

Education Portfolio
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Department Or Agency	Hearing Date	Portfolio Question No	Senator	Topic	Question Text	Hansard Page
Agency	1/06/2023	SQ23-000362	Malcolm Roberts	ACARA NAP sample test survey	<p>Senator ROBERTS: ... I want to turn to your survey. I would like to go to a concerned constituent from Tasmania. At some time in the week starting 8 May, their child participated in a national NAP, national assessment program, science quiz. I understand it's a pilot program that randomly selects schools across Australia to participate. I'm told that the survey is an add-on to the science quiz. That survey asked children to describe their family's compliance with government COVID regulations from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Can you please confirm what the survey was?</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho: I might have to defer to Mr Dyer.</p> <p>Mr Dyer: Attached to every national assessment program sample test is a survey. The survey questions relate to either science literacy, civics and citizenship or ICT literacy and issues around those particular concepts. I can't confirm the question, but I can actually take that on notice. Those questions generally are there to allow students to express opinions and issues that are concerning them in relation to science literacy and civics and citizenship. It is really a survey. I don't know the specific question. Senator, I can follow it up and provide a response.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Could you give us a copy of the survey, please, as part of the answer? Not the results, just the survey questionnaire.</p> <p>Mr Dyer: I should be able to make that available to you, yes.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: The survey questions.</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho: Not the actual science questions?</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: No.</p> <p>Mr Dyer: That's right. I can make that available.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. This parent was very concerned. It looks like children are being used to spy on their parents.</p>	127

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					<p>Mr de Carvalho: No. The responses are anonymised. That is certainly not the intention, no.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: I would like to see that, please. I would like to understand how the survey is relevant to the stated objectives of the NAP science as well—</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho: Sure.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: when you give the answer.</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho: We can provide that.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Who authorised the inclusion of questions about civil compliance in a science quiz?</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho: I would have to take that on notice in terms of the process by which the survey questions are designed, Senator. We'll come back to you on that.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: If you could, please. Who has access to the results of the survey? Can you please provide them on notice?</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho: The results of the survey won't be available until the final report is due to be published, which will be next year some time. It will be in the public domain.</p>	
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Agency	5/06/2023	SQ23-000364	Hollie Hughes	ACARA Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremonies	<p>1. In the last financial year;</p> <p>a) How much departmental funding has been allocated to Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremonies?</p> <p>b) How much departmental funding has been spent?</p> <p>c) How many ceremonies/events have been held?</p> <p>d) Was this a specific Albanese government provision, or was this an independent departmental decision?</p>	N/A
Department of Education	19/06/2023	SQ23-000415	Jane Hume	ACARA 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 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2022/23 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 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs. Please provide examples of the merchandise purchased.</p>	N/A
Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000417	Jane Hume	ACARA Ministerial briefs	<p>Since 1 July 2022, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the previous turnaround requirement; and 2. the date the change was requested. 	N/A

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					<p>How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs by Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p>	
Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000419	Jane Hume	ACARA Meetings with Ministers	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2022? 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 2022? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	N/A
Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000420	Jane Hume	ACARA Paper	<p>Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	N/A

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Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000424	Jane Hume	ACARA Committee and taskforce membership	<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 February 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 February 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. 	N/A
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Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000427	Jane Hume	ACARA 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> <p>a. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate?</p> <p>b. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. External labour hire ii. Consultancy iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses <p>c. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to?</p> <p>d. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates?</p> <p>e. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. External labour hire ii. Consultancy iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses <p>f. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p>	N/A
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					<p>g. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>h. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>i. If so, why and was it approved?</p>	
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Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000428	Jane Hume	ACARA Agency 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 2022/23 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.	N/A
Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000432	Jane Hume	ACARA 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 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). 2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2022/23 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide any photographs of the upgraded facilities.	N/A
Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000433	Jane Hume	ACARA Travel costs	1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's travel for financial year 2022/23 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation. 2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency	N/A

