costs to the Australian taxpayer?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000281	Department of Education	Bridget McKenzie	Electric Vehicles	<p>1. How many electric vehicles does the agency own or lease and what proportion of the agency's fleet comprises electric vehicles? Please list each model of EV in the agency's fleet</p> <p>2. Does the organisation provide electric vehicle charging facilities for staff and if so:</p> <p>a. What is the number and nature of charging facilities provided</p> <p>b. At which locations</p> <p>c. Is the facility provided at full cost, free of charge or subsidised charge to the employee</p> <p>d. Is Fringe Benefits Tax paid</p> <p>e. What is the cost to the organisation of installing and providing such facilities?</p> <p>3. Does the organisation provide incentives for staff to purchase electric vehicles?</p> <p>a. If so, how many staff are on salary sacrifice arrangements to pay for the purchase of an electric vehicle?</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000282	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	WFH Arrangements	<p>1. What is the proportion of staff that are on formal Work from Home (WFH) arrangements in the agency/department/statutory authority?</p> <p>2. How many have informally used WFH arrangements?</p> <p>3. What is the average number of staff that are WFH on any given workday?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000283	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA WFH Arrangements	<p>1. What is the proportion of staff that are on formal Work from Home (WFH) arrangements in the agency/department/statutory authority?</p> <p>2. How many have informally used WFH arrangements?</p> <p>3. What is the average number of staff that are WFH on any given workday?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000284	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL WFH Arrangements	<p>1. What is the proportion of staff that are on formal Work from Home (WFH) arrangements in the agency/department/statutory authority?</p> <p>2. How many have informally used WFH arrangements?</p> <p>3. What is the average number of staff that are WFH on any given workday?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000285	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC WFH Arrangements	<p>1. What is the proportion of staff that are on formal Work from Home (WFH) arrangements in the agency/department/statutory authority?</p> <p>2. How many have informally used WFH arrangements?</p> <p>3. What is the average number of staff that are WFH on any given workday?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000286	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Matthew O'Sullivan	TEQSA WFH Arrangements	<p>1. What is the proportion of staff that are on formal Work from Home (WFH) arrangements in the agency/department/statutory authority?</p> <p>2. How many have informally used WFH arrangements?</p> <p>3. What is the average number of staff that are WFH on any given workday?</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000287	Department of Education	Michaelia Cash	Property held within the Department	Please provide a list of all property/land that is in the possession of the agency/department/statutory authority with the following details: a. Location of the property or land; b. Is it owned by the agency/department/statutory authority or leased; c. If leased – when does the lease expire; d. Total footprint in square metres; and e. Total footprint in sqm excluding areas specifically designated for interaction with the public (eg: excluding hearing rooms for particular matters, but including kitchens, breakout and internal meeting rooms).	Written	N/A
SQ24-000288	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Michaelia Cash	ACARA Property held within the agency	Please provide a list of all property/land that is in the possession of the agency/department/statutory authority with the following details: a. Location of the property or land; b. Is it owned by the agency/department/statutory authority or leased; c. If leased – when does the lease expire; d. Total footprint in square metres; and e. Total footprint in sqm excluding areas specifically designated for interaction with the public (eg: excluding hearing rooms for particular matters, but including kitchens, breakout and internal meeting rooms).	Written	N/A
SQ24-000289	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Michaelia Cash	AITSL Property held within the agency	Please provide a list of all property/land that is in the possession of the agency/department/statutory authority with the following details: a. Location of the property or land; b. Is it owned by the agency/department/statutory authority or leased; c. If leased – when does the lease expire; d. Total footprint in square metres; and e. Total footprint in sqm excluding areas specifically	Written	N/A

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				designated for interaction with the public (eg: excluding hearing rooms for particular matters, but including kitchens, breakout and internal meeting rooms).		
SQ24-000290	Australian Research Council	Michaelia Cash	ARC Property held within the agency	<p>Please provide a list of all property/land that is in the possession of the agency/department/statutory authority with the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Location of the property or land; b. Is it owned by the agency/department/statutory authority or leased; c. If leased – when does the lease expire; d. Total footprint in square metres; and e. Total footprint in sqm excluding areas specifically designated for interaction with the public (eg: excluding hearing rooms for particular matters, but including kitchens, breakout and internal meeting rooms). 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000291	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Michaelia Cash	TEQSA Property held within the agency	<p>Please provide a list of all property/land that is in the possession of the agency/department/statutory authority with the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Location of the property or land; b. Is it owned by the agency/department/statutory authority or leased; c. If leased – when does the lease expire; d. Total footprint in square metres; and e. Total footprint in sqm excluding areas specifically designated for interaction with the public (eg: excluding hearing rooms for particular matters, but including kitchens, breakout and internal meeting rooms). 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000292	Department of Education	Lidia Thorpe	Age appropriate curriculum achievement for First Nations young people	What is the government doing to ensure age appropriate curriculum achievement for First Nations young people, especially in literacy?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000293	Department of Education	Lidia Thorpe	Outdated education practices	Numerous reviews (Gonski, Grattan Institute, UNSW) have highlighted the poor outcomes and growing inequity, particularly for First Nations students, culturally and linguistically diverse, and neurodivergent students. These reviews have called for reforms including smaller class sizes; personalised learning with deeper dives into fewer subjects; the student as worker, the teacher as coach; the student's mastery of a personal project to be demonstrated to peers, parents and teacher; and assessment to be made on the basis of tasks successfully completed in the real world. How is the Department being informed by these reviews that call for an overhaul of current educational approaches to improve outcomes for our most disadvantaged students, particularly First Nations, CALD and neurodivergent students? If the Department is not working to transform practices, what research is it relying on to maintain an approach that is clearly failing our younger generations?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000294	Australian Research Council	Mehreen Faruqi	ARC Funding demographics	<p>Refer to 2023 estimates question on notice SQ23-001085.</p> <p>1. Data provided by the Australian Research Council (ARC) shows ARC funding application numbers and application success rates are significantly lower for men than women. What actions is the ARC taking to support women and marginalised groups to submit applications and to achieve successful application outcomes?</p> <p>2. Provide any other demographic data available on ARC applications (total, successful, unsuccessful), including any</p>	Written	N/A

