

Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business Portfolio QoN List
2019-20 Supplementary Estimates Spillover Hearing: 5 December 2019
Total Questions on Notice: 38

No.	PDR No	Hansard Sequence No	Senator	Outcome	Subject	Full Question Text
233	SQ19-001517	1-4-5-2	Pratt, Louise	Secretary	Machinery of Government Information	<p>Page 4</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So, Dr Charker, you were informed yesterday. When was the secretary informed, and which changes were you informed of today in the announcement?</p> <p>Dr Charker: I will have to take on notice when the secretary was informed.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What about when you were informed?</p> <p>Dr Charker: I was informed late yesterday evening by the secretary.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What information was received?</p> <p>Dr Charker: At what point, sorry?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Could you take on notice what information was received last night from whom, and when the secretary was first notified?</p> <p>Dr Charker: I will certainly take that on notice. I should add to my previous response, in relation to your question about what the changes are, that the most significant change specifically referenced in the media is the consolidation of this department with the Department of Education, but I would also note that it has been announced that the small business function, which resides in this department, will move in a normal machinery-of-government change to the department of industry.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Page 5</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Do you know when Ms Kerri Hartland was advised that she wouldn't continue to hold office in the new structure?</p>
234	SQ19-001532	1-4-5-2	Pratt, Louise	Enabling Services	Information provided on machinery of government changes	<p>Senator PRATT: Thank you. So what information were you provided with yesterday by the secretary?</p> <p>Dr Charker: I think I said I'd take the details on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Did you receive anything in writing?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Page 5</p> <p>Dr Charker: No. I'll take further details on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I can't see why you need to take it on notice. If you didn't get anything in writing, then all you need to tell us is what the secretary told you. I can't see what there is to take on notice. Could you advise us what you were advised yesterday?</p> <p>Dr Charker: As I said earlier, I was advised of some detail pertaining to the secretary and to the broad machinery-of-government changes impacting on the department. I will have to take on notice exactly what time that occurred. I don't have a recollection of that at this minute, I'm sorry.</p>
235	SQ19-001518	1-6-2	Pratt, Louise	Enabling Services	Staff transfers	<p>Senator PRATT: In terms of us being able to track any staff changes, how many staff currently exist within the employment and skills part of the department?</p> <p>Dr Charker: At 31 October this year, the department had 2,257 employees, expressed as a headcount.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Does that exclude the small business?</p> <p>Dr Charker: That includes the small business function.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Are you able to exclude the small and family enterprise component of that now?</p> <p>Dr Charker: No, I would take that on notice. We may be able to provide that to you later this evening, but right at this minute I'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay, can you break that up. Clearly, we want to be able to track how many staff are transferring into both departments, both ways.</p>
236	SQ19-001519	1-6-3	Pratt, Louise	Enabling Services	Staff Entitlements	<p>Senator PRATT: Conditions are also important. I'm interested to see that, in moving once and then moving back again, there isn't a loss of entitlements or a loss in the number of staff. If you could take on notice anything you can advise about that for the future and also provide some advice about the previous change and what changes in entitlements took place on notice, that would be terrific.</p> <p>Dr Charker: Yes.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Could you also take on notice comparing the existing entitlements of family and small business going into industry.</p>
237	SQ19-001560	Written	Pratt, Louise	Enabling Services	Media Release Subscription	<p>1. The Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business does not have an email subscription service for media releases, unlike departments like Treasury.</p> <p>a. Why is that, and when will the department allow an email subscription function?</p> <p>2. Does the department view not having an email subscription function on the website as being compatible with accessible and transparent government information?</p>

238	SQ19-001520	1-10-11-2	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	PaTH complaints and breaches	<p>Page 10 Senator PRATT: You seem to have some information before you, and I would like to know the character of breaches and the general quantity of them. Without needing to take it on notice, what information can you give me, if any? ... Page 11 Mr Stiller: I can indicate that there have been 114 complaints, and that's one of the mechanisms where young jobseekers can bring that to the department's attention. That's been since the start of the program until now. As to the specifics within that, that's what I'd need to take on notice. Senator PRATT: What kind of action has been taken by the department in relation to those complaints? Mr Stiller: We have a complaints procedure, whereby we raise the issue—typically with the provider, if it's in relation to a provider—and we follow up to make sure that that has been dealt with fulsomely. If you want more information on the complaints procedure, though, I might need to ask for a— Senator PRATT: If you can provide something in relation to that on notice, that would be terrific. How many breaches of the maximum 12-week internship length were there? I think you said you needed to take that on notice; is that right? Mr Stiller: Yes. Senator PRATT: And that doesn't come through the complaint process? Would you pick that up yourself or would a complaint need to be made? Mr Stiller: No, there are a range of mechanisms that we undertake, including targeted reviews and tip-offs, as well as complaints and data analytics processes. There are a range of mechanisms whereby we could become aware of an allegation in that regard, and I'd need to take on notice how many in relation to—sorry, Senator, it was more than the 12 weeks? That's what you're getting at? Senator PRATT: That's right. Mr Stiller: Yes, I'll take that on notice.</p>
