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Australian Government
**Department of Employment
and Workplace Relations**

Secretary
Natalie James

Senator Matt O'Sullivan
Senator for Western Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator O'Sullivan

Thank you for your letter of 22 May 2023 concerning the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations' appearance at the 2023–24 Budget Estimates hearings.

The enclosed information addresses your questions where we were able to do so within your nominated timeframe. With respect to question 16, I can advise that all Questions on Notice put to the department have been tabled.

Officials from the department will be prepared to respond to your other questions at the Estimates hearings.

Please note questions related to portfolio agencies would be best directed to those agencies.

Yours sincerely

Natalie James
26 May 2023

Cc: Senator Tony Sheldon, Chair of the Education and Employment Legislation Committee;
Education and Employment Legislation Committee Secretariat

Encl.

GPO Box 9828, Canberra ACT 2601 | Phone 1300 488 064 | dewr.gov.au | ABN 96 584 957 427

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Question 1: The number and levels of staff currently employed by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) including organisational structure

DEWR's employees classification by headcount as at 31 March 2023 is as follows:

| Classification | As at 31 March 2023 |
|----------------|---------------------|
| APS1 | 3 |
| APS2 | 23 |
| GRADAPS3 | 31 |
| APS3 | 95 |
| GRADAPS4 | 2 |
| APS4 | 269 |
| APS5 | 399 |
| APS6 | 796 |
| EXEC1 | 1115 |
| EXEC2 | 432 |
| SEB1 | 91 |
| SEB2 | 26 |
| SEB3 | 4 |
| Total | 3286 |

Data based on actual classification (includes active employees on long term leave and acting arrangements). Excludes Secretary, inactive employees, casuals and public office-holders.

DEWR's organisation chart is available at: www.dewr.gov.au/about-department/resources/organisation-chart-dewr.

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Question 2: Detailed breakdown of DEWR’s Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and management. Please include how many staff are responsible in progressing FOIs, the average days to process, the median days to process, how many have been received, and their status – whether approved in-full, in-part, refused

The department processes FOI requests in accordance with the requirements of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)*.

The department has met all its statutory timeframes for processing requests. The time taken to process a request depends on:

- the complexity of the request
- whether the scope needs to be clarified with the applicant
- whether third party consultation is required.

The department does not comment on the existence or progress of specific FOI requests. This protects the privacy of applicants and ensures that the department does not pre-empt decisions.

The department publishes a disclosure log which lists information released in response to FOI requests: www.dewr.gov.au/about-department/corporate-reporting/freedom-information-foi/foi-disclosure-log.

Staff responsible for FOI

As at 31 March 2023, the department’s Information Law Team had six staff in its FOI work stream.

- There are a mix of legal and non-legal staff.
- Staff levels range from APS3 to EL2 classification level.
- Two staff members work part-time.

FOI requests received, 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2023

| | | |
|---|-----------|--------------|
| Requests received | | |
| On transfer | | Total 110 |
| - From the former Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) following machinery of government changes | 10 | |
| - From another agency | 4 | |
| Direct from applicants | 96 | |
| Decisions made | | |
| Granted in full | 21 | Total 110 |
| Granted in part | 34 | |
| Access refused | 14 | |
| - Documents do not exist: 11 | | |
| - Practical refusal: 2 | | |
| - Exempt in full: 1 | | |
| Alternative outcomes | | |
| Transferred to another agency | 9 | |
| Withdrawn | 17 | |
| On hand at 31 March 2023 | 15 | |

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| Processing times (for access decisions made) | |
|--|----|
| Number of access decisions made | 69 |
| Average days to process | 35 |
| Median days to process | 36 |

| Reviews | # |
|---|----|
| Internal reviews | |
| - transferred from DESE | 1 |
| - received | 5 |
| - finalised | 6 |
| - on hand at 31 March 2023 | 0 |
| Office of the Australian Information Commissioner reviews | 13 |
| - transferred from DESE | 3 |
| - received | 3 |
| - finalised | 13 |
| - on hand at 31 March 2023 | |
| Appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal | |
| - on hand | 0 |
| - received | 0 |
| - finalised | 0 |
| - on hand at 31 March 2023 | 0 |

The four internal reviews were finalised with the following outcomes:

- decision affirmed to refuse a request for amendment of records
- decision affirmed to refuse access to documents
- decision varied to reduce the charges imposed
- decision varied to give greater access to documents.

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Question 3: A current list of all boards, commissions, statutory appointments within the portfolio including date of appointment and cessation. Please include any vacant positions, the reason for the vacancy, when it became vacant and for how long it is expected to be vacant.