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				data about applicants from marginalised backgrounds. If none is available, does the ARC have any plans to collect data about ARC applicants from marginalised backgrounds?		
SQ24-000295	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Student poverty	<p>1. Provide data on the number and proportion of higher education students in Australia that are currently living in poverty or experiencing disadvantage.</p> <p>2. Does the government have plans to improve its measures of poverty and disadvantage among higher education students in Australia?</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000296	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Mehreen Faruqi	TEQSA Responses to complaints	<p>"In response to Question on Notice SQ23-001083 asked on 26 October 2023 at 2023-24 Supplementary Budget Estimates, TEQSA stated "For any investigation or compliance assessment that requires expert knowledge, TEQSA obtains relevant expert assistance".</p> <p>1. Can TEQSA advise which experts in sexual assault and sexual harassment it has obtained assistance from?</p> <p>Also in response to Question on Notice SQ23-001083, TEQSA stated that its responses to complaints and concerns about providers' responses to sexual harm are informed by an understanding of the trauma and enduring harm that can arise from sexual harassment and assault, as well as from experiences of reporting. TEQSA further stated that TEQSA's Compliance and enforcement policy sets out the stages of management for compliance matters.</p> <p>2. Can TEQSA please provide an example of the information it shares with victim-survivors who file a complaint or raise a concern about a higher education provider's response to sexual harm?</p> <p>3. Can TEQSA please advise what information it provides to victim-survivors who file a complaint or raise a concern about its Compliance and Enforcement policy and the relevant stages of management for compliance matters?</p> <p>Clarification provided through Committee Secretariat on 7 March 2024: Could TEQSA please provide an answer to both interpretations of question 3 set out below? That is: - 3a. Can TEQSA please advise what information it provides</p>	Written	N/A
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				to victim-survivors who file a complaint against TEQSA's Compliance and Enforcement policies?, and - 3b. Can TEQSA please advise what information it provides on the subject of TEQSA's Compliance and Enforcement policies to victim-survivors who file any complaint?"		
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SQ24-000297	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Mehreen Faruqi	TEQSA Responses to complaints - Universities	<p>In response to Question on Notice SQ23-000894, asked on 26 October 2023 at 2023-24 Supplementary Budget Estimates, TEQSA advised that:</p> <p>In 2021/2022, TEQSA received complaints related to Monash University, Southern Cross University and Bond University Ltd. TEQSA also considered concerns about sexual harm, in response to media reports and other intelligence relating to the Australian National University and The University of Melbourne.</p> <p>In 2022/2023, TEQSA received complaints related to Monash University, Australian National University, The University of Adelaide and University of Technology Sydney. TEQSA also considered a concern about sexual harm in response to a media report about the University of New South Wales.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please advise the status of each of each of these complaints and/or concerns. 2. Please advise what findings TEQSA made in response to these complaints and/or concerns. 3. Please advise what action TEQSA took in response to these complaints and/or concerns. 	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000298	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Mehreen Faruqi	TEQSA Update to SQ23-001081 - sexual assault and harassment in universities	<p>1. Please provide an update (to previous response SQ23-001081) detailing how many sexual assault and sexual harassment-related complaints/concerns TEQSA has received in each financial year since 2017, including in the current financial year, to date.</p> <p>a. Please detail how many of these complaints/concerns have been in relation to universities each year</p> <p>2. Please provide an update (to previous response SQ23-001081) on the progress of these complaints/concerns involving universities:</p> <p>a. How many complaints/concerns involving universities since September 2017 have now been finalised?</p> <p>b. How many complaints/concerns involving universities remain outstanding?</p> <p>c. What is the average time taken to finalise complaints/concerns involving universities?</p> <p>i. Since September 2017?</p> <p>ii. in the current financial year?</p> <p>3. Please provide an update (to previous response SQ23-001081) on the outcomes of these complaints/concerns involving universities:</p> <p>a. How many universities have been found non-compliant with the Threshold Standards since September 2017?</p> <p>b. How many universities have been subject to regulatory action in relation to sexual assault and sexual harassment-related complaints/concerns since September 2017?</p> <p>c. How many universities have been 'subject to monitoring</p>	Written	N/A
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				<p>and annual reporting' since September 2017?</p> <p>4. Please provide an update (to previous response SQ23-001081) on how many universities have been approached by TEQSA regarding sexual assault and sexual harassment-related matters raised in media reports since September 2017?</p> <p>5. Please provide an update (to previous response SQ23-001081) on how many universities are 'subject to monitoring and annual reporting' in relation to their sexual assault and sexual harassment processes since September 2017 and the periods they were subject to such monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>6. Please provide an update (to previous response SQ23-001081) on how many universities, since 2017, have notified TEQSA of a material change in relation to a matter concerning sexual assault or sexual harassment.</p>		
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SQ24-000300	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Teach for Australia Statistics	<p>1. Please provide a breakdown, by ABS Remoteness Area definition and number/percentage of teachers, of the following:</p> <p>a. Schools in which Teach for Australia participants were originally placed.</p> <p>b. Schools in which former Teach for Australia participants are currently employed as classroom teachers.</p> <p>2. Please provide a breakdown, by Index of Community Socio-educational values and number/percentage of teachers, of the following:</p> <p>a. Schools in which Teach for Australia participants were originally placed;</p> <p>b. Schools in which former</p> <p>3. Please provide a breakdown of how many former Teach for Australia participants work for the Department of Education and Australian Education Research Organisation.</p> <p>4. Please provide a percentage of former Teach for Australia participants who work in the Department of Education.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000301	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	National trend of school refusal and related matters inquiry	Can you please provide a timeline for the Government response to the National trend of school refusal and related matters inquiry?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000436	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Improving Outcomes for All Report	Can you please provide a timeline for the Government's response to the Improving Outcomes for All Report?	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000302	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Recurrent Government funding	<p>1. Does the department know the number and proportion of non-government schools that receive more combined Commonwealth and State/Territory government recurrent funding per student than the average level of funding for public schools of comparable student profile, size, and location? Provide if so.</p> <p>2. Has the department made any comparisons of the combined Commonwealth and State/Territory government recurrent funding per student for schools of comparable student profile, size, and location, across government, Catholic and independent sectors? Provide if so.</p> <p>3. Has the department made any calculations about the impact of combined Commonwealth and State/Territory government recurrent funding on the level of compulsory fees and charges levied by non-government schools over time? Provide if so.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000303	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Non-government schools - DMI and CTC scores	Please provide the exact median income of non-government schools used to calculate their DMI and CTC scores, not a range.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000304	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Funding plans - groups advocating for families experiencing School Refusal	Please provide any funding plans for groups advocating for families experiencing School Refusal, including School Can't Australia.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000305	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	High-Efficiency Particulate Arrestance (HEPA) filters	<p>1. Please provide updated figures of how much funding from the School Upgrade Fund was allocated specifically for HEPA filters and air filtration systems.</p> <p>2. Please provide detail for any plans to implement further HEPA filter assistance programs.</p>	Written	N/A