239	SQ19-001521	1-11-2	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	PaTH Internship length	<p>Senator PRATT: Can you provide on notice how many internships last only four weeks and also which businesses—and how many of them—have reached the 12-week internship length?</p>
240	SQ19-001522	1-11-12-3	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	Top businesses using PaTH	<p>Page 11 Senator PRATT: ... Are you able to tell us which 10 businesses use the PaTH program most frequently? Mr Stiller: Senator, the five highest users of internships have been placed in the public domain through a freedom of information request. As to the remaining five, that would be something I'd need to take on notice. ... Page 12 Senator PRATT: For each employer, could you take on notice if they are frequent users? You might be able to tell us whether they're below or above the 64½ per cent employment rate. Senator Cash: Yes, we can do that. Mr Stiller: We can, yes.</p>
241	SQ19-001523	1-13-2	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	PaTH precondition breaches	<p>Senator PRATT: You've advised in previous answers to questions that a prospect of employment is a precondition to an internship. How many organisations are found to be in breach of this precondition and what were the consequences? Senator Cash: If you need to take it on notice, that's fine. Ms Hatton: I think we'll take that one on notice, Senator.</p>
242	SQ19-001524	1-13-3	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	Post-internship employment rates below 65 per cent	<p>Senator PRATT: You said you needed to take on notice the number of businesses that are in breach of that precondition. What advice can you give me about how many frequent users of the program have employment outcomes below the 64 per cent? Mr Stiller: If I can rephrase, just to make sure I've understood. Are you asking: of the businesses who are larger users of internships, how many have a post-internship employment rate below 65 per cent? Senator PRATT: Yes. Mr Stiller: That's something we will need to take on notice.</p>
243	SQ19-001525	1-13-4	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	PaTH internship investigations	<p>Senator PRATT: Okay. If I were to put to you concerns that some businesses are putting a large number of interns through but aren't offering them jobs consistent with what the program is supposed to do, what information could you give me about that situation? Mr Stiller: I can certainly say that, of the 4,932 host businesses, 92.6 per cent have only hosted between one and five interns. So the vast majority have only had a small number of interns. Senator PRATT: That doesn't really give me much comfort. If a business has used the program five times and has got— Mr Smyth: I understand where you're going there, Senator. We have an insurance program that we run over this where we look at all of the analytical information that determines what businesses are hosting interns and whether they're converting to employment outcomes or not, and if we have concerns about some of that pattern we'll investigate and ask further questions. Senator PRATT: What investigations have you undertaken in that regard? Mr Smyth: I would need to take that on notice, because we're getting into real specifics about the program there and we wouldn't have that information available. We can run our analytics for you to get those particular questions answered for you on notice.</p>
244	SQ19-001544	1-13-5	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	Interns	<p>Senator PRATT: Can you take on notice the number of businesses with more than five interns that are below that 65 per cent employment rate? Is that how you would ask the question, Rachel, in terms of trying to identify that issue? Senator SIEWERT: Yes. Mr Smyth: We can do that.</p>

245	SQ19-001526	1-13-14-6	O'Neill, Deborah	Outcome 1	Internships not resulting in job placements	<p>Senator O'NEILL: and how low the threshold is in terms of your assurance process. I don't know if the senator has asked you about your capacity to give us an indication of the rationale for people not taking on people. What do you know? What are the details?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Page 14</p> <p>Senator Cash: Do you mean the internship ends, and what was the rationale for the employer or the employee, depending on who—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes, there has to be a reasonable prospect of employment.</p> <p>Mr Smyth: That's right, and it doesn't convert to a job placement.</p> <p>Senator Cash: So, for whatever reason, the internship hasn't resulted in a placement. What's the rationale for either the employee deciding they didn't want it—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: To me, that is detailed information, but it's actually critical information about how you might reform the project going forward.</p> <p>Mr Smyth: We will provide that to you as best we can on notice, recognising that there are obviously a variety of reasons—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Of course—it's life; it's quite messy.</p>