Minister for Employment Workplace Relations

Boards, commissions and statutory appointments – current as at 31 March 2023

| Agency | Position | Appointee | Start date | End date | Vacancy reason | When vacant | When to be filled |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency | Chief Executive Officer | Justine Ross | 19/11/2018 | 18/11/2023 | | | |
| Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council | Chair | John Williams | 17/04/2020 | 16/04/2023 | | | |
| Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council | Member | Elizabeth de Hoog | 11/01/2023 | 10/04/2023 | | | |
| Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council | Member | Tracey Browne | 17/04/2020 | 16/04/2023 | | | |
| Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council | Member | Nancy Milne | 17/04/2020 | 16/04/2023 | | | |
| Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council | Member | Carolyn Davis | 17/04/2020 | 16/04/2023 | | | |
| Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council | Member | Chris Wicks | 17/04/2020 | 16/04/2023 | | | |
| Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council | Member | Michael Young | 22/10/2021 | 21/10/2024 | | | |
| Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council | Member | Liam O'Brien | 18/03/2022 | 17/03/2025 | | | |
| Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council | Member | Jodie Deakes | 31/03/2022 | 30/03/2025 | | | |
| Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council | Member | Robert Walters | 03/07/2022 | 02/07/2025 | | | |

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| Agency | Position | Appointee | Start date | End date | Vacancy reason | When vacant | When to be filled |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation | Chief Executive Officer | Darlene Perks | Board appoints | Board appoints | | | |
| Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation Board | Chair | Christina Langby | 05/06/2021 | 04/06/2025 | | | |
| Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation Board | Deputy Chair | Grahame Kelly | 18/06/2022 | 17/06/2026 | | | |
| Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation Board | Director | Scott Faragher | 27/02/2020 | 26/02/2024 | | | |
| Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation Board | Director | Shane Stephan | 13/05/2021 | 12/05/2025 | | | |
| Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation Board | Director | Jennifer Short | 01/07/2021 | 30/06/2025 | | | |
| Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation Board | Director | Vacant | N/A | N/A | Resignation | 17/11/2022 | Under consideration |
| Comcare | Chief Executive Officer | Michael Duke # | 06/02/2023 | 30/04/2023 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | General Manager | Murray Furlong | 30/09/2021 | 29/09/2026 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | President | Adam Hatcher | 19/02/2023 | 10/03/2028 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Vice President | Joseph Catanzariti AM | 04/06/2013 | 03/06/2024 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Vice President | Ingrid Catherine Asbury | 30/03/2023 | 10/10/2028 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Gerard Boyce | 14/01/2019 | 9/04/2038 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Nicholas Lake | 7/01/2019 | 19/02/2027 | | | |

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| Agency | Position | Appointee | Start date | End date | Vacancy reason | When vacant | When to be filled |
|----------------------|------------------|---|------------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Bryce Cross | 1/02/2019 | 19/06/2028 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Michael Easton | 7/04/2021 | 17/12/2033 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | David Barclay | 28/06/2017 | 15/09/2029 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Peter Anderson | 18/04/2017 | 22/04/2025 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Peter Hampton | 27/10/2022 | 2/12/2025 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Ian Masson | 31/07/2017 | 11/01/2027 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Val Gostencnik | 8/04/2013 | 10/04/2028 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Bernadette O'Neill | 27/10/2022 | 28/12/2030 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Theresa Dobson (previously Moltoni) OAM | 21/02/2022 | 24/09/2032 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Melanie Binet | 1/02/2016 | 15/09/2034 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Alan Colman | 26/04/2017 | 6/08/2035 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Richard Clancy | 3/02/2016 | 31/03/2036 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Abbeygail Beaumont | 14/08/2017 | 25/12/2036 | | | |

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| Agency | Position | Appointee | Start date | End date | Vacancy reason | When vacant | When to be filled |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Lyndall Dean | 30/05/2016 | 12/05/2037 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Tony Saunders | 10/12/2018 | 2/05/2039 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Andrew Bell | 18/01/2022 | 8/11/2039 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Deputy President | Amber Millhouse | 24/09/2017 | 2/11/2046 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Acting Commissioner | Michelle Bissett | 2/11/2022 | 1/11/2023 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Nicholas Wilson | 29/04/2013 | 2/05/2025 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Donna McKenna | 30/03/2012 | 17/12/2025 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Christopher Platt | 2/11/2015 | 18/01/2026 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Bernie Riordan | 26/03/2012 | 23/05/2027 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Tanya Cirkovic | 2/11/2015 | 22/04/2028 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Tim Lee | 8/09/2011 | 9/03/2029 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Paula Spencer | 26/05/2009 | 25/05/2029 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Katrina Harper-Greenwell | 1/02/2016 | 10/09/2033 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Leigh Johns | 8/04/2013 | 6/10/2034 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Chris Simpson | 20/05/2010 | 13/11/2034 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Jennifer Hunt | 8/02/2016 | 18/11/2038 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Sarah McKinnon | 1/05/2017 | 15/02/2042 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Paul Schneider | 2/05/2022 | 9/12/2049 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Leyla Yilmaz | 18/02/2019 | 4/08/2030 | | | |