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					<p>head's travel for financial year 2022/23 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 2022/23 to date?</p>	
Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000434	Jane Hume	ACARA Credit cards	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <p>a. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff?</p> <p>b. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was it for?</p> <p>c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>e. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2022/23 to date?</p> <p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</p> <p>g. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2022/23 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2022/23 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</p> <p>h. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2022/23 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>i. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those</p>	N/A

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					<p>reward schemes?</p> <p>j. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>k. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>	
Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000435	Jane Hume	ACARA Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters	<p>1. In relation to department/agency:</p> <p>a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare?</p> <p>b. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim.</p> <p>c. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims?</p> <p>d. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?</p> <p>2. In relation to the department/agency:</p> <p>a. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission?</p> <p>b. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a</p>	N/A

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					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.	
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Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000436	Jane Hume	ACARA 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. 	N/A
Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000438	Jane Hume	ACARA Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office	<p>Since 1 July 2022, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the 	N/A

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					context of the request if provided. b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.	
Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000439	Jane Hume	ACARA ASL allocation	Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 May 2023. Please provide: a. a breakdown of this ASL by APS classification; b. the number of ASL, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and c. the number of ASL, by classification, that are currently not filled.	N/A
Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000440	Jane Hume	ACARA Market research provided to the Ministers' offices	Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.	N/A
Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000441	Jane Hume	ACARA Freedom of information applications	How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2022? Please provide a breakdown of the number including; a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and	N/A

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					i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.	
Agency	21/06/2023	SQ23-000510	Jacqui Lambie	ACARA Workforce - ongoing APS employees	<p>Note: Please segment the responses to these questions by APS classification.</p> <p>1. How many ongoing APS employees were employed in the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>a. How many of these are engaged full time?</p> <p>b. How many of these are engaged part time?</p> <p>c. How many ongoing positions were advertised by the agency in this period?</p> <p>d. How many of these advertised positions were filled?</p> <p>e. How many of the new ongoing employees transferred in from another agency?</p> <p>f. What is the average duration for the recruitment of an ongoing employee (i.e. how long does it take, on average, from approval to fill a position to the filling of the position)?</p> <p>g. How many ongoing roles that were offered to prospective employees turned down by the prospective employee?</p> <p>2. How many ongoing employees were made redundant from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>a. How many of these were engaged full time?</p>	N/A

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					<p>b. How many of these were engaged part time?</p> <p>Note: for the following questions please exclude employees departing due to retirement.</p> <p>3. How many ongoing employees resigned from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>4. How many ongoing employees were considered excess, or were made redundant from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p>	
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Agency	21/06/2023	SQ23-000511	Jacqui Lambie	ACARA Workforce - non-ongoing employees	<p>Note: please segment the responses to these questions by APS classification.</p> <p>1. How many non-ongoing employees were employed in the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>a. How many of these are engaged full time?</p> <p>b. How many of these are engaged part time?</p> <p>c. How many non-ongoing positions were advertised by the agency in this period?</p> <p>d. How many of these advertised positions were filled?</p> <p>e. How many of the new non-ongoing employees transferred in from another agency?</p> <p>f. What is the average duration for the recruitment of a non-ongoing employee (i.e. how long does it take, on average, from approval to fill a position to the filling of the position)?</p> <p>g. How many non-ongoing roles that were offered to prospective employees turned down by the prospective employee?</p> <p>2. How many non-ongoing contract extensions were granted by the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>a. How many of these were engaged full time?</p> <p>b. How many of these were engaged part time?</p> <p>Note: for the following question please exclude employees departing due to retirement.</p> <p>3. How many non-ongoing employees resigned from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p>	N/A
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Agency	21/06/2023	SQ23-000512	Jacqui Lambie	ACARA Workforce - labour hire contractors	<p>Note: please segment the responses to these questions by APS classification.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many labour-hire contractors were employed at the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many of these are engaged full time? b. How many of these are engaged part time? c. How many labour-hire contract positions were advertised by the agency in this period? d. How many of these advertised positions were filled? e. What is the average duration for the recruitment of a labour-hire contractor (i.e. how long does it take, on average, from approval to fill a position to the filling of the position)? 2. Have any labour-hire contractors at the agency been given authority to act as a delegate for the Commonwealth in this period? If yes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many and at what level? b. What was the nature of the delegations? 3. How many labour-hire contractors were engaged by the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many of these were engaged full time? b. How many of these were engaged part time? 4. How many existing labour-hire contracts were extended by the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023? <p>Note: for the following question please exclude employees departing due to retirement.</p>	N/A
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					5. How many labour-hire contractors resigned from the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?	
Agency	21/06/2023	SQ23-000513	Jacqui Lambie	ACARA Workplace culture	<p>1. In the period between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023 were there any allegations (either formally or informally reported) of untoward behaviour (E.g. bullying, harassment, discrimination) made against any APS, or labour-hire contractors engaged at the agency?</p> <p>2. How many of these claims were investigated (formally or informally) and found to have merit?</p> <p>a. How many of the claims were raised with ComCare?</p> <p>b. Of those that were deemed to have merit, how many resulted in</p>	N/A

