

Education Portfolio
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Portfolio Question No	Department Or Agency	Senator	Topic	Question Text	Hansard Page	Hearing Date
SQ23-000824	Department of Education	Tammy Tyrrell	Universal access to early childhood education and care	The Federal Government has made a commitment to universal access to early childhood education and care. How will the Government ensure universal access extends to regional, rural and remote Australia, where it is especially difficult for families to secure care?	N/A	24/10/2023
SQ23-000825	Department of Education	Tammy Tyrrell	Interim measures for early learning and care provision	<p>Any positive change in accessibility for rural Australia will take time, yet parents and children are suffering right now as they are unable to access childcare.</p> <p>For example, Belinda, a nurse in regional NSW, is unable to work as the only childcare hours she can access do not match her shift hours. She has called every local centre and is anywhere from #25 to #200 on the waitlist. For 10 months she has been unable to return to work in an essential industry which has workforce shortages.</p> <p>In Tasmania, Katie--another nurse--and her husband must take leave, including unpaid leave, during the school holidays as there is no available vacation care for their school-aged children.</p> <p>The lack of available childcare puts pressure on parents' workplaces, including the local medical centres where Belinda and Katie work. Are there plans for interim measures for early learning and care provision and, if so, what are they?</p>	N/A	24/10/2023

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SQ23-000826	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Larissa Waters	ACARA Rollout of Australian Curriculum 9.0	<p>Recommendation 14 of the recent consent laws inquiry report states: The committee recommends that the Commonwealth government considers ongoing funding as a National Partnership Payment, to sufficiently resource those elements of Australian Curriculum 9.0 that provide for Respectful Relationships Education, including through a strategic investment in workforce development. Particular consideration should be given to addressing long-standing concerns about under-funding in public schools and the need to additionally resource specialist third-party providers.</p> <p>Is ACARA sufficiently resourced to facilitate the rollout of Australian Curriculum 9.0 that provides for Respectful Relationships Education?</p> <p>2. How is the Department supporting the rollout of Australian Curriculum 9.0 that provides for Respectful Relationships Education?</p> <p>3. What additional resourcing has been/will be allocated to specialist third-party providers?</p>	N/A	30/10/2023
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SQ23-000827	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-000455 - Breakdown of costs for early childhood care and development policy partnership meeting in Melbourne	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you, Minister. Secretary, could I just take you to the early childhood care and development policy partnership meeting. The total cost of this meeting was \$22,725. Did the minister or any of her staff attend this event? There was also a cost of \$5,100 for a welcome to country and culture activity. Are you able to provide details of this expense? Could you provide a breakdown of those costs, please.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Thank you for the question. Just as a point of clarification about the first part of your question, some of these activities aren't under Minister Aly's responsibility. For example, the National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group is not Minister Aly. That's a research activity.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's Minister Clare?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's Minister Clare. I think the question you are asking is about the early childhood care and development policy partnership meeting in Melbourne. Is that the one you're talking about?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's right.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I don't have the detail in front of me at the moment, but I don't think Minister Aly attended. This is a policy partnership that was established under the Closing the Gap initiative. Early childhood is one of those measures. It is co-chaired by the chair of SNAICC and our department.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: On notice, could you provide a breakdown of those costs? Mr Cook: Sure. We're happy to.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Also, for each of these meetings that I have referenced, could you indicate how many people attended in person and how many people</p>	24-25	26/10/2023
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				<p>attended online, as well, and what the deliverables of those meetings were. Mr Cook: Sure, happy to help.</p>		
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SQ23-000828	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-000455 - Details of National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group meeting	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I also asked about the National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group meeting. This is under the control, as you pointed out, of Minister Clare. There are eight members of this group and five ex officio members. Did the minister or any staff attend this meeting, and why was it held at a one-hat restaurant with a total cost of \$1,209?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I imagine that would have been a working dinner. I will have to get the detail on it. To the best of my knowledge, the minister wouldn't attend that meeting. It would be unusual for the minister to be at that meeting.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Is it reasonable to have a meeting as a working dinner at a prestigious Canberra restaurant when so many Australians are facing cost-of-living crises, including trying to put food on the table? What is the justification for having a meeting at a one-hat restaurant in Canberra?</p> <p>Mr Cook: As we often do in terms of catering, we would seek formal approval for this from the relevant deputy secretary.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: This isn't catering; this is a dinner at the Courgette restaurant.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, I was trying to answer the question. It is catering. Therefore, that's formally approved. That would go through our normal processes through the department to formally approve. When I say 'catering', it is for a hospitality activity. I'd have to get more details around that. That was in March this year. I don't have the details in front of me, but I'm happy to take that on notice, including the number of people that attended. I don't know whether that was 15 or 20 or—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you. And any information</p>	25	26/10/2023
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				<p>on the basis for holding this— Mr Cook: Sure. Senator HENDERSON: Also, for each of these meetings that I have referenced, could you indicate how many people attended in person and how many people attended online, as well, and what the deliverables of those meetings were. Mr Cook: Sure, happy to help.</p>		
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SQ23-000829	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Meetings of any working groups and task forces within the department held at restaurants since July 2022	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide on notice any other meetings of any other working groups or task forces within the department that have been held in prestigious restaurants.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Just to help me with dates—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's not what I'm asking. What I'm asking is if there have been any other meetings that have been conducted at restaurants where a meal was consumed.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Five years? Ten years? I need some clarification around date periods?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Since 1 July 2022.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Also, for each of these meetings that I have referenced, could you indicate how many people attended in person and how many people attended online, as well, and what the deliverables of those meetings were.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure, happy to help.</p>	25	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000830	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-000455 - Breakdown of costs for early childhood care and development policy partnership meeting in Alice Springs	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you. I want to move quickly. There is a lot to get through. The early childhood care and development policy partnership meeting was \$24,000. Are you able to provide any details about that or could you do so on notice? Could you provide a breakdown of those costs, please.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We can certainly do that on notice. The early childhood team will be here later this afternoon. They are responsible for that particular program. But we're happy to do the breakdown—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But you're the secretary of the department—</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes, but I don't attend these meetings. I don't have the detailed costings around that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But I'm asking for the detail—if you could provide it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Cook: You're asking for it on notice, just to clarify?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes, please.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Thank you.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Also, for each of these meetings that I have referenced, could you indicate how many people attended in person and how many people attended online, as well, and what the deliverables of those meetings were.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure, happy to help.</p>	25	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000831	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-000455 - Minister Aly's Youth Steering Committee meeting	<p>Senator HENDERSON: The other meeting which had a very high cost was Minister Aly's Youth Steering Committee meeting. It was attended by 55 young people and their carers. It was just over \$125,000—nearly \$42,000 in accommodation costs and \$65,000 in travel expenses. Could you confirm that 55 people attended in person?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Senator, I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you also provide a further breakdown of those costs, please.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Absolutely.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Also, for each of these meetings that I have referenced, could you indicate how many people attended in person and how many people attended online, as well, and what the deliverables of those meetings were.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure, happy to help.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: In asking for a breakdown, I'm seeking a breakdown of costs such as venue hire, AV equipment hire, line-by-line catering and any cost incurred in the planning. For each of these meetings could you provide a copy of the agenda and also a list of attendees, including whether they attended in person or online. If you could also provide a breakdown—for instance, for the steering committee, there were travel expenses of just under \$65,000. Could you provide a breakdown of those costs, as well as accommodation costs, including whether the class of flight and that sort of thing. I assume there were flights there. I am raising concerns about these costs because, as I say, many Australians are facing cost-of-living crises and it's incumbent on the government to manage costs very carefully.</p>	26	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000832	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Programs or projects reprofiled or cancelled since last estimates	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you. Secretary, I want to move to whether any programs or projects have been cancelled since the last estimates.</p> <p>Mr Cook: The only information would be what was in the last budget papers. I'm not aware of any programs that have been cancelled since that point.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: You're not aware?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm not aware. Perhaps Mr Markovic—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: To the extent that you need to check on that, can I ask you to check and provide further information on notice.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Have any programs or projects been reprofiled since last estimates?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Again, I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Markovic: We'll take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Does anyone in the department know?</p> <p>Mr Cook: There may be some things which we can't go into at the moment, as you would not expect us to, because they might be part of government budget consideration. There may still be issues under consideration of government. That's a matter for government. We would not comment on that—as we never would—as part of the budget process. The usual budget process is what I'm talking about.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: The question was very specific, Secretary—</p> <p>Mr Cook: But you're talking about budget.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: have any programs or projects been reprofiled?</p> <p>Mr Cook: To the best of my knowledge, no, unless internal reprofiling has been done, which would be at</p>	27	26/10/2023
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				<p>the junior officer level. But, to the best of my knowledge, the answer is no.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That is an appropriate question for you to answer. If you want to take it on notice, that's fine, but I will be seeking that answer.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Thank you, Senator.</p>		
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SQ23-000833	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Programs or projects cost overrun since last estimates	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Have any programs or projects seen a cost overrun since the last estimates? Mr Cook: Again, we'd have to take that on notice, in terms of the range of programs in the department. Senator HENDERSON: Sorry, I'm having trouble hearing some of this.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I said that we'd have to take that on notice, based on the number of programs there are in the department. Again, to the best of my knowledge, the answer is no, but that's something that we'd have to take some advice on.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you do have substantial cost overruns, are they red-flagged to you as the secretary? Mr Cook: They are as part of the normal process, but in terms of the budget process—Mr Markovic, I'm just—</p> <p>Mr Markovic: We certainly do monitor program expenditure. If I understand your question, I can say that we monitor program expenditure. Each program has a budget, and we do regular variance analysis to see that we're meeting budget. We're obviously very early in the financial year. You tend to find significant variation to estimates towards the latter half of the year. The secretary has reflected that we're not seeing any huge and significant variances at the moment. If you'd asked that question in February or March, we might have had a slightly different answer, because, as you would appreciate, we get 12 months worth of funding, and early in the year you don't see that trigger. You don't see a variance trigger very early, but we absolutely monitor that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But you would normally have acquittal processes on various programs, projects and milestones.</p>	27	26/10/2023
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				<p>Mr Markovic: Yes. Senator HENDERSON: To the extent that you are aware of any cost overruns, if you could provide that on notice, that would be terrific. Mr Markovic: Certainly, Senator.</p>		
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SQ23-000834	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Program or project delays since last estimates	<p>Senator HENDERSON: That's every single project or program. Secretary, have any programs or projects experienced any delays since the last estimates?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Delays since the last estimates? Again, it's a very general question for me. I'll have to take that on notice because of the number of programs that we have in our portfolio. I'm happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could, provide on notice the extent to which any program or project is delayed, and outline the milestone that that program was meant to meet, how the program is delayed, what the repercussions are of that delay and what the cause of the delay is?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure. I'm happy to help.</p>	27-28	26/10/2023
SQ23-000835	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-000469 - Number of bodies	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you very much. I want to raise some concerns about the department's answer to a question on notice. It is SQ23-000469. We sought information in relation to the number of bodies. I will just refer you to that question. It concerns how many new entities—that is, advisory boards and agencies—have been created. I'm concerned we did not get an appropriate answer:</p> <p>The Australian Government Organisations Register provides information ...</p> <p>Secretary, when we're asking for answers, we would be grateful if you could provide them in full. In relation to all of those advisory boards and agencies, has there been any change or update since last estimates?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm not aware of that, Senator. I think that's a public register, so I think that information is publicly available to anyone.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes. But, when we ask for those bodies, we would appreciate your providing the answer</p>	28	26/10/2023

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				<p>in full. Could you take on notice and double-check any change in that register? How often is the register maintained or updated?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That register is not our register, so I'd have to seek further information from the organisation that maintains that register. We don't maintain that register, so I can't help you with how often it's updated. I literally don't know.</p>		
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SQ23-000836	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-000594 - Full list of Budget measures	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I will be raising during the day a number of concerns in relation to questions we've asked on notice where the department has not provided either complete information or any information. In SQ23-000594, we're seeking a list of all budget measures—not just those from the 2023-24 budget papers—that have been delivered by the department and the remaining funding attached to each measure. That question was not answered. Are you able to answer that now?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Senator, I'll see what the question is.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: We asked for: ... a full list of Budget Measures currently being delivered or to be delivered by the Department of Education and the financial profile for each measure over the next ten years.</p> <p>We were referred to the 2023-24 portfolio budget statements. That's not an appropriate answer to the question we were seeking. We were seeking a full list of budget measures. Are you able to answer that now, Secretary?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We have answered this question in the way that is best able for us to answer that question. I appreciate you may not be satisfied with the answer, but it has been answered. That information, again, is public information.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No. I'm sorry, Secretary, you've only answered in relation to the portfolio budget statements in the 2023-24 education budget. We are seeking a full list of budget measures currently being delivered. They are measures that may have been budgeted in previous years. We're seeking the full list. If you could please relook at that question and provide the full answer on notice?</p>	28-29	26/10/2023
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				<p>Mr Cook: Thank you. If I could just respond in terms of the full answer. The full answer clearly says that the education portfolio budget statements reflect information over five years to 2026-27. So it's not just one year of information; it's five years of information. That information is public information that's available as part of that process. It also—</p> <p>CHAIR: I'm sorry, Senator Henderson. I'm just trying to hear Mr Cook's answer to your previous question. Mr Cook, if you could finish your answer.</p> <p>Mr Cook: The answer also clearly states that we don't actually have financial profiles over 10 years. You've asked for 10 years of data. We have responded in relation to that. And, again, I understand that you're not happy with the response, or you're not satisfied with the response—unsatisfied rather than happy—but our standard practice continues to be, and has been ever since I've worked with the Commonwealth, that, where information is publicly available, we refer to where that information is publicly available.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, we are asking for a full list of budget measures. I would ask you to take that on notice. We're not asking for only the budget measures in 2023-24 portfolio budget statements; we're asking for the full list, and that's also in previous years. I would again stress that we are seeking a complete answer in relation to that question. I'm happy for you to take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm happy to. To respond to the best of my knowledge, the full list of our budget measures is in the budget statements. That's the purpose of the budget statements.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, a full list of budget measures,</p>		
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				which includes measures being delivered from previous years that are not included in your answer.		
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SQ23-000837	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Attendance at Garma festival	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, I want to ask about the department's travel to the Garma Festival. Did any staff or personnel from the department or any agency or organisation within the department attend this year's Garma Festival?</p> <p>Mr Cook: One deputy secretary attended.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: For what purpose?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That we were invited by NIAA, as all government departments were. The deputy secretary was responsible for Indigenous education more broadly across the department in Closing the Gap, and so she attended for the purposes of meeting with other government departments and meeting with the local community.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What is that deputy secretary's name?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That is Meg Brighton. She'll be here for schools. I'm sure Ms Brighton is happy to talk to you about what she did while she was at the Garma Festival.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm happy to take this on notice. Are you happy to provide, or do you have, any costs of her travel?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I don't.</p> <p>Mr Markovic: I don't have the costs with me. There was a travel component and a ticket component. We're happy to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Did any portfolio minister or member of staff of any portfolio minister travel to Garma, and, if so, what were those costs?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm not aware that they did, no.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Assistant Minister, are you aware?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I am not aware.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you take that on notice,</p>	29	26/10/2023
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				<p>please? Senator Chisholm: I'm happy to. Senator HENDERSON: So you're not aware whether Minister Clare attended? Senator Chisholm: I don't think he did. I can't recall him being there. But I'm happy to take it on notice, just for clarity.</p>		
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SQ23-000838	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	Child Care Subsidy Changes campaign evaluation	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: An early November launch? For the Child Care Subsidy Changes campaign, effectively the public-facing component, the non-static component, is complete. What evaluation have you done?</p> <p>Mr Markovic: I might ask Ms Ratajkoski, who's the head of our communications branch, to provide some information on that.</p> <p>Ms Ratajkoski: We're in the final stages of completing that evaluation. It's due to come to the department later next month. It's not yet complete.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: So the evaluation is ongoing?</p> <p>Ms Ratajkoski: Correct.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: When that comes to the department, can you make it available to this committee?</p> <p>Ms Ratajkoski: I'd have to take that on notice, I think. Those evaluation reports are used as part of cabinet processes, so we need to still submit that back to the Government Communications Subcommittee as part of stage 3 in regard to the advertising and information management component and the guidelines. I'd have to take on notice what I'm able to make available.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: I'm happy for you to take it on notice once you see it. I accept that there may be some commercial-in-confidence material in there, but, to be honest, I'm not sure why the rest wouldn't be available to the committee.</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's because it's our usual practice. It's a continuing cabinet process, as it has been for all sides of government. All sides of government, as the Government Communications Subcommittee of cabinet, normally look at evaluation reports when they're in. We're very</p>	30-31	26/10/2023
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				happy to take on notice what we can provide to you, but we also have to be aware of cabinet processes. That's all.		
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SQ23-000839	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	Update to SQ23-000476 - Electorate Reports	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Okay. I will move on. At previous estimates we asked you to provide a list of requests received for the provision of electorate based reports of education data. Your answer to QON SQ23-000476 stated: 'Providing detailed information on this material would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources.' I note your answer that pulling together a list of the reports you may have provided may be considered time consuming. Instead I'll ask you to provide copies of the reports that you've provided, since they've already been produced. Would you be able to provide those to us on notice?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure, we're happy to follow that through.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Just to be clear, I'd like a copy of the most recent version of the education electorate reports produced and provided to the minister's office.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm happy to take that on notice.</p>	31	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000840	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-000462 - Reviews	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you, Chair. Secretary, I want to refer you to SQ23-000462 and the response you provided in relation to a question about a number of reviews that the department is conducting. I note that the review of the student experience survey being undertaken by the Australian Council for Educational Research was due to be completed by 30 June 2023. Is this complete?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm happy to take that and ask the higher ed people when they pop in tonight. I'm happy to get that information to you through the course of today. I'm assuming so, but the higher ed people would be the people who manage that contract, and they would be able to tell me that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to provide any further information about that now?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No. I don't have that available to me. As I said, I'm very happy to do that through the course of the day and make sure you get that information before we finish up today.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could we find out whether that review is complete and also ask for a copy of that review?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'll just call out to my higher ed people to make sure they're listening so that they know that I expect an answer to that question.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: We're also looking for an understanding as to the findings, but, if we could get a copy of that review, we would be most grateful. I'd also like to ask about a review into students with disability loading settings. That was listed as completed in April this year and provided to the minister on 2 May. Has that report been made public?</p>	32	26/10/2023
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				<p>Mr Cook: Schools people aren't here; they'll be here next. I'm happy for them to provide that response or give me some information when they come on board. Again, they're responsible for that particular review.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So you don't have any information in relation to that now?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Not other than what we've got in terms of the fact that it was completed and it was provided to the minister's office. I'll have to seek some advice as to whether it has been made public yet.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: In response to that question on notice, the department provided a list of reviews that were being undertaken. Could you provide me with a list of any further reviews since the last estimates?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm happy to take that on notice. Is that since June?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's right—since 1 June. Also, could you provide me with any other reviews that have been completed and handed to the minister and whether they've been made public? If so, can we get a copy of those reports as well?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm happy to assist.</p>		
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SQ23-000841	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-000602 - PGPA Act breaches	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to ask you about any breaches of the PGPA Act. You advised through your question on notice response SQ23-000602 that there had been seven breaches of the PGPA Act for the period 1 November 2022 to 30 June 2023. Could you describe what those seven breaches were for and what the consequences of those breaches were?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Our chief financial officer has appeared. I'll ask him to take you through that information.</p> <p>Mr Boyd: The breaches have tended to relate to one of two things. The first is minor credit card inadvertent use. We classify that as a breach of the PGPA Act in the department and report upon that. The second relates to things like ensuring information is published on public-facing portals, such as AusTender, in a timely matter. We have a small number of breaches in relation to those. I could take the exact break-up on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes, please. Could you also provide us with the details of each breach, and how those breaches were addressed and resolved as well as any consequences?</p> <p>Mr Boyd: Yes.</p>	33	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000842	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-000608 - Senior executive travel and allowances	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, I want to move to the arrangements that you have for the deputy secretary, higher education. His contract enables reunion trips. You've provided details of senior executive travel in your response SQ23-000608. In your response, the deputy secretary for higher education, research and international had eight reunion trips over a four-month period. Can you explain why he has these reunion trips? How many staff have this benefit? What is the basis for a reunion trip, because that's not a work expense, I assume?</p> <p>Mr Cook: As happens across many departments, there are senior executives across the Commonwealth who are based in locations other than Canberra. The home of the deputy secretary, higher education is not in Canberra; his home is in Melbourne. The former secretary, in agreeing the contract for the deputy secretary, agreed that a small component of reunion costs to enable him to see his family was appropriate, so that decision, which is available to all secretaries, was made.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Without going into personal matters, but just to understand, has he relocated to Canberra?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So he's staying in Canberra?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's correct. He's in Canberra based on his diary and his availability, but his family and his home remain in Melbourne, as is the case for a number of secretaries' homes—the former secretary didn't have a home in Canberra. A number of staff across my department are also located in other states and territories.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So his home is in Melbourne but</p>	35	26/10/2023
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				<p>his work base is in Canberra? Mr Cook: That's correct, which is not unusual. Senator HENDERSON: So he's claiming the cost of accommodation here in Canberra? Mr Cook: He has an allowance in relation to that. He pays some of that himself, but he has an allowance, which, again, is not unusual. Senator HENDERSON: Can you provide those details on notice? Mr Cook: I think that would have been in the response. Senator HENDERSON: Could you include how many in your senior executive team receive an allowance, and the cost of those arrangements as well? Mr Cook: Sure, we're happy to take that on notice. Senator HENDERSON: What is the period of time that he's working in Canberra? Mr Cook: That depends on diaries. It's usually three or four days a week. Sometimes it's two days a week. It depends on diary; it depends on travel. It depends on all sorts of things, which, again, is not unusual, as it isn't unusual for staff of members of parliament to be placed in locations other than Canberra. Senator HENDERSON: In relation to your senior executive team, could you provide details of those types of arrangements where they have reunion entitlement— Mr Cook: Sure, we're happy to do that. Senator HENDERSON: and what sorts of costs are incurred by reason that they are residing in one city but working out of Canberra? It is just to try and seek greater transparency in relation to that. Mr Cook: Sure.</p>		
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SQ23-000843	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Welcome to Country and Smoking ceremony	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to start off by asking about some significant expenditure incurred by various events under the control of Minister Aly. I'll take you through those. These were answers to questions on notice SQ-2300455 on a range of different meetings and events.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you, Minister. Secretary, could I just take you to the early childhood care and development policy partnership meeting. The total cost of this meeting was \$22,725. Did the minister or any of her staff attend this event? There was also a cost of \$5,100 for a welcome to country and culture activity.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON:..... I want to ask about welcome to country and smoking ceremonies. I referred to one before that was just over \$5,000. Are you able to provide us with a list of all such ceremonies since 1 July 2022, the cost of each of those ceremonies and the purpose for those ceremonies?</p> <p>Mr Markovic: We had partially answered that question. Senator Hughes asked a question, SQ23-000269, and we advised for the period 1 July to 31 May. I can advise, between 1 June and 13 October, we had four further events at a cost of \$2,875 including GST. That's probably just one part of your question. I think you asked for an itemised list of what they were; we might be able to provide that for you now.</p> <p>Mr Pattie: Since 1 June this year, there was a welcome to country for an early childhood and youth group planning event that was \$400 GST inclusive. There was a welcome to country for the research forum, which was \$459 GST</p>	24-25 & 36	26/10/2023
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				<p>inclusive. There was a welcome to country and smoking ceremony for the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership, which totalled \$880 GST inclusive. And there was a welcome to country and smoking ceremony for NAIDOC, which totalled \$1,100 GST inclusive.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Those costs seem very reasonable, and that's why I think the other one for \$5,100 really stood out.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, I don't have the detail on that one, but we're happy to take that on notice.</p>		
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SQ23-000845	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Impact of Loopholes Bill on the education sector (if enacted)	<p>Senator HENDERSON:I want to ask about the loopholes bill before the parliament. If that was enacted, what would be the impact on the cost of hiring contractors, casuals and other non-ongoing staff?</p> <p>Mr Cook: As you know, that bill is actually not in this portfolio, but we're happy to take your question on notice to see if we can provide any response to that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes, please inform me if you've done any work or if you could make any assessment of the impact that that would have on the casuals, contractors and other non-ongoing staff.</p> <p>Mr Markovic: I can advise we haven't done any modelling on that internally for our workforce. As I think we've discussed previously, we use a very small number proportionately of contractors and casuals in the department. We're dominantly ongoing, permanent officers. Our contractors, as I think we've talked about previously, are four per cent, and I think at the moment we've got about 12 casuals. We just haven't done any modelling on that because it has quite a small impact on our department.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you extend that to the sectors for which you are responsible, including the university sector?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm not sure we could do that. That would require every university to provide detailed information to us on their work. My response is that would be an unreasonable diversion for my department. That would take weeks and weeks and weeks for us to calculate.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That is my very issue with this bill, given universities—</p> <p>Mr Cook: That would be a matter for them rather than for us.</p>	36-37	26/10/2023
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				<p>Senator HENDERSON: I assume this will have a direct impact on the operating costs of universities. I am happy to take this further in the higher ed section.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But I'll just flag, given the number of casuals employed in universities, if they are moved to another form of more permanent employment, I assume that will have a very significant impact on the operating costs of universities. In that regard that will have a direct impact, I imagine, on the government's funding of universities. I would appreciate it if you're able perhaps on notice to consider those cost impacts and provide any information as to whether you have done any work on that.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure. I think the answer will be no. I am pre-empting what I expect our response to a detailed question like that might be, given it is a diversion for us.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Perhaps on notice I can ask for any and all correspondence from the universities in relation to this bill, including in relation to concerns about costs or any other advices or briefing notes in relation to this. Universities are principally funded by the taxpayer.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Just to make that point, yes, there are some other sources of revenue, of course. But principally universities are funded by the Australian taxpayer and therefore it is obviously incumbent on the department. If this is going to have a significant cost increase on universities, the government needs to understand that, and the Australian people need to understand that. If you could take that on notice, we are seeking all correspondence, briefing notes and advices from universities in relation to the impact of this bill,</p>		
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				<p>which is yet to be enacted. I'd also like to extend that to all sectors in your portfolio, so to child care and schools.</p> <p>Mr Cook: So the impact on state governments, is that the question you have for us?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, all correspondence held by the minister and his staff and the department in relation to the impacts of this bill on the minister's portfolio responsibilities, which are universities, schools and child care.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm happy to take that on notice.</p>		
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SQ23-000846	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Year 1 phonics	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you break down the number of states that have implemented the full year 1 phonics test and those which have just announced it? There's a big difference. If you've just announced it, grade 1 children will not be getting the test at this point.</p> <p>Mr Cook: There's a third category, probably—just to assist with the question. There are those states that are utilising a year 1 phonics test process, but, like Victoria, they're not necessarily using the year 1 phonics test that is on the Australian government website, which is what they're able to do.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: On notice, could you provide a break down?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure. Happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Also, could you provide the actual test being used by each state and territory?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I can't for WA because WA hasn't defined it. WA has said that schools are responsible for identifying a phonics assessment.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could provide the relevant information I'd be grateful.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure. Happy to do that.</p>	38	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000847	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Evidence based teaching and learning	<p>Senator HENDERSON: There are certain schools and school systems that have introduced evidence based teaching and learning, and they are seeing amazing results. For example, the Canberra and Goulburn Catholic school system. The Tasmanian government has announced that it's moving to that method of teaching. Other schools have done it. I'm asking for information in relation to how many schools across this country have adopted best evidence teaching and learning practices.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I could write to states and ask them to provide that information. I can't compel them to provide that information.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you. If you could do so and provide that on notice I'd be really grateful.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'll do it as part of my AESOC process, as I would normally do. AESOC is the Australian Education Senior Officials Committee, which I chair. I'll see them again in a couple of weeks time, and I'm happy to email them about that.</p>	39	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000848	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Initial teacher education by universities	<p>Senator HENDERSON: A lot of that work, of course, was picked up from the previous coalition government. I'm pleased to see that work continuing and some additional initiatives announced. On that point, there has been scathing criticism in relation to the initial teacher education offered by many universities. I just picked up that at the Graduate School of Education at Melbourne university one of the professors was advocating for student led learning and no assessments, which is contrary to the evidence as to how students best learn. To what extent are you monitoring and subjecting the universities to scrutiny as to the best way to teach trainee teachers how to teach students in the classroom? As I say, there's some absolutely scathing evidence of deficient teaching by many universities.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I will quickly comment on that, and then Ms Brighton can probably give detail. As you'd be aware, every state and territory has a regulatory body in relation to initial teacher education. There are national accreditation standards for what has to be in those ITE courses, which you would be aware of, and the state and territory—usually it's through a teachers registration board or something along those lines—is responsible for ensuring those university courses meet the standards. Phonics is part of that, in relation to the accreditation standards. Out of the Teacher Education Expert Panel, there is also a recommendation, which we are working with the states and territories on, to have on top of that an independent quality assurance board. The role of that quality assurance board will be to provide another layer of checking that ITE courses in universities are suitable. Again, you'll see this in Mark Scott's report. Part of that is about what consequences there might be for universities</p>	40	26/10/2023
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				<p>if they're not delivering the quality course that they're required to do.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: On notice, I might ask you look at that particular issue in regard to Melbourne university, because that was a big red flag when I read about this particular school of education's plans—it looked like their plans—going forward.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll seek some advice from the Victorian teacher registration authority, yes.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could seek some advice and come back to me on that, I would be most grateful.</p>		
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SQ23-000849	Department of Education	Dorinda Cox	Funding provided for fifth Closing the Gap target	<p>Senator COX: Can I ask some questions in relation to Closing the Gap and the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation, please. Can the minister or the department outline the current funding that is provided for the fifth target on Closing the Gap, regarding education.</p> <p>Mr Cook: In effect, because those targets go across a number of areas, if you are happy, I can just quickly go through early schools and higher ed. Is that suitable for you?</p> <p>Senator COX: Yes. I know it cuts across early childhood, school education and tertiary education. My understanding, and correct me if I'm wrong, is it is also about Indigenous-specific and also Indigenous mainstream levels of funding. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator COX: I'm happy for you to take the first question on notice and provide some more evidence. But I'm more interested in how this is broken down, particularly in the funding to our public schools and our private schools.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Because we're in schools, I will try and stick to schools, but I will hand over to Ms Brighton to give a little more detail. As you are aware, in the schooling resource standard, there is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student loading. In 2023, \$501 million will be allocated for that particular loading, which goes to both government and non-government schools. We can probably give you a breakdown of non-government and government schools on notice, if that assists.</p> <p>Senator COX: That would be good.</p> <p>Mr Cook: There are also other measures, such as the teaching First Nations languages measure, which is \$14 million over four years, in the school program.</p>	41-42	26/10/2023
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				<p>Senator COX: Sorry, was that \$40?</p> <p>Mr Cook: It was \$14.1 million over four years. It is about the placement of 60 First Nations educators to increase the number and strength of First Nations languages being spoken in our schools across Australia. There is also an English language and learning for Indigenous children trial, which is particularly focused on preschool children and is about Indigenous languages again. That is \$8.4 million over five years.</p> <p>As you may be aware, there is also the incorporation of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Indigenous Education Corporation. That will be a peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to provide advice to both the Commonwealth and the states and territories about Indigenous education matters. That body was incorporated last month. We are providing funding for the operation of that body of \$1.7 million over two years to assist the operations of that body.</p> <p>There is also funding for the Clontarf Foundation. I am sure you are aware of the Clontarf Foundation, which is the foundation that works in schools and is particularly focused on First Nations young men. The funding for that is \$39.8 million over two years. There is also the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation, which you might have questions on after this, which is \$32 million over three years as well. The government announced the on-country learning measure, which is the agreement with the Northern Territory for \$40.1 million over two years. That is a high-level overview. If you want us to take on notice any more detail around that, we're happy to do so.</p> <p>Senator COX: That would be great. I am more interested</p>		
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				<p>in what is the test that the department uses for deciding where to spend this money? What justifies the spend? Specifically looking at private schools because some of these entities are private schools and we know that our public schools, our government schools, are seriously underfunded, what does that test look like for the department? If you could articulate that for me.</p>		
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SQ23-000850	Department of Education	Dorinda Cox	Funding for the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation	<p>Senator COX: Did you give me a figure of \$32 million for the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation over the last 15 years? Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That is correct. My money is only over the last three, 2022-23.</p> <p>Senator COX: The figure that I have is \$147.4 million. I don't know if you can confirm that. I am happy for you to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We will have to take that on notice.</p>	42	26/10/2023
SQ23-000851	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Registered and unemployed teachers	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE:Going to priority area 1, action 7 on improving supply, my understanding is that states and territories, along with teacher regulatory authorities, were reporting in midyear on the number of registered teachers who are currently not employed in schools. Did they report that in mid-2023, and do you have the number of registered teachers in Australia who are currently not in a classroom and not teaching in schools?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Did you say action 7, in relation to teachers who are registered but not employed?</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Yes. I'm interested in whether we have a statistic yet on how many teachers we have got who are registered but not teaching in a school.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: We haven't got that data yet.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Is there a reason for that? Did they report back in midyear, and, if so, what did they report?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: It wasn't reported back by midyear but I'll take on notice to see if it will be provided to the next education ministers meeting in December.</p>	43	26/10/2023