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| Agency | Position | Appointee | Start date | End date | Vacancy reason | When vacant | When to be filled |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Sophie Mirabella | 24/05/2021 | 26/10/2033 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Phillip Ryan | 28/06/2021 | 28/11/2042 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Commissioner | Alana Matheson | 5/07/2021 | 13/06/2047 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Expert Panel Member | Martin Ferguson | 12/03/2020 | 11/03/2025 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Expert Panel Member | Adele Labine-Romain | 12/03/2020 | 11/03/2025 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Expert Panel Member | Mark Wooden | 12/03/2020 | 11/03/2025 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Expert Panel Member | Leonora Risse | 2/03/2023 | 1/03/2028 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Expert Panel Member | Marian Baird AO | 2/03/2023 | 1/03/2028 | | | |
| Fair Work Commission | Expert Panel Member | Mark Cully | 2/03/2023 | 1/03/2028 | | | |
| Fair Work Ombudsman | Fair Work Ombudsman | Sandra Parker | 15/07/2018 | 14/07/2023 | | | |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Chair | Hon Tony Burke MP | 01/06/2022 | N/A | | | |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Innes Willox AM | 10/02/2023 | 09/02/2025 | | | |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Michele O'Neil | 10/02/2023 | 09/02/2025 | | | |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Annie Butler | 18/02/2022 | 17/02/2024 | | | |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Gerard Dwyer | 19/07/2022 | 18/07/2024 | | | |

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| Agency | Position | Appointee | Start date | End date | Vacancy reason | When vacant | When to be filled |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Benjamin Rogers | 19/07/2022 | 18/07/2024 | | | |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Denita Wawn | 19/07/2022 | 18/07/2024 | | | |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Jo-anne Schofield | 19/07/2022 | 18/07/2024 | | | |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Sally McManus | 10/02/2023 | 09/02/2025 | | | |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Scott Connolly | 10/02/2023 | 09/02/2025 | | | |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Vacant | N/A | N/A | Expiry | 30/03/2023 | Under consideration |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Vacant | N/A | N/A | Resignation | 22/03/2023 | Under consideration |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Vacant | N/A | N/A | Resignation | 02/03/2023 | Under consideration |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Vacant | N/A | N/A | Expiry | 29/11/2022 | Under consideration |
| National Workplace Relations Consultative Council | Member | Vacant | N/A | N/A | Expiry | 29/11/2022 | Under consideration |
| Safe Work Australia | Chief Executive Officer | Michelle Baxter | 01/11/2021 | 31/10/2023 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Chair | Joanne Farrell | 01/02/2022 | 31/01/2025 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Member (ex officio) | Michelle Baxter | 01/11/2021 | 31/10/2023 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Member | Liam O'Brien | 19/12/2022 | 18/12/2025 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Member | Darren Kavanagh | 19/12/2022 | 18/12/2025 | | | |

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| Agency | Position | Appointee | Start date | End date | Vacancy reason | When vacant | When to be filled |
|--|----------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Safe Work Australia | Member | Kym Bancroft | 8/12/2022 | 7/12/2025 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Member | William Esteves | 11/11/2020 | 10/11/2023 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Member | Robyn Pearce | 25/03/2021 | 24/03/2024 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Member | Martyn Campbell | 2/05/2021 | 1/05/2024 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Member | Michael Young | 13/09/2021 | 12/09/2024 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Member | Deborah Vallance | 20/09/2021 | 19/09/2024 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Member | Tracey Browne | 3/12/2021 | 2/12/2024 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Member | Natasha Mann | 11/03/2022 | 10/03/2025 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Member | Jody Anderson | 3/02/2023 | 2/05/2023 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Member | Jennifer Low | 23/03/2023 | 22/06/2023 | | | |
| Safe Work Australia | Member | Colin Radford | 23/03/2023 | 22/06/2023 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Chair | Peter Richards | 22/10/2020 | 21/10/2023 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Member | Catherine Hudson | 22/07/2020 | 21/07/2023 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Member | Melissa Maggioros | 22/07/2020 | 21/07/2023 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Member | Louisa Hudson | 27/11/2020 | 26/11/2023 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Member | Stephen Somogyi | 15/12/2020 | 14/12/2023 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Member | Trevor Gauld | 7/03/2021 | 6/03/2024 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Member | Michael Flinn | 15/02/2022 | 14/02/2025 | | | |