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					<p>time away from work for the victim?</p> <p>c. What is the total amount of leave taken, in days, from the agency that are attributable to claims of this nature?</p> <p>3. How many of these allegations were investigated and found to have no merit?</p>	
Agency	21/06/2023	SQ23-000514	Jacqui Lambie	ACARA Workers' compensation	<p>1. How many workers compensation claims were made to the agency, by employees of any nature, between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>2. How many of these claims were successful?</p> <p>a. How many of the successful claims were due to an injury of a physical nature?</p> <p>b. How many of the successful claims were due to an injury of a mental nature (I.e. relating to psychological, or mental health injury)?</p> <p>3. How many of these claims were rejected?</p>	N/A
Agency	21/06/2023	SQ23-000515	Jacqui Lambie	ACARA Unpaid leave	<p>1. How many ongoing, or non-ongoing employees at the agency took unpaid leave between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>2. What is the total number of days of unpaid leave for this same period at the agency.</p>	N/A

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Agency	21/06/2023	SQ23-000516	Jacqui Lambie	ACARA Consultants	<p>1. How many consultants (I.e. not APS, or labour-hire contract workers) were working in the agency between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>a. What was the nature of work these consultants performed on behalf of the agency?</p> <p>b. Were any consultants used to augment work ordinarily conducted by APS employees?</p> <p>2. How much money did the agency spend on consultants between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>3. From which companies were all consultants engaged by the Department?</p> <p>a. What was the value for each consultancy procured by the agency?</p> <p>b. Please tabulate this information.</p> <p>4. Were any consultants at the agency given authority to act as a delegate for the Commonwealth between 18 February 2023, and 2 June 2023?</p> <p>If yes:</p> <p>a. How many and at what level?</p> <p>b. What was the nature of the delegations?</p> <p>5. Have any consultants at the agency been given authority to act as a delegate for the Commonwealth since 18 February 2023?</p> <p>If yes:</p> <p>a. How many and at what level?</p> <p>b. What was the nature of the delegations?</p>	N/A
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Agency	21/06/2023	SQ23-000517	Jacqui Lambie	ACARA Supply Nation	<p>1. How many procurement activities, since 18 February 2023, have resulted in purchases of goods and / or services from Supply Nation Certified organisations?</p> <p>a. What is the total value of all Supply Nation procurements to date for the agency this financial year (2022/23)?</p> <p>b. What percentage of the agency's procurements for the 2022/23 financial year to date does the above value represent?</p> <p>c. Would the agency please categorise the types of procurements undertaken with Supply Nation businesses for financial year 2022/23?</p> <p>2. Would the agency list all Supply Nation entities it has purchased goods and / or services from this financial year, with a total value for each supplier?</p>	N/A
Agency	21/06/2023	SQ23-000518	Jacqui Lambie	ACARA Senior Executive Service	<p>1. Please advise the contracted start date for each Senior Executive Service Officer in the agency, plus their contracted end dates.</p> <p>2. Please advise the previous role (the role immediately prior to taking up their current SES role) for each Senior Executive Service officer.</p>	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000695	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA National Teacher Workforce Action Plan	Please provide an update on each of the measures you are responsible for under the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000696	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Meetings	<p>Please provide a list of the meetings ACARA has had with each of the Ministers in their portfolio since June 2022. Please identify the dates of each meeting.</p> <p>Has ACARA provided any briefings to any Members of Parliament, Senators or their offices since June 2022. If so, please provide the date of each meeting and who was in attendance.</p>	N/A