246	SQ19-001527	1-14-15-2	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	Businesses with multiple interns	<p>Senator PRATT: That's all well and good. What I'm trying to come to grips with here is why you would allow employers to take multiple interns when the employment outcomes start to drop off in that way. If it remains at around 60 per cent for everyone then fine, but for the statistics to drop that dramatically for employers that have 10 or more there must be some rogue employers, some rogue placements.</p> <p>Mr Smyth: I wouldn't make that straight-up assumption. I would need to go back and look at some of the data.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Have you looked at the data to see if that is the case or not?</p> <p>Mr Smyth: I continue to get, on a monthly basis, an assurance report across all of our programs as to how they're going and whether complaints have been made by participants against host businesses. I get the same thing for all of our jobactive programs. For all of our employment services programs I get an assurance update on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What I am interested in is whether the reasonable prospect of employment as a precondition to the internship is not being realised because employers would rather take multiple interns—</p> <p>Senator Cash: I know where you're going, Senator—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: as a free form of labour?</p> <p>Senator Cash: The department would have to take that on notice. The answer is no, because there's a robust process in place. But to get to the specifics of it, what you're looking for, to be fair to the department they would have to take that on notice because then they'd have to go back and look at the data they have in detail.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Page 15</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Can I ask on notice how many, through that quality assurance process, businesses you've pushed out from use of the program because they didn't meet that precondition?</p> <p>Senator Cash: Yes, that's fine.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: And how many young people in total were put through internships that, therefore, had no realistic prospect of a job?</p> <p>Senator Cash: Now we understand, yes.</p>
247	SQ19-001529	1-16-17-2	Siewert, Rachel	Outcome 1	EST employer feedback	<p>Senator SIEWERT: How do you know if the employability skills training is hitting the mark if you can't find a way of evaluating it? Does it need to be improved?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: One of the consistent pieces of feedback that we get from employers is that many young people don't present with the soft skills that they need to be able to be employed. We've now got evidence from employers that they see young people who come through this program as being more ready for work, so that's one piece of evidence that I'd point to—</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Sorry to interrupt—when do you ask the employer?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Page 17</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I think this is asked of employers who've taken on a young person. For them to know that they've done EST, I think they've either also used an internship or employed the young person with a wage subsidy. I'd have to take that on notice, sorry. I'm not quite sure of the pool of employers who respond to that question.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Could you take that and at what stage of the internship it is on notice? Is it at the end, at the beginning or halfway through?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I'll check. I need to check, I'm sorry.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: If it's at the end, how do you differentiate whether it's the EST or the internship itself?</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: When is it pre or post the test or is it longitudinal? What methodology is used?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I'll need to check, I'm afraid. I'm sorry.</p>
248	SQ19-001530	1-18-2	Siewert, Rachel	Outcome 1	ParentsNext participant reviews	<p>Senator SIEWERT: How many participants have sought a review by the provider and then an internal review from the department?</p> <p>Ms Turner: I have 'declined exemptions'. Would that assist you?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes—it'll help.</p> <p>Ms Turner: Between 2 July 2018 and 31 October, 83 exemptions were refused by providers.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Did they then seek a review from the provider or an internal review?</p> <p>Ms Turner: I would have to take that on notice. They would have been able to contact our call line and lodge issues that way. I will take that on notice.</p>

249	SQ19-001531	1-19-20-2	Siewert, Rachel	Outcome 1	RTO referrals	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Thank you. Can I go to the issue around the training organisations. You provided at last estimates—or it might have been in questions on notice, or an OPD—a table which outlines the names of the service providers, the amount they've been paid and whether they've got training organisations. Are these organisations referring people on to their own training organisations?</p> <p>Ms Turner: Some of them will and some of them will be referring to other training.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: How many of each?</p> <p>Ms Turner: Give me one second, and I will—</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: For example, Mission Australia, a ParentsNext provider and RTO, was paid just over \$21 million?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: Senator, we may have that, but—</p> <p>Ms Turner: I do have it; I'm just struggling to locate it.</p> <p>Mr Emerson: If we do have it, we'll get back to you shortly, but we just need to see if we've got that figure.