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				3. Please provide any precise data or estimates on how many schools are currently utilising HEPA filters or other COVID management instruments.		
SQ24-000306	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Australian Indigenous Education Foundation	<p>1. Please outline what transparency or oversight the Department has over the conduct of the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation?</p> <p>2. Please provide any details of the retention rates of the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation? Please provide any details with respect to exactly how retention is calculated.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list (with author if external and year) of any reviews or audits undertaken by the Department with respect to the funding of the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation?</p> <p>4. Please provide a list of any complaints received by the Department with respect to the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation.</p> <p>5. Please provide any steps taken by the Department to ensure the safety of students participating in the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation's programs.</p> <p>6. Please provide the list of schools, and amounts provided to those schools, that participate in the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation's programs.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000307	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Small-group tutoring programs	Please provide any analysis the Department has performed or otherwise obtained on the effectiveness or otherwise of small-group tutoring programs in Australia or internationally.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000309	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	Freedom of Information Requests	How many Freedom of Information Requests you have received for the 2023-24 year to date? a. How many of those have had a charge provided to the requestor? b. Can you please provide a list of the charges for each request.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000310	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	Child Care Subsidy Campaign	1. Has an evaluation of the Government's CCS changes campaign been done yet? 2. Who is doing the evaluation? 3. When was the evaluation started? 4. What is the name of the evaluation? 5. Will the Government release the findings of the evaluation?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000311	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	Scaling Up Success in Remote Schools	The Scaling up Success in Remote Schools program is a \$10 million program over four years with a pilot delivered across 10 schools. 1. Please provide the name of the participating schools in Western Australia and how much funding has been provided to each school. 2. Please provide the projects being delivered by each school.	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000312	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	Unique Student Identifier	<p>1. Please provide an update on the Unique Student Identifier Project.</p> <p>a. Which parameters have changed since it was agreed by states and territories in the existing National School Reform Agreements?</p> <p>b. What deliverables have been reduced or removed? Please identify the scope changes</p> <p>2. QoN SQ23-001157 'revised' states the government has spent \$23.27 million in administered funds.</p> <p>a. On what were the administered funds spent?</p> <p>b. For what was the \$1.2 million in capital expenditure?</p> <p>c. these amounts were up to 30 September 2023, please provide an update on these costs.</p> <p>d. Commonwealth components will be implemented by the end of 2024, please provide a detailed description of each component to be delivered and the completion date.</p> <p>e. Please outline the components to be delivered by each jurisdiction and the completion dates.</p>	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000313	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	Youth Advisory Groups	<p>1. How many applications did the Office for Youth receive for the 2024 youth advisory groups?</p> <p>2. How many of the 2024 members were also members in 2023?</p> <p>3. Who selected the new advisory group members?</p> <p>4. Was Minister Aly or her office involved in the selection process?</p> <p>5. What was the criteria for applicants? I.e. did they need to write an essay, film a social media video etc.?</p> <p>6. The media release issued by Minister Aly on October 30, mentions members must be available for online training in January and February. What did that training include?</p> <p>7. The media release also mentions “Some members of the 2023 First Nations Youth Advisory Group will transition to the new First Nations Education Youth Advisory Group in 2024, with applications needed to fill the remaining positions. Which members were transitioned from the 2023 group to the 2024 group and why was the decision made to do that, rather than opening all the positions in that group?</p> <p>8. The advisory members will be required to travel to Canberra in March for meetings, what accommodation was selected for this stay, and what was the full cost of those meetings - including travel, food, accommodation etc.</p> <p>9. In response to QON SQ23-000831, the Department of Education advised that nine facilities were invited to tender</p>	Written	N/A
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				for accommodation for the group. Can the Department of Education advise who those nine facilities were?		
SQ24-000314	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	National Vision	Can the Government please provide an update as to where the National Vision is up to, and whether there are plans to release it publicly in 2024?	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000315	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership meeting	<p>1. In response to QON SQ23-000827, the Department of Education provided a cost breakdown of the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership meeting held in Melbourne last year. Who made the decision to hire the Koori Youth Will Shake Spears group for that meeting, and who in the Department of Education approved the \$4,500 cost for that performance?</p> <p>2. Given this was a meeting to discuss early childhood policy, what was the reason for expending almost \$5,000 to be spent on a cultural dance troupe?</p> <p>3. The meeting also includes \$3,000 for dinner. Where was the dinner held and how many people attended that dinner? Please provide a breakdown for food and alcohol costs?</p> <p>4. Please provide a cost breakdown of every meeting the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership has held since May 2022 including the location of the meeting, the name of the venue/restaurant, the venue costs itemised, the cost of food, the cost of any alcohol consumed, travel costs and another associated costs.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000316	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Teacher HELP reduction initiative	<p>1. Please provide an update on the number of applications received, processed and granted for the Teacher HELP debt program.</p> <p>2. When will the review of the program commence?</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000317	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Tertiary Access Payment	<p>1. In relation to the number of payments granted, how does this align with the forecast for the program?</p> <p>2. Please provide an update to the figures previously provided in SQ23-001099.</p> <p>3. There is a review of the program scheduled for this year, but your answer to question 4 in SQ23-001099 states the second stage review is postponed to await the findings of the Universities Accord. Can you please advise the revised review times.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000318	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001041 - Reviews	<p>Please provide the details of any reviews being conducted by the Department of Education and include:</p> <p>a. the name of the review</p> <p>b. the name of the reviewer or organisation undertaking the review</p> <p>c. the date the review commenced</p> <p>d. the date the review is due to be completed</p> <p>e. the purpose of the review; and</p> <p>f. the cost of the review.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000319	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Social Media Policy	<p>1. Please provide a copy of the Department of Education's social media policy for employees.</p> <p>2. How many reports or concerns have been raised by staff or members of the public about inappropriate use of social media?</p> <p>3. How many employees have been counselled about social media concerns?</p> <p>4. How many employees have been found to have breached the social media policy for employees in the 2023-24 financial year to date.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000320	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001040 - Media Monitoring, advertising campaigns and information campaigns	<p>1. Please provide the total amount spent on media monitoring services for the 2023-24 financial year to date.</p> <p>2. Please provide the expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for the financial year to date 2023-24. Please include the total cost of each element undertaken and the purpose of each spend.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000321	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001042 - Board Appointments	<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. How many members of each Board identify as Indigenous?</p> <p>4. How many members of each Board identify as a person with disability?</p> <p>5. Please detail any board appointments made for the financial year 2023-24 to date.</p> <p>6. What has been the total value of all board director fees and disbursements paid for the financial year 2023-24 to date?</p> <p>7. What is the value of all domestic travel by board directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date?</p> <p>8. What is the value of all international travel by board directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date?</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000322	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001043 - Legal Services	<p>1. Please provide the total legal costs for the financial year 2023-24 to date, with internal and external costs itemised separately, noting that notional internal legal costs as calculated by timesheet should be included.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of both internal and external legal costs for each matter exceeding \$10,000 including the reason the costs were incurred and the description of each itemised expense (ie external legal fees, junior counsel fees, transcript costs etc)</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000323	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001044 - Gifts and Hospitality	<p>1. Please provide a copy of the Department of Education's gifts and hospitality policy</p> <p>2. Have any changes been made to the policy since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the register of declaration of gifts and hospitality from 1 July 2023 to date.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000324	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001045 - Briefings to Members or Senators	<p>Has the department provided briefings to any Members or Senators? If yes, please provide:</p> <p>a. Issues/subject matter</p> <p>b. Topics discussed</p> <p>c. Attendees at meeting</p> <p>d. Date of meeting</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000325	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001048 - Stationery	<p>Since 1 July 2023 how much has been spent on ministerial stationery requirements? Please itemise this spend.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000326	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001049 - Staff working arrangements	<p>Please provide an update on staff work from home arrangements.</p> <p>- please specify the number of staff with work from home arrangements</p> <p>- please specify the number of staff who work from home</p>	Written	N/A

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				one day per week, two days per week, three days per week, four days per week or five days per week		
SQ24-000327	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001050 - Ministerial Leave	Please provide all leave periods for the portfolio Ministers since 1 July 2023. Please provide the acting Minister arrangements for each period of leave.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000328	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001051 - New bodies and entities	<p>Please provide a list of all new entities, advisory boards, bodies and agencies created within the portfolio since November 2023. Please also provide:</p> <p>a. the terms of reference for each b. the membership list for each, including the term of the appointment and who approved the appointment – the Department of Education, the Minister or Cabinet; c. the fees paid to members or stipends including the amount paid to each member to date d. the number of times they are scheduled to meet each year as well as how many times they have met to date e. the total costs for each event the group has held to date, including meetings, seminars, events and conferences. f. the cost details for each event separately.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000329	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001053 - Redundancies	<p>1. How many redundancies did the Department of Education offer in the 2023-24 financial year.</p> <p>2. How many of these offers were accepted?</p> <p>3. What was the total cost for these redundancies?</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000330	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Enterprise Agreement	<p>1. The Department of Education's Enterprise Agreement covering the period 2024-2027 was signed in December 2023. Will the agreement need to be amended to include provisions on the disconnect clause passed as part of the Government's Closing the Loopholes Bill?</p> <p>2. If the agreement will not be amended, how will the Department of Education implement these provisions for staff?</p> <p>3. Please provide details as to how many employees of the Department of Education, if any, have elected not to work by reason of the right to 'disconnect' and for each such case state the reason for the 'disconnect' claim.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000331	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Second certificate enrolments for International Students	<p>SQ23-001253 to TEQSA in October referred the matter to the Department of Education.</p> <p>1. Please provide the number of second certificate enrolments for international students.</p> <p>2. Please provide the number of providers that have students with second certificate enrolments.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the home country of the students with secondary enrolments by ranked order</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000332	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001104 - University Financials	When will the 2022 University financial information be available?	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000333	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	University Study Hubs	<p>1. Please advise how many applications were received for Cohort 4 of the Regional University Study Hubs. Please provide a breakdown of the applications by state and the proposed location for each such study hub.</p> <p>2. Has the department begun its process to assess these applications?</p> <p>3. Will the department make recommendations to the Minister, with the Minister being the final decision maker?</p> <p>4. When do you expect successful applicants will be selected?</p> <p>5. When do you expect organisations to be advised of the outcome?</p> <p>6. Will unsuccessful applicants need to re-apply for Cohort 5 or will they be automatically considered?</p> <p>7. When do you expect Cohort 5 will be available for applications?</p>	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000334	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	National Student Ombudsman	<p>1. When did the consultation process for the new National Student Ombudsman (Ombudsman) close? a. How many submissions were received? b. Please provide a copy of the submissions received.</p> <p>2. Please provide details as to whether students or other persons/organisations can continue to access state ombudsman offices with respect universities?</p> <p>3. Will state ombudsman responsibilities in relation to the students be abolished? Please detail what arrangements have been proposed or agreed in relation to the ongoing responsibilities of state ombudsman offices and universities?</p> <p>4. Describe any overlap in functions, to the extent they exist, between the Ombudsman and any other body including state bodies or TEQSA?</p> <p>5. Please outline the proposed powers of the Ombudsman including the power to order course fees to be refunded and overturn university decisions or policies?</p> <p>6. Have you determined the parameters of complaints that will be streamed to the National Student Ombudsman?</p> <p>7. Will the Ombudsman only be accessible by students or will other bodies be able to make referrals - that is, can universities or providers refer cases?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000335	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001092 - AUKUS	Please provide details on the phasing of AUKUS places by university for the 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027 calendar years.	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000336	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	University Accord	<p>1. Noting that it may be a contempt of the Senate to refuse to comply with requests for documents, please provide copies of drafts of the interim and final reports of the University Accord panel complete with all suggestions, comments and feedback.</p> <p>Please note that failure by the Department of Education to provide these drafts with respect to the interim report already constitutes a serious breach of the Senate rules.</p> <p>2. Please provide a copy of all correspondence between the Department of Education and Professor O'Kane in relation to the work of the University Accord panel including any addendums, annexures or attachments.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000337	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Higher Education - Correspondence	<p>1. Please provide a copy of all correspondence between the Department of Education, the Minister for Education and the following organisations since 1 July 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Universities Australia - Regional Universities Network - Australian Technology Network of Universities - Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia - Independent Higher Education Australia <p>2. Please provide a copy of all correspondence between the Department of Education, the Minister for Education and individual university vice-chancellors since 1 July 2022.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000338	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Teacher Commonwealth Supported Places	<p>1. What is the breakdown of education/teacher training CSP's awarded to higher education institutions (according to the most recent data)? How many of those CSP's were utilised for each individual institution? How much money overall was committed to CSP teacher training that was not used?</p>	Written	N/A