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| Agency | Position | Appointee | Start date | End date | Vacancy reason | When vacant | When to be filled |
|--|----------------|------------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------|--|
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Member | Jane Hall | 15/03/2023 | 14/03/2024 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Member | Michelle Baxter | 1/11/2021 | 31/10/2023 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Member | Jody Anderson | 1/03/2022 | 28/02/2025 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Member | Vacant | N/A | N/A | Expiry | 2017 | Expired 2017. Defence member; no nomination since 2017 |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Deputy Member* | Michael Young | 24/07/2020 | 21/07/2023 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Deputy Member* | Lorraine Biviano | 27/07/2020 | 21/07/2023 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Deputy Member* | Amanda Johnston | 16/02/2022 | 31/10/2023 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Deputy Member* | Laura Buckley | 27/11/2020 | 26/11/2023 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Deputy Member* | Lisa-Maree Bahls | 8/03/2021 | 6/03/2024 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Deputy Member* | Lien Sutherland | 3/03/2022 | 14/02/2025 | | | |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Deputy Member* | Vacant | N/A | N/A | Expiry | 2017 | Vacant for a Deputy Member for Defence. |
| Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | Deputy Member* | Vacant | N/A | N/A | Expiry | 12/12/2022 | Under consideration |

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| Agency | Position | Appointee | Start date | End date | Vacancy reason | When vacant | When to be filled |
|---|----------------|----------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority | Chair | Barry Sherriff | 22/10/2020 | 21/10/2025 | | | |
| Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority | Deputy Chair | Michael Duke | 28/02/2023 | 27/05/2023 | | | |
| Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority | Member | Penny Howard | 7/09/2020 | 6/09/2023 | | | |
| Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority | Member | Mick Kinley | 1/07/2020 | 30/06/2024 | | | |
| Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority | Member | Nathan Niven | 14/01/2022 | 13/01/2025 | | | |
| Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority | Member | Sarah Cerche | 10/10/2022 | 9/10/2025 | | | |
| Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority | Member | Saskia Verity | 10/10/2022 | 9/10/2025 | | | |
| Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority | Deputy Member* | Jamie Newlyn | 08/09/2020 | 06/09/2023 | | | |
| Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority | Deputy Member* | Ben Tifan | 31/03/2022 | 30/06/2024 | | | |
| Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority | Deputy Member* | Jarrod Moran | 28/01/2022 | 13/01/2025 | | | |
| Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority | Deputy Member* | Angela Gillham | 22/02/2023 | 9/10/2025 | | | |
| Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority | Deputy Member* | Vacant | N/A | N/A | Resignation | 9/10/22 | When new member appoints |

* Deputy Members are not appointed by the Minister.

Denotes acting arrangement.

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Minister for Skills and Training

Boards, commissions and statutory appointments – current as at 31 March 2023

| Agency | Position | Appointee | Start date | End date | Vacancy reason | When vacant | When to be filled |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Australian Skills Quality Authority (National Vocational Education and Training Regulator) | Chief Executive Officer | Saxon Rice | 1/01/2021 | 31/12/2025 | | | |
| Jobs and Skills Australia | Director | Peter Dawkins | 1/12/2022 | 30/06/2023 | | | |
| National Careers Institute Advisory Board | Chair | Michelle Ayyuce | 1/09/2022 | 13/02/2024 | | | |
| National Careers Institute Advisory Board | Member | Erica Smith | 14/02/2022 | 13/02/2024 | | | |
| National Careers Institute Advisory Board | Member | Corey Tutt | 14/02/2022 | 13/02/2024 | | | |
| National Careers Institute Advisory Board | Member | Marie Persson | 29/08/2022 | 28/08/2023 | | | |
| National Careers Institute Advisory Board | Member | Saxon Phipps | 29/08/2022 | 28/08/2023 | | | |
| National Careers Institute Advisory Board | Member | Charlene Davison | 29/08/2022 | 28/08/2024 | | | |
| National Careers Institute Advisory Board | Member | David Carney | 29/08/2022 | 28/08/2023 | | | |
| National Careers Institute Advisory Board | Member | Laura Angus (ex-officio) | 1/08/2022 | 31/08/2099 | | | |
| National Careers Institute Advisory Board | Member | Peter Dawkins (ex-officio) | 25/01/2023 | 31/08/2099 | | | |
| National Careers Institute Advisory Board | Member | Vacant | N/A | N/A | Resignation | 29/11/2022 | Under consideration |

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| Agency | Position | Appointee | Start date | End date | Vacancy reason | When vacant | When to be filled |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| National Careers Institute Advisory Board | Member | Vacant | N/A | N/A | | | Vacant since establishment. |
| National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Advisory Council | Chair | Peter Costantini | 6/04/2022 | 6/04/2025 | | | |
| National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Advisory Council | Member | Don Zoellner | 6/04/2022 | 6/04/2025 | | | |
| National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Advisory Council | Member | Neil Quarmby | 6/04/2022 | 6/04/2025 | | | |
| National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Advisory Council | Member | Adrienne Nieuwenhuis | 6/04/2022 | 6/04/2025 | | | |
| National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Advisory Council | Member | Grant Klinkum | 6/04/2022 | 6/04/2025 | | | |
| National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Advisory Council | Member | Renee Hindmarsh | 6/04/2022 | 6/04/2025 | | | |
| National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Advisory Council | Member | Valerie Braithwaite | 6/04/2022 | 6/04/2025 | | | |
| Student Identifiers Registrar | Student Identifiers Registrar | Glen Watson | 17/01/2023 | 17/10/2023 | | | |

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Question 5: All documents, including the NPP relating to the decision to cut funding from the Fair Work Ombudsman in the 2023–24 Budget

Information on the review of the Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman is available in Budget Paper No. 2 (p. 106), the Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio Budget Statement (p. 20), and the department's 2023–24 Budget webpage: www.dewr.gov.au/about-department/corporate-reporting/budget/2023-24-may-budget.

