

Portfolio Question No	Department Or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question Text	Written Hansard	Proof Hansard Page
SQ24-001040	Department of Education	Tammy Tyrrell	Commonwealth Prac Payments	<p>The University of Tasmania supports Commonwealth Prac Payments for students who are required to do placements in priority courses (<a href="https://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1750570/University-of-Tasmania-Universities-Accord-Bill-Submission-and-QON-Sep-2024.pdf">https://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1750570/University-of-Tasmania-Universities-Accord-Bill-Submission-and-QON-Sep-2024.pdf</a>) but the university does not collect student financial data, employment status or information about personal and family circumstances.</p> <p>1. Who is responsible for conducting for the means testing that goes with these payments, or do the students determine their eligibility themselves?</p> <p>2. The ABS has the average weekly full-time time earnings for Tasmanian adults at around \$1740 (<a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/average-weekly-earnings-australia/latest-release">https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/average-weekly-earnings-australia/latest-release</a>), in comparison to the national average weekly earnings of \$1920. If students in Tasmania are earning less than students in other parts of Australia, are there more prac payments for Tasmanian students, or will there be a cap on payments per state or territory?</p> <p>3. What happens if the placement doesn't happen, is not completed or is cancelled? Does the student have to pay back the prac payment, or part of the payment, and who is responsible for tracking this process, recovering the debt?</p> <p>Universities, including UTAS, have expressed concerns over administration associated with these institutions being responsible for implementing the proposed Commonwealth Prac Payments.</p> <p>4. If universities will become responsible for maintaining financial data on their students to assess their eligibility for prac payments, can each university determine their own threshold?</p>	Written	

				a. If no, when will the government determine what the threshold is and what factors will be considered in making this decision?		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--