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: To be clear, the figure you're providing is the number of clients that each of the organisations has, and then has referred to their own RTO?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: Yes, that's right.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: And the percentage they've referred elsewhere?</p> <p>Ms Turner: Yes, I understand, Senator. I have it; I'm just unable to locate it right now. As soon as I find it I will let you know.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Are you able to provide that for all of the service providers that you have already provided the list for? Are you able to provide that for all of those service providers?</p> <p>Ms Turner: For just those that are RTOs?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes, that's what I mean. You've already provided this list, but it doesn't say how many clients they have overall and it doesn't say how many of those have been referred to their own service providers.</p> <p>Ms Turner: Yes, we will take that on notice.</p> <hr/> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Are you able to then provide information on the type of training that they are providing?</p> <p>Ms Turner: Yes, I have that in front of me. The No. 1 type of training is participant support. Let me break that down, because it's a bit of an opaque category. That would include driving lessons, transport, medical expenses and accommodation. You know what, I have the information that you want right in front of me. However, I have it by dollars and I don't have it broken down by the various organisations, but I will take that on notice. For the participant support, which is the No. 1 category, \$1,778,561—so \$1.7 million—has been spent on participation support. Of that, for own orgs, \$142,000 has been spent; the number is actually \$142,318.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Sorry, I'm not following. For example, Mission Australia has an amount of \$21,289,730.53, with a start date of 1 July 2018.</p> <p>Ms Turner: We haven't spent \$21 million on the participation fund in its totality, so I'm wondering—</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: They're getting paid for other things, aren't they?</p> <p>Ms Turner: That's right. I'm wondering if the service fee is in there.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: That's what I'm trying to get a breakdown of. What's the service fee, how much are you paying to the RTO—</p> <p>Ms Turner: Sure.</p> <p>Senator Cash: I'm assuming, based on the information you're looking at, which appears to be different to the information we have—</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: It's provided by the department. This is a table the department has provided to us in response to a question on notice. I'm trying to work out now—</p> <p>Ms Turner: Do you have the number?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: No, it doesn't have a table number.</p> <p>Senator Cash: A question on notice number?</p> <p>..</p> <p>Page 20</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: No, sorry, I haven't got that either. This came as part of a whole series of questions that we had on notice.</p> <p>Ms Turner: I have most of them, I'm just unable to locate that one. We can absolutely provide to you a breakdown on what portion is service fees and what portion has been utilised on participation fund expenditure and own organisation—</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: And what else it's spent on and whether they are then servicing their own clients or other clients and what percentage of their clients are referred to other training.</p> <p>Ms Turner: If we can see it in the data streams we will provide that information.</p> <p>Mr Emerson: We'll have to take that on notice.</p>
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250	SQ19-001533	1-22-23-2	Pratt, Louise		Digital access categories	<p>Senator PRATT: So you're talking about the numbers of people who don't have good-quality digital access, is that right?</p> <p>Mr Smyth: Yes. We can go through some of the categories that we—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: But you would define access through a family member as good access, is that right?</p> <p>Senator Cash: They would make that decision.</p> <p>Ms Ryan: Senator, I can give you the categories that we're collecting in terms of opt-out reasons, noting that the figures are still very low. These are as at 30 November, and this is the current case load for both digital-first and digital-plus jobseekers that are participating in the two trials in the mid-north coast of New South Wales and Adelaide South.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Page 23</p> <p>Ms Ryan: The current case load is 3,772 and the opt-out reasons are 259 in total. And then the reasons—if you're interested, I'll break it down.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: We're very short on time. I would actually love the answers to those questions but if you could provide them on notice, that would be terrific.</p> <p>Ms Ryan: Okay, no worries.</p>