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Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000697	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA NAPLAN results	<p>Data in the recent Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) shows that NAPLAN results for students in both Government and Non-Government schools are declining.</p> <p>1. How long has ACARA been aware of these trends?</p> <p>2. What has ACARA done to improve them?</p> <p>a. Has ACARA met with the Minister for Education or the Assistant Minister in relation to these results in the past year?</p> <p>b. If it has, please provide the Committee with a list of all such meetings, what was discussed, who attended, and the date(s);</p> <p>c. If it has not, why not?</p>	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000698	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Student Attendance	<p>Data in the recent Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) indicates that the proportion of students attending school 90% or more of the time fell to 49.9% in 2022. The target was to get this number higher than 75.2% (the 2018 percentage). The PBS suggests that attendance in Semester 1 2022 was affected by the COVID-19 Omicron variant, high Influenza season outbreaks, and floods (pp. 33-34). However, the PBS also states that attendance levels have been declining since 2018, long before COVID-19.</p> <p>a. Did school attendance levels continue to decline in Semester 2, 2022?</p> <p>b. The COVID-19 pandemic effectively ended some time ago. Why have school attendance levels continued to decline?</p> <p>c. For what reason were school attendance levels declining after 2018 and before the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	N/A

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Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000699	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	<p>1. The PBS indicates that the target for the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people (age 20-24) attaining Year 1 or equivalent or attaining a qualification at AQF Cert. III or above will not be met. The target is 96% by 2031 (from 63.2% in 2016), and this reflects Outcome 5 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the National School Reform Agreement. The proportion reported in the PBS is 68.1%, calculated in 2021.</p> <p>a. Does ACARA have any current statistics in relation to the proportion of ATSI people attaining Year 12 or a Cert. III?</p> <p>2. The PBS states that 'based on current trends, the [2031] target will not be met'. In fact, the proportion of ATSI people attaining Year 12 or a Cert. III has increased by less than 5% in 6 years. If this trend continues, it will take more than 30 years to reach the 96% target. In other words, we should expect the target to be met sometime in 2053.</p> <p>a. What explains these trends? What is ACARA doing to reverse them?</p> <p>b. Has ACARA met with the Minister or the Assistant Minister or the Minister for Indigenous Australians in relation to this matter?</p> <p>i. If yes, please provide the Committee with a list of all such meetings, what was discussed, who attended, and the date(s);</p> <p>ii. If it has not, why not?</p>	N/A
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Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000700	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Improvement of student outcomes	<p>In your answer to part (1) of QoN SQ23-000258, ACARA affirmed that 'there is some evidence to support the claim that the achievement gap between the students from educationally advantaged versus educationally disadvantaged households increased as the students progressed through school, particularly in relation to reading and writing.' In your answer to part (2) of the same QoN, which asked what action ACARA was taking to improve these outcomes, ACARA stated that it carries out the activities authorised by Ministers in its Charter, undertakes the development of national assessment including NAPLAN, and so on.</p> <p>a. Which activities authorised by Ministers in its Charter relate to the improvement of student outcomes for students in disadvantaged households?</p> <p>b. How has ACARA carried out those activities? What specifically has ACARA done in relation to the improvement of these outcomes?</p> <p>c. Has ACARA met with or briefed the Minister, the Assistant Minister, or the Minister for Indigenous Australians on these matters?</p> <p>i. If yes, please provide the Committee with a list of all such meetings, what was discussed, who attended, and the date(s);</p> <p>ii. If it has not, why not?</p>	N/A