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SQ23-000852	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Letter to Studio Schools Australia	<p>Mr Cook: Sorry, Senator. Just to help with that question, we have asked for that in the letter. We've asked for policies regarding management of conflict of interest and related-party transactions. We've already asked Studio Schools to provide information on that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can we have a copy of that letter, please? Do you have a copy of that letter you could provide now?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I have my notes on this one. We are happy to take it on notice and maybe give it to you later this afternoon.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to provide it to us during the lunch break?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I've answered in relation to that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Does any of your officials here have a copy of the letter?</p> <p>CHAIR: Mr Cook said he would get a copy to you as soon as possible.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes. We've just got notes on this one. Sorry. That's all.</p> <p>CHAIR: Why don't we see if we can get it when we come back from the break, from one of your assistants, if not sooner?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure.</p>	50	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000853	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	NIAA and Studio Schools Australia funding agreement	<p>Senator HENDERSON: That would be appreciated. I raised this in the last estimates, and now we've received further information about the \$16.2 million that was allocated to the operational costs to deliver the new school at Windjana, to upgrade Yiramalay and to construct the Indigenous education research centre. These costs seem very high. Are you able to provide more information as to how that \$16.2 million would be spent?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure. Very quickly, there are three tranches of that. The first tranche was given under the former government in November 2021. That was a funding agreement between, at that time, NIAA and Studio Schools Australia, which was about the operational aspects of the schooling Australia system. It was about recruiting staff, curriculum design, appointing architects—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Sorry, that was 2020?</p> <p>Mr Cook: November 2021.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: November 2021. But this money was not allocated until this budget. That is my understanding.</p> <p>Mr Cook: No, that would have been part of continuing money. That is my understanding. The funding agreement, as a component of that—I've got it all broken down—was actually November 2021.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could we get a copy of that funding agreement? Could you table—</p> <p>Mr Cook: The funding agreement—the NIAA one—we're happy to table. I don't think we have the NIAA one with us, but we're happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could provide that on</p>	50-51	26/10/2023
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				notice, I'd be grateful. Mr Cook: Absolutely.		
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SQ23-000854	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Update to SQ23-000679 - Studio Schools breakdown of \$16.2 million	<p>Mr Cook: Absolutely. That was about recruiting staff, curriculum design, appointing architects for the initial design of the school, appointing consultants, and improving the ICT infrastructure in Yiramalay Studio School. Studio Schools Australia was required to report to NIAA on progress in relation to that money every six months and submit an annual non-audited expenditure report in relation to that expenditure. The second part was \$1.35 million of operational funding for the Yiramalay Studio School, which was given in February this year. The third part of that was \$8 million, which I understand has gone to the Western Australian block grant authority. Senator, as you'd be aware, for the non-government sector, independent school block grant authorities manage and assist schools with construction, which is our normal process in relation to non-capital infrastructure funding. The WA block grant authority has that money. They have a contract with Studio Schools—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So, \$8 million of the \$16.2 million?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's right.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: When was that decision made to transfer that money?</p> <p>Mr Cook: The contract was signed in August 2023, so that was part of the budget announcement in 2023-24.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That wasn't provided in your answer to the question on notice.</p> <p>Mr Cook: At that time, it wouldn't have been—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That just seems to be a recent decision to transfer half of that money to the block grant authority.</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's our normal process. Any money to do with capital infrastructure is never managed by this department.</p>	51	26/10/2023
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				<p>Senator HENDERSON: But these were operational costs Mr Cook: That's right. Senator HENDERSON: In fact, in your answer on notice, you specifically detailed a range of costs— Mr Cook: Was it specifically about this? Senator HENDERSON: which I don't believe included any cost to the block grant authority. CHAIR: Senator Henderson, last question before we go on our break. Mr Cook: Senator, could you help me refer to the particular part of that question? Senator HENDERSON: I refer to SQ23-000679. I might come back to you on exactly where that was. When we sought information as to how the \$16.2 million was to be expended, it was quite a large document that you provided. I don't believe that you included any of those costs. That's why I was so concerned, because it just looked like an extraordinary amount of money allocated for operational costs, which is how it was described by the department in the documents that you released. CHAIR: Senator, that was the last question before we go on a break. Senator HENDERSON: I just want to get the answer, if I could, please. CHAIR: Just a brief clarification question before we finish. Mr Cook: It's in response to question 13 of your questions on notice. You've got the \$16.2 million in there. The block grant authority's mentioned in there—the Western Australian independent block grant authority. You can see that that amount is \$500,000. But the mechanism by which the money goes to the schools is through a block grant authority. That's why that \$8 million has gone to the block grant authority.</p>		
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				<p>Senator HENDERSON: Alright. I'll just ask for further information in relation to the breakdown of that \$16.2 million, please.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm sorry, Chair. I've got that now, but we can take it on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: Could you take it on notice.</p>		
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SQ23-000855	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Studio Schools Australia documentation	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Chair, just to assist the committee, could I ask for those documents that Mr Cook referred to, so we've got those during the break, so we can understand precisely what those documents say. Could we get a copy of those.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Senator, they're emails which have my notes on as well. The information I've got is email information about summaries of meetings that have been held between Studio Schools Australia and—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, whatever information you've got, could we get a copy of it so we can pick up that questioning after the break.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'll see what I can do for you, Senator.</p>	53	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000856	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Studio Schools Australia cost escalations	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I refer to question on notice SQ23-000679. Question 4 was: At what point was the Department of Education notified that the elements would cost more than was originally costed— 'elements' being the four schools— because of price increases/inflation? Please provide a copy of the advice received by the delivery partner. The department responded on 24 July 2022: ... SSA advised the department that the cost of building the ... Windjana Studio School had increased from \$22 million to \$45.3 million. The relevant email is attached ... That email of Sunday 24 July from CEO Helen Drennen indicated the cost increases in relation to Windjana but also the cost increases in relation to the other schools and stated: The situation is definitely going to take us further into our \$75m. Can I just confirm that your answer is correct and that this was the first you or the department knew or were alerted to the cost increases? Mr Cook: Thank you for the question. Yes, our response to that question in terms of that written email is correct. As I indicated earlier, we had received notification earlier that there were delays to the projects. Senator HENDERSON: So this was the first time you were aware of these cost escalations? Mr Cook: In terms of written form. Any delay to a school build would result in escalation of costs. Senator HENDERSON: Then there was a subsequent report—I think in about September 2022—that went through those costings in detail. Mr Cook: Is that the one we provided you?</p>	53	26/10/2023
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				<p>Senator HENDERSON: That is the Studio Schools one.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes. I think it was also in that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you for clarifying that. I'm deeply concerned about the conflict of interest that appears to be the case in relation to the ATO commissioner.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: You might want to add in an 'alleged' there, Senator Henderson.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm saying that it appears to be a conflict of interest. You sought further information in relation to that matter. Do you have a view or have you reached any sort of assessment about whether that could be a conflict of interest?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We don't have any information from Studio Schools in relation to that matter at this point. Once we receive that we'll make a decision in that matter.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, did you provide any advice to the previous coalition government in relation to these very significant cost escalations for the four schools—and when I say 'you' I mean the department?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I was going to say that I wasn't here. Thank you for the clarification. That would have been in 2021. I'll just defer to anyone at the table. We may have to take on notice to see whether there's any written advice in relation to it.</p>		
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SQ23-000857	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Studio Schools Australia business case	<p>Mr Cook: In relation to the original business case for Studio Schools, that business case was not submitted to the current government; that business case was submitted to the former government.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: This is publicly available information.</p> <p>Mr Cook: My understanding is that the salary costs of Studio Schools were included in the business case, which was agreed and approved by the former government.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you provide a copy of that, including the evidence that the former government agreed to that?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That would require me to provide cabinet documents, I understand, so—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you suggesting that this was cabinet-in-confidence information?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm just saying the business case in relation to that was something that was agreed by the former government. Whether that is public information—I'm happy to take it on notice and see what we can provide in relation to that.</p>	54	26/10/2023
SQ23-000858	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Studio Schools Australia charter flights and other transport costs	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I'll move on to the next question. Secretary, I have asked about the charter flights and transport in particular. Just to be clear, could the committee please have information about every charter flight taken by Studio Schools—</p> <p>Mr Cook: We've sought the information from Studio Schools in relation to that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: who was on the flight, the dates of the flights, where the flights departed and arrived, and all of the other transport costs as well.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We're happy to take that on notice.</p>	56	26/10/2023