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				2. Has the Department done any economic modelling on the benefit of allowing higher educational institutions with unused teaching CSP's to sub-distribute the CSP's to other quality teacher training institutions?		
SQ24-000339	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	University Colleges	The updated University College category came into assent in 2021 through the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Provider Category Standards and Other Measures) Bill 2020. However, the category has yet to be recognised and incorporated into the Higher Education Support Act (2003). As a result University Colleges have not had access to any funding appropriate to their category. What is the process for review of University College inclusion in HESA for CSP access and when will this commence?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000340	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Meetings	In relation to expenditure on meetings of working groups, taskforces, boards, reference or advisory groups please provide the following: a. List of functions b. List of attendees c. Function venue d. Itemised list of costs e. Details of any food and beverages served f. Details of any entertainment g. Deliverables for each meeting.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000341	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Answers to questions	Noting that refusing to answer a question or failure to provide an accurate answer to a question before a Senate committee may constitute a contempt of the Senate, can the Department of Education please review every answer it provided to Senator Henderson in the February 2024 Additional Estimates hearings and immediately correct any inaccurate or incomplete answer, with particular reference to answers in relation to the University Accord, international students, and schools funding.	Written	N/A

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				Failure to correct any inaccurate or incomplete answer immediately is a serious breach of the Senate rules.		
SQ24-000342	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Education Ministers meetings	Please provide the agenda and minutes of meetings for each meeting of federal, state and territory education ministers since 1 July 2022.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000343	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Studio Schools	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide an update on the Department of Education's complaint investigation into Studio Schools. 2. Please advise of any findings of non-compliance to date. 3. Please advise action taken to address all compliance matters. 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000344	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Capital Grants Program 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide the actual expenditure of the Capital Grants Program for 2022-23 and 2023-2024 against the budgeted allocation. 2. When will the 2024 program open for submissions? 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000345	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	National Teacher Workforce Action Plan	<p>1. Under Item 1A of the Action Plan 4,036 additional Commonwealth Supported Places were provided in 2023. Can you please provide an update against the table in SQ23-001137, by university of the number of places filled.</p> <p>2. A further 2,044 places are available for the 2024 calendar year. How many of these places have been filled?</p> <p>3. Action Item 2 provided 5,000 bursaries. Applications closed on 14 January 2024.</p> <p>a. How many applications were received?</p> <p>b. When will the outcomes be announced?</p> <p>c. Why is the commitment to teach limited only to government schools?</p> <p>4. Action Item 3 is to increase the number of High Accomplished and Lead Teachers, or HALT's. QoN response in SQ23-001139 noted you were contracting organisations to do a number of pilots to achieve this.</p> <p>a. Who has been contracted to date?</p> <p>b. What is the forecast by year to achieve this by 2025?</p> <p>5. On the action to improve ITE courses from universities, which universities have made improvements to their teacher training courses to date?</p> <p>a. Which universities have been provided funding to improve their courses?</p> <p>b. How much funding has been provided to each university?</p> <p>c. How was the funding to each university decided?</p> <p>d. When will improvements be complete?</p>	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000346	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Workload Reduction Fund	<p>1. Please provide an update on the program of work by states and territories from the \$25 million Workload Reduction Fund?</p> <p>2. Please provide an update on each program of work and how this is reducing the workload for teachers.</p> <p>3. What improvements have been realised to date?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000347	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Student Wellbeing Program	<p>The first reports from States and Territories were due to be provided on 31 December 2023.</p> <p>1. Please provide a copy of each of the reports and advise on what date each report was provided.</p> <p>2. Please advise how much funding was provided to each school in each jurisdiction, including the name of the school and total funding amount.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000348	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001273 - On-Country Learning	<p>QoN SQ23-001273 advised funds have been released for each school</p> <p>1. The funding amount was \$40.4 million, yet the Funding Federation Agreement states that just over \$34 million has been provided, where is the remaining money from this commitment?</p> <p>2. Now that funding has been provided, please provide details of each of the specific programs to be delivered by each school.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000349	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Home schooling	<p>In relation to school funding provided to states and territories, is funding provided for students who are registered as being home schooled? If so, please quantify the amount per student by jurisdiction and the total amount provided for each jurisdiction for this group of students.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000350	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	National School Reform Agreement	Please provide the proposed costs of increasing the Commonwealth's SRS contribution to 22.5% for each state and territory. Please provide all documents held by the Department for Education in relation to this proposal, whether they be formal or informal. This includes correspondence between the Minister for Education and the states and territories in relation to this proposal.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000308	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	4,000 additional university places	<p>1. Where will the 4,000 university places funded under the nuclear submarines program be located?</p> <p>2. What is the geographic distribution of courses delivered as part of the program?</p> <p>3. By what process was the geographic distribution determined?</p> <p>4. Were assessments undertaken to decide the location of these courses?</p> <p>5. How many of these places have been filled?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000351	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Update to SQ23-001030 - Contracts	Please confirm the total number of contracts (on-going and terminating) and the total cost of each contract issued on AusTender from 11 November 2023.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000352	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Update to SQ23-001032 - Travel Expenditure	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's travel for the financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accommodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's travel for the financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accommodation, care hire and taxi fares.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000353	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Update to SQ23-001033 - Bullying, harassment and discrimination	<p>1. In the financial year 2023-24 to date, how many allegations of bullying, harassment or discrimination have been made by any SES, APS, non-ongoing staff, labour hire staff, contractors or consultants engaged by the Department of Education?</p> <p>2. How many claims of bullying, harassment or discrimination were formally or informally investigated?</p> <p>3. How many allegations were investigated and what further action or investigation was undertaken?</p> <p>4. How many cases resulted in disciplinary action? Please provide details of any disciplinary action taken.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000354	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Update to SQ23-001036 - Contractors	<p>1. Please provide the number of contractors employed across the Department of Education by level and identify the function of duties performed ie. APS6 Data analyst.</p> <p>2. Please identify the term of each individuals contract as a whole, including renewal periods. If a contractor is engaged for a period of 6 months, however this has been extended twice, please indicate the total length of the term the individual has been engaged.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000355	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Update to SQ23-001034 - Fair Work Commission	In the 2023-24 financial year to date, how many referrals have been made by either the Department of Education or, an employee of the Department of Education, to the Fair Work Commission?	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000356	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	After hours work	<p>1. Please detail the number of occasions staff worked outside of core business hours on requests from Ministers or their offices.</p> <p>2. Are all staff offered 'time off in lieu' (TOIL) or FLEX credits when they work outside of core business hours or additional hours beyond their agreed hours?</p> <p>3. Please provide:</p> <p>a. the number of hours credited to staff as FLEX leave (by employment level) for the 2022-23 FY and 2023-24 FY to date.</p> <p>b. the number of hours credited to staff as TOIL leave (by employment level) for the 2022-23 FY and 2023-24 FY to date.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000357	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Public Holidays	<p>1. How many staff at the Department of Education has elected to not take a public holiday for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial year?</p> <p>2. Please detail the number of staff for each public holiday</p> <p>3. Please provide the APS level of staff for each public holiday</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000358	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	PGPA Act Breaches	<p>How many breaches of the PGPA Act have there been since 1 November 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please detail the nature of the breach - On what date was the breach detected? - On what date the breach occurred? - The monetary value of each breach? - The action taken to address each breach? 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000359	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Out of pocket costs	<p>1. Can the Department of Education advise how many women with children are in each income bracket from \$75,000 to \$350,000? (Happy for that to be provided in \$50,000 increments).</p> <p>2. How many parents with children under eight were not currently working in each of those income brackets before 1 July 2023?</p> <p>3. How many parents with children under eight were working part time in each of those income brackets before 1 July 2023?</p> <p>4. How many parents with children under eight were working full time in each of those income brackets before 1 July 2023?</p> <p>5. When exactly is the Department of Education planning to publish fee increases on the Starting Blocks website that date back to 2022?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000360	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Family Day Care	<p>In response to a question in estimates regarding future plans for the family day care sector, Mr Reed advised the Department of Education had gone to tender to trial areas of thin supply. Can the Department of Education provide more information regarding that tender, including whether it was competitive or non-competitive, how many applicants they received, and how the successful tenderer will help to increase FDC.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000361	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Fee Free Tafe & Training	<p>1. On October 7, Minister Clare and Aly said that early childhood education was the most “popular fee free TAFE course”. Where did that information come from?</p> <p>2. Since May 2022, how many people have taken up fee free TAFE courses in early childhood education?</p> <p>3. How many people have completed their fee free TAFE course in early childhood education to date?</p> <p>4. Since May 2022, how many people have enrolled into an early childhood education university course?</p> <p>5. In 2022, how many people graduated from university with an early childhood degree?</p> <p>6. In 2023, how many people graduated from university with an early childhood degree?</p> <p>7. How many people have enrolled into an early childhood education course through a registered training organisation?</p> <p>8. Since 2022, how many people have completed an early childhood education course through a registered training organisation?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000362	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Update to SQ23-000883 - Modification of the Activity Test	As per our previous request - SQ23-000883, please provide the modelling undertaken by the Department of Education on the cost to further modify the activity test (not including the 36 hours already modified for Indigenous Australians).	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000363	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Child Care Services Claim	<p>On 25 November 2023, Minister Clare and Minister Aly issued the media release “<i>Productivity Commission’s draft report on early childhood education and care</i>”. In the release, the Ministers claim “Over the last 17 months, the Government has announced funding to open 55 new early childhood education services in rural and regional communities, along with support to keep 441 existing services open.”</p> <p>1. Provide details on the exact funding provided to open 55 new services, and provide the names and locations of those services.</p> <p>2. Provide details on the exact funding provided to support the 441 existing services, and provide the names and locations of those services?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000364	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	MYEFO Spending	<p>1. In the 2023-24 MYEFO, the Government allocated \$75.8 million to “support the child care system”. \$73.8 million is to support services to increase inclusion of children with disabilities and additional needs. Is that funding going into the Inclusion Support Program (ISP), or is this separate funding for something else?</p> <p>2. What is the remaining \$2 million for social services for?</p> <p>3. The item in the papers, mentions the cost of this measure will be partially met from a reprioritisation of education funding. Specifically, it says “\$2 million over four years by rescoping initiatives from the 2022-23 October Budget measure titled Child Care Subsidy Reforms Integrity Measures”. What initiatives are being rescoped in that measure, and why?</p>	Written	N/A