<p><b>SQ24-001041</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Tammy Tyrrell</p>	<p>Administering of Prac Payments</p>	<p>I'm interested in understanding the thinking behind the decision around universities administering the prac payments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why are universities administering these payments, instead of Services Australia, the body that usually administers payments?</li> <li>2. How frequently will these payments be made, and will extra support be given to universities to administer the payments so the extra workload doesn't impact student support and wellbeing?</li> </ol> <p>Universities will receive a 5% loading on top of the prac payments to administer them.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Do vocational and education training (VET) colleges also get a 5% loading if they offer a course when prac payments would be paid?</li> <li>4. How much money has the government budgeted to pay for the loading on these prac payments, and is this cost included in the Universities Accord policy, or on top of it?</li> <li>5. The amount of this funding will change every year, based on the number of students who enrol for courses that attract prac payments. Given this will be a new process, how will universities budget for these fees and associated administration?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001042</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Tammy Tyrrell</p>	<p>SSAF Funds - Allocation of 40% to student-led organisations</p>	<p>The University of Tasmania has highlighted the need for flexibility when it comes to the requirement to allocate 40% of SSAF funds to student-led organisations (<a href="https://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1750570/University-of-Tasmania-Universities-Accord-Bill-Submission-and-QON-Sep-2024.pdf">https://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1750570/University-of-Tasmania-Universities-Accord-Bill-Submission-and-QON-Sep-2024.pdf</a>).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the proposed transition plan for universities making the necessary changes to enact the financial and governance functions to meet this requirement?</li> <li>2. How will the changes to SSAF impact regional universities, like UTAS, who have multiple campuses, or a high number of part-time or online students?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001043</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Steph Hodgins-May</p>	<p>ECEC Wage Justice Bill and worker retention guidelines</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will it be possible for a provider to receive more funding than is required to cover the cost of the retention payment and on costs?</li> <li>2. How will the government manage any surplus funding that is paid to providers?</li> <li>3. How will the government ensure high-quality providers who have higher labour costs (NFPs) aren't disadvantaged and ensure the payment doesn't contribute to even higher profits for low-quality providers?</li> <li>4. The Bill's guidelines currently specify a fee cap of 4.4% for each provider, regardless of their set fees, which puts ACCOs and NFPs at a disadvantage. Is the Government willing to set the fee cap at a base rate?</li> <li>5. The Department of Education has said there will be exemptions from adhering to the rate cap limit, which may apply only to providers that can demonstrate fee growth is essential to ensure their financial viability. Please provide the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. An explanation of which providers will be exempt from the rate increase.</li> <li>b. The number of providers who have applied for this exemption</li> <li>c. The number of exemptions that have been granted with a breakdown of for-profit and not-for-profit.</li> <li>d. Is the government prepared to provide funding for back pay for educators whose employers have been slow to take up the grant due to protracted bargaining?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------	---	---	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001044</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Steph Hodgins-May</p>	<p>Child Care Subsidy (CCS)</p>	<p>1. Are low-income families over-represented in CCS data for children in their preschool year, compared to high-income families? Please provide data.</p> <p>2. Please provide data on the following:</p> <p>a. The number of 3- to 5-year-olds (both in the year before school and two years before school) attending LDC programs for two or more days per week in 2023, broken down by state and territory</p> <p>b. The total amount of Child Care Subsidy (CCS) paid for these children</p> <p>c. The average CCS payment per child</p> <p>d. The average out-of-pocket costs for families with 3- to 5-year-olds for two days of LDC per week in 2023</p> <p>e. The number of 3-year-olds whose days in LDC are reduced when they turn 4</p> <p>f. The number of 3-year-olds in each state and territory receiving only the minimum CCS safety net of 24 hours per fortnight</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001045</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Steph Hodgins-May</p>	<p>Free Preschool Program</p>	<p>Please provide government modelling on the free preschool program</p> <p>a. The cost to the Government of removing the activity test for 3- to 5-year-olds</p> <p>b. The cost to the Government of a 100% subsidy for all 3- to 5-year-old children to ensure free access to preschool programs for the two years before school</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001046</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Steph Hodgins-May</p>	<p>National Workforce Strategy</p>	<p>Please provide data on the cost of the National Workforce Strategy (<a href="https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-10/ShapingOurFutureChildrensEducationandCareNationalWorkforceStrategy-September2021.pdf">https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-10/ShapingOurFutureChildrensEducationandCareNationalWorkforceStrategy-September2021.pdf</a>).</p>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001047</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Increased wages for educators</p>	<p>1. Regarding the workforce training package announced in the 2023-24 Budget, how many applications has the Department received from providers and how many applications have been approved for funding since the program was announced?</p> <p>a. Please break that down in terms of the three streams within the package: professional development, paid practicum, financial support for on the job teacher training.</p> <p>2. How much has the Department paid to providers from that \$72 million?</p> <p>a. Please provide updated 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>3. What is the cost of the expansion of the Early Childhood Education Workforce package announced on 23 July 2024 by Minister Aly?</p> <p>4. Please provide further detail on the new Practicum Exchange Network website announced on 18 October 2024 by Minister Aly, including how it will work and the cost of the website?</p> <p>5. Is there any work underway by the Department of Education in response to the 41 recommendations made by Jobs and Skills Australia in their Early Childhood Education and Care Study Report?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------------------	--	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001048</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Fee-Free TAFE</p>	<p>1. Does the Department have any updated data on Fee-Free Tafe beyond the January-December 2023 figures provided in response to QON SQ24-000900?</p> <p>2. Is the Government concerned about the low levels of completion rates of early childhood education courses - only seven per cent of people are completing the course?</p> <p>3. Since January 2023, how many enrolments in early childhood education courses (Cert III and Diploma) have been supported through registered training organisations (non-TAFE)?</p> <p>4. Since January 2023, how many completions in those courses have been supported through training registered organisations (non-TAFE)?</p> <p>5. The Daily Telegraph ran a story in August 2024 titled "Insane': Childcare centres in crisis across Australia". There is a line in the article that says: "The Government said since Labor won office, the early childhood education and care workforce has grown by more than 30,000 workers.</p> <p>Where does that 30,000 figure come from, and can the Department confirm whether the Government policy since 2022 is wholly responsible for that increase of educators in the sector or are there other factors to consider?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001049</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Minister Press Conferences</p>	<p>1. How many press conferences has Minister Clare, Minister Aly or Assistant Minister Chisholm held or attended at an early learning service since June 2022?</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of every press conference held or attended by Minister Clare, Aly or Chisholm, and the service provider the press conference was held at, including the location.</p>	<p>Written</p>	