251	SQ19-001555	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	Youth PaTH	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the maximum number of interns a business has hosted without providing employment at the completion of the internship? 2. How many businesses have hosted 10 or more internships without offering employment? 3. How does the Department investigate claims that internships are displacing workers? 4. What checks and balances are in place to prevent the displacement of jobs? 5. What process and methodology does the department use to assess whether the PaTH program is achieving its aims? 6. The Department previously revealed that a business that had hosted 17 interns without providing employment was "suspended, pending exclusion from the program". <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has this business now been excluded from the program? b. What is the threshold for exclusion? c. What is the Department doing about this matter? d. Is the Department recovering the funds? e. What is the department doing to ensure this doesn't happen again? 7. What process and methodology does the department use to assess current safety performance within PaTH program? 8. Can the department provide a statistical and qualitative (general issues) summary of complaints received, by financial year, in relation to the PaTH program? 9. The department has previously said that an evaluation strategy was being developed in order to evaluate the PaTH program. Has the evaluation for PaTH commenced and when will it be complete? 10. How much has been spent on advertising the Youth Jobs PaTH program? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What Budget allocation has this money come from? 11. How many serious injuries were sustained by interns in the last year? What were the incidences if any?
252	SQ19-001556	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	Career Transition Assistance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the projected cost of the Career Transition Assistance program? 2. How many job seekers have been referred to the Career Transition Assistance program since commencement of the national rollout in July 2019? 3. How do these referral rates compare to those projected and to referral trends under the preceding Career Transition Assistance program trial? 4. Has the decision to fund Career Transition Assistance program via the Employment Fund had an impact on referrals? 5. What strategies are in place to ensure the Employment Fund is adequately resourced to meet the needs of individual job seekers and employers? 6. How will the Department support providers that have insufficient credits in the Employment Fund to assist job seekers and employers over the remaining period of the extended contract? 7. What is the funding structure for the New Employment Services Trial and how does this compare to current funding arrangements? In particular how has funding for the most disadvantage job seekers been improved under the trial arrangements? 8. What range of assistance will job seekers being digitally serviced receive including what access will they have to Employment Fund type support to prepare for employment?
253	SQ19-001557	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	Targeted Compliance Framework Data	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the compliance data measure and detail suspensions that were not the fault of the jobseeker? 2. Please provide detailed breakdown of data for the Targeted Compliance Framework (TCF), showing program and job seeker cohorts and how they have been affected by payment suspensions, demerits and penalties? 3. Did the TCF public data report previously provide this level of detail? 4. Does the department ever release data sets which it uses for standard aggregate reporting on an ad hoc basis? 5. Does/would releasing data sets on an ad hoc basis undermine the department's reporting processes by requiring departmental staff to deviate from performing their standard duties of preparing the aggregate public data report? 6. What is the rate of suspensions and penalties accrued through the TCF on Indigenous participants in each program in comparison to non-Indigenous jobseekers? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Are they more likely to incur penalties than non-Indigenous participants? 7. What is the rate of payment suspensions and financial penalties among the long term unemployed (1 year plus) in each program?

254	SQ19-001558	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	Suspensions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many welfare recipients had payments suspended this financial year so far? 2. Is it correct that 121,604 people were found to have a reasonable excuse and therefore their payments were wrongfully suspended last financial year? 3. How many welfare recipients had payments wrongfully suspended this financial year so far? 4. Does the department provide data on the number of times and reasons why an individual is suspended? If not why not? 5. The department provided suspension data to the committee for tabling. Can equivalent data (as in, the equivalent level of detail) be provided on cancellation data? 6. What penalty does one demerit point incur? 7. How many people that received demerit points this financial year were considered homeless or at risk of losing their accommodation? 8. What is the breakdown of programs people were on when their payments were wrongfully suspended? 9. What were the main reasonable excuses? 10. Is there a detailed demographic breakdown of these people that had their payments wrongfully suspended? 11. A Department of Employment response to an FOI asking for detailed compliance data said revealing the data would reveal the demographics targeted by their approach to Newstart/JobActive: "Public disclosure of the full dataset at this point in time will reveal demographics and classes of welfare recipients that the department has targeted for particular scrutiny." Does the Department target demographics and classes of welfare recipients for particular scrutiny? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What demographics are being used? b. Does the Department prioritise certain demographics? 12. Can the Department provide data that compares the number of financial penalties, and the value of penalties, applied in the first 6 months of calendar year 2019 compared to the first six months of 2018 across comparable programs, like jobactive, DES and ParentsNext? 13. For those job seekers who accrued a 4-week penalty, how many in each program returned to their program at the expiration of that penalty? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many didn't return? b. Can you detail the circumstances for those who did not return?