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				4. Is the Government looking to increase the additional educator funding?		
SQ24-000365	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Workforce professional development and paid practicum subsidies	<p>1. To date, how many applications has the Department of Education received for the first round of subsidies, including professional development, and paid practicums?</p> <p>2. Will all educators be eligible to apply for these subsidies from 1 July 2024?</p> <p>3. Have applications for practicum exchanges open yet? And if so they have, how many applications has the Department of Education received to date?</p> <p>4. To date, how much has the Department of Education paid to centres for training? Can you please provide details of the centres provided with funding, how much was paid to each centre and details of how many staff from each centre undertook what training.</p> <p>5. The increase of the TSMIT to \$70,000 is potentially forcing thousands of educators on temporary skilled migration visas to leave their ECE roles in Australia. What is the Department of Education doing to support those educators, and how will you improve access for future overseas educators?</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000366	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Budget Savings	In the 2022-23 Budget, the Government announced new child care integrity reforms to reduce fraudulent claims. To date, how much has the Government made in savings through that measure?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000367	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	In Home Care Review	<p>1. Does the Government plan to respond to or implement any of the recommendations made by PwC in their In Home Care review?</p> <p>2. Is the Government looking at expanding the number of families eligible for In Home Care?</p> <p>3. One of the main issues regarding In Home Care is the lack of access to educators - particularly for families living in remote locations. What does the Government plan to do to address that issue?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000368	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Slade Brockman	ACARA Freedom of Information Request Charges	<p>How many Freedom of Information Requests you have received for the 2023-24 year to date?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many of those have had a charge provided to the requestor? - Can you please provide a list of the charges for each request. 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000369	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Update to SQ23-001160 - Freedom of Information Requests	<p>Since 1 July 2023, how many Freedom of Information applications has ACARA received? Please provide a breakdown of the applications as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the number of applications being processed b) the number of applications granted c) the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 d) the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 e) the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 f) the number of applications under internal review 	Written	N/A

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				<p>g) the number of applications reviewed by the OAIC</p> <p>h) the number of applications currently being reviewed by the OAIC</p> <p>i) the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned by either an internal or external review mechanism</p>		
SQ24-000370	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Update to SQ23-001162 - Media Monitoring, advertising campaigns and information campaigns	<p>1. Please provide the total amount spent on media monitoring services for the 2023-24 Financial year to date.</p> <p>2. Please provide the expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for the Financial Year to date 2023-24.</p> <p>- please include the total cost of each element undertaken and the purpose of each spend.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000371	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Update to SQ23-001163 - Reviews	<p>Please provide the details of any reviews being conducted by ACARA and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name of the review - the name of the reviewer or organisation undertaking the review - the date the review commenced - the date the review is due to be completed - the purpose of the review; and - the cost of the review. 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000373	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Update to SQ23-001164 - Board Appointments	<p>Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio. - How many members of each Board identify as Indigenous. - How many members of each Board identify as a person with disability - Please detail any board appointments made for the financial year 2023-24 to date. - What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid for the financial year 2023-24 to date. - What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date. - What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date. 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000374	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Update to SQ23-001165 - Legal Services	Please provide the total legal costs for the financial year 2023-24 to date.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000375	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Update to SQ23-001166 - Gifts and Hospitality	<p>Please provide a copy of ACARA's Gifts and Hospitality Policy and highlight any changes made in the 2023-24 financial year to date.</p> <p>Please provide a copy of the register of declaration of gifts and hospitality from 1 July 2023 to date.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000376	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Update to SQ23-001173 - Redundancies	<p>How many redundancies has ACARA offered in the 2023-24 Financial Year and this year to date?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how many of these offers were accepted? - what was the total cost for these redundancies? 	Written	N/A