<b>SQ24-001050</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Community Child Care Fund - \$16 million limited supply grant	<p>1. Of the \$16 million announced last year to establish services in regional areas, how much has been paid to services?</p> <p>2. Have any of those services opened their doors?  a. If yes, which ones?  b. If no, when are they expected to?</p> <p>3. As part of the grant agreement with the Government are there any rules around how long those services have to operate for?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001051</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Hourly Rate Cap	<p>1. To date, how many providers are currently charging above the hourly rate cap?</p> <p>2. How many services are currently charging above the hourly rate cap?</p> <p>3. Is the Department collecting data on which areas are more likely to charge above the hourly rate cap?</p> <p>4. Has the Department spoken to those providers to understand why they are charging above the hourly rate cap?</p> <p>5. There is concern from many in the sector that the hourly rate cap is not high enough given the increasing cost of delivering early learning, does the Government believe it is adequate to deliver quality care?</p> <p>6. The ACCC final report mentioned the hourly rate cap was confusing to parents who pay a daily fee rather than an hourly fee. Is the Government considering changing to a daily fee cap?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001052</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Integrity Support Measures	In the 2024-25 Budget, the Government announced plans to increase audits on Family Day Care and In Home Care. Have those audits resulted in savings for the Government? If yes, how much?	Written	



<p><b>SQ24-001053</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>In Home Care</p>	<p>1. In response to SQ24-000745, the Department provided a breakdown of educators in In Home Care by state and territory. There are a total of 800 educators across the country, how many more educators do we need in the sector to cover 3,200 places?</p> <p>2. Do you know how many educators may be working for multiple families?</p> <p>3. What is the average number of hours an educator will work with one family?</p> <p>4. Where is the greatest demand for educators? I.e. which state / territory?</p> <p>5. What was the reason In Home Care educators were not included as part of the Government's wage retention grant program?</p> <p>6. Is the Government concerned about leakage from the In Home Care sector given they are not eligible for a wage increase from the Government?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001054</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Guardian Early Learning Services in the ACT</p>	<p>1. On 8 July 2024, the Riot Act, a Canberra news outlet reported that the ACT Government had been investigating Guardian Education and Childcare following six substantial breaches of the national law. Has the ACT regulator provided the Department or ACECQA with a copy of that investigation?</p> <p>2. Is the Department or ACECQA aware if there were any penalties issued to Guardian Education and Childcare following that investigation?</p> <p>3. Has ACECQA investigated Guardian over these breaches?</p> <p>4. Is the Department or ACECQA concerned about these breaches and whether there may be more widespread issues across the service's 100 centres?</p>	<p>Written</p>	

<b>SQ24-001055</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Personal Devices Restricted in Early Learning Services	<p>1. Since the personal devices policy was announced on 1 July 2024, how many services have adopted the new National Model Code and Guidelines?</p> <p>2. Why did the Government choose for this to be an opt-in code, rather than make it mandatory for all services?</p> <p>3. Is the Department or ACECQA aware of any services breaching the new rules regarding the use of personal devices to take photos and videos in services?</p> <p>4. What is the penalty for staff or services caught doing that?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001056</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Inclusion Support Program Data	<p>1. Please provide a breakdown of ISP spend by centre based day care, outside school hours care and family day care?</p> <p>2. Please provide a breakdown of the number of children accessing the ISP through centre based day care, outside school hours care and family day care?</p> <p>3. Please provide a breakdown of the number of families accessing the ISP through centre based day care, outside school hours care and family day care?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001058</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Early Childhood Education and Care Market Strategy	<p>1. Can the Government advise what the purpose of the early childhood education and care market strategy is?</p> <p>2. Has either Minister Clare or Minister Aly advised an intention to release the strategy publicly?</p> <p>3. Has the market strategy gone to Cabinet or a committee of Cabinet?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001059</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Child Care Subsidy (CCS) Data	Please provide a state breakdown of CCS data since 2018, including the number of families and children accessing CCS, and the total cost of CCS paid to services in each state and territory? (Yearly data is fine)	Written	