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SQ23-000859	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Bilateral schedule for On-Country Learning funding	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about the proposal by Yipirinya to build a satellite school at Burt Creek, which is a day-school proposal. That was a proposal that the Yipirinya School was going to deliver under this Alice Springs community safety package, which they now cannot deliver.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: It clearly was—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Another Indigenous school that is no longer going ahead.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Clearly, it was never eligible for funding for infrastructure under this program. That was never suggested, Senator Henderson.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Senator, I—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you provide me with evidence as to the criteria—</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: You have the press releases.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm not asking for the press releases. Could you provide the secretariat with the criteria for that \$40.4 million?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Senator, I think that's publicly available on the fiscal financial—</p> <p>Ms O'Connor: Yes, it is.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Would you provide the committee with a copy of that, please?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Happy to help on that one. It's publicly available information; it has been online for several weeks now.</p>	58	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000860	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Inclusive education resources	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Is the department doing any current work coming out of the disability royal commission and some of the things that came out of that? Is the department doing any current work on furthering inclusive education, and is it providing any support to states and territories in this regard?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: We continue to do a lot of work with states and territories around supporting students with disability. As you would be aware, it ranges from everything from not only the funding for students with a disability but also a range of resources and supports that are made available through Commonwealth government-funded initiatives. We have been working also with states and territories as the disability royal commission has been making its way through its hearings, as well as while the NDIS review has been underway. In addition to the loadings that are funded, we also have undertaken a review of the COVID impacts on students with a disability. That is a piece of internal work that we expect to be settled some time soon. That will help us to work more closely with the jurisdictions about what further work needs to be done about making schools a far more inclusive space across the schooling sector. There are a range of resources available for teachers to help build a more inclusive schooling system. Ms O'Connor might be talk about those details.</p> <p>Ms O'Connor: I don't have specific examples of the resources, but we could provide that.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: I am happy for you to take on notice those resources.</p>	59-60	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000861	Department of Education	Karen Grogan	Studio Schools Australia - building code changes and chronology	<p>Senator GROGAN: Mr Cook, you mentioned earlier in relation to the Studio Schools costs that the Western Australian government had made some changes to its building regulations.</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: Can you tell us when that took place and what impact that would have had on the costs that were provided for the school?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, Senator, what was the second part of your question?</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: What impact would that have had on the building costs? I know you touched on it earlier.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes. The advice I've received is that that occurred in 2020 in terms of energy efficiency, I think it was. New WA building legislation required improved energy efficiency of buildings. It was estimated that there would be a 10 per cent increase in building costs to meet those legislative requirements and that, for this particular school, it would have been an additional cost of \$3.1 million. As all schools were funded the same amount—the \$22 million—I would imagine that that \$3.1 million would therefore apply to each of the three schools. So it would be a total of \$9 million, I think, for those schools together.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: But, if that was in 2020, are you saying those costs weren't factored into the original funding approval?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Not to my understanding.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: Why would they not have been factored in, given the timing—if that's 2020? That is a substantial amount of money.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm sorry, I can't comment on that because that would have been part of the business case that the</p>	61-62	26/10/2023
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				<p>Studios Schools team put together. Senator GROGAN: And that business case was in after that date? Mr Cook: That business case would have been provided in 2021, to the best of my knowledge. Mr Harding, is that right? Unidentified speaker: Yes. Senator GROGAN: That does seem very strange. Can I go to salaries now. Senator BROCKMAN: Can I just ask one clarifying question on that? CHAIR: By all means, Senator Brockman. Senator BROCKMAN: What was the date of the building code changes? Mr Cook: My understanding is that it was 2020. I'm happy to take that on notice, but that's the advice I've got here. Senator GROGAN: Just for clarity, could we get that chronology on notice maybe.</p>		
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SQ23-000862	Department of Education	Karen Grogan	Studio Schools Australia - 2021 Financial plan	<p>Senator GROGAN: I'd like to pick up on the salary question. For the original funding commitment made in 2021, were the salaries costed and included at that time in the commitment?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But you're already given evidence—</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: Chair.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senators, can we allow Senator Grogan to ask question and Mr Cook to answer them. If there are differing views, then I respect that, when people have their call, they'll ask questions in their time.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: You can take notice what those salaries were and whether they were included in the original costings; I'm happy for you to take that on notice, if you don't have that information in front of you.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: I think the issue of what we've got in terms of the differential between what the cost was then and what the cost is now is something we really do need to unpack. There was a series of questions that I could have asked over the top of Senator Henderson, but, out of respect, I waited for my turn, and I'll put those on notice.</p> <p>Mr Cook: To assist, I do have a financial plan here which began in November 2021. The financial plan does have a salary component.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Would you be able to table that document, please?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm happy to. I just need to take advice about any commercial-in-confidence information that's in here. I'm very happy for this information to be available to the committee, but I'm just being a bit cautious because</p>	62-63	26/10/2023
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				there might be commercial-in-confidence information in here.		
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SQ23-000863	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Update to SQ23-000658 - Yadha Muru Foundation proposals	<p>Senator DAVEY: I want to come back to a topic we've discussed previously, which is the City-Country Partnerships Program. You recall we discussed this in May. Ms O'Connor, in May you discussed the Yadha Muru Foundation. You had one proposal from them. You were expecting a further six proposals. You took some questions on notice. Then with question on notice SQ23-000658 you said the second round of proposals was expected in early August 2023. Can you confirm that you've received further proposals from the Yadha Muru Foundation?</p> <p>Ms O'Connor: Yes, I can confirm that we've received proposals. In September 2023 the department approved seven of those partnership proposals, with a combined budget total of \$6.729 million.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Are you able to provide a breakdown of those costs and say who the partnerships are with?</p> <p>Ms O'Connor: I'm able to take that on notice in terms of the organisations approved for partnerships.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: We've approved seven so far, with effectively just under \$7 million. Averaging it out, it's approximately a million dollars per partnership. If you've given them \$17.569 million, they've still got close to \$10 million remaining, sitting there waiting for further partnerships to be approved?</p> <p>Ms O'Connor: Partnership proposals are received on a rolling basis, so we understand there are a number of proposals that they're working through at present that will be submitted to the department shortly for our assessment.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: As shortly as last time, when we had: 'It'll be coming in June,' then August and then September?</p>	63-64	26/10/2023
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				<p>Ms O'Connor: I appreciate your question, but the advice we have received from YMF is that we will be receiving proposals soon.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Perhaps if I can clarify, when those proposals come through the YMF, they go through them in detail and they work with the schools involved in anticipation of not only what other proposals consistent with the guidelines and what we're expecting but to also ensure that they have all the elements of the delegate the department needs to see. And then, sometimes, if those proposals come into the department and there are further questions, then that goes back to Yadha Muru Foundation. Would it be helpful for the committee to know the sorts of things that those proposals that have been approved are covering?</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: I would like to, but can we have that on notice because I'm very conscious of the time.</p>		
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SQ23-000864	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program administration fees	<p>Senator DAVEY: very quickly, I'll ask about the Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program. I'm looking at the figures and trying to get my head around the administration fees, which are going to a third-party delivery agency to deliver. My adding up of the fees is that it's \$1.65 million in administration fees of a program with a budget of \$10.9 million, so that's nearly 15 per cent in admin fees going to a third party.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I'm not sure if we have that level of detail with us today but we are happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: So I've done more home work than the department—gold star for me.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We know the value of the scholarships—I'm sure you do as well—which is \$20,000 per student per year et cetera.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Can you take that on notice? I'm looking it up and I'm looking at how many further scholarships we could hand out to people. Why does the administration have to be done by a third party? Why can't the department do the administration?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: The delivery partners we're working with are very experiencing in working with communities on scholarships. We've got three different delivery partners working with us on those scholarship programs. Because they have existing relationships and existing systems and they can do wrap around supports for families and students, they're good partners for us to be working with rather than the Commonwealth setting up a whole infrastructure around managing these scholarships for young people. Do you want to add anything to that, Ms O'Connor?</p> <p>Ms O'Connor: It's their expertise and their ability to get the word out to the families and communities that most</p>	65	26/10/2023
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				<p>need this support.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: In a past life, when I had the joy of writing grant applications for government grants, there was often a limit to how much you could put in as administration fees which was usually eight to 10 per cent. I'm finding these a little bit high, compared to my experience—admittedly, not in education—so if you could take on notice and see if you could come back to us with a breakdown of the administration fees.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Certainly.</p>		
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SQ23-000865	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	Election commitment - Grant funding for every eligible community language school	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: That's great, Ms Brighton, but the commitment was to eligible community language schools, so presumably they already at least have some of that knowledge.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: I'm not sure what you're reading from. The commitment was to place 60 First Nations language educators in primary schools—</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: I'm reading from the policy document—the Labor election commitment—which said 'Every eligible community language school will receive grant funding of up to \$30,000.'</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: I don't believe that's this election commitment, that might be a different election commitment, but we will need to—</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Are you sure?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: This doesn't have a \$30,000 per language school element to it. That might be something in a different portfolio.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: How could that be in a different portfolio?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Because the NIAA also provides a whole range of education funding support, including to schools.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Can you take that on notice, please?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: We could take on notice to try to work out what the difference is there.</p>	65-66	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000866	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Commissioned reports - Teacher Education Expert Panel	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: In previous estimates I asked whether the Teacher Education Expert Panel had commissioned any research, and thank you for providing me with the list that was in the report itself that I missed. Thank you for that! My follow-up question is: is that research or are those reports publicly available? I got online and did a bit of searching, and I have certainly found what I think is the report you're referring to from AERO, How students learn best: an overview of the learning process and the most effective teaching practices. Is that the report that was commissioned for that purpose, or is that a different one?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: I'm just not clear on the titles.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: In short, and I'm happy for you to take this on notice, is it possible for us to get a copy of the reports that were commissioned that the panel then used to come up with its recommendations, so the ones that are in that list? That's my first question.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: And flowing on from that is a similar question in relation to the expert panel set up to inform a better and fairer education system. Have they commissioned any research reports? If so, is it possible for us to get copies of them?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: We're happy to take that on notice.</p>	66	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000867	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Forecast for shortage of teachers at the beginning of 2024	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Ms Brighton, what is your forecast number for the number of teachers that are required? What is the forecast for shortage of teachers at the beginning of 2024?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I think the Teacher Education Expert Panel—and my colleagues will correct me if I have got this wrong—forecast if there was a 10 percentage point increase in the number of people staying in teaching education, that would increase graduates by around 3,000 a year.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I asked a specific question: do you have a forecast for the shortage of teachers for the commencement of the next school year?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I don't have that data before me.</p> <p>Mr Cook: That is information of states and territories and approved authorities, so they would be the ones that would have that information, particularly from a state perspective, like the Queensland government, the New South Wales government—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It is important to know how many teachers we need for the beginning of next year. Could I ask on notice if you could seek that information from the states and territories?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We are happy to seek it.</p>	71	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000868	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Attendance rates	<p>Senator HENDERSON:What about attendance rates in Australian classrooms? What's happening with attendance rates? What is the latest data you have?</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho: I might defer to Mr Dyer.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm just going to ask for quite brief answers, please, because I haven't got much time.</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho: Sure. If we haven't got it to hand we might take it on notice. There is a difference between attendance rates and the other category—</p> <p>Mr Dyer: Attendance level. Attendance rate is the number of actual full-time-equivalent days attended by full-time students in years 1 to 10 as a percentage of the total number of possible student days attended over the period. We calculate that. Then there's the attendance level, which is the proportion of full-time students in years 1 to 10 whose attendance rate in semester 1 is equal to or greater than 90 per cent. We report on both of those measures.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What are the outcomes?</p> <p>Mr Dyer: The data is sort of variable. I will just pull it up, if you can bear with me.</p> <p>CHAIR: While you are looking that up. Senator Henderson, how long do you have to go?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Not long, Chair.</p> <p>CHAIR: I think we are over the extension.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I know we are, and that's why I'm seeking quick answers. I'm happy for you to provide that to me on notice.</p> <p>Mr Dyer: I can provide that on notice, which might be better.</p>	79-80	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000869	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Update to SQ23-000363 - National Summit for Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to move to the issue of some of your costs. At the last hearing, I asked for information about expenditure on advocacy promoting the program which is outlined in SQ23000470. There was a conference in May which cost just over \$282,000. That's an extraordinary amount of money, Mr Grant. This is taxpayer money: \$52,000 for audiovisual equipment, \$105,000 for staffing costs? And there was \$95,000 for hospitality costs for external participants, and nearly \$13,000 for speaker's fee. These are extremely high, particularly for a government agency. Can you please explain these costs, including why you could possibly incur \$105,000 for staffing costs?</p> <p>Mr Grant: I think Mr Misson might tell me if I'm wrong here, but you are referring to the National Summit for Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers. This will confirm if I am correct.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you explain—</p> <p>Mr Grant: There were 300 participants. It was a two-day event. It requires a staffing component inside the company, which is where that staffing overhead comes from.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But \$105,000 for a two-day conference?</p> <p>Mr Grant: No—sorry—the person employed on Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher work does not just do work for the two days. It's a contribution that you can imagine for a conference of that size, with 24 sectors of education, not just those but many—months and months worth of work—and the same process is being undertaken now for next year's equivalent. We may have up to 10,000 participants as per the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan.</p>	81-82	26/10/2023
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				<p>Senator HENDERSON: You have staffing costs over a six-month period?</p> <p>Mr Grant: No, I don't know the answer, but I think the people associated with that are on a full-time payroll and that's the appropriate cost for that task.</p> <p>Mr Misson: What we've done there is try to cost the time of AITSL staff in the lead-up. As Mr Grant said—</p> <p>UpdateSenator HENDERSON: That's internal costs attribution, is it?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Yes, and would extend through most of the 12-month period but obviously get more intensive leading up to and during the event.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What about the \$95,000 for hospitality costs for external participants?</p> <p>Mr Grant: As I said, there were nearly 300 in person and I think another hundred and something online. I'll certainly get the details.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Does that include food and alcohol?</p> <p>Mr Grant: It's the full cost of any charges associated with catering.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Food and alcohol?</p> <p>Mr Grant: I'd have to check on the alcohol. We have a very strict policy of the company that any alcohol is signed off only by myself and the chair, so I'd have to check if that was actually granted for the occasion.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: You don't know if you approved the purchase of alcohol?</p> <p>Mr Grant: I'm fairly sure the chair and I did and I'm fairly sure it was the only event that had any alcohol component. I'm fairly sure it was based on the tradition of two standard drinks per participant. There is a cap, for want of a better term. But I'm happy to get the detail.</p>		
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				<p>Senator HENDERSON: Sorry, but perhaps you could provide a breakdown so we can really understand what those costs were. If there is a hospitality package per attendee, could you provide that level of detail?</p> <p>Mr Grant: I'm happy to provide the detail.</p>		
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SQ23-000870	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Update to SQ23-000775 - Australian Workforce Data project	<p>Senator HENDERSON: That would be appreciated. Has the Australian Teacher Workforce Data annual work plan been approved by the oversight board?</p> <p>Mr Grant: Sorry: could you name the particular document that you are referencing? The Australian Teacher Workforce—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: This was in response to question on notice SQ23000775. We're just wanting to understand whether the work plan has been approved by the oversight board.</p> <p>Mr Grant: For the Australian Workforce Data project?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's right.</p> <p>Mr Grant: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Misson: Yes, Senator, it has. It has also been approved by the AESOC.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could we get a copy of that plan?</p> <p>Mr Misson: I'm sure we could provide that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you table the plan?</p> <p>Mr Grant: I am happy to take AESOC's advice. AESOC owns that project and has one of its members as the delegate to the chair of it. I'd have to take AESOC advice, but, pending any problem from their perspective, I'd be more than happy to.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, if the Senate is asking for the document and you hold the document— Mr Grant: I'm just not the owner of it. Maybe Ms Brighton can confirm.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: You can take it on notice, but, unless there is a legitimate claim, we would expect you to provide us with that document.</p> <p>Mr Grant: Exactly, unless there is a reason not to. Agreed.</p>	82	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000871	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Update to SQ23-000282 - Child Care Subsidy	<p>Senator DAVEY: Because I thought you needed a change in tone—a change in vocal tone, I mean! Thank you very much for attending today. Welcome. Child care—thank you for providing your answers to question on notice SQ 23-000282, which provides a breakdown of families who, in your terms, would be better off following the 10 July changes to the childcare subsidy, and thank you also for breaking it down by state and territory. This indicates that 410,800 people in New South Wales will be better off; 302,100 in Victoria; and so on. And, even here in the ACT, 30,400 will be better off. So these families are better off today, after the changes in June. Is that what these figures are telling us?</p> <p>Mr Reed: It is saying that this is the estimate of the number of families who would benefit over the first year of the measure—not a point in time but over the first year.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: So it's an estimate of the families that will be better off?</p> <p>Mr Reed: That's right.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: When you did these estimates, did you also assume that childcare fees would increase in this financial year?</p> <p>Mr Reed: It would have factored in fee increases, as they were built into the forward estimates, yes.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Have you also got a breakdown of these numbers for the states between metro and regional? There's no point in me saying remote areas because they're all childcare deserts, really.</p> <p>Mr Reed: I would have to take on notice whether we could estimate the breakdown between geographical regions. So I'm not sure, Senator. I'll have to take that on notice.</p>	83-85	26/10/2023
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				<p>Senator DAVEY: And is this estimate based on families receiving a payment? That's the number of families—</p> <p>Mr Reed: Families—that's right.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: not necessarily individual students.</p> <p>Mr Reed: That's families.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Have you also taken into consideration that the existing families who are accessing child care—there might be 410,800 New South Wales families who are already accessing child care who are better off, but the childcare subsidy didn't lead to one extra place in child care. So no families who weren't already accessing child care will be better off, will they? They're still on a waiting list.</p> <p>Mr Reed: I wouldn't necessarily agree that cheaper childcare reforms haven't created any new places. I'm just trying to understand the question. I might have to take that on notice. These estimates would have factored in some growth, as per our childcare model. Is your question—</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: There's a report by the Mitchell Institute, which has found that, in regional and remote communities, there's an average of about 0.2 childcare places per every whole child in the communities. I would posit that this Child Care Subsidy isn't providing any benefit in those areas to anyone who still can't get access to child care. It's benefiting the people who can get child care. There's nothing in this policy that is increasing—there are even some urban areas that are struggling with childcare places. So it's not necessarily getting any more women into the workforce if the women can't access the child care. They can't access the child care, because everyone who has got child care is now a little bit better off and they're keeping their kids in</p>		
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				<p>care.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I think that it needs to be seen in the context of other things we're doing. I think that more affordable child care is a key part of that. It might mean that they're doing more days or whatever, which is important for the workforce. There are more children in care and more services that have opened since we came to government as well. There are other initiatives that we're doing, particularly in regional and remote areas, to ensure that we're expanding services at the same time. So this is one element of what we're doing, but we know there are other challenges, and that's why we've got other programs that we're doing, to try and meet those challenges in terms of services as well.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Thank you, Minister. I'd be interested to follow that bouncing ball. I would really appreciate if you could take this on notice and do the same breakdown but by rural, regional and urban. It would be even better if you could do it by local government area so we can have a look at that too, if that's at all possible.</p> <p>Mr Reed: We'll see what's possible.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: I'm happy to—</p> <p>CHAIR: Are you sure?</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Yes.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Brockman.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Actually, I did forget about the income brackets as well. I asked about the locations. In that provided breakdown of the income brackets, for a family earning \$75,000 or less, please show what impact it has had on their out-of-pocket costs and the different takedowns. My understanding is that the policy now applies where even families earning between \$500,000 and \$530,000 are potentially better off.</p>		
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				<p>Mr Reed: I can tell you the estimates: 50 per cent of families that benefit earn under \$120,000; 75 per cent earn under \$180,000; and only two per cent earn above \$360,000.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Mr Reed, that wasn't the question. To be clear—sorry to butt in—the question was: what are the out-of-pocket costs? What is the income bracket for the lowest out-of-pocket costs in a \$25,000 salary increment? Of the families earning \$75,000 or less, what income has the lowest out-of-pocket costs? And then, if you could, do that in \$25,000 increments.</p> <p>Mr Reed: Okay.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: I take it that has been taken on notice?</p> <p>Mr Reed: Yes, we will have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Could you also add to that how many additional places there are in the sector since the additional Child Care Subsidy commenced on 1 July?</p> <p>Mr Reed: We can. I would just say it's very early. Our data does take up to six weeks to settle, so it would be very preliminary data. We can probably provide that, but it wouldn't be a full quarter worth of data.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: That'd be good. I am happy for that to be taken on notice. Thank you very much.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Also, please provide the increase in access to the Child Care Subsidy for those same income brackets post 1 July.</p> <p>Mr Reed: The number of families?</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: The increase in access, yes—the increase in families who are getting it. Thank you.</p>		
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SQ23-000872	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	Workforce subsidies eligible providers	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: I just want to move to workforce professional development. How many eligible providers did the department send invitations to for them to apply for the first round of the \$72.4 million workforce subsidies?</p> <p>Mr Reed: In the first quarter, we sent invitations to 1,720 eligible providers to apply for the subsidies.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: In the first—?</p> <p>Mr Reed: In the first quarter of this financial year.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Is it possible to get a list of those providers? I accept that is a big number. I am not asking you to read it out.</p> <p>Mr Reed: I am just thinking about the privacy of providers.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: If there's a reason why you can't, could you let us know. If there is no reason why you can't, could we get that on notice, please.</p> <p>Mr Reed: We will definitely have a list of them, so that is fine. Of those 720 that were invited to apply, 1,244 services received a subsidy in the first quarter.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: That is my next question. Say that again?</p> <p>Mr Reed: There were 1,244 services that received the subsidy, with over 15,000 staff benefitting.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Again, this will probably need to be on notice but can that figure be broken down for job teaching placements and practicum exchange?</p> <p>Mr Reed: Sorry, that was just for the professional development subsidy. Then there were 438 staff who benefited from the paid practicum. And the practicum exchange hasn't started yet.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: How much has the department paid to centres for training?</p>	85	26/10/2023
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				<p>Mr Reed: For the professional development subsidies, it was \$7.9 million in the first quarter. For the paid practicum, it was \$1.8 million.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: In that list I asked you for earlier, is it possible to get a total for each centre on the same basis?</p> <p>Mr Reed: We definitely have that.</p>		
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SQ23-000873	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Child Care Subsidy - Fixed hours at centres	<p>Senator FARUQI: To the department, is there any modelling, costing or analysis being conducted by the department at the moment in relation to removing or modifying the childcare subsidy activity test?</p> <p>Mr Reed: There is no current—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: There is no modelling being done at all?</p> <p>Mr Reed: Did you mean currently?</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Reed: No, we're not currently modelling any changes to the activity test. We have modelled previous changes to the activity test, which I think I've mentioned at previous estimates, but I'm not aware that we're currently modelling any new proposals in relation to the activity test.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: So there's nothing happening now?</p> <p>Mr Reed: Not that I'm aware of.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: I have heard that some centres have changed their provision so that parents can no longer choose the hours that a child goes to the centre. Whereas previously they could pick from, say, a nine-hour day up to an 11- or 12-hour day—that's what I have heard—some centres have now fixed each day at 11 hours, no matter the actual hours attended by the child. I think the subsidised hours max out at 100 per fortnight, so, for a child going full time, parents will have to pay completely out of pocket for one day or 10 hours once they fix 11 hours a day. This is even the case when both parents are working full time. I'm wondering if you have any knowledge of that—and is that acceptable?</p> <p>Mr Reed: It depends on the service. Some services offer different session lengths. Some offer three or four different session lengths and some offer just the one session length. It's a decision of the provider as to how</p>	87	26/10/2023
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				<p>they manage their session lengths and the pricing towards those.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: But you do see that it's making it unaffordable for people because it is forcing them to pay more hours of unsubsidised educational care?</p> <p>Mr Reed: If someone attends full time every day of the week and the only option is 11 hours, then there would be some unsubsidised care.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Absolutely. Do you know how many centres fix these sorts of hours?</p> <p>Mr Reed: I'm not sure. I can take on notice whether we can find that out.</p>		
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SQ23-000874	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Activity Test and Income Reconciliation	<p>Senator FARUQI: It's impossible to get that information? Okay. In the last budget, the government said they would invest \$33.7 million to increase subsidised early childhood education and care to a minimum of 36 hours per fortnight for families with First Nations children. Can you tell me what this figure is based on and what the behavioural modelling of take-up by First Nations families was? What I am getting at is this: what was this modelled on? Was it modelled on unsubsidised hours currently being used by First Nations families, or have you done some modelling to understand what the take-up might be once this happens?</p> <p>Mr Reed: I will have a go at explaining what the assumptions were; if it's wrong, we'll have to correct it.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Could you, then, provide them on notice?</p> <p>Mr Reed: I could do it on notice. I can tell you my understanding of the assumptions underpinning the modelling. The modelling was based on how many First Nations families we believed were in the system, with a projected growth based on our standard projections, who would otherwise have an activity test result of less than 36 hours but were accessing more care than their activity—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: They were paying for unsubsidised hours.</p> <p>Mr Reed: That's right.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: So that's what the assumptions—</p> <p>Mr Reed: These are estimates, because there is no—they were the assumptions under the modelling.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: How many families reported a change of activity in the last financial year? You might have to take that on notice.</p>	87-88	26/10/2023
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				<p>Mr Reed: I'll have to take that on notice. Do you mean First Nations families or families in general?</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Both. I also want to ask about this debt that is incurred by families. How many families incur debts as a result of the activity test—for example, when they might estimate incorrectly or update their activity information a bit late? Would you have numbers on that?</p> <p>Mr Reed: Probably not with me; I'll just check. I think the vast majority of debts relate to income reconciliation, rather than the activity test. The significant majority would be in relation to income. I don't believe I have with me debts related to the activity test.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Can you provide me with that on income and activity test? Can you get those numbers?</p> <p>Mr Reed: If it's helpful, I can tell you the total debts now—but I can't break them down.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Sure.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Reed: For 2021-22, which was the last full year of reconciliation, there were 254,000 families that received a debt after reconciliation. The average overpayment was \$474. Just to put that into context: that's of nearly 1.4 million families who are reconciled. So of close to 1.4 million, most families actually received a top-up payment—close to 800,000 people received a top-up payment. For just over 300,000 there was nil adjustment and then there were the 254,000 with a debt. Yes, the vast majority of that would be due to income reconciliation, but we'll check on whether we can break that down.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: If you wouldn't mind checking that. Is there any way to break down those numbers by income? I just want to know how many of these families were on</p>		
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				<p>low incomes—if there's a way to break them down then that would be good. I also want to know the highest debt: who had the highest debt—that would be good.</p> <p>Mr Reed: Okay. I think we can probably do that, but I'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: And can you also break them down in terms of casual work, or not?</p> <p>Mr Reed: I don't think we would record that—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Which of the families, for instance, where carers were in casual jobs. That's often an issue in terms of how payments—</p> <p>Mr Reed: It would depend on what Services Australia's system captures for the characteristics—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: But if you could, that would be great.....</p>		
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SQ23-000875	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Average amount of subsidy lost to increased fees and inflation following the 1 July changes	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Is the department aware of the average amount of subsidy lost to increased fees and inflation following the 1 July changes? The bottom line is that, despite those changes, cost increases to families are hitting them hard in child care. The evidence is clear that some families have suffered increased fees of more than 10 per cent. Do you have that data—the average amount of the subsidy lost to increased fees and inflation?</p> <p>Mr Reed: We wouldn't have robust data for the first quarter of this financial year, because it takes a while for our data to settle. Fees have no doubt gone up. They usually do in January and July, when services usually increase their fees, so no doubt fees have gone up in July.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: They certainly have.</p> <p>Mr Reed: I guess the childcare CPI is a robust indication of the out-of-pocket costs for families, and they have gone down considerably.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: When will you have that data, if you haven't got it yet?</p> <p>Mr Reed: The childcare CPI data is out. That's the 13.2 per cent.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No—the data that I asked for in relation to the average amount of the subsidy lost.</p> <p>Mr Reed: Just to be clear, do you want to know how much of the subsidy has been lost from fee increases?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to know what has been lost to increased fee increases and also rising inflation, because increased fees and rising inflation have eroded the subsidy that was provided under the 1 July changes. Do you have any way of measuring that, or do you have any data that measures that?</p>	92	26/10/2023
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				<p>Mr Reed: We'll be able to measure what the average fee increase has been across the sector, and we'd usually be able to have that analysis by late November or early December.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's the data for the first quarter of this financial year?</p> <p>Mr Reed: That's the data for the first quarter of this financial year. I would say that—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Is it possible to get that earlier? Are you able to provide that data to the committee as soon as possible?</p> <p>Mr Reed: The reason that it's difficult to do it earlier is because the quarter finishes at the end of September, and services usually update their session reports and fee reporting, and that can take six weeks. So it's not until the six weeks after that last session that we'd have robust data, which takes us to mid-November, and then it's a couple of weeks to analyse that data. It is really around the earliest we can get it. We'll put it together as quickly as possible, but that would generally be as quickly as we can get it. That really is about two weeks after the data settles.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Alright. Get it to us as soon as you possibly can; that would be very much appreciated.....</p>		
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SQ23-000876	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Child Care Subsidy - 1 July changes	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Part of the 1 July changes included the policy for subsequent children changing from a 30 per cent subsidy to a sliding scale. Does the department acknowledge that this change has left families with multiple children paying more in July than they were in June?</p> <p>Mr Reed: No. No-one would be worse off. It has just kept the subsidy rates that families would have had for their second child as they were. So while they might not be 30 percentage points above their first child, that is only because the first child subsidy rates have increased. The subsidy rates have not decreased at all for the second child.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide us with the data to demonstrate that, because families with more than one child in child care are very concerned about the erosion of that benefit.</p> <p>Mr Reed: I can assure you that no family would be worse off for their second child. The percentage difference is only reduced because the percentage they're getting for their first child is greater.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I just want to refer you to a story in the Australian on 11 July entitled 'Parents of twins and triplets report paying more for childcare under new child care reforms':</p> <p>The Australian Multiple Birth Association director Silje Andersen-Cook said while Labor had promised savings to millions of families through its childcare changes, many parents of twins and triplets were experiencing the opposite thanks to a combination of increasing fees and changes to how subsidies are calculated for subsequent children in care.</p> <p>Mr Reed: That must have misunderstood the policy.</p>	92-93	26/10/2023
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				<p>Subsidy rates for second and subsequent children in care have not reduced for anyone.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm not sure the Australian Multiple Birth Association has misunderstood anything. So let's not reflect on them.</p> <p>Mr Reed: I shouldn't have said they haven't reduced for anyone. They haven't reduced for anyone because of the changes introduced. So if a family's income increased et cetera they could have reduced, but I should have said they haven't reduced as a result of the reforms.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I would like you to provide me with the evidence in this respect please, if you could, because it doesn't stack up with what some organisations are saying. They're very concerned about these 1 July changes on families with subsequent children in child care, like those who have twins or triplets. There's enough of a cost burden as it is.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We're happy to give that. I was aware of that story; I sought advice. It was verbal advice at the time.</p> <p>Mr Reed and the team have done the work. We're happy to share that work. It very clearly states, as Mr Reed has said, there's a range of reasons why families might have differences in relation to subsidies—everything from family income right through—but, as Mr Reed said, it's not as a result of changes to that particular policy.</p>		
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SQ23-000877	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Data on Cheaper Child Care	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to quote a Sydney mother of three. She's quoted in the article: ... Hannah Mraz said not only had the cost of care gone up— after 1 July— but the subsidy for her twins had gone down by 10 per cent, while the subsidy for her eldest child went up by only 2 per cent.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Is there anything about their family circumstances that we need to be aware of in relation to that?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I've just provided the information.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Their family income or any of the inputs into the actual model itself—that's what we would need to know in relation to that information.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's an example where there was this big 'We're all delivering cheaper child care' yet on 1 July we're seeing families suffering cost increases and being worse off.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: It is not as a result of the government changes, though. That's the point we're making.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's not the evidence that I've just presented to you, Assistant Minister, so I would be very pleased—</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: You're just reading out a story. The CPI figures show that they're down 13 per cent nationally, and that was released yesterday. That shows you the impact the policy is having for families across the country, and that's a good thing.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's inconsistent, and the point I'm making is that not everyone is better off. Some families are worse off.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: It's not true.</p>	93-94	26/10/2023
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				<p>Senator HENDERSON: I've just cited you one of many examples—</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: It's not accurate.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: but I would welcome the opportunity to look at the data. If you could please provide that data—the drilled down evidence—looking at how this is impacting families in different categories of income and in different circumstances. I appreciate that some families in some circumstances are going to have a different cost impact. If you could provide that data, looking at the variables for families, we would be most grateful.</p> <p>The government said that out-of-pocket costs would be reduced by 14 per cent in July. Where did that data come from? How much of this decrease is due to the introduction of a new cohort into the CCS system?</p> <p>Mr Reed: The data came from very preliminary administrative data that we had post the reforms that showed that the average hourly out-of-pocket costs had decreased by 14 per cent. It largely mirrors what we're seeing now in a full quarter of the CPI figures. What was the second part of the question?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I was just asking where that data came from.</p> <p>Mr Reed: It was preliminary data from our administrative data.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: How much of this decrease is due to the introduction of a new cohort into the CCS system?</p> <p>Mr Reed: It would factor in anyone new to the system. If so, it would be a population wide impact from everyone in the system. So it would factor in any new people that have entered the system.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes. I'm talking about those in the</p>		
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				<p>higher income bracket—those families earning between \$350,000 and \$530,000.</p> <p>Mr Reed: I couldn't be certain, but I would actually imagine high-income earners coming into the system would actually have a negative effect on that, because it's based on average hourly out-of-pocket costs, and average hourly out-of-pocket costs for high-income earners coming into the system would actually be much larger—they would actually bring up the average hourly out-of-pocket costs, but I might have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you can take that on notice and provide further information, that would be helpful. Given we know that 1.2 million families are not actually better off under this policy—</p>		
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SQ23-000878	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	Family day care provider - Cert III study	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Okay. Does the department think the changes to the regulations around family day care educators will discourage people from family day care, as they can't work and study as they can in centre based day care?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: The changes under the national quality framework require family day care educators not to be working towards having a cert III but actually to have a cert III.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: So, there must be a cohort of people, by definition—</p> <p>Ms Twyman: As we transition.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: who have not yet achieved cert III and who will therefore no longer be able to continue their study and be a family day care provider. Or am I in error?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: I will take that on notice, because I'm fairly sure there is a transition period to account for those, but I will take that on notice and we'll make sure we get you that information.</p> <p>Mr Cook: It would be normal practice for a transition period. It wouldn't just cut people off as part of that process.</p> <p>Ms Twyman: Absolutely. And there's continuity of care, as well, and the importance that families who depend on those centres are not disadvantaged. So, it would be normal practice, and I'll check those details for you.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Even so, the fact that a family day care provider cannot train whilst working, whereas someone in a different day care environment can, would be a disincentive. I think that would be fair to say?</p> <p>Ms Crane: Senator, we can obviously see your point around that. I think what we'd say on that is about a</p>	98	26/10/2023
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				<p>slight difference—that those who could do it in the centre are being supervised by others. Those who are doing it in a family day care centre are not. It is them by themselves. So there is an expectation from all jurisdictions that, given earlier conversations around the importance of child safety and of quality learning, those who are in charge of those children actually have the required qualifications. But we will certainly take on notice the transition period and we're happy to take on notice any consultation that was done.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: And any feedback from family day care providers about the burden that imposes on them?</p> <p>Ms Crane: I'm happy to provide that on notice.</p>		
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SQ23-000879	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	\$19 million CCCF grant round	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: How many applications were received for the \$19 million CCCF grant round?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: I do have that figure. It was 150.</p> <p>Mr Cook: That is for the latest one. I assume you mean the one that was announced just this week.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: The \$19 million CCCF grand round.</p> <p>Mr Cook: There were 150 applications.</p> <p>Ms Twyman: Yes, there were 150 applications.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: So what's the process and time frames from here?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: We'll communicate with the successful applicants directly and offer them funding agreements. We'll work through those individual providers to go into contract, and then they will commence their service operations as soon as all of the contracting arrangements are executed and dealt with legally. They'll be commencing operations in the very near future, we hope.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Could you provide on notice the SA2s that made it through the first thin market cut but then did not proceed beyond that?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: Yes, I can take that on notice.</p>	100	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000880	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Community Child Care Fund Restricted (CCCFR)	<p>.....</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: So you've used a third-party organisation to help you do the analysis. Would that help explain why the CCCFR is \$30 million compared to the CCCF regional, which is \$19 million? That's quite a significant difference. But, in the CCCF regional, you've had 150 applications, and in the CCCFR, out of the 12 organisations you've spoken to, did only 10 actually proceed to apply?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: They're different programs. The CCCFR programs are predominantly for regional and remote but First Nations communities. So the consultation process with the communities is quite different and quite tailored, in terms of how they are engaged and how they feel they can sustain working with this type of service in their communities. It's predominantly quite different from the regional round, which is not necessarily focused on First Nations solely.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Have you done an analysis of the two programs, of the \$19 million and the \$30 million— both very good programs—just to identify how much of that funding is actually landing on the ground to provide the service and how much might be being lost in administration and consultation and just through the process?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: I think it's probably early days. Certainly the \$18 million, as I was describing before, is a new concept. We've gone into the thin market specifically and focused. It's only just been announced, so I think we need to really monitor that and do some rigorous work around that. Certainly the CCCFR expansion has got some intel already built in, because it's an expansion of what is already the existing CCCFR, which already has 149 services within it, but the expansion is moving into areas</p>	100-101	26/10/2023
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				<p>for the first time that haven't been done before. So we will certainly be looking at that as well. At this stage, we have only the four that have been announced to work with, so we will be looking at that progressively.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: So it is something to monitor.</p> <p>Ms Twyman: Yes.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Can you, on notice, provide the 12 organisations you've spoken to for the CCCFR?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: I will take that on notice.</p>		
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SQ23-000881	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Women's workforce participation	<p>Senator DAVEY: Thank you. I want to just quickly cover off on workforce participation, because, with a lot of the cheaper child care policy and associated policies, Minister, the message from the government is that it's all about encouraging workforce participation. Minister, do you know what the current women's workforce participation rate is, according to the latest data?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I wouldn't have that available to me at this second, but I'm sure we'll be able to get someone to help us find that.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Would you be able to also look at what it was in, say, September—as in, today; June 2023, before your policies kicked in; but also compare it to June 2022? Would you be able to take that on notice for us?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'm happy to.</p>	101	26/10/2023
SQ23-000882	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Cheaper Child Care Policy - Extra full-time workers in the workforce	<p>Senator DAVEY: Minister Clare has said, on numerous occasions, that the cheaper child care policy would equal an extra 37,000 full-time workers in the workforce. He hasn't put a time frame on that. Is there an indication of what time frame he expects that to eventuate in?</p> <p>Mr Reed: That was modelling done by Treasury.</p> <p>Ms Crane: I believe that was done over the first year of implementation. We will confirm that on notice, but I believe it was Treasury modelling over the first full year of cheaper child care implementation.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: So by this time next year we will be able to evaluate the model compared to the reality?</p> <p>Mr Reed: As a part of the cheaper child care bill, a requirement to do an evaluation was inserted. It will be an independent evaluation, but one of the things the evaluation will look at is the impact on workforce participation.</p>	101	26/10/2023