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	Reporting Authority					
SQ24-000372	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Update to SQ23-001169 - Curriculum	How many complaints have you received on the National Curriculum? - please provide the key area the complaint relates to ie. learning area, general capability, cross-curriculum priorities	Written	N/A
SQ24-000377	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Update to SQ23-001176 - Social Media	Please provide a copy of ACARA's social media policy for employees and identify any changes made this financial year. How many employees have been found to have breached ACARA's social media policy in the 2023-24 financial year to date?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000379	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Update to SQ23-001178 - PGPA Breaches	How many breaches of the PGPA Act have there been since 1 July 2023? - Please detail the nature of each breach - on what date the breach was detected - on what date the breach occurred - the monetary value of each breach - the action taken to address each breach	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000380	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Update to SQ23-001179 - Functions and official receptions	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by ACARA in financial year 2023-24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023-24 to date, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000381	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Update to SQ23-001180 - Contracts	<p>1. Please confirm the total number of new contracts (ongoing and terminating) and the total cost of each contract issued on from 1 July 2023. Please provide the ACARA reference number for each contract entered into.</p> <p>2. Can ACARA please confirm the total number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of each of these contracts issued on AusTender since 1 November 2023 which relate to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External labour hire - Consultancy - Advertising campaigns - Travel - Legal expenses <p>Please provide the reference number for each contract.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000382	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Update to SQ23-001181 - Workplace fit outs and upgrades	<p>Were the facilities of any of ACARA's premises upgraded in the financial year 2023-24 to date, for example office refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, purchase of new fridges, coffee machines or other kitchen equipment.</p> <p>- If so, please provide a detailed description of the relevant upgrades together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please also provide photographs of any upgrades.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000383	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Update to SQ23-001182 - CEO and executive travel expenditure	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Chief Executive Officer's travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accommodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of Executive Director Officer travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accommodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000384	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Update to SQ23-001183 - Bullying, harassment and discrimination	In the financial year 2023-24 to date how many allegations of bullying, harassment or discrimination have been made against any SES, staff including: non-ongoing staff, labour hire staff, contractors or consultants engaged by ACARA? - How many claims of bullying, harassment or discrimination were formally or informally investigated? - How many allegations were investigated and further action or investigation was undertaken? - How many cases resulted in disciplinary action?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000385	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Update to SQ23-001184 - Fair Work Commission	In the 2023-24 Financial Year to date, how many referrals have been made by either ACARA or an employee of ACARA to the Fair Work Commission.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000386	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Update to SQ23-001185 - Meetings	Please provide a list of the meetings ACARA has had with each of the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023. Please identify the dates of each meeting. Has ACARA provided any briefings to any Members of Parliament, Senators or their offices since 1 July 2023. If so, please provide the date of each meeting and who was in attendance.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000387	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Staff	How many employees does ACARA have? Can you please provide a current breakdown of ongoing and non-ongoing employees by state location.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000388	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA National Teacher Workforce Action Plan Action Items	Please provide an update on the action items from the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan for which ACARA is responsible.	Written	N/A

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	Reporting Authority					
SQ24-000378	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Update to SQ23-001189 - Media Monitoring, advertising campaigns and information campaigns	<p>1. Please provide the total amount spent on media monitoring services for the 2023-24 Financial year to date.</p> <p>2. Please provide the expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for the Financial Year to date 2023-24.</p> <p>- please include the total cost of each element undertaken and the purpose of each spend.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000389	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Update to SQ23-001191 - Board Appointments	<p>Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</p> <p>- What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio.</p> <p>- How many members of each Board identify as Indigenous.</p> <p>- How many members of each Board identify as a person with disability</p> <p>- Please detail any board appointments made for the financial year 2023-24 to date.</p> <p>- What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid for the financial year 2023-24 to date.</p> <p>- What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date.</p> <p>- What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000390	Australian Institute for Teaching and School	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Update to SQ23-001192 - Legal Services	Please provide the total legal costs for the financial year 2023-24 to date.	Written	N/A

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	Leadership Limited					
SQ24-000391	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Update to SQ23-001193 - Gifts and Hospitality	<p>Please provide a copy of AITSL's Gifts and Hospitality Policy</p> <p>Please provide a copy of the register of declaration of gifts and hospitality from 1 July 2023 to date.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000392	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Update to SQ23-001194 - HALT	<p>Please provide an update of the data presented in SQ23-001194 to reflect the 2023 and 2024 numbers to date.</p> <p>Can you please provide details of how you will increase the current number of HALT teachers to 10,000 by 2025 given there are currently 1,331.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000393	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Update to SQ23-001195 - National Teacher Workforce Action Plan measures	Please provide an update on each of the measures AITSL is responsible for in the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000394	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Update to SQ23-001197 - Redundancies	<p>How many redundancies has AITSL offered in the 2023-24 Financial Year to date?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how many of these offers were accepted? - what was the total cost for these redundancies? 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000395	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Registered teachers	<p>Please provide a state and territory breakdown for the number of registered teachers.</p> <p>- Of these how many are currently teaching?</p> <p>Of the number of registered teachers, by state, how many have full, provisional, limited and non-practising accreditation?</p> <p>How many teachers are registered with international status (those that are teaching in Australia on an international visa?)</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000396	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Teacher Supply	<p>How many teacher vacancies are there in each state and territory?</p> <p>- Can you provide the data for vacancies by sector?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000397	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Update to SQ23-001205 - Social Media	<p>Please provide a copy of AITSL's Social Media Policy for employees.</p> <p>How does AITSL monitor compliance by employees with this policy?</p> <p>How many concerns have been reported about AITSL employees social media content?</p> <p>How many employees have been found to have breached AITSL's Social Media Policy in 2023-24 financial year to date?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000398	Australian Institute for Teaching and School	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Update to SQ23-001206 - Chief Executive Officer's Travel	<p>Please provide an itemised list of the Chief Executive Officer's travel for the financial year 2023-24 financial year to date, including the cost of flights, accommodation and any ground transport (ie. taxi's)</p>	Written	N/A

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	Leadership Limited					
SQ24-000399	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Update to SQ23-001207 - PGPA Breaches	<p>How many breaches of the PGPA Act have there been since 1 July 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please detail the nature of each breach - on what date the breach was detected - on what date the breach occurred - the monetary value of each breach - the action taken to address each breach 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000400	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Update to SQ23-001209 - Contracts	<p>1. Please confirm the total number of new contracts (ongoing and terminating) and the total cost of each contract issued on AusTender on the 2023-24 financial year. Please provide the reference number for each contract entered into.</p> <p>2. Can AITSL please confirm the total number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of each of these contracts issued on AusTender since 1 November 2023 which relate to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External labour hire - Consultancy - Advertising campaigns - Travel - Legal expenses <p>Please provide the reference number for each contract.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000401	Australian Institute for Teaching and School	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Update to SQ23-001211 - Travel expenditure	Please provide the travel expenditure for the 2023-24 year to date for all AITSL staff, breaking this down by flights, accommodation, taxi's and meal allowances.	Written	N/A

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	Leadership Limited					
SQ24-000402	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Update to SQ23-001212 - Bullying, harassment and discrimination	<p>In the financial year 2023-24 to date how many allegations of bullying, harassment or discrimination have been made against AITSL staff?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many claims of bullying, harassment or discrimination were formally or informally investigated? - How many allegations were investigated and further action or investigation was undertaken? - How many cases resulted in disciplinary action? 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000403	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Update to SQ23-001215 - HALT Advisory Group	<p>How many meetings are planned for the HALT Advisory Group for the 2023-24 Financial Year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will these meetings be held virtually or in person? - What is the budget allocation for these meetings? <p>Since 1 November 2023, how many times has the HALT Advisory Group met?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What was the purpose of this meeting? - What was the purpose of each meeting? - How many attendees were at the meeting? - If meetings were held in person, please identify the travel costs of attendees met by AITSL. 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000404	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Action Items 24 & 25 of the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan	Data on the ITE graduate supply were due to be published in December 2023. Can you please advise the status of this data publication.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000405	Australian Institute for Teaching	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL 2023 Australian Teacher Workforce Survey	When will the results from the 2023 Australian Teacher Workforce survey be available?	Written	N/A

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	and School Leadership Limited					
SQ24-000406	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL LANTITE	<p>Please advise the changes made to the LANTITE test.</p> <p>Who made the decision to change the test from a limited amount of attempts to unlimited?</p> <p>In the most recent measurable year, how many people failed the LANTITE test on their first attempt?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how many failed on their second attempt? - how many failed on their third attempt? - how many people were unable to complete their qualifications as a result of failure of the LANTITE test <p>Will this increase teacher supply?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000407	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Gender balance of teachers	<p>There has been a decline in the number of male teachers. Can you please provide the trend data for male teachers over the last decade?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000408	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Out of field teachers	<p>Please provide data on the number of teachers teaching out-of-field. For example generalist teachers teaching science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How has this changed over the last decade? - Are there particular fields that have a larger gap than others? Ie. Maths and science. 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000409	Tertiary Education Quality and	Slade Brockman	TEQSA Freedom of Information Requests	<p>How many Freedom of Information Requests you have received for the 2023-24 year to date?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many of those have had a charge provided to the requestor? 	Written	N/A