<b>SQ24-001060</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Regional, Rural and Remote Youth Engagement Grant / First Nations Youth Engagement Grant	<p>1. In relation to the \$300,000 grant for youth engagement, were organisations invited to apply?</p> <p>2. How many applications did the Department receive?</p> <p>3. Is it a 50/50 split of the \$300,000 i.e. \$150,000 for the indigenous grants and \$150,000 for the rural grants?</p> <p>4. How does the Government anticipate the Pilot Indigenous Student Voice and Agency Model will work? Will this be another advisory group to Government?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001061</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Engage! Youth Strategy	Please provide an update on how the Government is tracking on the six action items within the Engage! Youth Engagement Strategy?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001062</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Wage Retention Grant Program	<p>1. How many services have signed up to the Wage Retention Grants Program to date?</p> <p>2. How many providers have signed up to the Program?</p> <p>3. How many inquiries has the Department had through their helpline?</p> <p>4. What were the inquiries about?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001063</b>	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Approved authorities and schools	Please provide an updated list of all non-government schools and their Approved Authorities, as an update to SQ23-000369.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001064</b>	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	Chronic health	<p>1. How many students with chronic health challenges are enrolled in schooling?</p> <p>2. How many students with chronic health challenges are enrolled in distance/virtual education schools?</p> <p>3. How many students with chronic health challenges are enrolled in registered homeschooling?</p> <p>4. What is the number of students with chronic health challenges with an attendance level below 90% from on-site and distance/virtual education?</p>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001065</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Penny Allman-Payne</p>	<p>Better and Fairer Schools Agreement and funding</p>	<p>1. The Commonwealth says that it has “put \$16 billion on the table” for states that sign up to the Better Fairer Schools Agreement. Please provide a breakdown of how that \$16 billion will be allocated to each state and territory for each year from 2025-2034.</p> <p>2. The 2022 Teacher Workforce Shortages Issues Paper states that “Previous modelling of teacher demand and supply has suggested that these shortages could worsen over the coming years, with the demand for secondary teachers to exceed the supply of new graduate teachers by around 4,100 between 2021 to 2025.</p> <p>3. Has the department done any more up to date modelling on the national teacher workforce shortage? If so, please provide that data at the most granular level possible.</p> <p>4. Please update the answer to Department of Education Question No. SQ24-000765 Attachment A and Attachment B as provided at Budget Estimates 2024/25 in light of changes to Commonwealth funding commitments as a result of the new bilateral agreements signed with the NT, WA and Tasmania since Budget Estimates 2024/25</p>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	--	---	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001066</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Penny Allman-Payne</p>	<p>Defence and STEM</p>	<p>1. With regards to the Department of Defence’s STEM Workforce Strategic Vision, a core outcome is to “Collaborate with the Department of Education to influence the STEM school curriculum to meet Defence future needs.”</p> <p>a. Is Defence seeking to remove certain subjects from the curriculum, or add subjects?</p> <p>b. Is Defence influencing the design and delivery of STEM units in the Australian curriculum - how so?</p> <p>2. In how many national STEM initiatives aimed at children under 18 is Defence the lead agency?</p> <p>3. The Strategic Vision says the Department wants to “Partner with the Department of Education to implement strategy to develop STEM teachers through the provision of course materials, real world case studies, teacher sabbaticals, and student work experience.”</p> <p>a. What does that look like in practice, with examples?</p> <p>b. Please table a copy of all course materials and case studies developed.</p> <p>c. What teacher sabbaticals have been undertaken?</p> <p>d. What products held by the Department of Education has Defence created or inputted into for use in the education sector to raise awareness of careers in Defence?</p> <p>e. How have these products been designed - in house or with input from industry?</p> <p>f. Which companies had input into what products?</p> <p>g. How were these products distributed - were they sent to schools, or departments or other education bodies?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------	---	----------------	--