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Question 6: The criteria that will be used for appointment to National Construction Industry Forum members, and any documents relating to how to apply to be appointed

Membership of the National Construction Industry Forum is governed by a new section of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (s 789GZE), introduced by the *Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Act 2022* and commencing on 1 July 2023. It provides that the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations (the Minister), the Infrastructure Minister (Minister administering the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008*), and the Industry Minister (Minister administering the *Australian Jobs Act 2013*) are members of the Forum, along with the members appointed by the Minister.

Under new subsection 789GZE(2), the Minister must appoint one or more members who have experience representing employees in the building and construction industry, and an equal number of members who have experience representing employers in the building and construction industry, including at least one member who has experience representing contractors in the building and construction industry, and one member with experience in small to medium sized enterprises in the residential building sector. The Minister has a broad discretion under new subsection 789GZE(3) to appoint any other person as a member of the Forum.

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Question 9: Details of the consultation and development the 'employee like forms of work'

Between August 2022 and May 2023 the department has consulted over 80 stakeholders across more than 100 stakeholder meetings on employee-like forms of work.

On 24 March 2023, the department published short summaries of the 11 measures being considered for introduction to Parliament in the second half of 2023, including a summary of the 'employee-like' measure (available at www.dewr.gov.au/2023-workplace-reform-consultations/consultations/extend-powers-fair-work-commission-include-employee-forms-work).

On 13 April 2023, the department published four consultation papers, including one that relates to extending the powers of the Fair Work Commission to include 'employee-like' forms of work.

The consultation paper is available at www.dewr.gov.au/2023-workplace-reform-consultations/resources/employee-forms-work-consultation-paper.

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Question 11: The latest Workforce Australia caseload, how many are in each stream, how long they have been in the stream, when they first became a participant

Question 12: Number of long term and very long term jobseekers in the caseload broken down by how many years they have been in the system.

Answers to questions 11 and 12 can be found in the department's published and publicly available data at: www.dewr.gov.au/employment-services-data/resources/workforce-australia-and-parentsnext-caseload-time-series-october-2022-april-2023.

Please note there are no longer 'streams' under Workforce Australia.

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Question 13: Documents on the announcement by the government to remove the mutual obligations requirement for the ParentsNext Program

Correspondence to service providers



Australian Government
Department of Employment
and Workplace Relations

Deputy Secretary
Nathan Smyth

Dear Chief Executive Officer

ParentsNext Announcement

I write to you regarding the announcement about ParentsNext by the Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher and the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Hon Tony Burke MP.

Announcement

Today, 5 May 2023, the Australian Government announced that it will abolish ParentsNext from 1 July 2024. The Government acknowledges that the compulsory nature of the program has caused real concerns for disadvantaged families with young children, and that it is time to consider new arrangements that better support parents and carers.

The Government has further announced its intention to design a new voluntary program. It recognises that it will take time to design a new voluntary program and that arrangements must be carefully considered to ensure that parents are not disadvantaged.

From today, all compulsory requirements will be paused for ParentsNext participants. This means that any outstanding or existing compliance action will be finalised and participants will not face payment suspensions or financial penalties for not meeting participation requirements. The department is reviewing all participants currently in the warning zone with a view to removing their demerits and returning them to a clean slate.

Impact on providers

As participants will remain on the caseload, providers will continue to receive service fee payments as per current arrangements. Providers will also continue to have access to the Participation Fund and other supports to help participants.

Services Australia will continue to conduct appointments with parents who meet the eligibility criteria and will refer them to your organisation if they choose to engage in the program.

While participants will not be required to participate in ParentsNext, providers are expected to continue to deliver services and provide support to participants to achieve their goals.

It is now more important than ever to engage with participants and parents eligible for the program to reassure them that the supports they are currently receiving will continue and for new participants, explaining the benefits that participating in ParentsNext can provide.

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Communication to participants

The department is communicating directly to participants, directing them to www.dewr.gov.au/PN for more information. Providers may also refer to this website for more information.

If you have any questions in the interim please contact your Provider Lead.