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	Standargs Agency			- Can you please provide a list of the charges for each request.		
SQ24-000410	Tertiary Education Quality and Standargs Agency	Slade Brockman	TEQSA Workplace fit-outs and upgrades	Can you please advise what work is being undertaken by The Architecture Practice Pty Ltd under contracts CN4010969, CN3968410 and CN3928611 at a total cost of \$746,747.65. - Please advise the total amount spent under each contract to date.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000411	Tertiary Education Quality and Standargs Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Update to SQ23-001253 - International students	In SQ23-001253 you advised compliance assessments into several providers who may be acting in an unethical manner had yet to be completed. Please advise: - on which date each investigation commenced - the timeline for completion of each investigation - how many adverse findings have been made to date - how many warnings or breach notices have been issued - how many providers are you working with to improve their policies to enhance compliance and the robustness of the sector - how many investigations are ongoing	Written	N/A
SQ24-000412	Tertiary Education Quality and Standargs Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA National Student Ombudsman	In relation to the proposed National Student Ombudsman, how many meetings have you had with the Department to discuss the proposal? Has TEQSA been provided with a position on the delineation of roles and responsibilities for the National Student Ombudsman? If so, please provide. What complaints will TEQSA be responsible for handling under the proposed new arrangements?	Written	N/A

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				Will the proposed role delineation result in a reduction of TEQSA's existing responsibilities?		
SQ24-000413	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000894 - Support for Students policy	How will the new Support for Students policy interact with TEQSA's investigation or compliance activities? What responsibilities does TEQSA have to enforce this policy? Which responsibilities sit with the Department of Education?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000414	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Action plan to address gender-based violence in higher education	What involvement have you had in the development of the Action plan to address gender-based violence in higher education?	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000415	Australian Research Council	Slade Brockman	ARC New independent board for the ARC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are preparations coming along in convening the new board? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is there a date in which this might happen? 2. Can you outline some of the key changes that may result with the establishment of this new board? 3. What are some of the key reasons behind this initiative? 4. Do you have any concerns at this stage on how this change(s) might impact the organisation? 5. Broadly what are the expected benefits? 6. Given this is potentially a substantial change, do you have a project plan to ensure the efficient implementation of the new board? 7. Are you able to table all the versions of the project plan (not just the latest version)? 	Written	N/A
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SQ24-000416	Australian Research Council	Slade Brockman	ARC Existing governance committees	<p>1. What are some of the key existing governance committees the ARC has at the moment?</p> <p>2. Are both the ARC Advisory Committee and the Australian Research Integrity Committee still active and running?</p> <p>3. If so, how are their arrangements being changed or adapted to accommodate the powers of the new board?</p> <p>4. How is each committee preparing and working towards integration with the new board?</p> <p>5. Can you please table the minutes of those two committees for last 12 months.</p> <p>6. I understand that meetings are also videoed and transcribed. Given that sometimes nuance may be lost in creating high level minutes, can you also please also table the transcripts and the AV recordings for the past 12 months.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000417	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Update to SQ23-001218 - Freedom of Information Requests	<p>Since 1 November 2023 how many Freedom of Information applications has the ARC received? Please provide a breakdown of the applications as follows:</p> <p>a) the number of applications being processed</p> <p>b) the number of applications granted</p> <p>c) the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982</p> <p>d) the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982</p> <p>e) the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982</p> <p>f) the number of applications under internal review</p> <p>g) the number of applications reviewed by the OAIC</p> <p>h) the number of applications currently being reviewed by</p>	Written	N/A

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				<p>the OAIC</p> <p>i) the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned by either an internal or external review mechanism</p>		
SQ24-000418	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Update to SQ23-001232 - Staffing	<p>How many employees are employed by the ARC as at 28 February 2024. Please provide the response specifying the number of staff against each by APS classification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many staff are engaged full time - How many staff are employed on non-ongoing contracts 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000419	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Update to SQ23-001219 - Research Funding Decisions	<p>How many Research grant funding decisions were reviewed by the Minister during the period 1 November 2023 to 28 February 2024.</p> <p>Please provide a list of all grant decisions made by the Minister, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the funding program under which the grant was provided - the monetary value of each grant under the program - the date the brief for each grant decision was submitted to the Minister - the date the brief for each grant decision was signed by the Minister - the date the brief for each grant decision was returned to the ARC - how many decisions did the Minister or his office seek additional information on 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000420	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Update to SQ23-001235 - PGPA Breaches	<p>How many breaches of the PGPA Act have there been since 1 November 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please detail the nature of each breach - on what date the breach was detected - on what date the breach occurred - the monetary value of each breach - the action taken to address each breach 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000421	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Update to SQ23-001236 - Functions and official receptions	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by ARC in financial year 2023-24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023-24 to date, can the following please be provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000422	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Update to SQ23-001238 - Workplace fit outs and upgrades	<p>Were the facilities of any of ARC's premises upgraded in the financial year 2023-24 to date, for example office refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, purchase of new fridges, coffee machines or other kitchen equipment.</p> <p>- If so, please provide a detailed description of the relevant upgrades together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please also provide photographs of any upgrades.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000423	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Update to SQ23-001239 - Travel expenditure	<p>Please provide an itemised list of the Chief Executive Officer's travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accommodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>Please provide an itemised list of each Executive Director's travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accommodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>Please provide an itemised list of SES Band 1 travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accommodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>Please provide an itemised list of Executive Level 1 - Executive Level 2 officer travel by APS classification band for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accommodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>Please provide an itemised list of APS1 - APS6 officer travel by APS classification band for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accommodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000424	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Advertising campaigns and information campaigns	<p>Please provide the expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for the Financial Year to date 2023-24.</p> <p>- please include the total cost of each element undertaken and the purpose of each spend.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000425	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Update to SQ23-001240 - Bullying, harassment and discrimination	<p>In the financial year 2023-24 to date how many allegations of bullying, harassment or discrimination have been made against any SES, APS, non-ongoing staff, labour hire staff, contractors or consultants engaged by ARC?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many claims of bullying, harassment or discrimination were formally or informally investigated? - How many allegations were investigated and further action or investigation was undertaken? - How many cases resulted in disciplinary action? 	Written	N/A
SQ24-000426	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Update to SQ23-001233 - Board Appointments	<p>Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio. - How many members of each Board identify as Indigenous. - How many members of each Board identify as a person with disability - Please detail any board appointments made for the financial year 2023-24 to date. - What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid for the financial year 2023-24 to date. - What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date. - What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date. <p>Will these arrangements change with the introduction of a new ARC Board?</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000427	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Update to SQ23-001224 - Legal Services	<p>Please provide the total legal costs for the financial year 2023-24 to date.</p>	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000428	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Update to SQ23-001241 - Fair Work Commission	In the 2023-24 Financial Year to date, how many referrals have been made by either ARC or an employee of the ARC to the Fair Work Commission.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000429	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Update to SQ23-001242 - Meetings	<p>Please provide a list of the meetings ARC has had with each of the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 November 2023. Please identify the dates of each meeting.</p> <p>Has ARC provided any briefings to any Members of Parliament, Senators or their offices since 1 November 2023. If so, please provide the date of each meeting and who was in attendance.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000430	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Update to SQ23-001225 - Gifts and Hospitality	<p>Please provide a copy of ARC's gifts and hospitality policy.</p> <p>Please provide a copy of the register of declaration of gifts and hospitality from 1 November 2023 to date.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000431	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Update to SQ23-001237 - Contracts	<p>1. Can ARC please confirm the total number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of each of these contracts issued on AusTender since 1 November 2023 which relate to the following areas: - External labour hire - Consultancy - Advertising campaigns - Travel - Legal expenses Please provide the reference number for each contract.</p> <p>2. Please confirm the total number of new contracts (ongoing and terminating) and the total cost of each contract issued on AusTender since 1 November 2023. Please provide the reference number for each contract entered into.</p>	Written	N/A
SQ24-000432	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Update to SQ23-001229 - Redundancies	<p>How many redundancies has the ARC offered in the 2023-24 Financial Year to date?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how many of these offers were accepted? - what was the total cost for these redundancies? 	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000433	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Update to SQ23-001230 - Contracts	<p>How many contracts does the ARC have in place currently for labour hire services?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many staff are employed by the ARC under a labour hire contract? - What is the total contract value for these staff? - What roles are these staff performing? - What is the length of the contract for each of the staff employed under these contracts? How many times has each employee had their contract extended and what is the total contract length for each employee. <p>How many contracts does the ARC have in place for consultants?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many staff are employed by the ARC under a labour hire arrangement? - What is the total contract value for these staff? - What roles are these staff performing? - What is the length of the contract for each of the staff employed under these contracts? - How many times has each employee had their contract extended and what is the total contract length for each employee. <p>How many contracts does the ARC have in place for contractors?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many staff are employed by the ARC under a labour hire arrangement? - What is the total contract value for these staff? - What roles are these staff performing? - What is the length of the contract for each of the staff employed under these contracts? - How many times has each employee had their contract 	Written	N/A
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				extended and what is the total contract length for each employee.		
SQ24-000434	Australian Research Council	Slade Brockman	ARC Freedom of Information Requests	How many Freedom of Information Requests you have received for the 2023-24 year to date? - How many of those have had a charge provided to the requestor? - Can you please provide a list of the charges for each request.	Written	N/A
SQ24-000435	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	ARC Australian Research Council Amendment (Review Response) Bill 2023	Please provide a copy of all submissions provided by stakeholders in consultation for the Bill, including any draft versions of the Bill.	Written	N/A