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Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000701	Sarah Henderson	ACARA NAPLAN results for students from disadvantaged households	<p>In QoN SQ23-000258 you were asked if you were working with the Department of Education on any policy changes to help correct these concerning results for students from disadvantaged households. In your answer to part (3), you stated that you ‘undertake work as directed through consensus by all education ministers through the Education Ministers Meeting.</p> <p>a. What is the nature of this work? What, specifically, has ACARA been directed to do by the Education Minister or the consensus of all education ministers at the Education Ministers Meeting?</p> <p>b. Can ACARA update the Committee on the progress of this work?</p> <p>c. Can ACARA provide the Committee with any and all correspondence it has had with the Minister, the Assistant Minister, or the Minister for Indigenous Australians on work it has been directed to do by the Education Ministers Meeting?</p> <p>d. Has ACARA briefed the Minister, the Assistant Minister, or the Minister for Indigenous Australians in relation to any of this work?</p> <p>i. If yes, please provide the Committee with a list of all such meetings, what was discussed, who attended, and the date(s);</p> <p>ii. If it has not, why not?</p>	N/A
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Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000702	Sarah Henderson	ACARA NAPLAN report	<p>On 2 December 2022, the Minister for Education wrote to the Chair of ACARA, Mr Derek Scott, directing ACARA to prepare a report with an analysis of declining trends in NAPLAN performance, particularly in secondary school, growing achievement gaps between students from advantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds, and the growing proportion of Year 9 boys who do not meet the national minimum standard in reading. The Minister directed ACARA to submit this report to him in April 2023.</p> <p>a. What is the status of this report? Has it been submitted to the Minister?</p> <p>b. If it has been submitted: what does the report say? What are its conclusions? Please provide a copy of the Report.</p> <p>c. If it has not been submitted: why not? What is the reason for the delay? When can we expect the report?</p> <p>d. Does a draft copy of the report exist? If it does, how far along is this draft?</p> <p>e. Has the Minister seen a copy of this draft?</p> <p>i. Has the Minister provided ACARA with any feedback in relation to the report?</p> <p>ii. If he has, what was that feedback?</p> <p>iii. Can ACARA provide the Committee with a copy of this feedback?</p> <p>f. Has ACARA provided the Minister with any update in relation to the report since 2 December 2022?</p> <p>i. If yes, when was this update provided? What did it say?</p> <p>g. The Minister's letter of 2 December 2022 also notes that 'officials from the department will be in contact shortly'. Has ACARA been contacted by Departmental officials since 2 December 2022 in relation to this report?</p> <p>i. If yes, when? Has ACARA met with these officials? When were these meetings and what was discussed? Can ACARA provide the</p>	N/A
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					<p>Committee with minutes of these meetings?</p> <p>ii. If no, why not? Is the Department planning to contact ACARA in relation to this report?</p>	
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000703	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA NAPLAN participation	<p>Has participation in NAPLAN testing increased or decreased this year compared to previous years?</p> <p>a. What accounts for the increase or decrease?</p>	N/A

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Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000704	Sarah Henderson	ACARA National Curriculum	<p>Last estimates, ACARA gave evidence to this Committee that, as of February 2023, only Tasmania was implementing the national curriculum this year.</p> <p>a. Is that still the case? Are any other States or Territories adopting the national curriculum this year?</p> <p>ACARA also gave evidence last estimates that ‘we would be hopeful that by the end of next year all states would have undertaken the necessary familiarisation processes and be working towards full implementation.’</p> <p>a. Is this a reasonable hope? Does ACARA think there is a reasonable chance all States and Territories will have fully implemented the national curriculum by the end of next year?</p> <p>b. Have State and Territory Ministers agreed to a completed implementation date for the rollout of the curriculum?</p> <p>c. What role does ACARA play in monitoring the rollout of a compliant curriculum with this version?</p> <p>d. Is ACARA concerned that the national curriculum is taking so long to implement?</p> <p>Last estimates, ACARA gave evidence to the Committee that its views on the rollout of the national curriculum would be a matter for its board and that these views would be discussed at its next board meeting (Hansard, p. 102).</p> <p>a. Has there been a board meeting since last estimates?</p> <p>i. If there has, have these views been discussed at the meeting? What was the conclusion reached?</p>	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000705	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Estimates variations	Please provide a list of all estimate variations in the 2023-24 Budget, accompanied by the profile of each over the next 10 years	N/A