Yours sincerely

Nathan Smyth
Deputy Secretary
5 May 2023

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ParentsNext Participant and Provider Communications – 5 May 2023

SMS communication received by participants

Hi {{JSKR F NAME}}, there are changes to ParentsNext. Your compulsory requirements are now paused. Learn more at dewr.gov.au/pn

Email/Inbox Message received by participants

Hi {{JSKR F NAME}}

Why we're contacting you

The Government has announced changes to ParentsNext.

What you need to know

The Government is abolishing ParentsNext from 1 July 2024. From today, you will still be able to get help from your ParentsNext provider. But you won't receive payment suspensions or a demerit if you do not attend your meetings with providers or not go to your activities.

For more information

Learn more on the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations website dewr.gov.au/pn

Contact us

If you have questions you can:

- email NationalCustomerServiceLine@dewr.gov.au
- fill in our [contact form](#)
- talk to your provider.

Regards

Website announcement for participants

www.dewr.gov.au/parentsnext/announcements/Parentsnext-participant

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For now, if you are a ParentsNext participant you will stay in the program but will not receive a financial penalty if you miss an activity or appointment.

You can still choose to be referred to activities and meet with your provider, but you will not receive any demerits or payment suspension if you do not attend.

You will not need to report attendance at activities or appointments. You will only need to report your income each fortnight to Centrelink if you or your partner are working.

If you have a payment suspension, this will be lifted. The department is reviewing all participants currently in the warning zone and if you have any demerits they will be removed and you will return to a clean slate.

You will continue to have the same access to help and support with ParentsNext and your provider can continue to help you reach your education or employment goals.

There is no need to look for work, but ParentsNext providers can help you find work if you are ready.

If you are a ParentsNext participant, you may have some questions:

Question: What do these changes mean for me?

Answer: You are still connected with your ParentsNext provider and can still choose to be referred to the same activities in ParentsNext as before, but you will not lose any payments or get a demerit if you miss an activity or appointment.

Question: Will I need to keep reporting?

Answer: If you choose to continue participating you will not need to report your attendance at activities or appointments. You will only need to report your income each fortnight to Centrelink if you or your partner are working.

Question: Do I still need to go to appointments with my ParentsNext provider?

Answer: Your provider will continue to offer support to reach your goals, and you can continue to meet with your provider. If you choose not to attend appointments or activities you will not lose your parenting payment.

Question: Do I need to keep going to activities?

Answer: You can keep going to the activities that you have agreed to in your Participation Plan, but you do not need to report attendance and you will not lose your parenting payment if you do not attend. Talk to your provider if your activities do not work for you or you cannot attend.

Question: Can I still get the same help and support from ParentsNext?

Answer: Yes. You can still get the same supports, and your provider will continue to help you work towards your goals.

Question: Will my access to Child Care Subsidy change?

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Answer: No. You will continue to receive the same access to the Child Care Subsidy (CCS). It is a good idea to log on to your myGov account and update your 'activity test' to include all activities you are doing if you are doing new activities.

Question: Will the ParentsNext program be changing in the future?

Answer: Yes. The Government has announced plans to end ParentsNext from 1 July 2024. A new voluntary program will be developed in its place. More information will be provided soon.

Website announcement for media

www.dewr.gov.au/parentsnext/announcements/changes-parentsnext

The Australian Government will move to abolish ParentsNext from 1 July 2024 and replace it with a new voluntary program.

From 5 May 2023, we will immediately pause all compulsory requirements for participants in ParentsNext.

This means that participants will no longer receive payment suspensions or penalties for not engaging with activities under ParentsNext, such as attending appointments.

Work is underway to contact all affected participants, who will still be invited to continue taking part in activities, and receive financial supports currently available.

Parents who continue participating in ParentsNext will still receive help to plan and prepare for employment, including financial assistance to undertake education or training and the Government encourages parents to continue to access these supports.

In the coming weeks, the Government will consider longer-term interim arrangements while a voluntary replacement program is developed.

These arrangements will ensure that parents and carers can continue to access the support they need, such as access to 36 hours per fortnight of subsidised childcare through the Child Care Subsidy.

A new voluntary service will be designed in consultation with parents and stakeholders from across the community.

Mutual obligation requirements as part of Workforce Australia will remain in place for all other participants. This includes programs such as Transition to Work. Mutual obligation requirements will also remain in place for participants in Disability Employment Services (DES) and the Community Development Program (CDP).

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ParentsNext – social media notification

Posted on:

- [ParentsNext Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn Workforce Australia for Individuals](#)
- [Workforce Australia Facebook](#)

5 May 2023

From today, 5 May 2023, if you are a participant in ParentsNext all compulsory requirements will be paused. This means that you will not lose any payments or get a demerit if you do not attend your ParentsNext activities or meet with your provider.

This is part of the Australian Government's decision to replace ParentsNext with a new voluntary service from 1 July 2024.


If you choose to continue to participate in ParentsNext, you will still receive help from your provider, including financial assistance to reach your study or work goals.