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SQ24-000443	Department of Education	Lidia Thorpe	Accreditation framework - First language remote speaker	There's no longer really an accreditation framework for a first language remote speaker to become a teacher. Why are there no frameworks to support local teachers from the community?	Written	N/A
SQ24-000442	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Assistant Minister for Education Productivity Commission's philanthropy draft report, Treasurer's comment	<p>Senator HENDERSON:I want to ask about the Productivity Commission's recommendation that all schools lose DGR status. Minister, I will direct this to you. This has sent alarm bells through the non-government schools sector. The National Catholic Education Commission estimates this will cost Catholic schools \$2 billion a year. Independent Schools Australia says that it will cost independent schools more than \$1 billion a year. Will you rule out adopting this egregious recommendation, which would bring many schools, particularly low-fee-paying schools, to their knees?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Thanks, Senator Henderson. As you are aware, it was a draft report from the Productivity Commission. It doesn't represent government policy. As the Treasurer has said already on this issue, this is not something we're considering.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: This is not something you're considering. Could you provide a copy of when the Treasurer actually said that?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'm happy to find that and provide it.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: When did he say that?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I believe he said it after the draft report came out.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, I would appreciate having a copy of that. In relation to these proposals, both the shadow Treasurer, Mr Taylor, and I called on the Albanese government to rule this out. There has been no definitive statement.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: It is 31 January. Hopefully, my office can</p>	Hansard	25-26

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				provide it. I'll table it. It's not something we're considering. I can't be any more clear than that.		
SQ24-000440	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	National School Resourcing Board - chair vacancy	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Finally, from me, how many vacancies are there on the resourcing board currently?</p> <p>Mr Harding: Senator, there are two vacancies on the board at the moment.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Where are we up to with the recruitment of those positions?</p> <p>Mr Harding: That is an ongoing process at the moment for the two remaining vacancies.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Is the chair position currently vacant?</p> <p>Mr Harding: Yes. Professor Fredericks is the current interim chair.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: How is the process going for her replacement?</p> <p>Mr Harding: That is an ongoing process. We are working through that process of trying to recruit the long-term chair and the other Australian government member.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I'm really interested. Is there a time frame you are working through to have this position filled permanently?</p>	Hansard	56

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				<p>Mr Cook: Yes. We are working on that currently. We anticipate that there will be something in the not-too-distant future around that. As you are aware, we work with the states and territories around that. There are two new appointees, I think, that have just been appointed out of nominees from states and territories. There is a requirement under the act, I think, for us to consult with states and territories around nominees as well.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: When did the position for chair become vacant?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I think it was late last year, yes. That was Mr Billing, I think.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: November-December.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Late last year.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can we get the date—I'm happy for you to provide it on notice—when it became vacant?</p>		
SQ24-000438	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-001195 - amendments to the accreditation of initial teacher education programs.	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm looking at your response to question SQ23-001195. AITSL said that AITSL would provide to ministers proposed amendments to the accreditation of initial teacher education programs in Australia in December '23. Did that occur?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Yes, it did, and those amendments were endorsed by ministers.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could we have a copy of those amendments?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Yes, of course.</p>	Hansard	74

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SQ24-000439	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Literacy and numeracy test for initial teacher education	<p>Senator HENDERSON: On the Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher Education, is it possible to provide the committee with a copy of the current test that is used?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Again, I think that might be one for the department.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I'll take that on notice. I think the test rotates and has a series of questions that then use a subset of questions available to students. I'll take that on notice and come back to you.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: We've seen some samples of questions, but if we could have a copy of the current test, in whatever form, we'd be grateful.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I'll flag that because the test is used as a mechanism to assess initial teacher education competency in literacy and numeracy, attaching the full range of questions to a question on notice would mean that would be publicly available for the students. When we do the test, it might not be an accurate assessment about their skills and knowledge at the point in time when they do the test.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: We don't want to compromise the integrity of the test. Maybe we could look at that as a private document. I'm happy to take that offline. I'm very happy if that could be provided in-confidence to the committee. I appreciate the issue that you raised.</p>	Hansard	75
SQ24-000444	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Letter from universities to the Minister regarding revenue losses	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Could I ask for a copy of the letter which has been reported on, sent by a number of universities to the minister, raising deep concerns about revenue losses. That's been reported. A number of universities have raised concerns with the minister about revenue losses, both by reason of international student visas not being processed and because of declining domestic student enrolments. Is it possible for you to provide a copy of that letter?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We would have to seek that from the minister,</p>	Hansard	100

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				<p>Senator. The letter didn't come to us. It went to the minister. I'm happy to follow it up but, as you said, the letter went to the minister, not to the department.</p>		
SQ24-000441	Department of Education	Perin Davey	HELP debt reduction for teachers - 2024 applications.	<p>Senator DAVEY: You're all prepared. See, prior warning works. Have you got there how many teachers have applied for a HELP debt reduction to date?</p> <p>Mr Cook: This is for Mr Rimmer.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Yes. I can tell you two things about this. One is that something over 910 applications have been received in total. Unfortunately, for some reason, the data I have for that number is at 16 November, so it's about 12 weeks out of date. But, as of 16 November, it was 910 applications. I can also tell you that in the calendar year 2023 there were 590 applications.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: So there were 590 in that calendar year. As at 16 November, 910—</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: In total.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Most people who were hoping to get themselves organised for this calendar year might be done. Do you think that will change much? Would you be able to take on notice to get more up-to-date figures if there's a change?</p> <p>Mr Cook: For 2024?</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Yes, as at the start of this year.</p>	Hansard	118

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SQ24-000445	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Bilateral school agreements	<p>According to the Department of Education, in the current bilateral school funding agreements state governments and the NT are allowed to include in their Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) share for public schools non-recurrent costs capped at 4% plus the costs of education regulatory bodies and reform measures agreed in bilateral agreements (excluding capital expenditure).</p> <p>1. For each state and the NT could you provide for 2021, 2022 and 2023 a list showing what is included in the 4% calculation, the cost of each item (such as capital depreciation) and the total 4% cost.</p> <p>2. For each state and the NT could you also provide for 2021, 2022 and 2023 a list showing what the costs of regulatory bodies are along with each agreed reform measure and its cost.</p>	Written	
SQ24-000446	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	South Australian schools	<p>The 2023/24 MYEFO statement includes an allocation of \$24.2 million for transition assistance for South Australian non-government schools.</p> <p>1. What does transition assistance refer to specifically?</p> <p>2. Whose decision was it to provide this assistance and when was the decision announced?</p> <p>3. How much funding is going to each South Australian private school or school authority and over what period?</p>	Written	