255	SQ19-001559	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	ParentsNext	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whistleblowers have drawn attention to situations where a ParentsNext service provider refers the participant to a training organization that is a related party or subsidiary. What is the Government's view on what is, or is perceived to be, a conflict of interest? 2. Does the Department have figures on the number of private service providers that refer people to related-party training organisations? 3. In a letter to Ms Butler this year, Minister Cash outlined a number of changes that were to be implemented to ParentsNext program this year. What progress has been made on each measure? 4. How many formal complaints have been received about ParentsNext providers since 1 July 2018? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many since the government's changes to ParentsNext were announced? 5. Have any providers been disciplined for not following the department's guidelines following complaints? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What disciplinary actions were taken? b. What was the result of those actions? 6. How many suspensions made by ParentsNext Providers have subsequently been reversed by Centrelink? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What percentage of all ParentsNext clients is this? 7. How many homeless people have been enrolled in ParentsNext since 1 July 2018? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. And what is the gender breakdown? 8. How many single parents with four or more children (supposed to be an exempt category...) have been enrolled in ParentsNext since 1 July 2018? 9. How many times have Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander single parents been referred to Aboriginal organisations/agencies for assistance since ParentsNext was rolled out nationally in 1 July 2018? 10. How many times have single parents been referred by providers to domestic and family violence organisations/agencies for assistance since ParentsNext was rolled out nationally in 1 July 2018? 11. How many ParentsNext participants have found employment of 12 weeks since 1 July 2018? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many have found employment beyond a 12 week period since 1 July 2018? b. How is the quality of this employment being measured? c. How many participants are re-enrolled in ParentsNext following the end of a 12 week/plus period of employment – is another incentive payment made at the time of re-enrolments? d. How many providers are double dipping? 12. How many ParentsNext participants have children between 6 and 12 months of age? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What percentage is this of all participants? 13. How many jobactive and ParentsNext providers have received training in domestic and family violence since the commencement of the program? 14. Do you collect data from providers on their customers' satisfaction with their providers, and whether they have been helped to become work-ready, employed, assisted in other ways? 15. Is the government evaluating the roll out of ParentsNext? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What methodology is being used? b. Is this an external independent evaluation, and if so will result be released publically?
256	SQ19-001548	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	Small Business Access to Justice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In February, despite Government opposing the amendment, the "no adverse cost orders" provision in the Competition and Consumer Act were legislated. Is, or has, the Small Business department developed briefings and advice on this reform? 2. Will the department be releasing any public advice on the reforms? If so, what form would that take – website, advisory service? And when will it be released? 3. Can the department give an overview of the work the department has done with the Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman in relation to their role in the access to justice provisions? 4. Can the department provide an update on the Access to Justice inquiry? Will a discussion paper be released on phase 2?
257	SQ19-001551	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	Australian Small Business Advisory Service	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you please provide a number and list of grant recipients under the ASBAS in the last three funding years? 2. Has the budget allocation been fully extinguished in each year? If not, what happens the remaining funding for that year?