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SQ23-000883	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	Modification of the Activity Test	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Can I just go quickly to the activity test? In the last round of estimates—and I admit I wasn't here for this—Mr Reed indicated that the department had done a cost analysis of the removal of the activity test.</p> <p>Mr Reed: That's right. I did, and when we went to formally respond to the question on notice we realised that the modelling was not actually on the complete removal of the activity test.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Sorry, the modelling was not—</p> <p>Mr Reed: The various costings we had done were not on removing the activity test in its entirety.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: So how would we phrase it—that you are modifying the activity test, or that you're reducing the activity test?</p> <p>Mr Reed: Modifying. We've costed changes to the activity test but not removing it completely.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Can you provide that information to the committee?</p> <p>Mr Reed: Sorry, which information?</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: The modelling that you've done.</p> <p>Mr Reed: We can take that on notice, yes. We have modelled various aspects of the activity test. I would just need to consider whether there are any exemptions that apply, because some of it may be cabinet material.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll take it on notice and see what we can provide to assist.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Okay. Has the government looked at further changes to the activity test beyond the recent changes for Indigenous Australians? Is that part of this work?</p> <p>Mr Reed: The department has analysed different modifications to the activity test and provided advice to</p>	101	26/10/2023
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				<p>government on some different scenarios. Senator BROCKMAN: Clearly, you've done modelling and you've provided advice to government on different models for the activity test— Mr Reed: That's right. Senator BROCKMAN: and you've taken on notice whether you can provide that information to us. Mr Reed: That's right.</p>		
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SQ23-000884	Minister	Slade Brockman	Minister for Education Removal of the Activity Test	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Minister, this is probably one for you. Are you aware whether the minister's office or the minister has been lobbied by organisations about the removal of the activity test?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'm not directly aware. I would have thought that was likely to have occurred but I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Have you been approached on the issue?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Not that I can recall, no, but I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Could you take it on notice and, if organisations have been lobbying for it, could we get some details about the organisations and the dates?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Sure.</p>	101-102	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000885	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Information on the 50 per cent pass rule	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, I want to kick off in relation to a number of pieces of information that we have requested on notice, including the 50 per cent pass rule survey. That was in the context of the Senate inquiry—I realise that—but I am just wondering if you could review the information that we have sought from you, because we haven't received various bits of information.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, Senator; I wasn't involved in the inquiry. I'm happy to take your question on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: They were questions on notice. There was the university survey in relation to the 50 per cent pass rule. That wasn't provided in response to questions on notice. There have also been a range of other matters, which I can document for you, but I just wanted to say how important it was that when the committee is running inquiries into bills before the parliament it's really important that we get full answers to questions on notice.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, Senator. As I said, I wasn't at that inquiry, but I am happy to look at those questions as you asked us to do.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: My information is that it was part of the package. This is the previous minister, Minister Tehan. As part of the Job-ready Graduates Package, there were 30,000 new university places, as part of a commitment for an additional 100,000 places over a decade, as well as 50,000 short course placements to give Australians more opportunities to upskill and retrain, and then there was the uncapping of Commonwealth supported places for Indigenous students from regional, rural and remote Australia. I</p>	108, 115 & 116	26/10/2023
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				<p>understand some in the sector are opposed to some elements of the Job-ready Graduates Package —</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Everyone, I think.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: but it is important when answering a question to provide all the information.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry; we were just clarifying. I'm on the same information you've got there at the moment, but I think the only slight difference is that the 50 short courses was a measure for two years, a separate financial measure to the Job-ready Graduates Package. My understanding is that was actually a separate measure. It wasn't part of the funding of the job-ready package. I know they're together, but we're just clarifying that the 50,000 short courses was a two-year program. It was a separate budget measure to Job-ready Graduates.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I understand it was a separate budget measure.</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's what we're explaining; that's right.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But it was part of the minister's Job-ready Graduates package of measures, which included a number of measures. So it wasn't just the changes in the course fees. The other thing that I want to clarify is from the most recent higher education bill inquiry into the Higher Education Support Amendment (Response to the Australian Universities Accord Interim Report) Bill 2023—I'm just looking for the question on notice—in relation to the 50 per cent pass rule. I want to clarify: of the 330-odd submissions that were received, could you tell me how many related to the 50 per cent pass rule and claimed that the rule was punitive? My information is—I'm just having a look—that it was around 16 submissions.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Are you referring to the consultation</p>		
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				<p>process for the accord? Senator HENDERSON: No, I'm talking about the Senate inquiry into the bill. Mr Rimmer: I'd have to take that on notice. I would add that the accord consultation process—which has had many different elements, including a discussion paper that was out for consultation and a whole range of roundtables and other consultative forums—is also very relevant to the feedback that has been received about the 50 per cent rule. Indeed, that is what animated the accord panel to make its recommendations for priority action. Senator HENDERSON: I am referring to Department of Education question No. IQ23-000050: Sixteen submissions to the Universities Accord Discussion Paper referenced the 50 per cent pass rate rule, many highlighting the disproportionate negative effect it was having on students from equity backgrounds. That figure is correct, isn't it? Mr Rimmer: You're right that a review of all the submissions to the Universities Accord discussion paper found that 19 per cent, or 58 submissions, discussed Job-ready Graduates. Of those, 16 submissions discussed the JRG course completion and 50 per cent pass requirements. Senator HENDERSON: Sorry; I'm talking about the 50 per cent pass rule. Mr Smith: Yes. Sixteen submissions discussed the course completion and 50 per cent pass requirements. Senator HENDERSON: Out of how many submissions? Mr Smith: There was a total of around 300.</p>		
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				Senator HENDERSON: Thank you. I just wanted to clarify that.....		
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SQ23-000886	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Correspondence regarding Universities Accord	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I wanted to go to the Universities Accord, Secretary. One of the pieces of information that we sought through the Senate inquiry into the latest higher education bill was the suggestions and submissions from the department and the minister's office to the accord panel. Professor O'Kane, in the evidence she gave, indicated that there had been quite a lot of correspondence and suggestions made. We did ask for a copy of that correspondence and didn't receive it. Are you able to provide any of that correspondence or indicate why it wasn't provided?</p> <p>Mr Cook: The correspondence between who, sorry?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Between the accord panel, the minister's office and the department. I appreciate you may well have heard the evidence, but Professor O'Kane indicated that there had been a range of suggestions and submissions from the department to the accord panel. We asked for a copy of that correspondence. There had also been suggestions to and from the minister's office—she used the word 'suggestions'—and we haven't received that correspondence. Is it possible to get that, please?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm very happy to look into that. I just want to make the point that the task force that supports the accord group is the department, so the work that those people do every single day is the department providing advice to the task force. That's their role. That wouldn't necessarily be documented. There would be conversations that the task force is having with the chair. It's literally the role of the people in my department, as it is with most task force—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I understand the department plays a supportive role, but there's also been a lot of—</p>	109	26/10/2023
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				<p>Mr Cook: Yes, which includes advice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: emphasis on the independent nature of the accord panel's consideration and recommendations. I understand there's an administrative support role that the department plays, which is ordinary, but I'm seeking—and I'm happy to do it on notice if you don't have it now—</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm happy to do that. I don't want to labour the point, because I know we have limited time, but Mr Rimmer, for example, is on the panel. Mr Rimmer gives advice to the panel every time that panel meets, because that's his role as a member of the panel, as it was when I was a member of a panel for Minister Pyne, for example, where my role was to provide advice to the panel as a departmental representative. I heard what you said about notice, and I'm happy to take that away and see what we can do to assist.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you very much. If you could provide those documents on notice, I would be grateful.....</p>		
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SQ23-000887	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Feedback on the job-ready graduates package paper	<p>Senator GROGAN: In February there was a job-ready graduates package paper put out alongside the universities accord paper. Is that right?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's right. There was an accompanying document that was put out with the discussion paper around job-ready graduates. I think Ms Chipperfield wrote it.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: I'm interested to know what sort of feedback you got to that.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I'm sorry, that predates my time in this role. Ms Chipperfield might be able to help us.</p> <p>Ms Chipperfield: That paper was produced to provide factual information on the implementation of the job-ready graduates program, going to the points that Ms Pearce has just raised, to really help clarify and give stakeholders an understanding of the full package at the same time they were developing their response to the discussion paper. That was produced on the department's website. The panel were deeply aware of the information that we were providing.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: Great. What was the feedback?</p> <p>Ms Chipperfield: Certainly through the feedback received from the discussion paper a range of different issues were raised in the context of the package ranging from the impact of the higher student contribution amounts to the changes to the base funding amounts. Sorry, I would have to go back through it. Obviously we need to provide that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: Okay.</p>	114	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000888	Department of Education	Karen Grogan	Consultation timeline of the Australian Universities Accord process	<p>Senator GROGAN: Going back to the consultation piece, I'm keen to know how much consultation has occurred on the uni accord process to date, because I hear good things.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Thank you, Senator. I think Ms Donegan will be able to answer that question.</p> <p>Ms Donegan: Consultation has been ongoing for the accord since November 2022. There have been a number of different consultation methods. We've had written submission processes. We've had a discussion paper and an interim report. The discussion paper received 313 submissions; the interim report, 322. At the beginning, there was also a survey process to gain public insight into what should be in the terms of reference. There were a number of roundtables on particular themes. For example, we had a student roundtable, First Nations roundtables and regional roundtables. We've had around 17 roundtables. Ten of those were before the interim report and seven afterwards. The panel's met with a number of peak bodies, individuals, government representatives, parliamentary officials, academics, students and experts—all up, over 300 stakeholders across over 150 meetings. There have also been two ministerial reference groups, with one more to come. The ministerial reference group has 35 members, including representation from students, peak bodies, the vocational education and training sector, industry, First Nations and other groups.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: That sounds comprehensive. Do you feel confident that it's had a comprehensive spread?</p> <p>Ms Donegan: I do.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: Good. How would you say that compares with the consultation on the Job-ready</p>	119-120	26/10/2023
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				<p>Graduates Package?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I think we might need a different officer at the table for that. I'm not sure we'll compare it in the way that you've suggested, but we might be able to give you some information about what happened on the Job-ready Graduates Package.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: Sure—whatever works for you.</p> <p>Ms Pearce: I had occasion to go back and look at history, just because of the 50 per cent rule. My understanding—I wasn't there, and no doubt someone will correct me if I'm wrong—is that, because of the nature of budget processes, there was no tangible consultation on Job-ready Graduates prior to the announcement on 19 June 2020 by the then Minister for Education, Dan Tehan. What did happen on that date is that they did release an initial discussion paper. I note that that didn't include the 50 per cent rule—as I said, this is because I was researching the background to the rule. The discussion paper wasn't a call for public submissions. It was actually used for a more targeted behind-closed-door type of consultation.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: There wasn't an open process to provide perspectives or views?</p> <p>Ms Pearce: Yes, there wasn't an open call for submissions. The department's submission on the bill to the Senate inquiry indicates that the minister met with every public university after the announcement of the package, so there obviously was something more direct going on. The former minister then released draft legislation on Tuesday 11 August 2020 for public consultation. That closed, I think, about five business days later, on Monday 17 August 2020.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: Did you say five days?</p>		
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				<p>Ms Pearce: Five business days, so seven if you include the weekend.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: That was looking for written submissions?</p> <p>Ms Pearce: Yes, and they did get submissions. They received about 3,700-odd submissions from organisations and individuals. Of the organisational ones, 55 were published. The majority related to the classification of social work and psychology, because there was quite a concern at the time about where that had fallen in the clusters. The Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee then considered the bill. That was after it had been introduced into the House of Representatives on 26 August and passed on 1 September, Then the Senate referred it to committee. This is part of the characterisation of consultation—in this case, by the parliament. Then there was a Senate inquiry that took place between 15 and 17 September. The committee report was published on 25 September. The bill passed the Senate with amendments on 8 October and then went back to the House for those amendments on the 19th. It had royal assent after that and commenced on 1 January 2021. That was the sort of process that the JRG Package seemed to follow.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: Quite different approaches. I wonder if I could, on notice, get that time line of the consultation. I've taken frantic notes.</p> <p>Ms Pearce: Certainly. You can work it out from the websites and from the Senate report, but I am happy to just provide what I've got here, which is my notes, to work out what happened.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: Thank you. That would be handy.</p>		
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SQ23-000889	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Processes in place to flag failing university students	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, over three years under the Albanese government, it's expected, when you take into account the indexation from last year, the 7.1 per cent increase in HECS debts this year and the forecast of perhaps around six per cent next year, that some three million Australians will be looking at an increase of 15 per cent or more in their HECS debts. This year alone, there is an average increase of HECS debts of \$1,700. Many Australians with this increased liability are now finding it more difficult even to borrow money to buy a home. The 50 per cent pass rule ensured that failing students would not continue to wrack up enormous student debt and leave university with no qualification and a large student debt. Can you provide—I'm happy for you to take it on notice—information on how each university will red-flag those students who are failing in order to ensure they don't continue to enrol in subjects, continue to fail those units of study and leave university with a massive debt and nothing to show for it? I'm not asking about the support-for-students policy; I'm asking about how you can show this committee that each university has the processes in place to ensure that those students will be adequately warned and prevented from incurring those debts by continuing to enrol in units of study with a track record of failure.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Thank you, Senator. I'll ask Mr Rimmer, because Mr Rimmer is dealing with this particular issue right now.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I must admit to being a little bit perplexed by the question, because—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, I can tell you the university sector is perplexed as well.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: If I could continue, the exact purpose of the support-for-students guidelines is to achieve exactly</p>	120-121	26/10/2023
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				<p>what you just spoke about.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Mr Rimmer, I understand what's in the guidelines. I'm sorry to cut in, but, with respect, I wasn't asking about the purpose. I'm asking: could you please satisfy the committee—I'm happy for you to take it on notice—that each university has the processes and IT systems in place to identify those failing students so they don't leave university having failed their degrees and wracked up debt with nothing to show for it, which, of course, is why the 50 per cent rule was put in place? My concern is that the universities—and they've flagged this—are worried about the implementation of the support-for-students policy.</p> <p>Ms Pearce: May I just add here: firstly, it is the point of the support-for-students policy that universities will have these things in place.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I understand. I'm not asking about the policy.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: You just mentioned the policy.</p> <p>Ms Pearce: To assist the universities, we had built in a flag for them, which is there, and this will remain, so they can tell when they have a student who has reached that point. But the universities also assure us that they have these things, so either—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: On notice, could you provide the committee with the details of each university's processes as to how—</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We don't have the details of each university's process, and—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So how do you know they're going to comply with the guidelines?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Can I just finish, Senator? The Senate passed legislation which requires each university to have a</p>		
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				<p>policy. It sets out, through guidelines, a number of specific things that the policy has to cover, which all go to the very issues that you're talking about, and allows the department to request information. None of this is in place now. None of those requirements are in place now.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But, hang on, we've just heard evidence that the universities are already doing this.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: None of the requirements on universities—universities tell us that they have many of their systems already in place.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm just going to cut to the chase here because I need to move on. I am asking for information about what each university is currently doing.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We don't hold that information.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But you've just given evidence that you have been given advice from the universities that they are currently implementing or have these processes in place. So, to the extent that you—</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Senator, this is precisely the point.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Mr Rimmer, can I just stop you there? I'm just asking if you could provide on notice the information you hold in relation to the universities processes that you are aware of as to how they red-flag failing students.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We will provide whatever we have on notice.</p>		
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SQ23-000890	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Follow up of SQ23-000383 - ATO payment system	<p>Senator HENDERSON: We're doing our very best to get through. In relation to the ATO, the request we made for communications emails between the minister's office, the department and any relevant stakeholder in relation to the antiquated ATO payment system: in that question, SQ23-000383, there was a complete failure to deliver that material, Secretary. Can I urgently ask you to provide that on notice. The ATO commissioner also didn't provide that, and he apologised to me last night. When we ask for information, we are very keen for the department to comply with the request, please—so if you're happy to take that on notice, to look at that question and to provide that information as well.....</p>	122	26/10/2023
SQ23-000891	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Student Visas - updated figures for living costs	<p>Senator FARUQI: As recently as May this year, the Department of Home Affairs student visa information page only recommends a budget of \$21,000 a year for living costs, and many universities still have this advice on their websites. This figure has not been updated since 2019, and we know how the cost of living has skyrocketed in the last few years. International students are saying they are being misled. I'm just wondering if the department is going to do anything and liaise with the Department of Home Affairs to update this figure because it is completely misleading. I know of students who are paying \$300 a week in rent just to pitch a tent in the middle of the living room.</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: That figure has been updated—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Has it? Where?</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: so I'd be very surprised if it was not on the Department of Home Affairs website.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: We couldn't find it, so it's buried somewhere.</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: The figure has increased by some 17 per</p>	124	26/10/2023

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				<p>cent, as I recall, to \$24,000.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: If you can tell us, on notice, where this figure is, so we can find it—</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: We can certainly, on notice, provide details of that Department of Home Affairs advice.</p>		
SQ23-000892	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Startup Year Program	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to turn to the Startup Year program. I understand there was an expression of interest for providers to submit applications. The process closed on 27 August. Could I have an update on how many expressions of interest you've received from interested parties and whether those applications have been assessed and any outcomes?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: There was an expression of interest process that opened on 14 August and closed on 27 August. Twelve universities were elected to participate in the pilot process. One of them has unfortunately had to drop out, so there are now 11 in the program.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: On notice could you provide details of those universities and what's on offer?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Of course.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: And whether the universities have promoted these courses to students and if there are any</p>	128	26/10/2023

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				<p>enrolments. Do you know if anyone is enrolled in the courses? Or is it too early? Mr Rimmer: They start next year. There is a process that has to be taken before any of that is possible, which is the update of the guidelines.</p>		
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SQ23-000893	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA University complains received on sexual harassment, sexual violence and sexual assault	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you update the committee on the number of complaints you've received in relation to sexual harassment, sexual violence and sexual assault and how those complaints have been dealt with, perhaps since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>Prof. Coaldrake: We had five in calendar 2022 and four this year so far, I think.</p> <p>Dr Russell: We can't and don't break them down in terms of sexual harassment and sexual assault, because those are not matters we have powers to investigate per se. In 2021-22, for all providers, there were six matters, and five of those related to universities. In 2022-23, there were six matters, one of which is still active, and five of those were from universities.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you just explain what that means when you say five were from universities?</p> <p>Dr Russell: TEQSA doesn't only regulate universities. It regulates other higher education providers, both private providers and other categories of providers. At least one of those matters was from an institute of higher education. They could also be from university colleges.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Okay. Are there any serial offenders amongst the universities that are not doing what they should be doing? Have you made any adverse findings in recent years? I think that was part of the problem, too.</p> <p>Dr Russell: I may take a moment to clarify TEQSA's response. Like with many Australian government agencies, the term 'investigate' has a very particular meaning in our act and can only be applied to matters that might result in court proceedings. Matters that relate to providers not meeting the standards around sexual harm, student safety and wellbeing cannot be</p>	130	26/10/2023
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				<p>investigated, and therefore we do not report them as investigations. However, we do undertake compliance activities around those. The focus of those compliance activities is, as the act envisages, to do whatever is necessary to move providers into compliance or stronger compliance. The type of activity that would be undertaken there is to request information and to work to understand where there might be failings in compliance with the internal policies, weaknesses in policies and practices, and inadequate services that might be available. Where providers are cooperative and motivated to make those changes, that ordinarily happens as part of the compliance activities and assessment.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I've got to cut to the chase because it's very late and we have limited time. Have you found against any university in relation to sexual assault and sexual harassment?</p> <p>Dr Russell: We don't make a finding. But we have not imposed a condition, because it has not been necessary—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's what I mean—an adverse finding or an adverse condition.</p> <p>Dr Russell: because the providers have cooperated in moving towards compliance.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So, rather than you making an adverse finding—I'll use that word—or imposing a condition on the way they operate, the universities have stepped up. Can you tell me which universities the complaints related to?</p> <p>Ms Nieuwenhuis: We don't have that in this document.</p> <p>Dr Russell: Yes, but I don't appear to have that to hand, so we can certainly tell you that on notice.</p>		
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SQ23-000894	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Support for Students Policy	<p>Senator HENDERSON: What's your view of the Support for Students Policy? How does that intersect with the obligations that you require under your act in relation to the way that you regulate universities? The universities have raised significant concerns about the Support for Students Policy because of the intersection of obligations, which in some respects duplicate the universities' obligations. Could you describe any concerns that you have in that regard?</p> <p>Dr Russell: We are aware that the work is still taking place. Work on guidance is still live, and the detail in the guidance will be what the higher education providers rely upon. To whatever extent TEQSA is involved in regulating to that, that will determine the expectations that we regulate.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: On notice, could you on provide any relevant materials on the guidance or an update so we can be fully informed?</p> <p>Dr Russell: This is not TEQSA's guidance; this is the guidance that the department is working on.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Do you mean the guidelines?</p> <p>Dr Russell: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: The guidelines. I thought the guidance was yours.</p> <p>Dr Russell: I beg your pardon. No.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: To the extent that you have assessed or analysed the guidelines and how they intersect with TEQSA, could you please provide that advice to the committee?</p> <p>Dr Russell: I would make two points now. The first would be that we are aware of and we're working closely with the department on trying to avoid duplication, particularly any burden or duplication that arises for</p>	130-131	26/10/2023
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				<p>providers around the requirements of the guidelines. Senator HENDERSON: On that, could you please provide the committee with any correspondence that you have raised or any briefs in relation to the duplication issues or the clash in the regulatory frameworks? CHAIR: Before you answer that—Senator, after the answer I'll have to go to Senator Faruqi. Senator HENDERSON: I understand. If you could provide that on notice, I would be happy. Dr Russell: Can I answer the second part of the question? Senator HENDERSON: Sure. Dr Russell: It's not a document in writing. The other point that has been raised with us about providers is their desire, in meeting the requirement around the 50 per cent pass rule and the progress of students, to make sure that they're clear about how those requirements sit alongside TEQSA's requirements for academic integrity. Senator HENDERSON: On notice, if you could provide any information that you hold in relation to that, I would be most grateful.</p>		
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SQ23-000895	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Mehreen Faruqi	TEQSA Swinburne University - International student policies	<p>Senator FARUQI: I'm not sure if you overheard the question that I was asking the department about Swinburne University, where international student policies have automatically stripped hundreds of international students of their scholarships and they only get, I think, 10 days under very strict conditions for appeal, whereas the national code of practice says 20 working days for students to access internal complaints and appeals processes. I'm wondering if you have taken any action on that.</p> <p>Prof. Coaldrake: We were not aware of the matter. We heard the discussion tonight. It's not been referred to us, but we listened to the discussion and we've been looking media up. You can be sure that a senior officer from our place will make an inquiry of Swinburne in the morning, because we're interested in compliance with the Higher Education Standards Framework and we are interested in compliance with the national code.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Absolutely. I think it is a big risk to international students, because, from what I know, they are being forced to go without money and are falling into debt with loan sharks and all of that. It's good to know that you will take action on that. I might ask you to update me on what actions have been taken.....</p>	131	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000896	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Centres of Excellence	<p>Senator HENDERSON: What proportion of funding do the centres of excellence receive, and how many of them are there?</p> <p>Ms Zielke: In the last round we funded 11, and they received around \$35 million each.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: \$35 million each?</p> <p>Ms Zielke: And they go for seven years. Happy to take the detail on notice and come back to you with that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could, please; I've got very limited time. But I want to raise some concerns about one of the centres of excellence, and I'd like on notice for you to provide a breakdown of the operation of each of the centres of excellence. They each obviously receive a very large amount of money. For instance, the centre for automated decision-making and society at RMIT University spent \$630,000 on travel in 2022 alone. Are you aware of these sorts of very significant expenses?</p> <p>Ms Zielke: The budgets submitted as part of their applications may acknowledge that. There is some breakdown in detail they provide us on an annual basis and regularly throughout the year. However, the details are often approved by the board of the centre, noting most of the centres will have funding, almost double, coming from partners to the government commitment. Again, I'm very happy to take that on notice and come back to you.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could, could we get the name of each research centre, the location, the opening date, the operating term, the primary purpose, the scope of their funding, the scope of their research, the milestone payments and the outcomes, just so we can understand in some detail? We are seeking to understand the operating costs on a per annum basis for</p>	132-133	26/10/2023
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				<p>each of the research centres. I've had a cursory look at some of the stuff on social media, and there are all sorts of conferences and people away jumping up and down on the beach who are part of these various centres of excellence. But I have to say: close to three-quarters of a million dollars in one year on travel alone—do you approve these costs?</p> <p>Ms Zielke: In the first instance we'd need to confirm whether they were actually something that was part of our grant, then subsequently consider whether it was eligible expenditure. Again, I'm happy to come back to you.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'd like you to do it for each of them, but for the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society I'm looking at the 2022 actual expenditure: salaries, \$4.9 million; scholarships, \$294,000; but travel, \$630,000; and events, another \$222,000. This is taxpayer money. Each of these centres of excellence is receiving \$35 million over seven years. I would raise serious concerns about the integrity of some of this spend. It just seems extraordinarily high, and where's the research output? Are you able to give us any information about the research output?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Every centre of excellence has to provide details on its outputs both at the midpoint and at the end. We'll have to look at the detail of that, so we've taken it on notice and will come back.</p>		
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SQ23-000897	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Follow up of SQ23-000751 - National Interest Test	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to quickly move to QoN SQ23-000751. The minister had requested additional information on 933 grant applications in relation to the national interest test. Can you advise what type of information the minister sought to support his decision-making, are you able to provide the committee with a list of the names of the grant applications and the subject matter for each grant the minister sought additional information on and did the minister seek additional information on any other grant submitted for his approval for matters outside of the national interest test?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We can take that on notice. I'll make the more general point that each successful grant includes a description of how that grant meets the national interest test, and that information is made publicly available.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Also can you please provide a detailed list of every grant provided, under which grant fund it was—</p> <p>Ms Zielke: Excuse me, Senator. I'm sorry, but the 933 grant applications are not things the minister asked for more information on. It relates to where I, in considering those national interest tests, asked for more information from universities in those applications. From memory, I think the minister over the past year has considered around 6,000 applications, and for 933 of those I have asked for feedback in relation to the national interest test.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes, so I think there was a review of 6,109 research decisions. Is that right? Ms Zielke: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So he sought additional information on approximately 15 per cent of decisions?</p>	133-134	26/10/2023
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				<p>Ms Zielke: No. Sorry, I obviously didn't explain myself very well. The minister hasn't sought additional information in relation to applications.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So you've sought that additional information?</p> <p>Ms Zielke: I sought that additional information prior to making recommendations.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could provide, on notice, the basis on which you sought the additional information, I would be most grateful.</p> <p>Ms Zielke: Certainly.</p>		
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SQ23-000898	Australian Research Council	Mehreen Faruqi	ARC Grant outcome announcements	<p>Senator FARUQI: At the last Senate estimates session, I asked about a few issues that you said you'd be reviewing, but I have not seen an update on them yet. You still don't announce grant outcomes by sending emails directly to the applicants. I'm wondering if you'll do this in the future.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We did say that we were considering the viability of that. The best evidence we can give you is that we can expect improvements in the way we interact and inform researchers next year.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Can you implement a publicity embargo of, say, two days between emailing outcomes and publicly announcing them? You took this question on notice, as well, but I didn't get an answer on it.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: That is still under consideration. There are a number of intersecting parts here, including how our system works. That's still under consideration. What I can say is: we've looked at ways to improve the way we do this. You can expect to see some improvements next year.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Is that early next year? What time next year?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We'll take that on notice.</p>	135-136	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000899	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Infringements for providers	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I'll finish this little block and then I'll come back on something else, if I can. What are the consequences if providers don't update their information accurately and promptly?</p> <p>Ms Crane: We can infringe them. So we would—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: You can infringe them.</p> <p>Ms Crane: We can.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Okay. I didn't hear.</p> <p>Ms Crane: We would, as part of any other compliance campaign that we do. If we found that a provider wasn't providing us the information they need—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm sorry to cut in, apologies, but I've got limited time. When you say infringe them, what's the scope of the fine, and how many infringements have you issued against providers?</p> <p>Ms Crane: I can provide that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Has any provider got an infringement?</p> <p>Ms Crane: I believe there have been some. I couldn't tell you over what period, but certainly we've had a number of campaigns on this, so I'm happy to provide those details.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you very much.</p>	106	26/10/2023
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SQ23-000900	Department of Education	Larissa Waters	Rollout of Australian Curriculum 9.0	<p>Recommendation 14 of the recent consent laws inquiry report states: The committee recommends that the Commonwealth government considers ongoing funding as a National Partnership Payment, to sufficiently resource those elements of Australian Curriculum 9.0 that provide for Respectful Relationships Education, including through a strategic investment in workforce development. Particular consideration should be given to addressing long-standing concerns about under-funding in public schools and the need to additionally resource specialist third-party providers.</p> <p>1. How is the Department supporting the rollout of Australian Curriculum 9.0 that provides for Respectful Relationships Education?</p> <p>2. What additional resourcing has been/will be allocated to specialist third-party providers?</p>	N/A	30/10/2023
SQ23-000901	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000447 - Ministerial briefs	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a. the previous turnaround requirement; and</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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				<p>date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>4. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p>		
SQ23-000902	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000448 - Hospitality in the Ministers' offices	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2023, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000903	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000449 - Staffing in the Ministers' offices	<p>1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since May 2023.</p> <p>2. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since May 2023.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000904	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000450 - Meetings with Ministers	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000905	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000451 - New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000906	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000452 - Paper	Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000907	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000453 - Committee and taskforce memberships	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since May 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 May 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	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000908	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000454 - 2022-23 October Budget savings	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? 2. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 3. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? 4. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? 5. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel 	N/A	2/11/2023
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				<p>e. Legal expenses</p> <p>6. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>c. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
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SQ23-000909	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000455 - Department functions/official receptions expenditure	<p>In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <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	2/11/2023
SQ23-000910	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000456 - 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 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000911	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000457 - Facility upgrades	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000912	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000458 - Travel costs	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency deputy head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000913	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000459 - Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000914	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000460 - Credit Cards	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2023/24 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value 	N/A	2/11/2023
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				<p>thereof?</p> <p>8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2023/243 to date?</p> <p>a. What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>11. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
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SQ23-000915	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000461 - Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters	<p>In relation to department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator. 	N/A	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000916	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000462 - 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	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000917	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000469 - Entities (including advisory boards and agencies)	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased or disbanded since May 2022? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000918	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000476 - Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000919	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000477 - ASL Allocation	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000920	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000479 - 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	2/11/2023
SQ23-000921	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000481 - Freedom of Information applications	How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? 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 i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000922	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Update to SQ23-000482 - Freedom of Information applications in the Minister's Office	How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2023 Please provide a breakdown including; a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and	N/A	2/11/2023

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				d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.		
SQ23-000923	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Portfolio estimates variations and movement of funds	<p>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</p> <p>2. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000924	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Flexible work arrangements	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</p> <p>b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</p> <p>c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</p> <p>d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</p> <p>e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p> <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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				3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.		
SQ23-000925	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network? If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>2. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000926	Minister	Jane Hume	Minister for Education Voice Referendum - Yes campaign	<p>It was reported in the The Age and Sydney Morning Herald by journalists Richard Baker, Nick McKenzie and Hannah Bowers that Mr Richard Pratt said that he had donated \$1 million to the Voice referendum's Yes campaign because he had fielded a request to do so from a senior adviser to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.</p> <p>1. Have any personal staff in the Office of the Minister solicited or encouraged donations to the YES Campaign prior to or during the course of the referendum campaign?</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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				2. Have any personal staff in the Office of the Minister solicited or encouraged donations to the YES Campaign on the basis of policy decisions?		
SQ23-000927	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000417 - Ministerial briefs	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a. the previous turnaround requirement; and</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>4. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000928	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000419 - Meetings with Ministers	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000929	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000930	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000420 - Paper	Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000931	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000424 - Committee and taskforce memberships	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since May 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 May 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	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000932	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000427 - 2022-23 October Budget savings	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? 2. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 3. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? 4. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? 5. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel 	N/A	2/11/2023
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				<p>e. Legal expenses</p> <p>6. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>c. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
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SQ23-000933	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000428 - Agency functions/official receptions expenditure	<p>In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <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	2/11/2023
SQ23-000934	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000802 - 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 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000935	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000432 - Facility upgrades	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000936	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000433 - Travel costs	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/deputy agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000937	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000415 - Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000938	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000434 - Credit Cards	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2023/24 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value 	N/A	2/11/2023
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				<p>thereof?</p> <p>8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2023/243 to date?</p> <p>a. What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>11. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
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SQ23-000939	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000435 - Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters	<p>In relation to department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator. 	N/A	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000940	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000436 - 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	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000941	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000438 - Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided. b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000942	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000439 - ASL Allocation	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL; b. Total number of FTE by APS classification; c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000943	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000440 - Market research provided to the Ministers' offices	<p>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.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000944	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Update to SQ23-000441 - Freedom of Information applications	<p>How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown of the number including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000945	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Flexible work arrangements	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week? b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week? c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week? d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week? e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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				<p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p>		
SQ23-000946	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network? If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>2. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000947	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000464 - Ministerial briefs	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a. the previous turnaround requirement; and</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>4. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000948	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000465 - Meetings with Ministers	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000949	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000950	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000466 - Paper	Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000951	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000467 - Committee and taskforce memberships	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since May 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 May 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	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000952	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000468 - 2022-23 October Budget savings	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? 2. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 3. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? 4. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? 5. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel 	N/A	2/11/2023
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				<p>e. Legal expenses</p> <p>6. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>c. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
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SQ23-000953	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000470 - Agency functions/official receptions expenditure	<p>In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <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	2/11/2023
SQ23-000954	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000804 - 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 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000955	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000471 - Facility upgrades	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000956	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000472 - Travel costs	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency deputy head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000957	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000463 - Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000958	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000473 - Credit Cards	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2023/24 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value 	N/A	2/11/2023
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				<p>thereof?</p> <p>8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2023/243 to date?</p> <p>a. What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>11. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
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SQ23-000959	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000474 - Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters	<p>In relation to department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator. 	N/A	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000960	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000475 - 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	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000961	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000478 - Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided. b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000962	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000480 - ASL Allocation	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL; b. Total number of FTE by APS classification; c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000963	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000483 - Market research provided to the Ministers' offices	<p>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.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000964	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Update to SQ23-000484 - Freedom of Information applications	<p>How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown of the number including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000965	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Flexible work arrangements	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week? b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week? c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week? d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week? e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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				<p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p>		
SQ23-000966	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Jane Hume	AITSL Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network? If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>2. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000967	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000418 - Ministerial briefs	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a. the previous turnaround requirement; and</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>4. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000968	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000421 - Meetings with Ministers	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000969	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000970	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000422 - Paper	Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000971	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000423 - Committee and taskforce memberships	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since May 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 May 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	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000972	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000425 - 2022-23 October Budget savings	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? 2. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 3. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? 4. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? 5. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel 	N/A	2/11/2023
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				<p>e. Legal expenses</p> <p>6. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>c. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
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SQ23-000973	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000426 - 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 2023/24 to date, please provide the following: a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000974	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000806 - Ministers or Assistant Minister functions/official receptions	In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following: a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000975	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000429 - Facility upgrades	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000976	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000430 - Travel costs	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency deputy head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000977	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000416 - Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000978	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000431 - Credit Cards	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2023/24 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value 	N/A	2/11/2023
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				<p>thereof?</p> <p>8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2023/243 to date?</p> <p>a. What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>11. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
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SQ23-000979	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000437 - Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters	<p>In relation to department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator. 	N/A	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000980	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000442 - 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	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000981	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000443 - Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided. b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000982	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000444 - ASL Allocation	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL; b. Total number of FTE by APS classification; c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000983	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000445 - Market research provided to the Ministers' offices	<p>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.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000984	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Update to SQ23-000446 - Freedom of Information applications	<p>How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown of the number including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000985	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Flexible work arrangements	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week? b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week? c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week? d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week? e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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				<p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p>		
SQ23-000986	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network? If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>2. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000987	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000485 - Ministerial briefs	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Department? Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a. the previous turnaround requirement; and</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>4. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft? Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000988	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000486 - Meetings with Ministers	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000989	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000990	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000487 - Paper	Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000991	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000488 - Committee and taskforce memberships	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since May 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 May 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	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000992	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000489 - 2022-23 October Budget savings	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? 2. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 3. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? 4. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? 5. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel 	N/A	2/11/2023
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				<p>e. Legal expenses</p> <p>6. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts.</p> <p>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>c. If so, why and was it approved?</p>		
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SQ23-000993	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000490 - 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 2023/24 to date, please provide the following: a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000994	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000808 - Ministers or Assistant Minister functions/official receptions	In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following: a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000995	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000491 - Facility upgrades	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-000996	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000492 - Travel costs	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency deputy head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-000997	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000493 - Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
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SQ23-000998	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000494 - Credit Cards	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2023/24 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value 	N/A	2/11/2023
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				<p>thereof?</p> <p>8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2023/243 to date?</p> <p>a. What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>11. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>		
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SQ23-000999	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000495 - Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters	<p>In relation to department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator. 	N/A	2/11/2023
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SQ23-001000	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000496 - 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	2/11/2023
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SQ23-001001	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000497 - Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided. b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-001002	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000498 - ASL Allocation	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL; b. Total number of FTE by APS classification; c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-001003	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000499 - Market research provided to the Ministers' offices	<p>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.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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SQ23-001004	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000500 - Freedom of Information applications	<p>How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown of the number including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-001005	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Flexible work arrangements	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week? b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week? c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week? d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week? e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p>	N/A	2/11/2023