We are currently notifying all participants of the change. If you would like to speak to someone about how the changes might affect you, please contact your provider directly or call the National Customer Service Line on 1800 805 260.

For more information, please visit www.dewr.gov.au/PN

Mutual obligation requirements as part of Workforce Australia will remain in place for all other participants.

Share to Workforce Australia for Individuals LinkedIn and Facebook with this text:

Are you a participant in ParentsNext? Read more about changes to the program 
www.dewr.gov.au/PN

Provider Portal Notice

ParentsNext – 5 May 2023 Announcement

The Australian Government has announced that it will abolish ParentsNext from 1 July 2024.

The Government acknowledges that the compulsory nature of the program has caused real concerns for disadvantaged families with young children, and that it is time to consider new arrangements that better support parents and carers. The Government recognises that it will take time to design a new voluntary program and that arrangements must be carefully considered to ensure that parents are not disadvantaged.

From today, 5 May 2023, all compulsory requirements will be paused for ParentsNext participants. This means that any outstanding or existing compliance action will be finalised and participants will not face payment suspensions or financial penalties for not meeting participation requirements. The

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department is reviewing all participants currently in the warning zone with a view to removing their demerits and returning them to a clean slate.

Further, participants will not be required to report their income to Centrelink fortnightly, unless they or their partner are working.

Participants will remain on the ParentsNext caseload, as such providers will continue to receive service fee payments as per current arrangements. Providers will also continue to have access to the Participation Fund and other supports to help participants.

Services Australia will continue to conduct appointments with parents who meet the eligibility criteria and will refer them to your organisation where they choose to engage in the program.

While participants will not be required to participate in ParentsNext, providers are expected to continue to deliver services and provide support to participants to achieve their goals.

It is now more important than ever to engage with participants and parents eligible for the program to reassure them that the supports they are currently receiving will continue and for new participants, explaining the benefits that participating in ParentsNext can provide.

The department is communicating directly to participants, directing them to www.dewr.gov.au/PN for more information. Providers may also refer to this website for more information.

Mutual obligation requirements as part of Workforce Australia will remain in place for all other participants. This includes programs such as Transition to Work. Mutual obligation requirements will also remain in place for participants in Disability Employment Services (DES) and the Community Development Program (CDP).

If you have questions or concerns, please speak to your Provider Lead.

ESSWeb Notice

Title: ParentsNext – 5 May 2023 Announcement

Message: The Australian Government has announced changes to ParentsNext effective from 5 May 2023. For more information please refer to the ParentsNext – 5 May 2023 Announcement (link to be provided once News Item goes live) Provider Portal News Item.

Business Case (required by the form): The Minister is announcing changes to ParentsNext effective from 5 May 2023 and we need to ensure that provider staff are aware of the new arrangements.

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Question 14: Latest estimates or data on the VET FEE-HELP Student Redress scheme payments, broken down by state, age, average amount paid to each applicant, median amount per applicant, lowest amount paid, highest amount paid, average days to progress payment of redress, median days from application for redress to payment

From 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2023, more than \$3.41 billion has been re-credited for more than 186,400 students.

Detailed breakdowns of application data are not readily available.

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Question 15: Most up to date data on the number of in-training apprentices and trainees, broken down by gender, age, state and electorate

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Data Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) 2023, Australian vocational education and training statistics: apprentices and trainees 2022 — June quarter, NCVER, Adelaide.

Gender

Apprentices and trainees in training as at 30 June 2022

| Gender | In training as at 30 June 2022 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Female | 128,125 |
| Male | 287,065 |
| Not stated | 50 |
| Total | 415,240 |

Age

Apprentices and trainees in training as at 30 June 2022

| Age categories | In training as at 30 June 2022 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 19 years and under | 121,535 |
| 20 to 24 years | 127,100 |
| 25 to 44 years | 132,780 |
| 45 years and over | 33,810 |
| Not known | 15 |
| Total | 415,240 |

State

Apprentices and trainees in training as at 30 June 2022

| State/territory | In training as at 30 June 2022 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| New South Wales | 120,375 |
| Victoria | 89,865 |
| Queensland | 99,750 |
| South Australia | 31,675 |
| Western Australia | 49,515 |
| Tasmania | 12,990 |
| Northern Territory | 3,820 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 7,250 |
| Total | 415,240 |