258	SQ19-001552	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	Small Business - Instant Asset Write-Off	<p>Parts 1 to 11 of questions below transferred to Treasury. Only Part 9 to be answered by DESSFB.</p> <p>1. Please provide the committee with updated figures on how many small businesses have taken the instant asset write-off since it first started in 2015. [Transferred]</p> <p>a. On a year-by-year basis, how do these numbers compare to what was expected / budgeted? [Transferred]</p> <p>2. How many businesses are eligible to access the Government's instant asset write off? [Transferred]</p> <p>3. What is the estimated number of businesses that were anticipated to access the Government's instant asset write off? [Transferred]</p> <p>4. What was the average value of assets that were written off under the Government's policy? [Transferred]</p> <p>5. What was the breakdown of what types of assets were written off under the Government's policy? [Transferred]</p> <p>6. What was the breakdown by state and territory of the number of businesses that access the Government's instant asset write off? [Transferred]</p> <p>7. The Government has announced that the expanded instant asset write-off (\$30,000) applies from 2 April 2019, following a \$25,000 threshold that applies between January and April. Are you aware of how many small businesses have taken this up in the \$25,000 threshold period? [Transferred]</p> <p>8. Can the department please advise how many enquiries have been received about the measure? [Transferred]</p> <p>9. Did the Department of Jobs and Small Business play any part in the development / announcement of the expanded instant asset write-off? If not, why not?</p> <p>10. Can you please provide the number of businesses that have a turnover of up to \$50 million? [Transferred]</p> <p>11. Can you provide a breakdown of this number by state and territory? [Transferred]</p>
259	SQ19-001553	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 1	Small Business - Employment/Growth Contribution Growth	<p>1. Does the department have statistics of the contribution of small business to the total employment growth experienced in Australia over the last five years?</p> <p>a. Can this data be classified into number of full time, part time, casual jobs?</p> <p>2. In relation to the 1.25 million jobs target figure floated by the Government, how much of that will be due to small businesses?</p> <p>3. Do you have any sense of the impact on economic growth caused by small businesses?</p> <p>4. Can the department provide details of how many jobs have been created and lost in small business (with a turnover of up to \$10 million) since the Coalition took office in 2013?</p> <p>5. Can the department provide details of how much small businesses have contributed to economic growth? Specifically, from the latest national accounts, which show a 0.5% increase in the quarter and 1.4% increase in the year, how much of this can be directly attributed to small business?</p>
260	SQ19-001534	1-27-2	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 2	National Careers Ambassador travel allowance	<p>Senator PRATT: Thank you. How much will Scott Cam be paid was the Careers Ambassador?</p> <p>Ms Williams: The contract with Mr Cam's representatives is over two years, and the value of the contract for the first year is \$260,000, excluding GST. That's for this financial year. Then there's a further amount for next financial year of \$85,000.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What travel budget has been allocated?</p> <p>Ms Williams: I'd have to take that on notice. The travel budget would be based on the travel that Mr Cam would undertake. I'd need to get some advice on whether that's included in the amount I've provided you.</p>
261	SQ19-001535	1-27-28-3	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 2	National Careers Ambassador's activities	<p>Senator PRATT: Who directs Scott Cam's work as ambassador?</p> <p>Ms Williams: Mr Cam's activities are set out in the contract that the department has with him. The range of activities that he'll do in the role of ambassador are agreed under the contract.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Clearly there's a commercial-in-confidence contract there—</p> <p>Ms Williams: Yes, Senator.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: but is it possible to see what activities we can expect from that ambassador program?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Page 28</p> <p>Ms Williams: I'm happy to talk to you in the broad about the ambassador's activities.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you could take those on notice—</p> <p>Ms Williams: Absolutely.</p>
262	SQ19-001536	1-29-2	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 2	Interim National Skills Commissioner remuneration	<p>Senator PRATT: Is he paid more than any of the other officers that are band three inside the department?</p> <p>Ms Williams: I'm happy to take that on notice, but I'm confident that Mr Boyton's payment has been benchmarked against comparative band three salaries across the Public Service.</p>