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				<p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p>		
SQ23-001006	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA Artificial Intelligence	<p>1. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network? If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>2. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	N/A	2/11/2023
SQ23-001007	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Malcolm Roberts	ACARA Drag queen story time	What part of the Australian Curriculum does drag queen story time relate to or satisfy?	N/A	6/11/2023

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SQ23-001008	Department of Education	Hollie Hughes	Travel	<p>1. How much has the department spent on travel this financial year?</p> <p>2. Were they domestic or international?</p> <p>3. Could you please provide a list of the flights undertaken, including;</p> <p>a) Dates of travel</p> <p>b) Nights spent at each location,</p> <p>c) Reason for travel</p> <p>d) Cost of each trip</p> <p>e) Number of staff on each trip and APS level.</p>	N/A	6/11/2023
SQ23-001009	Minister	Sarah Henderson	Minister for Education Attendance at Garma festival	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Did any portfolio minister or member of staff of any portfolio minister travel to Garma, and, if so, what were those costs?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm not aware that they did, no.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Assistant Minister, are you aware?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I am not aware.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you take that on notice, please?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'm happy to.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So you're not aware whether Minister Clare attended?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I don't think he did. I can't recall him being there. But I'm happy to take it on notice, just for clarity.</p>	29	26/10/2023
SQ23-001010	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	DMI and CTC scores - median income of each non-government school	Please provide the median income of each non-government school used to calculate their DMI and CTC scores	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001011	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Transparency of approved authorities	<p>1. Can the department outline what, if any, reporting requirements the department places on approved authorities for Catholic and Independent schools in each state and territory to ensure that Commonwealth recurrent funding is distributed appropriately.</p> <p>2. What proactive measures does the Department take to audit the use of Commonwealth funds provided to Catholic and Independent approved authorities?</p> <p>3. What penalties or sanctions are available to the department in the event of breaches?</p> <p>4. In April this year there was a report in the Sydney Morning Herald that two NSW private schools (Al Amanah College and The Lakes Christian College) were required to repay state government funding after they were found to be operating for profit.</p> <p>a. Were they also required to repay their Commonwealth funding?</p> <p>b. If not, why not?</p> <p>c. What remedies are available for the Department in instances where schools are found to be operating for profit?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001012	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Teacher Action Plan: Priority Area 1 - Improving teacher supply	<p>1. In reference to - "Action 2 - 5000 bursaries worth up to \$40,000 each to help attract high quality candidates to the teaching profession."</p> <p>a. Has this initiative been fully implemented?</p> <p>b. If not, what actions so far have been taken to implement this initiative?</p> <p>2. In reference to - "Action 3 - 1,500 more places in the High Achieving Teachers (HAT) program to encourage more professionals to switch careers to teaching and trial new ways of attracting and keeping teachers in the schools that need them most."</p> <p>a. Have discussions with interested states and territories concluded?</p> <p>b. If not, what status are discussions?</p> <p>c. Have trials commenced?</p> <p>d. If not, what actions so far have been taken to implement this initiative?</p> <p>3. In reference to - "Action 5 - Prioritise conditional or provisional registration to increase the supply of teachers?"</p> <p>a. Have the Education Ministers finalised the statement of expectations and made this publicly available?</p> <p>b. If not, please provide us with a copy of the statement.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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				c. What is the status of work around the potential for a single national system of registration?		
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SQ23-001013	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Teacher Action Plan: Priority Area 2 - Strengthening initial teacher education	<p>1. In reference to - "Action 10 - Co-design actions to attract and retain more First Nations teachers."</p> <p>a. Will the new national First Nations teachers' strategy be ready to apply at the start of 2024?</p> <p>b. Is the strategy document publicly available? If not, please provide a copy of the document.</p> <p>c. If the strategy is not finalised, please provide an update on the status of the initiative.</p> <p>2. In reference to - "Action 11 - In recognition that the Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher Education (LANTITE) should not be a barrier, all teaching students will undergo initial assessment of their personal literacy and numeracy skills in their first year to ensure they can receive targeted support if they need it."</p> <p>a. Has there been a report back of the work undertaken in Victoria and the Northern Territory?</p> <p>b. If so, what were the results of the trials?</p> <p>c. If not, when is the report on the trials expected to be received?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001014	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Teacher Action Plan: Priority Area 3 - Keeping the teachers we have	<p>1. In reference to - "Action 13 - Build on work already underway to reduce unnecessary teacher workload, plan and collaborate and independently evaluate the effectiveness of these measures on teachers' time."</p> <p>a. Have Education Ministers reported back on actions they have taken and share progress by mid-2023 as proposed?</p> <p>b. Was evidence provided in relation to the recency and effectiveness of these actions?</p> <p>c. What evidence, if any, has been provided to the Department on the recency and effectiveness of these actions?</p> <p>2. In reference to - "Action 16 - Improve access to high-quality First Nations' cultural responsiveness resources to ensure teachers are better prepared to teach First Nations peoples in culturally safe ways."</p> <p>a. What actions have ITE providers and teacher employers taken to review existing cultural responsiveness resources by mid-2023? That the Department is aware of.</p> <p>b. Is the Department monitoring/tracking whether ITE providers and teacher employers are making available high quality resources in cultural competency which aligns to the national strategy for First Nations teachers?</p> <p>3. In reference to - "Action 20 - Each initiative in the next National School Reform Agreement will be subject to a</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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				<p>Teacher Workload Impact Assessment.”</p> <p>a. Have consultations on the workload impact assessment been concluded?</p> <p>b. Can the Department provide a list of who was consulted and on what date?</p> <p>c. Who is responsible for developing the workload impact assessment?</p> <p>d. Has the workload impact assessment been finalised? If yes, please provide us with a copy.</p> <p>4. In reference to - “Action 21 - Identify the most effective use of initial teacher education (ITE) students, teaching assistants and other non-teaching staff.”</p> <p>a. What advice has been provided by the Australian Education Senior Officials Committee to Education Ministers on the most effective use of teaching assistants and support staff?</p> <p>15. In reference to - “Action 22 - Identify and assess the effectiveness of initiatives to support teacher retention.”</p> <p>a. What advice has been provided by the Australian Education Senior Officials Committee to Education Ministers on initial initiatives that may support teacher retention by?</p>		
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SQ23-001015	Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACECQA Starting Blocks website information	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I might move to the Starting Blocks website. The ACCC September interim report has raised concerns about the website, saying that families find it difficult to use and that many are not relying on the rating system. There are concerns that the centres on the website are years behind in terms of their ratings. Can you advise how many times the Starting Blocks website has been accessed in the last two years?</p> <p>Ms Sinclair: We know that we've got a growing number of visits to the site. The site was actually established back in 2015, because one of our functions under the national law is to help parents and communities to understand quality. When we set up the Starting Blocks website, it was very much to help young parents and parents who had never used a service before to understand the different types of services—such as family day care, long day care, kindergartens, preschools and outside school hours care—and also to explain how the National Quality Standard works. With regard to the ACCC report that you mentioned, we've written to them. They made an error: the information about the assessment and rating process, and what a service is rated as, is actually updated daily. As soon as a regulatory authority goes in to do an assessment and rating, that's immediately put onto Starting Blocks. The information is current, and we have written to the ACCC pointing out that that was an error. I guess the—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide us with a copy of that letter on notice?</p> <p>CHAIR: Ms Sinclair, you were nodding your head. I took that as you saying you will be able to provide a copy to the committee. Is that correct? Thank you.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Going back to my question, do you</p>	104-105	26/10/2023
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				<p>have the data as to how many times the Starting Blocks website has been accessed since, say, 1 July 2022? Ms Sinclair: 1 July 2022? Senator HENDERSON: Since then. Ms Sinclair: Yes, I can provide that, of course.</p>		
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SQ23-001016	Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACECQA Total-source revenue received from fee payments	<p>Senator HENDERSON: How much total-source revenue did ACECQA receive from fee payments in the last financial year?</p> <p>Ms Sinclair: The only fees that we charge are fees for second-tier reviews. That's where a service who are not happy with their rating can seek an independent review of the assessment process. The fee that we collect partially pays for the expert panel that we have to set up, because the expert panel is not made up of ACECQA employees; it's made up of experts from the sector who come in, and they will go through the evidence before the regulatory authority and they will make a determination about whether to uphold the rating or to overturn it.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Do you have a total revenue from those fees charged?</p> <p>Ms Sinclair: I can get that for you, but it of course depends on how many second-tier reviews we get every year. So it fluctuates.</p>	107	26/10/2023
SQ23-001017	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Penny Allman-Payne	ACARA Parental withdrawal from NAPLAN	Can ACARA provide the rate of parental withdrawal from NAPLAN for each of the previous five years, or since data has been collected, whichever is earliest.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001018	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Penny Allman-Payne	ACARA Student Statistics	Please provide the number of students in each Socio-Educational Advantage (SEA) quartile (1 -4) by school sector (Government, Catholic & Independent) for Australia and each state/territory for the years 2020 to 2022 or 2023 if it is available	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001019	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Penny Allman-Payne	ACARA Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Advice provided to Education Ministers	<p>In relation to Action 19 - Examine how to support implementation of the national curriculum of the Teacher Workforce Action Plan</p> <p>a. What advice has been provided to Education Ministers in relation to ways to develop and make available to teachers optional support to assist the implementation of the national curriculum?</p> <p>b. What advice was provided to Education Ministers in relation to the frequency of the review Australian Curriculum Review cycle to reduce workload for schools?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001020	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Penny Allman-Payne	ACARA DMI and CTC scores - median income of each non-government school	Please provide the median income of each non-government school used to calculate their DMI and CTC scores	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001021	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Penny Allman-Payne	ACARA Information on all individual government and non-government schools	<p>Using the most recent full year of available data, can ACARA please provide an Excel spreadsheet listing every individual government and non-government school in Australia with the following information per school provided in separate columns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACARA ID ● AGE ID ● school sector ● school type ● suburb ● state ● postcode ● school URL ● governing body ● non-government school approved authority ● year range ● location (e.g. major city, inner regional, etc) ● statistical area 1 ● statistical area 2 ● statistical area 2 name ● statistical area 3 ● statistical area 3 name ● statistical area 4 ● statistical area 4 name ● teaching staff ● full-time equivalent teaching staff ● non-teaching staff ● full-time equivalent non-teaching staff ● school ICSEA value ● school ICSEA percentile ● distribution of Socio-Educational Advantage (SEA) ● total enrolments ● full-time equivalent enrolments 	N/A	8/11/2023
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● total enrolments - boys ● total enrolments - girls ● total enrolments - non-binary ● total enrolments - Indigenous students ● language background other than English ● student attendance rate - all students ● student attendance rate - Indigenous students ● student attendance rate - non-Indigenous students ● student attendance level - all students ● student attendance level - Indigenous students ● student attendance level - non-Indigenous students ● Australian government recurrent funding - total ● Australian government recurrent funding - per student ● state / territory government recurring funding - total ● state / territory government recurring funding - per student ● fees, charges and parent contributions - total ● fees, charges and parent contributions - per student ● income from other private sources - total ● income from other private sources - per student ● total gross income - total ● total gross income - per student ● deductions - total ● deductions - per student ● total net recurrent income - total ● total net recurrent income - per student ● Australian government capital expenditure - total ● Australian government capital expenditure - per student ● state / territory government capital expenditure - total ● state / territory government capital expenditure - per student ● new school loans - total 		
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none">● new school loans - per student● income allocated to current capital projects - total● income allocated to current capital projects - per student● other capital expenditure - total● other capital expenditure - per student● total capital expenditure - total● total capital expenditure - per student● senior secondary certificates awarded● completed senior secondary school● post school destination - students at university● post school destination - students at TAFE/vocational● post school destination - students in employment <p>Noting that most of the above data is published on the My School website on a school by school basis, rather than compiled.</p>		
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SQ23-001022	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Penny Allman-Payne	AITSL Teacher Action Plan: Priority Area 3 - Keeping the teachers we have	<p>1. In reference to - “Action 14 - Develop national guidelines to support early career teachers and new school leaders including mentoring and induction.”</p> <p>a. Were the draft guidelines released for consultation by mid-2023?</p> <p>b. When are the guidelines expected to be finalised?</p> <p>2. In reference to - “Action 15 - Develop and support career pathways which value teachers reflect transitions in the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers”</p> <p>a. What work has AITSL undertaken in relation to this action to date?</p> <p>3. In reference to - “Action 17 - Streamline Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers (HALT) processes to make it less burdensome for teachers, set a target to increase the numbers of HALTs, and incorporate recognition of equivalent qualification and certification processes.”</p> <p>a. What advice did AITSL provide to Education Ministers in early 2023?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001023	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Penny Allman-Payne	AITSL Teacher Action Plan: Priority Area 5 - Better understanding future teacher workforce needs	<p>1. In reference to - “Action 25 - Develop and publish nationally consistent teacher workforce projections based on consistent standards, disaggregated at a regional level and by subject specialisation, to enable a national understanding of teacher demand.”</p> <p>a. Is AITSL on track to prepare the first set of aggregated demand data by the end of 2023?</p> <p>2. In reference to - “Action 26 - Develop and publish nationally consistent initial teacher education (ITE) graduate supply data, including disaggregated by subject specialisation and participation in ITE at the regional level, to enable a national understanding of teacher supply.”</p> <p>a. Is AITSL on track to publish the supply data by the end of 2023?</p> <p>3. In reference to - “Action 27 - Develop and publish data about teacher wellbeing and career intentions.”</p> <p>a. What additional survey questions were developed for the 2023 Australian Teacher Workforce Data (ATWD) survey?</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of the finalised 2023 ATWD survey?</p> <p>c. What steps are AITSL taking or intending to take to increase the teacher response rate to the ATWD Teacher Survey?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001024	Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACECQA Funding arrangements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much did ACECQA receive in funding from the Albanese Government in the 2022-23 Budget, and the 2023-24 Budget? 2. How many staff does ACECQA currently employ? 3. How much total source revenue did ACECQA receive from fee payments in 2022-23? 4. How much does it cost for someone to register as a service provider with ACECQA? 5. What other fees does ACECQA collect and what are those for? 6. What does ACECQA do with those fees, do they use that money as cost recovery for ACECQA? 7. Can they increase fees for providers, or is that something the Education Ministers are involved with? 8. How often are those fees increased? 9. When did the Education Ministers set the new Letter of Expectation? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide a copy of ACECQA's new Letter of Expectation. 	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001025	Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACECQA Workplace	<p>1. How many office locations does ACECQA have and where?</p> <p>2. What is the annual rent paid on each property?</p> <p>3. How many staff can be accommodated at each office location?</p> <p>4. When does the current lease term expire?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001026	Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACECQA Staff working arrangements	<p>How many staff in your organisation continue to work from home?</p> <p>a. please specify the number of staff with work from home arrangements</p> <p>b. please specify the number of staff who work from home one day per week, two days per week, three days per week, four days per week or 5 days per week</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001027	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Social Media	<p>1. Please provide a copy of the Department of Education's Social Media Policy for employees.</p> <p>2. How does the Department of Education monitor compliance by employees with this policy?</p> <p>3. How many employees have been found to have breached the Department of Education Social Media Policy for employees in the 2022-23 financial year and the 2023-24 financial year to date?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001028	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	PGPA Breaches	<p>1. How many breaches of the PGPA Act have there been since 1 July 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please detail the nature of each breach • on what date the breach was detected • on what date the breach occurred • the monetary value of each breach • the action taken to address each breach <p>2. Have there been any breaches to the PGPA Act since 1 July 2023? If yes, please provide details of each breach and the action taken by the Department.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001029	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Functions and official receptions	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department of Education in financial year 2023-24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023-24 to date, can the following please be provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including 	N/A	8/11/2023

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				brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.		
SQ23-001030	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Contracts	Please confirm the total number of new contracts (ongoing and terminating) and the total cost of each contract issued on AusTender from 1 July 2023. Please provide the reference number for each contract entered into.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001031	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Workplace fit outs and upgrades	Were the facilities of any of the Department of Education's premises upgraded in the financial year 2023-24 to date, for example office refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, purchase of new fridges, coffee machines or other kitchen equipment. - If so, please provide a detailed description of the	N/A	8/11/2023

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				relevant upgrades together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please also provide photographs of any upgrades.		
SQ23-001032	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Travel expenditure	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of Deputy Secretary travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>3. Please provide an itemised list of SES Band 2 travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>4. Please provide an itemised list of SES Band 1 travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>5. Please provide an itemised list of Executive Level 1 - Executive Level 2 officer travel by APS classification band for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>6. Please provide an itemised list of APS1 - APS6 officer travel by APS classification band for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001033	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Bullying, harrassment and discrimination	<p>In the financial year 2023-24 to date, how many allegations of bullying, harrassment or discrimination have been made against any SES, APS, non-ongoing staff, labour hire staff, contractors or consultants engaged by the Department of Education?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many claims of bullying, harrasment or discrimination were formally or informally investigated? - How many allegations were investigated and what further action or investigation was undertaken? - How many cases resulted in disciplinary action? Please provide details of any such disciplinary action. 	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001034	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Fair Work Commission	<p>In the 2023-24 financial year to date, how many referals have been made by either the Department of Education or, an employee of the Department of Education, to the Fair Work Commission?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001035	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Contracts	<p>Please confirm the total number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of each of these contracts issued on AusTender since 1 June 2022 which relate to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External labour hire - Consultancy - Advertsing campaigns - Travel - Legal expenses. <p>Please provide the reference number for each contract.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001036	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Contractors and non-ongoing staff	<p>1. Please provide the number of contractors employed across the Department by level and identify the function of duties performed ie. APS6 Data analyst.</p> <p>2. Please identify the term of each individuals contract as a whole, including renewal periods. If a contractor is engaged for a period of 6 months, however this has been extended twice, please indicate the total length of the term the individual has been engaged.</p> <p>3. Please provide details of the number of non-ongoing staff employed across the department by level and identify the function of duties performed, ie. ICT programmer</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001039	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Freedom of Information Requests	<p>Since 1 July 2023, how many Freedom of Information applications has the Department of Education received? Please provide a breakdown of the applications as follows:</p> <p>a) the number of applications being processed b) the number of applications granted c) the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 d) the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 e) the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 f) the number of applications under internal review g) the number of applications reviewed by the OAIC h) the number of applications currently being reviewed by the OAIC i) the number of applications where the original decision</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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				has been overturned by either an internal or external review mechanism		
SQ23-001040	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Media Monitoring, advertising campaigns and information campaigns	<p>1. Please provide the total amount spent on media monitoring services for the 2023-24 Financial year to date.</p> <p>2. Please provide the expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for the Financial Year to date 2023-24. Please include the total cost of each element undertaken and the purpose of each spend.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001041	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Reviews	<p>Please provide the details of any reviews being conducted by the Department of Education and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name of the review - the name of the reviewer or organisation undertaking the review - the date the review commenced - the date the review is due to be completed - the purpose of the review; and - the cost of the review. 	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001042	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Board Appointments	<p>Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</p> <p>a. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio</p> <p>b. How many members of each Board identify as Indigenous</p> <p>c. How many members of each Board identify as a person with disability</p> <p>d. Please detail any board appointments made for the financial year 2023-24 to date.</p> <p>e. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid for the financial year 2023-24 to date</p> <p>f. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date.</p> <p>g. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001043	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Legal Services	Please provide the total legal costs for the financial year 2023-24 to date.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001044	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Gifts and Hospitality	<p>1. Please provide a copy of the Department of Education Gifts and Hospitality Policy.</p> <p>a. Have any changes been made to the policy since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>2. Please provide a copy of the register of declaration of gifts and hospitality from 1 July 2023 to date.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001045	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Briefings to Members or Senators	<p>Has the department provided briefings to any Members or Senators? If yes, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issues/subject matter - Topics discussed - Attendees at meeting - Date of meeting 	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001046	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Reconciliation Action Plan	<p>1. Has the Department finalised its Reconciliation Action Plan? If so, please provide the date the plan was finalised.</p> <p>2. Please provide the date the plan was submitted to the Minister's Office and the date the Minister returned it to the Department. - Please identify if the Minister made any changes to the plan.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001047	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Budget measures	<p>1. Please identify all Budget measures currently being delivered by the Department.</p> <p>2. Please identify the financial allocation by financial year for each measure being delivered.</p> <p>Please provide a list of all budget measures and programs being delivered by the department at present, identifying the financial profile of each over the forward estimates. - Against each, please identify if the original delivery timeframe has been changed and if the funding profile has been adjusted (including what adjustments have been made).</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001048	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Stationery	Since 1 July 2023 how much has been spent on ministerial stationery requirements? Please itemise this spend.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001049	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Staff working arrangements	<p>How many staff in your organisation continue to work from home?</p> <p>a. please specify the number of staff with work from home arrangements</p> <p>b. please specify the number of staff who work from home one day per week, two days per week, three days per week, four days per week or five days per week.</p>		8/11/2023

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SQ23-001050	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Ministerial Leave	Please provide all leave periods for the portfolio Ministers since 1 July 2023. Please provide the acting Minister arrangements for each period of leave.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001051	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Bodies and entities	<p>The Department's answer to SQ23-000469 referred to the Australian Government Organisations Register to obtain information, however during this hearing you advised this register is not maintained by the Department and could not confirm the accuracy of the information in the register.</p> <p>1. Please provide a list of all new entities, advisory boards, bodies and agencies created within the portfolio since May 2022.</p> <p>2. The Australian Government Organisations Register you referred to in SQ23-000469 lists the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Advisory Group. When did this group last meet? Please provide a list of all meeting dates since 1 July 2022.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of not just the name of each group, board or entity established since May 2022. Please also provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the terms of reference for each - the membership list for each, including the term of the appointment, who approved the appointment – the Department, the Minister or Cabinet; - the fees paid to members or stipends including the amount paid to each member to date - the number of times they are scheduled to meet each year as well as how many times they have met to date - the total costs for each event the group has held to date, including meetings, seminars, events and 	N/A	8/11/2023