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Electorate

Apprentices and trainees in training as at 30 June 2022

| Electorates | In training as at 30 June 2022 |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Adelaide | 7,900 |
| Aston | 2,225 |
| Ballarat | 3,070 |
| Banks | 1,690 |
| Barker | 3,835 |
| Barton | 1,425 |
| Bass | 2,510 |
| Bean | 1,935 |
| Bendigo | 2,770 |
| Bennelong | 1,525 |
| Berowra | 1,345 |
| Blair | 2,465 |
| Blaxland | 2,485 |
| Bonner | 2,925 |
| Boothby | 2,240 |
| Bowman | 2,205 |
| Braddon | 3,295 |
| Bradfield | 1,140 |
| Brand | 2,075 |
| Brisbane | 6,285 |
| Bruce | 2,585 |
| Burt | 2,360 |
| Calare | 3,375 |
| Calwell | 3,535 |
| Canberra | 3,345 |
| Canning | 2,175 |
| Capricornia | 4,970 |
| Casey | 2,315 |
| Chifley | 2,860 |
| Chisholm | 1,655 |
| Clark | 3,125 |
| Cook | 2,435 |
| Cooper | 2,185 |
| Corangamite | 2,385 |
| Corio | 3,615 |
| Cowan | 3,450 |
| Cowper | 3,610 |
| Cunningham | 3,305 |
| Curtin | 1,600 |
| Dawson | 3,265 |
| Deakin | 2,255 |
| Dickson | 2,960 |
| Dobell | 2,795 |
| Dunkley | 2,150 |

| Electorates | In training as at 30 June 2022 |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Durack | 6,125 |
| Eden-Monaro | 2,655 |
| Fadden | 3,220 |
| Fairfax | 3,570 |
| Farrer | 3,460 |
| Fenner | 1,825 |
| Fisher | 3,240 |
| Flinders | 3,700 |
| Flynn | 3,535 |
| Forde | 3,945 |
| Forrest | 3,305 |
| Fowler | 1,500 |
| Franklin | 2,145 |
| Fraser | 1,415 |
| Fremantle | 3,805 |
| Gellibrand | 2,805 |
| Gilmore | 2,800 |
| Gippsland | 2,420 |
| Goldstein | 955 |
| Gorton | 1,625 |
| Grayndler | 1,085 |
| Greenway | 1,945 |
| Grey | 3,730 |
| Griffith | 3,115 |
| Groom | 4,315 |
| Hasluck | 2,875 |
| Herbert | 3,425 |
| Higgins | 1,145 |
| Hindmarsh | 3,370 |
| Hinkler | 2,215 |
| Holt | 1,345 |
| Hotham | 2,260 |
| Hughes | 1,885 |
| Hume | 3,030 |
| Hunter | 4,050 |
| Indi | 4,035 |
| Isaacs | 3,170 |
| Jagajaga | 1,625 |
| Kennedy | 2,890 |
| Kingsford Smith | 1,980 |
| Kingston | 1,925 |
| Kooyong | 1,470 |
| La Trobe | 2,165 |
| Lalor | 2,180 |
| Leichhardt | 3,425 |
| Lilley | 3,985 |
| Lindsay | 3,100 |
| Lingiari | 1,895 |

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| Electorates | In training as at 30 June 2022 |
|--------------------|---|
| Longman | 2,445 |
| Lyne | 2,495 |
| Lyons | 1,910 |
| Macarthur | 2,450 |
| Mackellar | 2,125 |
| Macnamara | 2,795 |
| Macquarie | 2,135 |
| Makin | 1,915 |
| Mallee | 3,040 |
| Maranoa | 3,500 |
| Maribyrnong | 1,730 |
| Mayo | 1,920 |
| McEwen | 1,755 |
| McMahon | 3,555 |
| McPherson | 3,420 |
| Melbourne | 4,255 |
| Menzies | 1,110 |
| Mitchell | 2,405 |
| Monash | 2,345 |
| Moncrieff | 4,450 |
| Moore | 1,435 |
| Moreton | 4,445 |
| New England | 3,075 |
| Newcastle | 3,765 |
| Nicholls | 3,085 |
| North Sydney | 1,780 |
| O'Connor | 5,200 |
| Oxley | 3,325 |
| Page | 2,370 |
| Parkes | 3,105 |
| Parramatta | 2,305 |
| Paterson | 4,045 |
| Pearce | 1,845 |
| Perth | 3,870 |
| Petrie | 2,030 |
| Rankin | 3,110 |
| Reid | 1,960 |
| Richmond | 2,510 |
| Riverina | 4,270 |
| Robertson | 2,525 |
| Ryan | 1,525 |
| Scullin | 1,855 |
| Shortland | 2,610 |
| Solomon | 1,850 |
| Spence | 1,860 |
| Stirling | 3,340 |
| Sturt | 2,960 |
| Swan | 4,810 |

| Electorates | In training as at 30 June 2022 |
|--|---|
| Sydney | 4,860 |
| Tangney | 1,110 |
| Wannon | 3,585 |
| Warringah | 1,695 |
| Watson | 1,205 |
| Wentworth | 1,235 |
| Werriwa | 1,600 |
| Whitlam | 2,500 |
| Wide Bay | 2,470 |
| Wills | 1,130 |
| Wright | 2,225 |
| Unallocated, unknown, invalid and overseas codes | 3,675 |
| Total | 415,240 |