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Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000706	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Online Formative Assessment Initiative	<p>In relation to QoN SQ23-000260: ACARA was asked about the progress of its work on the Online Formative Assessment Initiative (OFAI). In its answer to this QoN, ACARA stated that ‘the scope and timeframe for this work is in development’.</p> <p>a. What does this mean? Can ACARA provide the Committee with any specific information on the progress of its work on OFAI?</p> <p>b. Has ACARA consulted with Education Services Australia or any State and Territory Governments to develop an approach to sharing existing assessments?</p> <p>i. If it has, when did it do so? What was discussed? Are there minutes of these meetings? Who attended them?</p> <p>In its answer to part (4) of this QoN, ACARA stated that ‘the timeframe for reporting back to Ministers will be determined as part of the project development and planning’.</p> <p>a. Has this timeframe been determined yet?</p> <p>i. If it has, what is it? Can the Committee be provided with a copy?</p> <p>ii. If it has not, why not? What is the reason for the delay?</p>	N/A
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Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000710	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA National Teacher Workforce Action Plan	<p>QoN SQ23-000259 asked ACARA about Action 19 in the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan (NTWAP), which requires ACARA to 'examine how to support implementation of the national curriculum' and 'provide advice on the frequency of the Australian Curriculum review cycle'. In its answer to part (1) of this QoN, ACARA advised that 'the approach to both activities was discussed with the ACARA Board in February 2023 and consultations in relation to optional support resources are being undertaken during March 2023 with advice planned to be provided to Education Ministers in the first half of the year.'</p> <p>a. Have these consultations been undertaken? If they have, with whom have they been undertaken? If not, why not?</p> <p>b. Has any advice been provided to the Minister for Education or any other Education Ministers in relation Action 19?</p> <p>i. If yes, what is the nature of that advice? Can ACARA provide the Committee with a copy of any briefings, minutes or any other correspondence in relation to Action 19?</p> <p>ii. If no, why not?</p> <p>2. Part (2) of this QoN asked ACARA whether it believed it 'has the appropriate resources to fulfil this task' (i.e. the tasks in Action 19). In its answer, ACARA stated that it 'will have the appropriate resources to fulfil this task'.</p> <p>a. For the purpose of clarification, does ACARA currently have the appropriate resources to fulfil the requirements in Action 19 or does it believe that it will, in the future, have the appropriate resources?</p>	N/A
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Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000714	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Reviews	<p>In its answer to QoN SQ23-000157, ACARA advised that, as of 3 March 2023, it was conducting two reviews, both due at the end of June 2023: a review of the NAPLAN writing model; and a review of the Australian Curriculum review cycle.</p> <p>a. What is the nature of these reviews?</p> <p>b. Does ACARA have any concerns about the current NAPLAN writing model? What are those concerns?</p> <p>c. Does ACARA have any concerns about the Australian Curriculum review cycle? What are those concerns?</p> <p>d. Are draft versions of these reviews available?</p> <p>e. Have these drafts been provided to the Minister?</p> <p>f. If they have, has the Minister provided ACARA with any feedback on these drafts?</p> <p>g. What was the nature of this feedback?</p> <p>h. What is the status of these reviews? What percentage has been completed?</p>	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000716	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA PGPA Act	Have there been any breaches of the PGPA Act since 1 November 2022?	N/A

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Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000719	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Functions and official receptions	<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 2022/23 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 2022/23 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. 	N/A
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Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000723	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Contracts	<p>Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. External labour hire ii. Consultancy iii. Advertising campaigns iv. Travel v. Legal expenses <p>Please provide the reference number for each contract currently in place</p>	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000724	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Workplace fitouts and upgrades	<p>Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2022/23 for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? If so, please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide any photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000725	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Travel expenditure	<p>Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2022/23 including costs of flights and accommodation.</p>	N/A