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				conferences. 4. Please provide the cost details for each event separately.		
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SQ23-001052	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Functions/official events and receptions	<p>In relation to the previous QoN SQ23-000455 please provide further information on the following events/functions:</p> <p>1. The Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership Meeting in Melbourne on 15 and 16 March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The total cost of this meeting was \$22,725.46. Can you please advise how many people attended the meeting. - Did the Minister or any of the Minister’s staff attend the event? - Please provide a list of the attendees - There is a cost within this for \$5,100 for a welcome to country and cultural activity. Can you please provide details of this expense including exactly what the activity was. Can you please break the cost elements down for the welcome to country and the activity. - Why was it deemed necessary that a dinner be catered for this meeting? Was it a working dinner? <p>2. The National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many people attended this meeting? Please provide a list of attendees. - Was work undertaken at this meeting or was it a social event? - If work was undertaken, was a private room hired as part of the overall cost? - Please provide a copy of the agenda and any meeting papers for this meeting. - Please provide a breakdown of the costs for this event, including for any alcohol. <p>3. The Early Childhood and Youth Group Planning Event</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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				<p>held on 7 and 8 June 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many people attended this event in person? You provided a figure of approximately 350 attendees in person and online. How many attended in person? - Can you please provide a breakdown of the \$94,580.90 costs you provided that detail how much was spent on the venue hire, how much for audio visual equipment hire and how much for catering – by line item? - What work was undertaken at this planning event? Can you please provide a copy of the agenda for this event? <p>4. The Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership meeting was held on 28 and 29 June 2023 in Alice Springs. The cost for this event was a few \$23,926.75.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many people attended this event? Can you please provide a list of the attendees. - What was the purpose of this event? - Can you please provide a copy of the agenda and the meeting outcomes. - This was held at the Red Mulga Event Centre and the dinner was held at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel. How many people attended the dinner? 		
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SQ23-001053	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Redundancies	How many redundancies did the Department offer in the 2022-23 financial year and this year to date? a. how many of these offers were accepted? b. what was the total cost for these redundancies?	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001054	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Workplace	1. How many office locations does the Department of Education have and where? 2. What is the annual rent paid on each property? 3. How many staff can be accommodated at each office location? 4. When does the current lease term for each property expire?	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001055	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Performance Measures and methodology changes	1. Why has the Government changed the calculation for Performance Measure PM018 from measuring the total amount of the outstanding HELP debt to be repaid to only providing this calculation on the new debt incurred each year? 2. Who made the recommendation to change the full transparency of the total debt to be repaid? 3. There are a number of performance measure methodologies that have been changed for the Department's metrics. - Were these changes suggested by the Department and approved by the Minister? - Why have the metrics been stretched and/or weakened to provide lesser transparency and accountability of targets?	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001056	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Families that received debt from income reconciliation and the activity test	During estimates, Mr Reed said, "For 2021-22, which was the last full year of reconciliation, there were 254,000 families that received a debt after reconciliation". Please provide a breakdown of all the families that received a debt based on household income, how many families out of the 254,000 are on low incomes, how many parents/carers are in casual jobs, how many parents/carers are single parents/carers, and how many are both on low incomes and in casual jobs.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001057	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Hourly fee cap	What percentage of 9, 10, 11 and 12 hour sessions now exceed the fee cap?	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001058	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Activity test - subsidised hours	The activity test means subsidised hours max out at 100 hrs/fortnight. How many services currently have approval to fix their hours above 10 hours/day, such as services that have their hours fixed at 11 or 12 hours per day?	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001059	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Child Care Subsidy	<p>1. The ACCC provides a break down of average daily and hourly fees by age of child and the percentage of services charging above the fee cap for December 2022 (Table 4.3 in ACCC report). Could you provide the same data for the most recent quarter that is available?</p> <p>2. What would it cost to give all families on low incomes access to 40 hours a fortnight of CCS for their children?</p> <p>3. If the 9 hour fee exceeds the hourly fee cap, how effective then is the CCS 'safety net' for preschool children who only get 18 hours of CCS per week, covering 2 nine hour days? Does the Department monitor how effective this safety net has been, and how it can be improved?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001060	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	2021 National Workforce Census - Contract Staff	<p>Can you provide a breakdown from the 2021 National Workforce Census of the following: The % of contract staff paid at award, 0-10% above award, 10-15% above and 25% and above for paid contract staff:</p> <p>a. Bachelor and above b. Diploma and c. Certificate III</p> <p>Please provide the above data broken down by privately owned, government owned and not for profit.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001061	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Families receiving Child Care Subsidy	<p>1. Please provide the breakdown of families receiving Child Care Subsidy by Federal Electorate similar to the table provided in response SQ17-001290.</p> <p>2. Could you please provide a breakdown of families accessing Child Care Subsidy by the following CCS bands: 90%, 85-90%, 80-85%, 75-80%, 70-75%, 65-70%, 60-65%, 50-60%, 40-50%, 30-40%, 20-30%, 10-20%, 0-10%.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001062	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Families receiving Long Day Care, Family Day Care and Outside of School Hours Care	<p>Please provide figures on families receiving Long Day Care, Family Day Care and Outside of School Hours Care by activity test band (24 hours, 36 hours, 72 hours, 100 hours) as provided in SQ18-000833.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001063	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	NPAUAECEC - 2021 and 2022	<p>1. How much funding was withheld from which states for not meeting key performance indicators under the NPAUAECEC in 2021 and 2022?</p> <p>2. Which states failed to meet the performance criteria on the NPAUAECEC in 2021 and 2022 and by how much?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001064	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Update to SQ20-000024 - Approved child care	Referring to SQ20-000024, please update tables 1 and 2 with the latest data and estimates over the forward estimates period.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001065	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Study and completion of early childhood courses	<p>1. How many students have commenced and completed early childhood initial teacher education courses in 2022?</p> <p>2. How many students have commenced and completed Certificate III and Diploma courses in early childhood in 2022?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001066	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Inclusion Support Program	<p>1. Has the Govt received the commissioned report from NOUS on the review of the Inclusion Support Program? When will it be released?</p> <p>2. The funded rate under ISP for an educator is \$23an hour. How does that compare with the actual cost of employing an educator?</p> <p>3. Please provide any data the Department has on how much providers are required to cross subsidise inclusion support educators?</p> <p>4. Some estimates say that providers are having to allocate between 0.6% - 1% of their fee revenue to cross subsidise inclusion support workers. Is the Department aware of these issues and what work is currently being undertaken by the Department to have appropriate funding for ISP?</p> <p>5. Please provide a detailed breakdown of how the Inclusion Support program funding is allocated – for example, how much is spent on inclusion agencies, Inclusion Development Fund Management, on educator wage subsidies and other payments to services?</p> <p>6. The Govt regularly has to top up the funding bucket for ISP. Can you provide the budgeted amount and actuals for the last three years. Do you have a forecast on projected spending for the next three years?</p> <p>7. Does the Department collect data on demand for inclusion support alongside the well documented increase in children with additional needs? If yes, please</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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				<p>provide the trend over the last five years. If not, then why does the Department not collect this data and how is ISP funding determined if such data is not available?</p> <p>8. Has the Department received reports of centres refusing to take children with additional needs? What are the funding reasons the centres have given for this?</p>		
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SQ23-001067	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Private for profit services	<p>1. How many of the total private for profit services are currently rated as Working Towards NQS?</p> <p>2. How many of the total private for profit services are currently rated as Meeting NQS?</p> <p>3. How many of the total private for profit services are currently rated as Exceeding NQS?</p> <p>4. How many of the total private for profit services are currently rated as needing significant improvement on NQS?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001068	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Connecting families with early learning services	<p>The use of community-based linkers that connect families with early learning services are essential to supporting universality of access to quality early learning. What work has the Department undertaken recently to support services like this at a community level?</p> <p>a. Does the Department and government have any plans to expand support for services that connect families with early learning services at a community level?</p> <p>b. Does the Department and government have any programs or plans to support First Nations and culturally and linguistically diverse communities to connect with early learning services at a community level?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001069	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Integrated child and family centres	<p>1. Are there any current plans to expand support for integrated child and family centres who support children and their families experiencing vulnerability?</p> <p>2. Has the Department done any work to support the provision of funding for a trial of five integrated child and family centres via a one-off establishment grant followed by ongoing block funding as recommended by the Deloitte Access Economics report exploring need and funding models for a national approach to integrated child and family centres, commissioned by Social Ventures Australia?</p> <p>a. This modelling indicated that the cost of establishing and delivering a hub over 10 years ranges from \$7.5 million for a small hub in a metropolitan area to \$23 million for a large hub in a regional area. This cost could be significantly reduced by utilising existing early education facilities or integrating hubs into plans for future public preschools. Has the Department done any work regarding this use of existing facilities?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001070	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Early Childhood Education Centres	<p>1. How many children are enrolled/not enrolled with Early Childhood Education Centres?</p> <p>2. How many children are attending more than: 5 hours per week, 15 hours per week, 30 hours per week?</p> <p>3. How is attendance defined for children and families accessing Early Childhood Education Centres? How many children and families are meeting attendance goals, and from what age groups?</p> <p>4. For each of the above questions, what is the</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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				breakdown in terms of demographic characteristics? (e.g., % of children from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background (CALD), % of children with a disability, children from low income families, children from families with other indicators of disadvantage, such as remoteness, etc.)		
SQ23-001071	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Stakeholder reference group on gendered violence	<p>The Department of Education has convened a stakeholders reference group to provide advice to the working group reporting to the Minister for Education on the actions needed to implement the Accord Priority Action Five from the Universities Accord Interim Report, which was: Work with State and Territory governments and universities to improve university governance through National Cabinet.</p> <p>This measure will help improve the capacity of universities to address systemic issues including wage theft, workforce management and student safety. Patty Kinnersley, the CEO of national violence prevention agency, Our Watch, has been announced as part of the reference group.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who are the other individual members of the stakeholders reference group? 2. Are other parties who are not members of the stakeholders reference group permitted to join the meetings? 3. Are there experts in sexual assault response on the reference group? 	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001072	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	University finances and investment portfolios	<p>1. Can the Department of Education provide figures on how much money Australian public sector universities held in cash or cash equivalents in their investment portfolios at the end of the last financial year?</p> <p>2. If the Department is unable to provide these figures, is it not part of the Department's fiscal responsibility to be aware of these figures? What actions if any will the Department be taking to find this information?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001073	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Higher education and private sector consultants	<p>1. Does the Department of Education know how much money was spent by Australian public universities in the last financial year on private sector consultants and other private, professional service providers?</p> <p>a. If yes, please provide this information. b. Has the amount grown significantly over the last decade? c. If the Department does not know this, does it plan to do anything to find out?</p> <p>2. Provide any evidence that public universities are i) receiving value for money from hiring external consultants, and ii) receiving advice from external consultants that is consistent with the academic/expert consensus regarding the relevant issues?</p> <p>a. If the Department does not possess this evidence, does it plan to do anything to obtain this evidence?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001074	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	University governing bodies dominated by industry people, including big consulting	<p>1. Can the Department provide figures on what level of representation (numbers and overall percentages) of business and industry representatives are on governing bodies of Australia's public universities? a. If no, what actions will the Department of Education be taking to find out and when?</p> <p>2. Can the Department provide figures on what level of democratic representation (numbers and overall percentages) of staff and students on their governing bodies of Australia's public universities? a. If no, what actions will the Department of Education be taking to find out and when?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001075	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	International student levy	Provide a list of all students and student groups consulted in relation to the levy on international students noted in the Universities Accord interim report, including the dates, types and duration of that consultation.	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001076	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	International student mental health	<p>Refer to EEC Committee estimates hansard, 26 October 2023 (pp.118-119)</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Okay. In February 2023, research published—and I think that inquiry happened in 2021—by the University of Melbourne and Orygen, which is a mental health organisation for youth, found that evidence based programs catering to international student suicide prevention still didn't exist, despite record numbers of international students returning this year, and that international student suicides would continue if these gaps in delivering targeted mental health weren't addressed. I'm just wondering why this hasn't been addressed, despite the recommendations of the Victorian coroner to develop resources targeting international students' wellbeing.</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: Resources have been developed. We certainly commissioned work, following a 2019 coroner's report— Senator FARUQI: Obviously, they're not working if they're still saying that it's a risk. Ms Sandercock: There are ongoing challenges in trying to get information to international students. There was work commissioned in 2020 through Orygen. There is work underway now through Deakin University, work underway through the department of health through headspace and work underway through the Embrace Multicultural Mental Health project as well.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: But what is their effectiveness? That's what I'm asking. According to this report, they're still not being effective. So why isn't the government doing more to prevent international student suicide?</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: And it is the responsibility of providers to work very closely with their international students.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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				<p>We absolutely recognise that they need the direct support and engagement that they get from the providers, and the support services that providers offer. We see providers making efforts in this regard. It is disturbing that it's very hard to get those materials to students, but they are being communicated. And it's a regular topic of discussion between us and the sector. Senator FARUQI: There is more than materials, though. You can engage in other ways with international students, not just with materials.</p> <p>1. Provide a list of resources produced or commissioned by the Department of Education to support mental health of international students, and details of their budget and timing, since 2019, including in response to the recommendations of the Victorian coroner. Please also provide copies of these resources.</p> <p>2. Provide any evaluations of the effectiveness of these resources.</p> <p>3. What other actions are being taken by the Department of Education to support the mental health of international students?</p>		
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SQ23-001077	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Student debt	In terms of HECS/HELP repayments, can the Department of Education please provide figures on how much money will the Australian Government make by applying CPI adjustments to the debt of Australian students in 2023?	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001078	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Funding of schools and universities	Can the Department of Education please provide accurate figures for total Federal Government funding over the last five years that has been provided to public schools, independent and Catholic schools, and public universities, without including HELP loans in the tertiary figures?	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001079	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Postgraduate Commonwealth-supported places	<p>1. Please provide any analyses undertaken by the Department of Education on:</p> <p>a. how many First Nations students are unable to participate in postgraduate coursework study due to financial barriers</p> <p>b. how many First Nations students would be able to participate in postgraduate coursework study if all First Nations students were eligible for Commonwealth Supported Places at public universities</p> <p>2. What actions have been taken and will be taken by the government to improve access and participation to postgraduate coursework study for First Nations students?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001080	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	University senior management and executive wages	Can the Department of Education provide the number and salaries of senior management and executives at all public universities?	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001081	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Mehreen Faruqi	TEQSA Update to SQ23-000555 - sexual assault and harassment in universities	<p>1. Please provide an update (to previous response SQ23-000555) detailing how many sexual assault and sexual harassment-related complaints / concerns TEQSA has received in each financial year since 2017, including in the current financial year, to date.</p> <p>a. Please detail how many of these complaints / concerns have been in relation to universities each year</p> <p>2. Please provide an update (to previous response SQ23-000555) on progress of these complaints / concerns involving universities:</p> <p>a. How many complaints / concerns involving universities since September 2017 have now been finalised?</p> <p>b. How many complaints / concerns involving universities remain outstanding?</p> <p>c. What is the average time taken to finalise complaints / concerns involving universities?</p> <p>i. Since September 2017?</p> <p>ii. In the current financial year?</p> <p>3. Please provide an update (to previous response SQ23-000555) on the outcomes of these complaints / concerns involving universities:</p> <p>a. How many universities have been found non-compliant with the Threshold Standards since September 2017?</p> <p>b. How many universities have been subject to regulatory action in relation to sexual assault and sexual harassment-related complaints / concerns since September 2017?</p> <p>c. How many universities have been 'subject to monitoring and annual reporting' since September 2017?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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				<p>4. Please provide an update (to previous response SQ23-000555) on how many universities have been approached by TEQSA regarding sexual assault and sexual harassment-related matters raised in media reports since September 2017?</p> <p>5. Please provide an update (to previous response SQ23-000555) on how many universities are 'subject to monitoring and annual reporting' in relation to their sexual assault and sexual harassment processes since September 2017 and the periods they were subject to such monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>6. Please provide an update (to previous response SQ23-000555) on how many universities, since 2017, have notified TEQSA of a material change in relation to a matter concerning sexual assault or sexual harassment.</p>		
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SQ23-001082	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Mehreen Faruqi	TEQSA Swinburne scholarship policies	<p>Refer to EEC Committee estimates hansard, 26 October 2023 (p. 131):</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: I'm not sure if you overheard the question that I was asking the department about Swinburne University, where international student policies have automatically stripped hundreds of international students of their scholarships and they only get, I think, 10 days under very strict conditions for appeal, whereas the national code of practice says 20 working days for students to access internal complaints and appeals processes. I'm wondering if you have taken any action on that.</p> <p>Prof. Coaldrake: We were not aware of the matter. We heard the discussion tonight. It's not been referred to us, but we listened to the discussion and we've been looking media up. You can be sure that a senior officer from our place will make an inquiry of Swinburne in the morning, because we're interested in compliance with the Higher Education Standards Framework and we are interested in compliance with the national code.</p> <p>Please provide an update on the work of TEQSA to address the issues with Swinburne University policies referred to above.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001083	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Mehreen Faruqi	TEQSA Investigation of complaints	<p>On 27 July 2023, TEQSA provided evidence to the Senate inquiry on “Current and proposed sexual consent laws in Australia” that “since 2017 it had received 39 concerns in relation to sexual harm” and that of the 39 concerns raised: “all cases went through a preliminary and secondary assessment. TEQSA did not undertake an investigation into any of these concerns. TEQSA commenced one compliance assessment”.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a detailed description of “preliminary assessment”, “secondary assessment”, and “compliance assessment”. 2. Provide a detailed description of what an “investigation” entails? 3. How does TEQSA determine whether an investigation will be conducted? 4. What if any specialised sexual assault and sexual harassment expertise forms part of that decision? 5. Are any of the assessments or investigations into complaints raised with TEQSA considered to be performance indicators for TEQSA or its CEO? If so, what are these performance indicators? 	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001084	Australian Research Council	Mehreen Faruqi	ARC Next Discovery Projects scheme announcement	<p>Refer to EEC Committee estimates hansard, 26 October 2023 (p. 134):</p> <p>Ms Zielke: We have been consulting with the sector in relation to one of the proposals in the ARC review for us to look at a two-stage process for Discovery Projects, and that's been progressing quite well. We haven't finalised that yet. We're still considering it, but we're very close.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: When will the round open? The website at the moment says 28 November. Will that be delayed because you still haven't confirmed?</p> <p>Ms Zielke: I'll pass to Professor Twomey to answer that. It won't be delayed as such, but we're still trying to finalise the arrangements.</p> <p>Prof. Twomey: An announcement on our intended approach to the two-step process will be made soon. We're not in a position at this point to make that announcement, but we have been consulting broadly with the sector, and the design of the project at this point is that the grant scheme will still be announced at the time that we initially published on the grant calendar.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: So 28 November?</p> <p>Prof. Twomey: Yes.</p> <p>On 30 October the ARC announced and the ARC website now says that the EOI process for the next round of Discovery Projects opens on 22 January 2024.</p> <p>Please provide the reasons why the date that the EOI process for the next round of Discovery Projects changed from 28 November 2023 to 22 January 2024.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001085	Australian Research Council	Mehreen Faruqi	ARC Breakdown by ethnic minorities of applications	<p>Refer to EEC Committee estimates hansard, 26 October 2023 (p. 135):</p> <p>Ms Zielke: Before I pass to Professor Twomey, I would like to share that in nine out of our eleven schemes, women have a higher success rate than men, just as a starting point.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: What about ethnic minorities?</p> <p>Ms Zielke: I don't have that breakdown.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Could you provide that breakdown?</p> <p>Like I said, this is an issue which has been raised with me again and again.</p> <p>Provide the number and proportion of successful and unsuccessful applications according to gender and ethnicity.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001086	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Review of Student Experience Survey	Please provide a copy of the Review of Student Experience Survey undertaken by the Australian Council for Educational Research	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001087	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Indigenous students in metropolitan areas	<p>1. Please provide the data and evidence that was provided to the University Accord panel, the Department and/or the Minister to support the policy change to extend demand driven funding to Indigenous metropolitan students.</p> <p>a. How many Indigenous students from regional, rural and remote areas are currently enrolled?</p> <p>b. How many of these students have another disadvantage indicator?</p> <p>2. As part of the extension of these places to metropolitan Indigenous students has the Government provided additional funding to support these students and improve completion rates ie. additional funds to the</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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				<p>Indigenous, Regional and Low SES Attainment Fund?</p> <p>3. What other additional payments are made to providers to support Indigenous students?</p> <p>a. Did any of those programs receive additional funds to help these students succeed?</p>		
SQ23-001088	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	50% pass rule	<p>1. Can you please provide that data to the committee that was procured through the Universities Australia survey requested by the Department/University Accord Panel.</p> <p>a. Why was the data collected based on those affected or at risk of being affected – rather than those that lost access to their CSP which was the reason stated by the government to remove the rule?</p> <p>b. Have you, since the Bill was introduced to the Parliament, obtained actual data for the number of students that have lost their Commonwealth supported Place?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001089	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Student support policy	<p>1. Are there any students that will not be covered by the Support for students policy? How many higher education providers are not covered under the HESA Act? How many students are currently studying with a provider not included in the HESA Act?</p> <p>2. For higher education providers such as the Bureau of Meterology Training Centre and the Commissioner of the AFP Institute of Police Management, not included under the HESA Act, what protections or support policy will be applied to these students? How will the Government ensure that students who are attending higher education providers not covered by the HESA Act will receive the protections or support as set out in the Guidelines under the Support for students policy.</p> <p>3. In relation to the provisions concerning non-compliance with the Support for students policy, please provide some examples of non-compliance and under what circumstances a penalty for non-compliance will be issued?</p> <p>4. What compliance monitoring and audit checks will the Department operate to ensure compliance with the Support for students policy?</p> <p>5. Will there be regularly scheduled audit? How often?</p> <p>6. Will a compliance audit be triggered by a student complaint?</p> <p>7. Do you have a complaints telephone line or email address?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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				<p>8. The Guidelines note that a transition period may be necessary. If applicable, what is the duration of the transition period?</p> <p>9. Can the Department confirm that the Support for students policy will commence on 1 January 2024? If not, please state the commencement date.</p> <p>10. How many additional staff have been allocated to the Department of Education to support this policy.</p> <p>11. Please provide all correspondence from Universities Australia and the Group of Eight to the Department in relation to the Guidelines issued as part of the Support for students policy?</p>		
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SQ23-001090	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Higher Education Loan Program	<p>The highest HELP loan as per your response to a previous question on notice, SQ23-000385 is \$790,473.00.</p> <p>a. How has this debt been accumulated and over what time period?</p> <p>b. How many units were studied to reach this debt level?</p> <p>c. Have any repayments ever been made towards this debt by the debtor?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001091	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Startup Year	<p>The Department undertook an expression of interest for providers to submit applications to participate in the Startup Year Program. This process closed on 27 August 2023.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many expressions of interest did you receive from interested parties? 2. Have you assessed the applications yet? 3. This is a two-step process, what is involved in the second stage of the assessment process? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. When will this second stage commence? b. When will it be completed? c. When will providers be advised? 4. The Provider Handbook and Guidelines are to be finalised before this second stage commences, when will they be made available? 5. Will students be clearly advised that the Start-Up Year program is provided through a HELP Loan as well as the current CPI rate applied to HELP Loans to ensure they are fully aware of the financial position they will be in before accepting the loan? 6. Is there a plan for what may happen with any unallocated Startup Year Program places? 7. What assessments will the Department have in place to monitor the program? 	N/A	8/11/2023
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				8. What reporting obligations are required of providers and students in relation to this program?		
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SQ23-001092	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	AUKUS	<p>Of the 4,000 Commonwealth Supported Places for the AUKUS Program, 800 places have been allocated to South Australian universities.</p> <p>1. How will this allocation be impacted by the proposed merger of South Australian Universities.</p> <p>2. Why are South Australian universities required to apply for the competitive process if the places have already been allocated.</p> <p>3. The application process for the remaining 3,200 places opened in July 2023. Where is the assessment up to for these 3,200 places?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001093	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	20,000 additional Commonwealth supported places	<p>In SQ23-000633 the Department advised it was collecting data on the utilisation of the additional 20,000 places.</p> <p>1. Please provide, against the number of places allocated to each university, how many places have been filled by students and in what disciplines.</p> <p>2. What is the drop out rate for each of these places by university.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001094	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	National Priorities Pool Program	<p>1. Can you please provide the current funding profile for the National Priorities Pool Program for this financial year and over the forward years please.</p> <p>2. There was an Expression of Interest for 2022 projects.</p> <p>a. When did the EOI open? b. When did the EOI close? c. How many EOI's were received? d. Have all submissions been assessed and a funding decision made? e. Can you please provide a list of the submissions and the decision that was made. f. Were assessment decisions provided to the Minister for approval? g. Did the Minister agree with all of the recommendations made to him for funding? h. When will the 2023 Expression of Interest Program open?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001095	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Student data for students studying at private higher education providers	<p>1. Student data published on the Department’s website does not include the students studying with private non-university higher education providers, why is that?</p> <p>2. Do you have the data? What types of data are collected for these providers compared to Universities? Is it different?</p> <p>3. Can you please provide the data to the Committee, including enrolment numbers, equity data, attainment data, study levels and part-time/full time status. Can you please also include the number of domestic and international students studying with each provider</p> <p>4. What is preventing this data from being published regularly and made publicly available?</p> <p>5. Can you please provide a list of all the non-university higher education providers who are able to offer FEE-HELP loans to students.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001096	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	HECS Debt relief schemes for teachers, doctors and nurse practitioners	<p>1. Please provide the updated numbers on the number of applicants or beneficiaries to date of the two HELP debt relief schemes, the first being for teachers that teacher in very remote areas and the second being for doctors and nurse practitioners who work in regional, rural and remote Australia.</p> <p>2. Do you have the current numbers of recipients in each of these programs? For each program are you able to advise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of applications received, - The number of applications approved and denied, - If an application was denied can you please provide the 	N/A	8/11/2023