263	SQ19-001547	1-31-2	Sheldon, Tony	Outcome 2	Adult Migrant English Program	<p>Senator SHELTON: Could you also give me a list of all the payments and programs impacted by the decline in funding—how many people we actually dropped off. There was an expectation of what the figures would be. There has been evidence given that—</p> <p>Senator Cash: So the demand-driven program—</p> <p>Senator SHELTON: a number of people have fallen through the cracks. The department, I would expect, would have an estimation of, in any given period, how many people would do the program and what would be expended. In that program there'd be a number of people that drop off—to use your language. I'd like to get a list of all the people, the number of people—</p> <p>Senator Cash: Yes, not people.</p> <p>Senator SHELTON: and the programs that have actually dropped off.</p> <p>Mrs White: There is an estimations and costing model that sits behind that program. That particular model and the staff that look after that model would have moved to the Department of Home Affairs in July, but we could seek that information from the Department of Home Affairs on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay, in that context, just following on from Senator Sheldon—and I don't mean to interrupt—that is in relation to the migrant English programs, which have had a fall.</p> <p>Mrs White: Yes.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: You've revealed tonight that the majority of the decrease of 10.6 per cent has been through migrant adult English. What other programs have fallen?</p> <p>Ms Williams: There were three elements that we ran through. The adult migrant English program was around \$67.7 million. So it wasn't the majority; it was a proportion of it. There was a change in funding, or a decline in funding, that related to the switchover between national partnership agreements, as I described. That was around \$288.7 million. That decline related to that backloaded national partnership agreement in the 2017 year. There were also changes that related to VET FEE-HELP, around \$204.9 million, which is around 40 per cent of the decline that we're talking about. That change related to the transition between VET FEE-HELP, when it was shut down, and the start-up of VET Student Loans.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Senator Sheldon asked on notice for a list of all payments and programs impacted by the decline in funding. You've talked about the VET arrangements with the states.</p>
264	SQ19-001537	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 2	Delivering Skills for Today and Tomorrow Package	<p>1. For each of the measures listed in the Delivering Skills for Today and Tomorrow Package in the 2019-20 Budget (including each commitment listed on the 'Delivering Skills Today and Tomorrow' page of the Department's website www.employment.gov.au/delivering-skills-today-and-tomorrow, as well as any items on pp. 69-70 of 2019-20 Budget Paper 2 not listed on the webpage) please provide:</p> <p>a. A detailed update on progress implementing the measure</p> <p>b. When the commitment is due to commence implementation and be fully implemented</p> <p>c. The breakdown of funding over the forward estimates, plus details of any funding provided outside the forward years</p> <p>d. Whether the measure will require legislation</p> <p>If the commitment will involve an external provider, please provide:</p> <p>e. Has a tender process been initiated</p> <p>f. Have contracts been finalised. If not, when will be contracts be finalised</p> <p>g. Who are the successful tenderers</p>
265	SQ19-001538	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 2	Skilling Australia Fund	<p>The Skills Package – delivering skills for today and tomorrow budget measure (2019-20 BP2, p. 69-70) notes “ this measure will be partially funded by redirecting unallocated funding from the SAF and other vocational Education portfolio programs.” How much funding was redirected from the SAF, over which budget years? How much funding was allocated from which vocational Education portfolio programs over which budget years?</p>
266	SQ19-001539	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 2	VSL evaluation	<p>The Department's website notes that “an evaluation of the existing [VET Student Loans] program and whether it is meeting its policy objectives will be completed in November 2019.” Was the evaluation of the program conducted by the Department or an external party – if so, who and at what cost? What has the evaluation concluded? Will it be released publicly? If so, when?</p>
267	SQ19-001540	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 2	VET Funding	<p>What was the total number of government funded VET hours in 2018-19, 2017-18, 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15?</p> <p>What was the total Commonwealth expenditure on VET in each of the financial years 2014-15 to 2018-19? What was the funding growth in nominal and real terms for each year?</p>
268	SQ19-001541	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 2	Program and payment funding	<p>The NCVET's Government Funding of VET 2018 report splits Commonwealth funding for VET into three contribution categories: recurrent; Australian Government ongoing specific-purpose payments; and Australian Government time-limited funding. For each of these three categories, please provide a complete list of programs and payments funded, including the funding amount for each program or payment.</p>
269	SQ19-001542	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 2	Estimated and actual funding	<p>For each financial year from 2014-15 to 2018-19 for each program funded, please provide the difference in funding between the estimated actual figure listed in the relevant portfolio budget statement, and the actual funding listed in the Department's annual report, as well as the overall underspend for that financial year.</p>
270	SQ19-001543	Written	Pratt, Louise	Outcome 2	AASN contracts	<p>When were new contracts for the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network finalised? When did the new contracts commence? Under the new contracts, how many providers are delivering services, in how many locations? Have the contract terms changed? How?</p>
Total	38					