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					What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2022/24	
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000728	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Media Monitoring	What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2022/23	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000730	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Advertising campaigns and information campaigns	What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2022/23 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns with costs.	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000733	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Reviews	Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide: a. the name of the review b. the name or names of the reviewers c. the date the review commenced c. the date the review is due to be completed d. the purpose of the review; and e. the cost of the review.	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000739	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA non-ongoing employees	How many non-ongoing employees were employed in the Department between 1 July 2022, and 30 June 2023? - How many of these are engaged full time? - How many of these are engaged part time? - How many non-ongoing positions were advertised by the Department in this period? - How many of these positions have now been converted to permanent?	N/A

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					- What is the average employment period for a non-ongoing employee?	
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000740	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Bullying, harassment and discrimination	<p>In the period between 1 July 2022, and 30 June 2023 were there any allegations of bullying, harassment or discrimination made against any APS, non-ongoing staff or labour hire contractors engaged at the Department?</p> <p>- How many of these claims were investigated (formally or informally)?</p> <p>- How many of these allegations were investigated and found to have merit?</p> <p>- How many cases resulted in a Comcare claim?</p> <p>- How many active Comcare claims are currently active and are as a result of allegations of bullying, harassment or discrimination.</p>	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000741	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Procurement	<p>How many procurement purchases, since 1 July 2022, have resulted in purchases of goods and / or services from Supply Nation Certified organisations?</p> <p>- What is the total value of all Supply Nation procurements to date for the Department/agency in the 2022-23 Financial Year?</p> <p>- What percentage of the Department/Agency's procurement activities for the for the 2022-23 Financial Year does this represent?</p> <p>- Please provide a list of all Supply Nation suppliers that have been engaged in procurement activity for the for the 2022-23 Financial Year and the monetary amount for each procurement.</p>	N/A

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Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000742	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Research	<p>What is the total funding amount provided to ACARA for Research?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please list all research programs/grants ACARA is responsible for. - Please provide the funding profile for each of these programs/grants over the next 10 financial years. 	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000743	Sarah Henderson	ACARA 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 from 30 June 2022 to 30 June 2023. - What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid. - What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors. - What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors. 	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000744	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Legal costs	<p>What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for the period 1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023</p>	N/A

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Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000745	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Freedom of Information Requests	<p>Please list the number of Freedom of Information Act requests ('FOI requests') received by the for the financial year 2022-23</p> <p>Please provide the following for the 2022-23 financial year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of FOI requests the Department granted in full - The number of FOI requests the Department granted in part - The number of FOI requests the Department refused in full; and - The number of FOI requests the Department refused for practical reasons under the Freedom of Information Act. - The number of times the Department failed to make any decision on a FOI request within the 30 day statutory period; and - The number of times a request to the Department resulted in a practical refusal (i.e. no decision was made on the request). - The number of times the Department's FOI decisions have been appealed to the OAIC; and - The number of times has the OAIC overturned - in whole or in part - the Department's decision to refuse access to material. - Has the Department been required to procure or reassign staff for additional resources to processing Freedom of Information requests? If so, please detail those resources by APS level. <p>For each of the years above, please also list the number of officers who are designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please provide the number of FOI requests currently under consideration by the Department. Please also provide the number of these requests that are currently overdue in response. - Does the department consult or inform the Minister when it receives Freedom of Information requests? If so: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many times has this occurred in the past twelve months; and 	N/A
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					b. Please outline the process by which the Department consults the Minister.	
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000746	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Fair Work Commission	For each of the period 1 July 2022-30 June 2023 how many references have been made to the Fair Work Commission within the Department or agency.	N/A
Agency	4/07/2023	SQ23-000747	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Gifts and Hospitality	Please provide a copy of the Department/Agency Gifts and Hospitality policy. Please provide a copy of the register of declarations of gifts and hospitality as at 30 June 2023.	N/A

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Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000801	Jane Hume	ACARA Hospitality in the Ministers' offices	<p>1. Since 1 July, has the Agency provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2022, have there been any amendments to the Agency'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>	N/A
Agency	19/06/2023	SQ23-000802	Jane Hume	ACARA Ministers or Assistant Minister functions/official receptions	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2022/23 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. 	N/A