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				<p>reason for this.</p> <p>- The amount of HELP debt or HELP interest forgiven to date.</p>		
SQ23-001097	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program	<p>The Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program funding is distributed to universities based on their share of enrolment numbers for students from equity cohorts such as low socio economic and Indigenous students.</p> <p>1. Can you please provide the number of students at each university and the funding amount for each university based on these student enrolment numbers.</p> <p>2. Does the Department have visibility on how this money is spent by each university? Are you able to provide a detailed list of the funding spend by university?</p> <p>3. Is the Department reviewing or planning to review the HEPPP to understand it's effectiveness in supporting students from equity cohorts to be successful at university?</p> <p>4. How much funding has been allocated for 2023? I note the current guidelines only stipulate the total funding</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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				<p>amount for 2022, which is just over \$140 million.</p> <p>5. Please provide the forecast allocation for HEPP over the forward estimates?</p>		
SQ23-001098	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Destination Australia Program	<p>How many Destination Australia Program Scholarships have been awarded this year and to which providers?</p> <p>a. please identify the number of domestic scholarships by provider</p> <p>b. please identify the number of international scholarships by provider</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001099	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Tertiary Access Payment	<p>1. Can you provide the number of students that have accessed this payment since it commenced by year.</p> <p>2. Do you have a breakdown of this data for how many students are from equity cohorts.</p> <p>3. In addition to those receiving the payment please provide details on how many students are applying for the payment who's application is rejected and for what reason that rejection is occurring.</p> <p>4. There will be a review of this program this year, when will this be undertaken? When will this be completed?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001100	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Micro-credential courses	<p>1. Providers have raised concerns that micro-credential courses are one point short of a full study unit. Is this correct?</p> <p>2. Was industry consulted in the development of each micro-credential course? If so, please list which industry experts were consulted on the development of each micro-credential course.</p> <p>3. Please advise the name of each micro-credential course currently approved and available under the micro-credentials program</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001101	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	PM016 - The Proportion of undergraduate students who rate the teaching quality at their institution positively	<p>The performance metric has been changed with the methodology no longer including responses from international students.</p> <p>1. Why has the Government changed the metric to exclude responses from international students in relation to the measurement on the quality of teaching?</p> <p>2. Using both domestic and international student responses, please provide the overall outcome against the previous performance measure methodology.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001103	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Australia's Economic Accelerator	<p>1. When did the application process close?</p> <p>2. How many applications were received for the first tranche of funding?</p> <p>3. How many have been approved?</p> <p>4. How many applications were rejected and what was the total funding request for those applications?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001104	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	University Financials	Please provide the 2022 University Financial results by university including the operating results, details of revenue and expenses, assets and liabilities.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001105	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Medical CSP places	Please provide the current allocation of medical CSP places by university.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001106	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Cheung Kong Exchange	<p>1. How many students are supported by this program in 2022-23 and 2023-24 to date?</p> <p>2. Please provide details of the number of students supported by each university for the above financial years.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001107	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Confucius Institutes	<p>1. Please provide any correspondence between the Minister or the Department and any university concerning a Confucius Institute?</p> <p>2. Has the Minister raised any concerns about the ongoing operations of any Confucius Institute? If so, please detail these concerns?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001108	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Cheaper Child Care Policy - Number of people accessing post 1 July 2023	<p>What is the increase in the number of people accessing the CCS post July 1 2023 for families earning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Up to \$75,000? - Between \$75,000 and \$100,000? - Between \$100,000 and \$120,000? - Between \$120,000 and \$150,000? - Between \$150,000 and \$175,000? - Between \$175,000 and \$200,000? - Between \$200,000 and \$250,000? - Between \$250,000 and \$300,000? - Between \$300,000 and \$350,000? - Between \$350,000 and \$400,000? - Between \$400,000 and \$450,000? - Between \$450,000 and \$500,000? - Between \$500,000 and \$530,000? 	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001109	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Cheaper Child Care Policy - Out-of-pocket costs	<p>For each of the below income brackets, please provide the lowest out of pocket cost for families and the highest out of pocket costs for families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Of families earning \$75,000 or less, what income has the lowest out of pocket costs? - Of families earning between \$75,000 and \$100,000, what income has the lowest out of pocket costs, and what is it? - Of families earning between \$100,000 and \$120,000, what income has the lowest out of pocket costs, and what is it? - Of families earning between \$120,000 and \$150,000, what income has the lowest out of pocket costs, and what is it? - Of families earning between \$150,000 and \$175,000, what income has the lowest out of pocket costs, and what is it? - Of families earning between \$175,000 and \$200,000, what income has the lowest out of pocket costs, and what is it? - Of families earning between \$200,000 and \$250,000, what income has the lowest out of pocket costs, and what is it? - Of families earning between \$250,000 and \$300,000, what income has the lowest out of pocket costs, and what is it? - Of families earning between \$300,000 and \$350,000, what income has the lowest out of pocket costs, and what is it? - Of families earning between \$350,000 and \$400,000, what income has the lowest out of pocket costs, and what is it? 	N/A	8/11/2023
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Of families earning between \$400,000 and \$450,000, what income has the lowest out of pocket costs, and what is it?- Of families earning between \$450,000 and \$500,000, what income has the lowest out of pocket costs, and what is it?- Of families earning between \$500,000 and \$530,000, what income has the lowest out of pocket costs, and what is it?		
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SQ23-001110	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	ECEC workforce	<p>1. On October 7, the Government issued a media release claiming there are now more than 14,000 educators in the sector since May 2022. Can you please provide this data?</p> <p>2. What is the breakdown of those 14,000 educators, how many are teachers, how many have a diploma, how many are Cert III etc?</p> <p>3. The media release also states there are 123,000 educators in the pipeline. Where did that data come from? Please provide this data</p> <p>4. Does the Department think that changes to the regulations around Family Day Care Educators will discourage people from family day care, as they can't work and study as they can in a centre-based day care?</p> <p>5. In relation to the multi-employer bargaining that is currently underway, has the Department budgeted what potential pay rises will cost the Government?</p> <p>a. If the Early Childhood Education sector does win a pay rise, will the Government fund it, like they funded the aged care sector pay rises?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001111	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Community Child Care Fund (CCCF)	<p>1. What is the Department’s definition of a thin market?</p> <p>2. Can the Department please table the criteria they used to determine which communities met the definition of a “thin market”?</p> <p>3. There are many rural communities who are desperate for access to ECE that weren’t eligible to apply for the \$19 million round - does the Government think it was fair to leave those communities off the list?</p> <p>4. How many applications did the Government receive for the \$19 million CCCF grant round?</p> <p>5. Please confirm the announcement on Monday 23 October, 47 successful applicants receiving a share of \$16 million, that is this same grant round?</p> <p>6. Can you advise how much each successful applicant received and whether it was for capital support or establishment and sustainability support?</p> <p>7. Does the Department plan to do any due diligence to ensure the grant funding is spent appropriately?</p> <p>8. Does the Department have a view on why there were so many successful family day care applicants? Was there an overwhelming number of FDC applicants for this grant round?</p> <p>9. How many unsuccessful applicants were there?</p> <p>10. There appears to be quite a lot of successful</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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				<p>candidates from NSW and NT, did they have more applicants than other states and territories?</p> <p>11. Were either Minister Clare, Minister Aly or their offices involved in the selection of successful applicants?</p>		
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SQ23-001112	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Activity Test	<p>1. During the June Senate Estimates hearing Mr Reid indicated the Department had done a cost analysis of the removal of the Activity Test. What is the cost of that and can the Department table that analysis?</p> <p>2. Has the Government looked into further changes to the Activity Test - beyond the recent changes for Indigenous Australians? - If yes, specifically what changes i.e the removal of levels, increasing of thresholds.</p> <p>3. Since the last round of Estimates, has either the Minister's offices or the Department met with or been lobbied by organisations to remove the Activity Test? - If yes, which organisations and on what dates?</p> <p>4. Does the Department have a plan to assess the new activity test policy setting for Indigenous Australian children accessing up to 36 hours a week of care? a. How do you intend to assess that? b. What is the timeline for that assessment?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001113	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Community Child Care Fund (CCCF) - \$30 million for remote communities	<p>1. Please provide a list of the 12 organisations the Department invited to apply.</p> <p>2. Where is this process up to?</p> <p>3. When does the Department anticipate it will provide the funding to successful applicants?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001114	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Boost to early childhood education and care workforce	<p>On 7 October, Minister Clare and Minister Aly issued “Boost to early childhood education and care workforce”. The media release claimed: <i>TAFE is playing a significant role in securing a sustainable early childhood education workforce into the future, with 113,000 people enrolled in a Certificate III or Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care.</i></p> <p>1. Where did that data for the media release come from?</p> <p>2. Does the Government acknowledge the information was incorrect and their claims mislead the Australian public?</p> <p>3. Does the Government acknowledge that the majority of students training to be an early childhood educator, are actually doing it through Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)?</p> <p>4. Will the Government consider providing funding to RTOs to reduce the cost of education for those students studying early childhood education?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001115	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Early Childhood Reference Group	<p>Following the meeting with the Early Childhood Reference Group in October/November, does the Department have a date for when they will expand the workforce subsidy to non-Indigenous services and educators?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001116	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Takeover program funding	<p>How much funding did the Office for Youth/Department of Education provide to the ABC to sponsor the Takeover Program?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001117	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Cheaper Child Care Policy - Electorate	<p>1. In which electorates have families out-of-pocket costs reduced the most. Please provide a list of all electorates with the greatest reduction to the least reduction.</p> <p>2. How many families, by electorate are 'better off' than they were in July 2022 as a result of the Cheaper Childcare measure? Please provide a list of all electorates with the greatest reduction to the least reduction.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001118	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Cheaper Child Care Policy - Workforce data	<p>1. The Government stated the "Cheaper child care" policy would equal an extra 37,000 full-time workers in the workforce, with the greatest benefit to women. How many additional women have entered the workforce to date as a result of this policy?</p> <p>2. How many women have been able to increase their working hours to date as a result of this policy?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001119	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Child Care fees - Increase	<p>According to the Parenthood, 90 per cent of families watched their early childhood education fees increase from July 10.</p> <p>1. Did the Government account for the increase in child care fees across the sector as a result of this policy when the policy was costed?</p> <p>2. Does the Government think it is acceptable that some parents have faced increased fees of 10 per cent and higher off the back of the July 1 changes?</p> <p>3. What does the Department consider to be a moderate increase to fees?</p> <p>4. Is the Department aware of what the average amount</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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				of the subsidy lost to increased fees and inflation is following the July 1 changes?		
SQ23-001120	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Child Care fees - multiple children	<p>Part of the July 1 changes included the policy for subsequent children changing from a 30 per cent subsidy to a sliding scale. Does the Government acknowledge that this change has left families with multiple children paying more in July, than they were in June?</p> <p>- If this is disputed, please provide the data by electorate to support and quantify the Government's assessment of the impact to families.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001121	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Child Care fees - 14 per cent reduction	<p>1. On 1 October Minister Clare stated said out of pocket costs were reduced by 14 per cent in July, where did this data come from?</p> <p>2. How much of this decrease is due to the introduction of a new cohort into the CCS system?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001122	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Workforce professional development and paid practicum subsidies	<p>1. How many eligible providers did the Department send invitations to, inviting them to apply for the first round of the Government's \$72.4 million workforce subsidies? Can the Department provide a list of those providers.</p> <p>2. To date, how many applicants has the Department received for the first round of subsidies, including professional development, on the job teaching placements, and practicum exchange? Please provide this broken down into each category?</p> <p>3. How much has the Department paid to centres for training? Can you please provide details of the centres provided with funding, how much was paid to each centre and details of how many staff from each centre undertook what training.</p> <p>4. What compliance measures is the Department using to ensure that training undertaken is actually completed by educators?</p> <p>5. Does the Government have a cap on the number of subsidy places it will offer in the 2023-24 year?</p> <p>6. When does the Government plan to make the subsidies available to all educators - not just Indigenous and those working/living in remote locations?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001123	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Capital Grants Program	<p>1. Please provide the forecast funding for the Capital Grants Program over the forward estimates.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount expended in 2022-23 and 2023-24 to date.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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				3. Has the criteria for the program changed?		
SQ23-001124	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Closing the Gap – Scaling Up Success in Remote Schools	<p>The Scaling Up Success in Remote Schools Program is providing \$10 million over four years to deliver the program in 10 remote and disadvantaged schools. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - details of the program to be rolled out in each school - the number of staff associated with the rollout - a list of the schools the program will be delivered in - a detailed breakdown of the funding provided to each school over the forward estimates - the current attendance rate of students at each participating school - the amount of funding provided to date 	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001125	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Capacity to Contribute and Direct Measure of Income Scores for 2024	<p>Have the calculations for the 2024 Capacity to Contribute Scores been finalised?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If so, please provide the full listing and indicate where there has been a decrease or increase in the score for each school from the previous year. 	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001126	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Australian Indigenous Education Foundation	<p>Does the Department provide any funding to the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If so, please detail the financial allocation over the forward estimates. 	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001127	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Studio Schools - documentation	<p>Please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. copies of all business cases, contracts and other arrangements with Studio Schools Australia; 2. a break down of each cost concerning the maintenance, building and upgrade works for the Yiramalay school including the upgrade of associated buildings such as houses; 3. a copy of each invoice concerning the maintenance, building and upgrade works for the Yiramalay school including the upgrade of associated buildings such as houses; 4. a copy of any building contract entered into by Studio Schools Australia; 5. a list of each person employed by Studio Schools Australia identified by position, total remuneration and terms of employment and confirm if each such staff member meets all regulatory and professional teaching requirements including whether they hold a working with children's check; 6. a list of each volunteer working for Studio Schools Australia identified by position and any accommodation or other benefits paid or provided including in-kind benefits; 7. the employment contracts of the CEO, COO and Principal of Studio Schools Australia; 	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001128	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Studio Schools - Compliance letter	Please provide a copy of the compliance letter sent to Studio Schools Australia which was to be tabled during the October senate estimates hearing, and all correspondence responding to this letter from Studio Schools Australia.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001129	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Studio Schools - Work plan and Board	<p>1. Please provide a copy of the proposal of work plan for the Studio Schools Program. - please include all versions of this work plan, including the date of each work plan.</p> <p>2. Please provide a copy of any correspondence sent to or received by any member of the board of Studio Schools Australia since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>3. Please confirm if any board member or employee of Studio Schools Australia has an actual or potential conflict of interest? If so, please describe the nature of the conflict of interest and what action has been taken in relation to such conflict of interest?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001130	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Compliance of Schools	<p>1. Please provide a copy of all letters sent to approved authorities in relation to the financial compliance of schools for the period 1, June 2022 to 26 October 2023.</p> <p>2. How many approved authorities have been found to be non-compliant with the Act since 1 June 2022 to date - Please provide a list of the approved authorities and specific schools that have been found to be non-compliant. - Please outline the compliance action taken for each of these breaches.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001131	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Studio Schools - Administrative funding	Please provide a detailed breakdown of the administrative funding of \$16.2 million for Studio Schools. - please provide a copy of the submission by Studio Schools Australia which sought funding to this amount. - please provide a copy of all finalised agreements for this amount	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001132	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Review into Students with Disability Loading settings	Please provide a copy of the Review into Students with Disability Loading settings that was completed in April 2023.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001133	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Studio Schools - Cost increase	Following advice from Studio Schools Australia on 24 July 2022 that costs for the program had significantly increased, when did the Department advise the Minister of this increase? - please provide a copy of the correspondence or brief that communicated this increase to program costs.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001134	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Studio Schools - consultation	Did the Department seek a review or advice from anyone other than Studio Schools Australia and its consultants such as QS Services in relation to the significant construction cost increases of the proposed new schools in the Pilbara (from \$22m to \$64m), East Arnhem Land (from \$22m to 56m) and Kimberley (\$22m to \$45.3m) regions?	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001135	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	On-Country Learning - Central Australia Schools Package	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When will schools provide the Department of Education with their proposals? 2. How will these proposals be assessed? Against what criteria specifically? 3. Will criteria be weighted? Please provide details of any weightings to be applied. 4. Who will be assessing proposals from each of the schools? 5. Following the initial assessment undertaken, who will be the decision maker or approver for the proposals? 6. Will each of the measures being implemented by schools under this program be made publicly available? 7. Will there be reporting by each of the schools on the measures to ensure they are having an impact? 8. Will reporting be made publicly available? 9. Please provide a copy of any school initiative or proposal proposed to be funded under this measure? 	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001136	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Student Wellbeing Boost	<p>1. Since the provision of SQ23-000688, have WA and NSW provided the methodologies to be used for the distribution of this funding?</p> <p>2. Did you approve each of the methodologies to be used by each state and territory?</p> <p>3. Have you received a list of the schools funding will now be allocated to in each state and territory? If so, please provide and include the amount to be provided to each of the schools.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list of the programs or projects funded by each school that has recieved funding, by state and territory.</p> <p>5. Please provide a list of the schools that have not or will not recieve funding from the election commitment, identifying the school name, school sector and state and territory.</p> <p>6. You advised Dandolo Partners were selected to undertake a review of this program.</p> <p>a. Was there a process run for the selection of Dandolo Partners for this review or was this a direct approach procurement activity.</p> <p>b. What assessment criteria has been established for the review</p> <p>c. The Evaluation Report will be submitted to the Department by 30 June 2024, so when will their assessment commence?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001137	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Action Item 1	<p>Item 1a) provided additional Commonwealth Supported Places for teaching degrees in 2023 and 2024. Please confirm the 4,036 places provided ia a seperate allocation to the Government's commitment of 20,000 additional places.</p> <p>a. If yes, how many places were assigned for the 2023 school year?</p> <p>b. Was each university allocated a specific number of places? If yes, please provide the number of places allocated to each university.</p> <p>c. How many places in 2023 have been filled?</p> <p>d. How many are assigned for the 2024 school year? Are these located to each university? If so, please provide the allocation to each university.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001138	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Action Item 2	<p>Action Item 2 of the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan provided 5,000 bursaries and noted places would be provided in 2023 for students studying in 2024. Applications for prospective students to register their interest opened on 6 November 2023.</p> <p>1. The information notes scholarships will be available over five rounds. Please advise how many scholarships will be available for the first round.</p> <p>2. How are these being promoted to the target groups you identified: high achieving school leavers, mid-career professionals, First Nations peoples, people from CALD backgrounds and other underrepresented groups?</p> <p>3. Will a specific number of places in the first round be provided to the target groups?</p> <p>4. Will a specific number of places be provided to early learning teachers?</p> <p>5. Why are part time students excluded from applying? How will this impact mid career professionals?</p> <p>6. When will formal applications open?</p> <p>7. How many people have registered their interest in the program to date?</p> <p>8. Why will conditional offers not be made to students until after the 2024 school year has commenced?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001139	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Action Item 3	<p>1. Action item 3 provided an additional 1,500 places for the High Achieving Teachers Program. How many places have been allocated to date?</p> <p>2. The action item noted states the purpose 'to encourage more professionals to switch careers to teaching and trial new ways of attracting and keeping teachers'. What new ways are being trialled?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001141	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Action Item 5	<p>Action item 5 was in relation to teacher registration and noted work would be undertaken to, in effect, somewhat standardise provisional registration across the states and territories by the end of this year.</p> <p>How far progressed is this work given the importance of allowing more mobility across states and territories?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001142	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Action Item 11	<p>Action item 11 was to allow students to sit the LANTITE test in their first year of studies from the start of this year.</p> <p>How many first year students have undertaken the LANTITE test in their first year of study?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001143	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Action Item 16	<p>Action Item 16 required ITE providers to review the First Nations' cultural responsiveness resources included in their course content to ensure teachers are better prepared to teach First Nations peoples in culturally safe ways.</p> <p>1. How are you tracking which providers have reviewed an updated their course content?</p> <p>2. Can you provide a list of providers that have confirmed their content has been reviewed and if it has been updated.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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				3. Are you aware if providers undertook consultation with First Nations groups to review the content?		
SQ23-001144	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Boarding options for First Nations students in Central Australia	<p>1. When will the assessment of boarding school options in Central Australia be completed?</p> <p>2. Will a report be provided to Ministers?</p> <p>3. What are the parameters of the assessment? What specific criteria will be reviewed?</p> <p>4. Has the Department taken any action on the MK Turner Report? If so, please detail what actions have been taken.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001145	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Review to Inform a Better and Fairer Education System	Please provide a copy of the final report of the Review to Inform a Better and Fairer Education System provided to the Minister for Education.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001146	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	National survey on understanding and experiences of consent	Please provide the survey results of the National survey on understanding and experiences of consent undertaken by the Australian Human Rights Commission.	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001147	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	School size loading	Please advise which schools receive the school size loading in each state and territory, including: - The name of each school - The number of students at each school - The amount received by each school for the most recent year the loading was paid	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001148	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	School location loading	Please advise which schools receive the school location loading in each state and territory, including: - The name of each school - The number of students at each school - The amount received by each school for the most recent year the loading was paid	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001149	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Low-english proficiency loading	Please advise which schools receive the low english proficiency loading in each state and territory, including: - The name of each school - The number of students at each school that attract the loading - The total enrolments at each school in receipt of the loading - The amount received by each school for the most recent year the loading was paid	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001150	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Socio-educational disadvantage loading	Please advise which schools receive the socio-educational disadvantage loading in each state and territory, including: - The name of each school - The number of students at each school that attract the loading - The total enrolments at each school in receipt of the loading - The amount received by each school for the most recent year the loading was paid	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001151	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander loading	<p>Please advise which schools receive the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander loading in each state and territory, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The name of each school - The number of students at each school that attract the loading - The total enrolments at each school in receipt of the loading - The amount received by each school for the most recent year the loading was paid 	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001152	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Students with disability loading	<p>Please advise which schools receive the students with disability loading in each state and territory, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The name of each school - The number of students at each school that attract the loading - The total enrolments at each school in receipt of the loading - The amount received by each school for the most recent year the loading was paid 	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001153	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	City to Country Partnerships	Please provide a copy of the Yadha Muru partnership agreement.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001154	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Schools Upgrade Fund - Targeted Round	<p>In answer SQ23-000667 you provided a summary of the three projects to the value of \$3.6 million that were transferred to the Department of Education from the Department of Infrastructure to be included in the Schools Upgrade Fund Targeted Round. The third project worth \$2 million is described as 'improvements to school facilities to improve learning outcomes for students at Greenwood College'.</p> <p>1. Please provide specific details of the \$2 million improvements to school facilities that will be made with this investment</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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				<p>2. Please provide itemised costings for each of these improvements</p> <p>3. Please outline how these school improvements will 'improve learning outcomes for students'.</p>		
SQ23-001155	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Schools Upgrade Fund - Targeted Round	<p>1. QoN SQ23-000671 advised the Department received confirmation of the projects to be funded through the targeted round from the Minister's Office on 24 October 2022. Please provide a copy of this advice.</p> <p>2. QoN SQ23-000671 advised the Office of Best Practice and Regulation who sit within Prime Minister and Cabinet were engaged for advice on the provision of the targeted round funding. Please provide a copy of all documents and correspondence submitted to the Office of Best Practice and Regulation to inform their assessment of the appropriateness of the Targeted Round funding.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001156	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Schools Upgrade Fund - Open Round	<p>1. Will all projects funded under the Schools Upgrade Fund Open Round be completed by 31 December 2023 as per the guidelines for funding.</p> <p>- Please provide details of any projects that will not be completed in the stipulated timeframe.</p> <p>2. The Department's Annual Report for 2022-23 on page 18 states: <i>The Targeted Round supported 215 priority projects in 211 schools, announced as part of the Australian Government's 2022 election commitments. Projects included improved learning facilities, new or upgraded outdoor play and learning spaces, and classroom upgrades.</i></p> <p>- Does this figure include the additional projects transferred from the Department of Education? If not, why not?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001157	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Unique Student Identifier for school students	<p>1. Please provide the parameters agreed for implementation of the Unique Student Identifier for school students.</p> <p>2. Please identify the cost for implementation and the timeline for completion.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001158	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Attendance rates	<p>The Departments Annual Report on page 36 states: <i>Attendance rates at schools and student outcomes have continued to be influenced by COVID-19, influenza, and natural disasters such as floods.</i></p> <p>1. Please provide the data and metrics used to make this determination by each specific criteria being COVID-19, influenza and natural disasters.</p> <p>2. Please also provide the data and impact level by State and Territory for each of these criteria.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001159	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	PM011 - Proportion of undergraduates who are employed within 4 to 6 months of completing a degree	<p>Noting the criteria for this performance metric has been changed from the proportion of undergraduates who are employed within 4 months to those that are employed in 4-6 months, please provide the result for the proportion of undergraduates who are employed within 4 months as per the previously used metric.</p> <p>Please provide the number as a whole and as a percentage.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001160	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Freedom of Information Requests	<p>Since 1 July 2023, how many Freedom of Information applications has ACARA received? Please provide a breakdown of the applications as follows:</p> <p>a) the number of applications being processed b) the number of applications granted c) the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 d) the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 e) the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 f) the number of applications under internal review g) the number of applications reviewed by the OAIC h) the number of applications currently being reviewed by the OAIC i) the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned by either an internal or external review mechanism</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001161	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Staff working arrangements	<p>How many staff in your organisation continue to work from home?</p> <p>a. please specify the number of staff with work from home arrangements b. please specify the number of staff who work from home one day per week, two days per week, three days per week, four days per week or 5 days per week</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001162	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Media Monitoring, advertising campaigns and information campaigns	<p>1. Please provide the total amount spent on media monitoring services for the 2023-24 Financial year to date.</p> <p>2. Please provide the expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for the Financial Year to date</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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				2023-24. Please include the total cost of each element undertaken and the purpose of each spend.		
SQ23-001163	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Reviews	<p>Please provide the details of any reviews being conducted by ACARA and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name of the review - the name of the reviewer or organisation undertaking the review - the date the review commenced - the date the review is due to be completed - the purpose of the review; and - the cost of the review. 	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001164	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Board Appointments	<p>Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio. b. How many members of each Board identify as Indigenous. c. How many members of each Board identify as a person with disability d. Please detail any board appointments made for the financial year 2023-24 to date. e. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid for the financial year 2023-24 to date. f. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date. 	N/A	8/11/2023

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				g. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date.		
SQ23-001165	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Legal Services	Please provide the total legal costs for the financial year 2023-24 to date.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001166	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Gifts and Hospitality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide a copy of ACARA's Gifts and Hospitality Policy 2. Please provide a copy of the register of declaration of gifts and hospitality from 1 July 2023 to date. 	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001167	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Student attendance	<p>1. In relation to the student attendance data from states and territories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How often is data provided to ACARA in relation to student attendance? - How regularly do you publish the data provided? - Education Ministers set the charter of work for ACARA. In relation to student attendance, has ACARA recommended an extension of data collection points to Ministers to improve policy development? <p>2. ACARA advised in SQ23-000698, that it does not collect data on the reasons for absenteeism, why is that?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has ACARA suggested data collection be expanded to incorporate the reasons for absenteeism? b. In terms of policy making, does ACARA believe it would assist to have this data to understand the reasons for non-attendance. c. What role do you play in assessing the data collected on student attendance? Do you provide any advice to Government on potential strategies or policy initiatives to improve student attendance levels? 	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001168	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA NAPLAN performance	<p>1. Please provide the 20 highest performing schools for each sector; being the government, independent and catholic sectors, in each state and territory for both primary and secondary students.</p> <p>2. Please provide the 20 lowest performing schools for each sector; being the government, independent and catholic sectors, in each state and territory for both primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>3. Can you please provide a seperate list for the rural and remote arease for each state and territory fo the top 20 performing and lowest 20 performing specifically for rural and remote areas.</p> <p>4. Given the metrics have changed, is there any available data on schools who have seen the biggest change be it positive or negative?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001169	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Curriculum	<p>1. When was version 9 of the curriculum signed of by all Education Ministers?</p> <p>2. Is ACARA concerned that states and territories have yet to implement this version of the curriculum?</p> <p>3. Have you received an update through the Education Ministers meeting on the roll out plans for the new curriculum from states and territories.</p> <p>4. You noted that rollout was also being monitored through Action Item 19 of the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan for which you have responsibility. Can you provide us with an update for each state and territory?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001170	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Financial literacy learning within the curriculum	What elements of financial literacy learning currently exist within the curriculum? Please detail where this exists within the curriculum	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001171	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Requirement for legal services	1. In ACARA's response to SQ23-000744 you advised a spend of \$176,000 for legal services. Please advise what legal services ACARA procures and for what purpose. 2. Please provide details of each legal firm and the total cost of each procurement of services.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001172	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA National Teacher Workforce Action Plan	ACARA was due to report back to Education Ministers for the second meeting of this year on Action Item 19 from the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan 1. When did you provide this advice to Education Ministers? 2. Have you received feedback or endorsement of the actions proposed? 3. What have you recommended be done and when will this be delivered?	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001173	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Redundancies	How many redundancies did ACARA offer in the 2022-23 Financial Year and this year to date? a. how many of these offers were accepted? b. what was the total cost for these redundancies?	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001174	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Workplace	<p>1. How many office locations does ACARA have and where?</p> <p>2. What is the annual rent paid on this property?</p> <p>3. How many staff can be accomodated at your office location?</p> <p>4. When does the current lease term expire?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001175	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA Complaints received on the National Curriculum	<p>How many complaints have you received on the National Curriculum?</p> <p>- please provide the key area the complaint relates to ie. Learning area, general capability, cross-curriculum priorities</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001176	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Social Media	<p>1. Please provide a copy of ACARA's Social Media Policy for employees.</p> <p>2. How does ACARA monitor compliance by employees with this policy?</p> <p>3. How many employees have been found to have breached ACARA's Social Media Policy for employees in the 2022-23 financial year and the 2023-24 financial year to date?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001177	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Chief Executive Officer's Travel	<p>Please provide an itemised list of the Chief Executive Officer's travel for the financial year 2023-24 financial year to date, including the cost of flights, accomodation and any ground transport (ie.taxi's)</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001178	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA PGPA Breaches	<p>How many breaches of the PGPA Act have there been since 1 July 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please detail the nature of each breach - on what date the breach was detected - on what date the breach occurred - the monetary value of each breach - the action taken to address each breach 	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001179	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Functions and official receptions	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by ACARA in financial year 2023-24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023-24 to date, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001180	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Contracts	<p>1. Please confirm the total number of new contracts (ongoing and terminating) and the total cost of each contract issued on AusTender from 1 July 2023. Please provide the reference number for each contract entered into.</p> <p>2. Can ACARA please confirm the total number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of each of these contracts issued on AusTender since 1 June 2022 which relate to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External labour hire - Consultancy - Advertsing campaigns - Travel - Legal expenses <p>Please provide the reference number for each contract.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001181	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Workplace fit outs and upgrades	<p>Were the facilities of any of ACARA's premises upgraded in the financial year 2023-24 to date, for example office refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, purchase of new fridges, coffee machines or other kitchen equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If so, please provide a detailed description of the relevant upgrades together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please also provide photographs of any upgrades. 	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001182	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Travel expenditure	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Chief Executive Officer's travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of Executive Director Officer travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>3. Please provide an itemised list of SES Band 1 travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>4. Please provide an itemised list of Executive Level 1 - Executive Level 2 officer travel by APS classification band for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>5. Please provide an itemised list of APS1 - APS6 officer travel by APS classification band for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001183	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Bullying, harassment and discrimination	<p>In the financial year 2023-24 to date how many allegations of bullying, harrassment or discrimination have been made against any SES, staff including: non-ongoing staff, labour hire staff, contractors or consultants engaged by ACARA?</p> <p>a. How many claims of bullying, harrassment or discrimination were formally or informally investigated?</p> <p>b. How many allegations were investigated and further action or investigation was undertaken?</p> <p>c. How many cases resulted in disciplinary action?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001184	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Fair Work Commission	In the 2023-24 Financial Year to date, how many referrals have been made by either ACARA or an employee of ACARA to the Fair Work Commission.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001185	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Matthew O'Sullivan	ACARA Meetings	<p>1. Please provide a list of the meetings ACARA has had with each of the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023. Please identify the dates of each meeting.</p> <p>2. Has ACARA provided any briefings to any Members of Parliament, Senators or their offices since 1 July 2023. If so, please provide the date of each meeting and who was in attendance.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001186	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Slade Brockman	AITSL Bullying, harrassment and discrimination	<p>In relation to bullying, harassment and discrimination AITSL advised in SQ23-000793 that there was one allegation of bullying and that this case was found to have merit.</p> <p>1. What action was taken in this case?</p> <p>2. How was the staff member supported in their role?</p> <p>3. Was any disciplinary action taken against the person alleged to have displayed this behaviour?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001187	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Freedom of Information Requests	<p>Since 1 July 2023, how many Freedom of Information applications has AITSL received? Please provide a breakdown of the applications as follows:</p> <p>a) the number of applications being processed b) the number of applications granted c) the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 d) the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 e) the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 f) the number of applications under internal review g) the number of applications reviewed by the OAIC h) the number of applications currently being reviewed by the OAIC i) the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned by either an internal or external review mechanism</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001188	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Staff working arrangements	<p>How many staff in your organisation continue to work from home?</p> <p>a. please specify the number of staff with work from home arrangements b. please specify the number of staff who work from home one day per week, two days per week, three days per week, four days per week or 5 days per week</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001189	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Media Monitoring, advertising campaigns and information campaigns	<p>1. Please provide the total amount spent on media monitoring services for the 2023-24 Financial year to date.</p> <p>2. Please provide the expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for the Financial Year to date</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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				2023-24. Please include the total cost of each element undertaken and the purpose of each spend.		
SQ23-001190	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Reviews	<p>Please provide the details of any reviews being conducted by AITSL and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name of the review - the name of the reviewer or organisation undertaking the review - the date the review commenced - the date the review is due to be completed - the purpose of the review; and - the cost of the review. 	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001191	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Board Appointments	<p>Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio. b. How many members of each Board identify as Indigenous. c. How many members of each Board identify as a person with disability d. Please detail any board appointments made for the financial year 2023-24 to date. e. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid for the financial year 2023-24 to date. f. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date. 	N/A	8/11/2023

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				g. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date.		
SQ23-001192	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Legal Services	Please provide the total legal costs for the financial year 2023-24 to date.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001193	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Gifts and Hospitality	1. Please provide a copy of AITSL's Gifts and Hospitality Policy 2. Please provide a copy of the register of declaration of gifts and hospitality from 1 July 2023 to date.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001194	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL HALT	Please provide an update of the data presented in SQ23-000771 to reflect the 2023 numbers to date.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001195	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL National Teacher Workforce Action Plan measures	Please provide an update on each of the measures AITSL is responsible for in the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan.	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001196	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Action Item 26	<p>Action Item 26 was associated with Action Item 25 and was to develop and publish ITE graduate supply data at the regional level and by specialist field, to again understand, supply and demand.</p> <p>This data was due to be published by the end of 2023. Given the plan was submitted to Education Ministers in July and is joined to the approval timeline of Action 25, will this data be published by the end of this year? If so, when?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001197	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Redundancies	<p>How many redundancies did AITSL offer in the 2022-23 Financial Year and this year to date?</p> <p>a. how many of these offers were accepted?</p> <p>b. what was the total cost for these redundancies?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001198	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL Workplace	<p>1. How many office locations does AITSL have and where?</p> <p>2. What is the annual rent paid on this property?</p> <p>3. How many staff can be accommodated at your office location?</p> <p>4. When does the current lease term expire?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001199	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Action Item 27	<p>Action Item 27 was to develop additional questions for the Teacher Workforce Data Survey you conduct to monitor wellbeing and career intentions – to measure the temperature of the sector effectively.</p> <p>1. How far is this work progressed now? Was this included in the 2023 survey?</p> <p>2. The 2022 Report is yet to be released, when will that be released?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001200	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Action Item 25	<p>Action Item 25 was to develop and publish teacher workforce projections down to a regional level and inclusive of subject specialisation so we could better understand demand.</p> <p>The update previously provided noted a project plan was submitted to Education Ministers on 6 July 2023 for consideration. Have you received feedback or endorsement of that project plan?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001201	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Action Item 17	<p>Action Item 17 was to streamline HALT processes to make it less burdensome and to achieve a target of 10,000 HALT qualified teachers by 2025.</p> <p>1. Your previous update stated AITSL has developed the framework for this. When did you complete this work?</p> <p>2. When was it submitted to Education Ministers for consideration or endorsement?</p> <p>3. When was it endorsed by Education Ministers?</p> <p>4. The last update provided had the current number of HALT teachers at just over 1,200. How do you plan to reach the target of 10,000 teachers by 2025?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001202	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Action Item 15	<p>Action Item 15 was to develop career pathways for teachers, which included a stocktake of what was being done by each state and territory. With a note that teacher employers would report on progress to Education Ministers by early 2024.</p> <p>How far progressed is this work? I note your update in the question on notice noted advice would be provided to Ministers at the end of 2023. Is this on track?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001203	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Action Item 14	<p>Action Item 14 was to develop national guidelines for early career teachers including mentoring and induction support. AITSL previously advised drafts had been developed and they would go through a consultation process in July.</p> <p>1. Has this consultation occurred? 2. Who have you consulted with? Please provide a comprehensive list. 3. When will the guidelines be presented to Education Ministers? 4. When do you expect the guidelines to be published and implemented?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001204	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Sarah Henderson	AITSL National Teacher Workforce Action Plan - Action Item 5	<p>Action Item 5 was to prioritise conditional or provisional registration for teachers, as a way of increasing or speeding up supply. Progressing this item however was contingent on Education Ministers providing you with a statement of expectations.</p> <p>1. Has this been provided? If so, when? 2. Is the item still on track for completion by the end of the year?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001205	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Social Media	<p>1. Please provide a copy of AITSL's Social Media Policy for employees.</p> <p>2. How does AITSL monitor compliance by employees with this policy?</p> <p>3. How many employees have been found to have breached AITSL's Social Media Policy for employees in the 2022-23 financial year and the 2023-24 financial year to date?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001206	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Chief Executive Officer's Travel	Please provide an itemised list of the Chief Executive Officer's travel for the financial year 2023-24 financial year to date, including the cost of flights, accomodation and any ground transport (ie.taxi's)	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001207	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL PGPA Breaches	<p>How many breaches of the PGPA Act have there been since 1 July 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please detail the nature of each breach - on what date the breach was detected - on what date the breach occurred - the monetary value of each breach - the action taken to address each breach 	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001208	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Functions and official receptions	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by AITSL in financial year 2023-24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023-24 to date, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001209	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Contracts	<p>1. Please confirm the total number of new contracts (ongoing and terminating) and the total cost of each contract issued on AusTender from 1 July 2023. Please provide the reference number for each contract entered into.</p> <p>2. Can AITSL please confirm the total number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of each of these contracts issued on AusTender since 1 June 2022 which relate to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External labour hire - Consultancy - Advertsing campaigns - Travel - Legal expenses <p>Please provide the reference number for each contract.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001210	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Workplace fit outs and upgrades	<p>Were the facilities of any of AITSL's premises upgraded in the financial year 2023-24 to date, for example office refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, purchase of new fridges, coffee machines or other kitchen equipment.</p> <p>- If so, please provide a detailed description of the relevant upgrades together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please also provide photographs of any upgrades.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001211	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Travel expenditure	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Chief Executive Officer's travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of Deputy Chief Executive Officer travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>3. Please provide an itemised list of SES Band 2 travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>4. Please provide an itemised list of SES Band 1 travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>5. Please provide an itemised list of Executive Level 1 - Executive Level 2 officer travel by APS classification band for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>6. Please provide an itemised list of APS1 - APS6 officer travel by APS classification band for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001212	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Bullying, harrassment and discrimination	<p>In the financial year 2023-24 to date how many allegations of bullying, harrassment or discrimination have been made against any SES, APS, non-ongoing staff, labour hire staff, contractors or consultants engaged by the AITSL?</p> <p>a. How many claims of bullying, harrasment or discrimination were formally or informally investigated? b. How many allegations were investigated and further action or investigation was undertaken? c. How many cases resulted in disciplinary action?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001213	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Fair Work Commission	In the 2023-24 Financial Year to date, how many referrals have been made by either AITSL or an employee of AITSL to the Fair Work Commission.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001214	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL Meetings	<p>1. Please provide a list of the meetings AITSL has had with each of the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023. Please identify the dates of each meeting.</p> <p>2. Has AITSL provided any briefings to any Members of Parliament, Senators or their offices since 1 July 2023. If so, please provide the date of each meeting and who was in attendance.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001215	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership	Matthew O'Sullivan	AITSL HALT Advisory Group	<p>1. How many meetings are planned for the HALT Advisory Group for the 2023-24 Financial Year?</p> <p>a. Will these meetings be held virtually or in person?</p> <p>b. What is the budget allocation for these meetings?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2023, how many times has the HALT Advisory Group met?</p> <p>a. What was the purpose of this meeting?</p> <p>b. What was the purpose of each meeting?</p> <p>c. How many attendees were at the meeting?</p> <p>d. If meetings were held in person, please identify the travel costs of attendees met by AITSL.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001216	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Employee travel for opening of Research Centres and Centres of Excellence	<p>1. Please provide the details for each ARC employee to attend the openings of a Research Centre, including the number of employees that travelled, the dates of travel, and the cost of each trip.</p> <p>2. Please provide the details for each ARC employee to attend the openings of a Centre for Excellence, including the number of employees that travelled, the dates of travel, and the cost of each trip.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001217	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC ARC Grant decisions	<p>1. During the period 1 June 2023 and 31 October 2023 how many ARC Research decisions were reviewed by the Minister?</p> <p>2. Please provide a full list of each of the grant decisions approved by the Minister for Education since May 2022.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of each of the grants approved under each funding round approved by the Minister, including the name and topic of the grant and the funding amount for each grant.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001218	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Freedom of Information Requests	<p>Since 1 July 2023, how many Freedom of Information applications has the ARC received? Please provide a breakdown of the applications as follows:</p> <p>a) the number of applications being processed b) the number of applications granted c) the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 d) the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 e) the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 f) the number of applications under internal review g) the number of applications reviewed by the OAIC h) the number of applications currently being reviewed by the OAIC i) the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned by either an internal or external review mechanism</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001219	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Research Funding Decisions	<p>1. How many Research grant funding decisions were reviewed by the Minister during the period 1 July 2023 and 31 October 2023.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all grant decisions made by the Minister, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the funding program under which the grant was provided - the monetary value of each grant under the program - the date the brief for each grant decision was submitted to the Minister - the date the brief for each grant decision was signed by the Minister - the date the brief for each grant decision was returned 	N/A	8/11/2023

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				to the ARC - how many decisions did the Minister or his office seek additional information on		
SQ23-001220	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Staff working arrangements	How many staff in your organisation continue to work from home? a. please specify the number of staff with work from home arrangements b. please specify the number of staff who work from home one day per week, two days per week, three days per week, four days per week or 5 days per week	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001221	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Media Monitoring, advertising campaigns and information campaigns	1. Please provide the total amount spent on media monitoring services for the 2023-24 Financial year to date. 2. Please provide the expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for the Financial Year to date 2023-24. Please include the total cost of each element undertaken and the purpose of each spend.	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001222	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Reviews	<p>Please provide the details of any reviews being conducted by ARC and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name of the review - the name of the reviewer or organisation undertaking the review - the date the review commenced - the date the review is due to be completed - the purpose of the review; and - the cost of the review. 	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001223	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Board Appointments	<p>Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio. b. How many members of each Board identify as Indigenous. c. How many members of each Board identify as a person with disability d. Please detail any board appointments made for the financial year 2023-24 to date. e. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid for the financial year 2023-24 to date. f. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date. g. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date. 	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001224	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Legal Services	<p>Please provide the total legal costs for the financial year 2023-24 to date.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001225	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Gifts and Hospitality	<p>1. Please provide a copy of ARC's Gifts and Hospitality Policy</p> <p>2. Please provide a copy of the register of declaration of gifts and hospitality from 1 July 2023 to date.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001226	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Research grants	<p>1. Please provide a list of the education research applications and corresponding outcomes relating to explicit instruction or evidence based teaching methods.</p> <p>2. Please provide a detailed list of every grant provided by ARC in 2022-23 and 2023-24 to date, including under which grant fund it was provided, the amount and the subject of the grant provision ie. what was it researching.</p> <p>3. Please advise if the Minister has sought additional information on any grant applications for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 year to date. If so, please advise the grant round the application was for and the name of the project.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001227	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Research Hubs	<p>1. How many Research Centres are funded by the ARC?</p> <p>2. Can you please provide on notice details for each Research Centre including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name of each Research Centre • The location of each Research Centre • The opening date of each Research Centre • The operating term for each Research Centre ie. if only open for a specific period of time • The primary purpose for each Research Centre • The funding for each Research Centre, including establishment funding and ongoing operational funding. Please provide this funding amount by financial year for both already allocated funding and forward years financial funding. • Please outline the funding provided by any partners for each Research Centre, including establishment funding and ongoing operational funding. Please provide this funding amount by financial year for both already allocated funding and forward years financial funding. • What reporting obligations are there for each Research Centre? <p>3. Can you please provide details for each Centre of Excellence including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name of each Centre of Excellence • The location of each Centre of Excellence • The opening date of each Centre of Excellence • The operating term for each Centre of Excellence ie. if only open for a specific period of time • The primary purpose for each Centre of Excellence • The funding for each Centre of Excellence, including establishment funding and ongoing operational funding. 	N/A	8/11/2023
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				<p>Please provide this funding amount by financial year for both already allocated funding and forward years financial funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please outline the funding provided by any partners for each Centre of Excellence, including establishment funding and ongoing operational funding. Please provide this funding amount by financial year for both already allocated funding and forward years financial funding.• What reporting obligations are there for each Centre of Excellence? <p>4. What is the role of the ARC for each of these Centres ie. operational role, overseeing role, ongoing monitoring of Government investment, assessment of value of Government investment.</p>		
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SQ23-001228	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Australian Research Integrity Committee (ARIC) Review	<p>Has the Australian Research Integrity Committee (ARIC) Review been completed?</p> <p>a. If so, when?</p> <p>b. If completed, please provide a copy of the final report.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001229	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Redundancies	<p>How many redundancies did the ARC offer in the 2022-23 Financial Year and this year to date?</p> <p>a. how many of these offers were accepted?</p> <p>b. what was the total cost for these redundancies?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001230	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Contracts	<p>1. How many contracts does the ARC have in place currently for labor hire services?</p> <p>a. How many staff are employed by the ARC under a labor hire contract?</p> <p>b. What is the total contract value for these staff?</p> <p>c. What roles are these staff performing?</p> <p>d. What is the length of the contract for each of the staff employed under these contracts? How many times has each employee had their contract extended and what is the total contract length for each employee.</p> <p>2. How many contracts does the ARC have in place for consultants?</p> <p>a. How many staff are employed by the ARC under a labor hire arrangement?</p> <p>b. What is the total contract value for these staff?</p> <p>c. What roles are these staff performing?</p> <p>d. What is the length of the contract for each of the staff employed under these contracts?</p> <p>e. How many times has each employee had their contract extended and what is the total contract length for each employee.</p> <p>3. How many contracts does the ARC have in place for contractors?</p> <p>a. How many staff are employed by the ARC under a labor hire arrangement?</p> <p>b. What is the total contract value for these staff?</p> <p>c. What roles are these staff performing?</p> <p>d. What is the length of the contract for each of the staff employed under these contracts?</p> <p>e. How many times has each employee had their</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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				contract extended and what is the total contract length for each employee.		
SQ23-001231	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Workplace	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many office locations does ARC have and where? 2. What is the annual rent paid on this property? 3. How many staff can be accomodated at your office location? 4. When does the current lease term expire? 	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001232	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Staffing	<p>1. How many employees are employed by the ARC as at 31 October 2023. Please provide the response specifying the number of staff against each by APS classification.</p> <p>2. How many staff are engaged full time</p> <p>3. How many staff are employed on non-ongoing contracts</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001233	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Social Media	<p>1. Please provide a copy of the Australian Research Council's Social Media Policy for employees.</p> <p>2. How does the Australian Research Council monitor compliance by employees with this policy?</p> <p>3. How many employees have been found to have breached the ARC's Social Media Policy for employees in the 2022-23 financial year and the 2023-24 financial year to date?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001234	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Chief Executive Officer's Travel	Please provide an itemised list of the Chief Executive Officer's travel for the financial year 2023-24 financial year to date, including the cost of flights, accomodation and any ground transport (ie.taxi's)	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001235	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC PGPA Breaches	<p>How many breaches of the PGPA Act have there been since 1 July 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please detail the nature of each breach - on what date the breach was detected - on what date the breach occurred - the monetary value of each breach - the action taken to address each breach 	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001236	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Functions and official receptions	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by ARC in financial year 2023-24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023-24 to date, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001237	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Contracts	<p>1. Please confirm the total number of new contracts (ongoing and terminating) and the total cost of each contract issued on AusTender from 1 July 2023. Please provide the reference number for each contract entered into.</p> <p>2. Can ARC please confirm the total number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of each of these contracts issued on AusTender since 1 June 2022 which relate to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External labour hire - Consultancy - Advertsing campaigns - Travel - Legal expenses <p>Please provide the reference number for each contract.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001238	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Workplace fit outs and upgrades	<p>Were the facilities of any of ARC's premises upgraded in the financial year 2023-24 to date, for example office refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, purchase of new fridges, coffee machines or other kitchen equipment.</p> <p>- If so, please provide a detailed description of the relevant upgrades together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please also provide photographs of any upgrades.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001239	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Travel expenditure	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Chief Executive Officer's travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Executive Director's travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>3. Please provide an itemised list of SES Band 1 travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>4. Please provide an itemised list of Executive Level 1 - Executive Level 2 officer travel by APS classification band for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>5. Please provide an itemised list of APS1 - APS6 officer travel by APS classification band for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001240	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Bullying, harassment and discrimination	<p>In the financial year 2023-24 to date how many allegations of bullying, harrasment or discrimination have been made against any SES, APS, non-ongoing staff, labour hire staff, contractors or consultants engaged by ARC?</p> <p>a. How many claims of bullying, harrasment or discrimination were formally or informally investigated?</p> <p>b. How many allegations were investigated and further action or investigation was undertaken?</p> <p>c. How many cases resulted in disciplinary action?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001241	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Fair Work Commission	In the 2023-24 Financial Year to date, how many referrals have been made by either ARC or an employee of the ARC to the Fair Work Commission.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001242	Australian Research Council	Matthew O'Sullivan	ARC Meetings	<p>1. Please provide a list of the meetings ARC has had with each of the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023. Please identify the dates of each meeting.</p> <p>2. Has ARC provided any briefings to any Members of Parliament, Senators or their offices since 1 July 2023. If so, please provide the date of each meeting and who was in attendance.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001243	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Freedom of Information Requests	<p>Since 1 July 2023, how many Freedom of Information applications has TEQSA received? Please provide a breakdown of the applications as follows:</p> <p>a) the number of applications being processed</p> <p>b) the number of applications granted</p> <p>c) the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982</p> <p>d) the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982</p> <p>e) the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982</p> <p>f) the number of applications under internal review</p> <p>g) the number of applications reviewed by the OAIC</p> <p>h) the number of applications currently being reviewed by the OAIC</p> <p>i) the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned by either an internal or external review mechanism</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001244	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Staff working arrangements	How many staff in your organisation continue to work from home? a. please specify the number of staff with work from home arrangements b. please specify the number of staff who work from home one day per week, two days per week, three days per week, four days per week or 5 days per week	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001245	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Media Monitoring, advertising campaigns and information campaigns	1. Please provide the total amount spent on media monitoring services for the 2023-24 Financial year to date. 2. Please provide the expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for the Financial Year to date 2023-24. Please include the total cost of each element undertaken and the purpose of each spend.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001246	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Board Appointments	Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members. a. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio. b. How many members of each Board identify as Indigenous. c. How many members of each Board identify as a person with disability d. Please detail any board appointments made for the financial year 2023-24 to date. e. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid for the financial year 2023-24 to date. f. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date. g. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors for the financial year 2023-24 to date.	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001247	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Legal Services	Please provide the total legal costs for the financial year 2023-24 to date.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001248	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Gifts and Hospitality	1. Please provide a copy of TEQSA's Gifts and Hospitality Policy 2. Please provide a copy of the register of declaration of gifts and hospitality from 1 July 2023 to date.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001249	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Review of Cost Recovery Arrangements	Please provide a copy of the final review into TEQSA Cost Recovery arrangements	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001250	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Compliance	<p>1. What specific areas is TEQSA responsible for when it comes to regulation and compliance monitoring for the sector? Please provide a full list for each area of responsibility and how often compliance checks are undertaken for each area.</p> <p>2. TEQSA's last three annual compliance reports and at best there has been a warning letter issued, along with education or guidance material. There have been no penalties issued over the last 3 years. Over the same period, how many compliance reviews or audits have been undertaken, for which providers and in which areas?</p> <p>3. Do compliance reviews or audits happen only on a scheduled basis or can do they also occur on a randomised ad-hoc basis if concerns have been raised.</p> <p>4. If checks also happen ad-hoc, please provide details of how many have occurred for randomised or ad-hoc reviews and for which providers.</p> <p>5. What is the threshold for a randomised ad-hoc review occurring?</p> <p>6. What is the threshold for a compliance review warning letter being issued versus a fine?</p> <p>7. Since TEQSA was established, how many compliance breaches have resulted in a fine? a. To which providers where these issued? b. What was the financial penalty applied to the each</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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				<p>provider?</p> <p>c. Was the financial penalty paid in full?</p>		
SQ23-001251	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Guidance note	<p>1. How many submissions did TEQSA receive on the "Preventing and responding to sexual assault and sexual harrassment in the Australian higher education sector"?</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all parties that provided a submission to this consultation.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001252	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Complaints on sexual assault and sexual harrassment	<p>1. Do you collect data for how many complaints are lodged with each provider?</p> <p>2. Do providers report to TEQSA on a regular basis on the number of incidents that occur at each campus? a. How regularly is this data provided or reported to TEQSA.</p> <p>3. Given the prevalence of the student and community concerns in this area, and as the regulator, has TEQSA considered a more wholistic review of this across the sector to be able to provide more informed guidance to providers using the evidence base that exists?</p> <p>4. How many universities are subject to annual reporting at this time? Which universities are they?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001253	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA International students	<p>An article by Julie Hare on 15 August in the AFR outlined that at the time there were more than 10,700 second certificate enrolments.</p> <p>1. What is the number of second certificate enrolments now?</p> <p>2. TEQSA wrote to all providers with a warning on this matter. Can you please provide a copy of the letter that was sent and a list of the institutions it was sent to.</p> <p>3. The article further TEQSA was investigating several providers who may be acting in an unethical matter. Have those investigations been completed?</p> <p>a. What actions were undertaken by you as part of your investigations?</p> <p>b. Have or will you issue any compliance notices as a result of these investigations?</p> <p>c. For providers that may utilise the services of or have strong bonds with student recruiters, are there compliance actions that can be taken against them for 'poaching' like behaviours?</p> <p>4. Immigration expert Abul Rizvi has called for unscrupulous universities, colleges and agents to be named and shamed. The Minister has gone so far as to threaten this action. Can you confirm if this action be taken?</p> <p>a. What action is TEQSA taking to monitor this situation?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001254	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Labour hire contracts	<p>In response to a Question on Notice from the May Budget Estimates hearings, reference number SQ23-000489, you advised TEQSA had entered into 38 new labour hire contracts to the value of just over \$2.3 million.</p> <p>1. Specifically, what roles are these labour hire contracts for? Are they specialist or generalist roles?</p> <p>2. Please advise the length of each of these labour hire contracts, that is the term of the employment period for each employee.</p> <p>3. How many times has an individual had their labour hire arrangements extended?</p> <p>4. Why are these positions being engaged through labour hire arrangements?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001255	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Credit Cards	<p>In response to a Question on Notice from the May Budget Estimates hearings, reference number SQ23-000494, you advised there were 4 transactions totalling \$1,614.47 that were contrary to policy, yet only one transaction to the value of \$4.02 was repaid.</p> <p>1. Can you please provide the details for the three transactions totalling \$1,610.45, what were the purchases for and the total value of each of the purchases?</p> <p>2. Why were the purchases not repaid if they were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to TEQSA policy?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001256	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Redundancies	How many redundancies did TEQSA offer in the 2022-23 Financial Year and this year to date? a. how many of these offers were accepted? b. what was the total cost for these redundancies?	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001257	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Workplace	1. How many office locations does TEQSA have and where? 2. What is the annual rent paid on this property? 3. How many staff can be accommodated at your office location? 4. When does the current lease term expire?	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001258	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Cost Recovery Arrangements	Please provide a copy of the final report/review undertaken into TEQSA's cost recovery arrangements.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001259	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	TEQSA Reviews	Please provide the details of any reviews being conducted by TEQSA and include: - the name of the review - the name of the reviewer or organisation undertaking the review - the date the review commenced - the date the review is due to be completed - the purpose of the review; and - the cost of the review.	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001260	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Matthew O'Sullivan	TEQSA Social Media	<p>1. Please provide a copy of TEQSA's Social Media Policy for employees.</p> <p>2. How does TEQSA monitor compliance by employees with this policy?</p> <p>3. How many employees have been found to have breached TEQSA's Social Media Policy for employees in the 2022-23 financial year and the 2023-24 financial year to date?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001261	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Matthew O'Sullivan	TEQSA CEO Travel	Please provide a list of the Chief Executive Officer's travel for the financial year 2023-24 financial year to date, including the cost of flights, accomodation and any ground transport (ie.taxi's).	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001262	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Matthew O'Sullivan	TEQSA PGPA Breaches	<p>How many breaches of the PGPA Act have there been since 1 July 2023?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please detail the nature of each breach - on what date the breach was detected - on what date the breach occurred - the monetary value of each breach - the action taken to address each breach 	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001263	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Matthew O'Sullivan	TEQSA Functions and official receptions	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by TEQSA in financial year 2023-24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023-24 to date, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	N/A	8/11/2023
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SQ23-001264	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Matthew O'Sullivan	TEQSA Contracts	<p>1. Please confirm the total number of new contracts (ongoing and terminating) and the total cost of each contract issued on AusTender from 1 July 2023. Please provide the reference number for each contract entered into.</p> <p>2. Can TEQSA please confirm the total number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of each of these contracts issued on AusTender since 1 June 2022 which relate to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External labour hire - Consultancy - Advertsing campaigns - Travel - Legal expenses <p>Please provide the reference number for each contract.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001265	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Matthew O'Sullivan	TEQSA Workplace fit outs and upgrades	<p>Were the facilities of any of TEQSA's premises upgraded in the financial year 2023-24 to date, for example office refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, purchase of new fridges, coffee machines or other kitchen equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If so, please provide a detailed description of the relevant upgrades together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please also provide photographs of any upgrades. 	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001266	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Matthew O'Sullivan	TEQSA Travel expenditure	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Chief Executive Officer's travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of SES Band 2 travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>3. Please provide an itemised list of SES Band 1 travel for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>4. Please provide an itemised list of Executive Level 1 - Executive Level 2 officer travel by APS classification band for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p> <p>5. Please provide an itemised list of APS1 - APS6 officer travel by APS classification band for financial year 2023-24 to date including the cost of flights, accomodation, car hire and taxi fares.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001267	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Matthew O'Sullivan	TEQSA Bullying, harrasment and discrimination	<p>In the financial year 2023-24 to date how many allegations of bullying, harrasment or discrimination have been made against any SES, APS, non-ongoing staff, labour hire staff, contractors or consultants engaged by the TEQSA?</p> <p>a. How many claims of bullying, harrasment or discrimination were formally or informally investigated?</p> <p>b. How many allegations were investigated and further action or investigation was undertaken?</p> <p>c. How many cases resulted in disciplinary action?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001268	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Matthew O'Sullivan	TEQSA Fair Work Commission	In the 2023-24 Financial Year to date, how many referrals have been made by either TEQSA or an employee of TEQSA to the Fair Work Commission.	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001269	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Matthew O'Sullivan	TEQSA Meetings	<p>1. Please provide a list of the meetings TEQSA has had with each of the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023. Please identify the dates of each meeting.</p> <p>2. Has TEQSA provided any briefings to any Members of Parliament, Senators or their offices since 1 July 2023. If so, please provide the date of each meeting and who was in attendance.</p>	N/A	8/11/2023

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SQ23-001270	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	123,000 additional educators and teachers	<p>1. On 7 October 2023, the Government issued a joint media release that said, 'Australia's early childhood education and care sector has grown by more than 14,000 workers since May 2022, with a further 123,000 additional educators and teachers in the training pipeline'. It has been confirmed that Jobs and Skills Australia contributed to that data point. May we please have the workings, or breakdown, for how this figure was attained?</p> <p>2. What information did the Department provide the Minister for the use of this figure?</p> <p>3. Is the Department able to confirm whether those persons currently studying are, for the purposes of this figure, already part of the workforce or not?</p> <p>4. Can the Department confirm if the 123,000 additional educators and teachers are separate individuals or if they may be the same individuals completing multiple qualifications?</p> <p>5. Can the Department confirm whether any of these persons are existing childcare workers, upskilling, or are they all 'additional', as the Government has claimed?</p> <p>6. According to the Early Childhood Education and Care National Workforce Census, published in August 2022, the entire early childhood education and care national workforce comprises 216,619 staff. Does this mean we are going to see a 50% increase in this workforce, within a year or so?</p>	N/A	10/11/2023
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				<p>7. The Government has also said the early childhood education and care sector has grown by more than 14,000 workers, since May 2022. How many of those are graduates, from Australia, and how many are skilled migrants?</p> <p>8. How many of these 14,000 workers received training under the Fee-Free TAFE program?</p> <p>9. How many had training paid for through JobTrainer?</p> <p>10. Can it be said with certainty that the 123,000 people are in addition to the existing workforce?</p>		
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SQ23-001271	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	Expenditure on private sector consultants	<p>1. What was the total amount spent by the Department of Education (including early childhood education & care and higher education) on private sector consultants and other professional services in the last financial year?</p> <p>2. For the billing period 2022, what amounts were paid to each of the Big Four accountancy firms, PWC, Deloitte, KPMG, Ernst and Young, and the Big Three consultancy firms McKinsey & Co, Boston Consulting and Bain & Co. or their subsidiaries, regarding all services offered and performed for the Department in the last financial year?</p>	N/A	8/11/2023
SQ23-001272	Department of Education	Gerard Rennick	Fraud in childcare services	<p>1. How many childcare providers were investigated for fraud over the past 5 financial years, and of those, how many have since been required to close?</p> <p>2. Please state the amount of federal government funding which has been paid over the past 5 financial years to fraudulent childcare services prior to investigations?</p> <p>3. How are these taxpayer funds being recouped and how successful have efforts been to recover the funds expended?</p> <p>4. Of those childcare providers shut down for fraudulent behaviour, how many have been linked to funding a) motorcycle gangs, b) terrorism, c) drug syndicates, and d) organised crime not previously accounted for?</p> <p>5. How many incidents which include threats to the personal safety of publicly employed staff undertaking compliance monitoring have been reported?</p>	N/A	14/11/2023

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				6.How many weapons have been located at childcare facilities? Please provide a breakdown of weapon categories.		
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SQ23-001273	Department of Education	Jacinta Nampijinpa Price	On-Country Learning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Department provide an update on the On Country Learning initiatives. How much funding of this commitment has been administered so far? 2. Can we have a list of schools that will receive funding under the On Country Learning Initiative? 3. In an answer provided previously [SQ23-000283], it was mentioned that “Schools will work with their local communities to develop tailored solutions to better engage children and young people in school and provide them with the wrap-around support they need to succeed.” Of the schools that are funded, can you provide a list of who they worked with in their local communities to develop these tailored solutions? 4. Who approves these plans? Is it the community, school and then the Department? 5. Does this include families and community elders? Does it include elders who are not connected to these children? 6. If so, does an Elder or community member have to undergo a working with children check or an appropriate background check to ensure they can provide advice in relation to this? 7. If not, is there every a scenario where a child is left in the care of a community member who does not have a working with children’s qualification? 8. Is On Country Learning supervised? By who? 9. In an answer provided to SQ23-000283, it states when trying to define On Country Learning “.. it is often used when referring to school environments that enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to learn away from structured classroom settings to connect On Country.” 10. Is On Country Learning mandatory for Aboriginal 	N/A	15/11/2023
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				<p>children? At what point does On Country Learning intervene with the structured classroom setting? Is it performance based? Who makes this decision?</p> <p>11. What age do children enter On Country Learning?</p> <p>12. Is On Country Learning open to non-aboriginal children?</p> <p>13. Since June 2023, have any schools received their funding under the On Country Learning initiative?</p> <p>14. If so - what impact has it had on their attendance rates? Do you require data from the school to measure this?</p>		
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SQ23-001274	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC Research Funded Outside of Centres for Excellence	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide any illustration of the work of your organisation with respect to Australian research outside these centres of excellence or research centres?</p> <p>Ms Zielke: Are you looking for examples of some of the work we've funded?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's right.</p> <p>Ms Zielke: I suppose the most topical one at the moment is the centre of excellence at the University of New South Wales in relation to quantum computing. We both have funded the centre there but have also funded individual projects relating to that. The Prime Minister's Prize for Science last week was actually awarded to the head of that centre, Professor Michelle Simmons, who is definitely assisting in ensuring Australia is almost leading the world in relation to quantum computing. Otherwise we have examples of smaller hubs and centres around training opportunities, whether that be in mining at University of Wollongong and assisting the resources sector both through training and new research being done or whether it be for equipment but also for use in relation to critical minerals. In that regard there are a large number of industry partners in particular centre, and they're getting really some good outcomes in relation to assisting them.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could provide a bit of a summary of some of these research outcomes, I'd be most grateful—on notice, I'm afraid.</p> <p>Ms Zielke: Our website has a lot of those if you need anything in the meantime.</p>	133	26/10/2023
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SQ23-001275	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Correspondence relating to the Support for Students Policy	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm sorry—I've got lots of questions, so I'm not going to stay on this—but the universities were clearly saying with these sorts of requirements the work should have been done. It was thrown together at the last moment. It was completely haphazard. There was no consultation. They were saying, as we were, it should have been in the legislation. You are asking universities to enter into a whole range of very important compliance obligations and literally tacking things together, including on student safety, when you haven't even done the basic consultation, let alone identified the regulatory gaps. Could you please tell me—I'm happy for you to take it on notice—the regulatory gaps and the duplication involved in the range of various different obligations on universities and any briefs, correspondence or emails from or to the minister's office and the department in relation to the support for students policy, including those regulatory gaps.</p>	116	26/10/2023
SQ23-001576	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Correspondence relating to the Independent Student Ombudsman	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Sure. Back to the independent student ombudsman, students deserve to be heard. We have heard and Senator Faruqi has raised this in relation to the very serious issue of sexual violence, sexual harassment and assault on university campuses. TEQSA is clearly not doing the job. We have this half-baked support for students policy and then an interview by the minister suggesting the student ombudsman. Where is that at? Could you provide any briefs or advices or correspondence in relation to the independent student ombudsman, including the briefs that will go to education ministers' meeting, I believe, in the forthcoming weeks? Could you provide a notice but give me an update now, please.</p>	117	26/10/2023

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