				<p>4. What programs and outcomes managed wholly or partially by the Department of Education have received input from the Department of Defence?</p> <p>5. What other portfolios (departments or agencies) have had input into the Department of Education's work regarding developing a STEM-skilled workforce?</p> <p>6. Has the Department received correspondence from any companies wholly or partially involved in the manufacture of weapons, weapons components, or dual-use goods with military applications? If so, please table copies.</p> <p>7. Has the Department sent any correspondence to any companies wholly or partially involved in the manufacture of weapons, weapons components, or dual-use goods with military applications? If so, please table copies.</p>		
<b>SQ24-001067</b>	Department of Education	Alexander Antic	Departmental Staff	<p>1. How many staff are employed by the Department of Education?</p> <p>2. How may staff are employed by the Department of Education as in house legal counsel or in any capacity as a legal counsel, legal adviser, legal consultant or equivalent?</p>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001068</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Michaelia Cash</p>	<p>TEQSA   Contract Notice CN4068443</p>	<p>With reference to contract notice CN4068443, published by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency on the Austender website on the 21st June 2024 relating to venue hire:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To what event did this venue hire relate, and precisely where was the event held.</li> <li>2. Can an itemised list of all costs relating to the event be provided.</li> <li>3. Can a guest list for the event be provided, including, without limitation, details of any Ministers, ministerial staff or APS staff who attended.</li> <li>4. Can an itemised list be provided for: (a) any food served; and (b) any beverages served, including the names and vintages of any wines or champagnes.</li> <li>5. Were any catering services procured for the purposes of the event, for example waiters, kitchenhands, or cleaning staff; if so, can full details be provided.</li> <li>6. Was any entertainment provided at the event; if so, can full details be provided.</li> <li>7. Was any audio visual equipment or were any services procured for the purposes of the event; if so, can full details be provided.</li> <li>8. Were any decorations purchased for the purposes of the event; if so, can an itemised list be provided.</li> <li>9. Can any photographs of the event be provided.</li> <li>10. Can copies of any presentations delivered at the event be provided.</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	-----------------------	--	--	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001069</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Ministerial Briefs - Update to SQ24-000450</p>	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister? 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?</p> <p>4. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>5. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft?</p> <p>6. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001070</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Hospitality in the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000451</p>	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, 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 2024, 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>	<p>Written</p>	



<b>SQ24-001071</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Staffing in the Ministers' Offices - Update to SQ24-000452	<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 February 2024.</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 February 2024.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001072</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Meetings with Ministers - Update to SQ24-000453	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? 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 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001073</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister - Update to SQ24-000454	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001074</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Paper - Update to SQ24-000455	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written	

<b>SQ24-001075</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Committee and Taskforce Membership - Update to SQ24-000456	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2024.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2024.</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"><li>a. the name of the interdepartmental committee;</li><li>b. a list of the membership;</li><li>c. the date it was established; and</li><li>d. its purpose.</li></ul>	Written	
--------------------	-------------------------	-----------	--	---	---------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001076</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>2022-23 and 2024-25 Budget savings - Update to SQ24-000457</p>	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses and the subsequent 2024-25 Budget measure, Savings from External Labour – extension:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 years, in aggregate and broken down across those years?</li> <li>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"> <li>a. External labour hire</li> <li>b. Consultancy</li> <li>c. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>d. Travel</li> <li>e. Legal expenses</li> </ol> </li> <li>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?</li> <li>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?</li> <li>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"> <li>a. External labour hire</li> <li>b. Consultancy</li> <li>c. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>d. Travel</li> <li>e. Legal expenses</li> </ol> </li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------	---	---	----------------	--

- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</li><li>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</li><li>c. If so, why and was it approved?</li></ul> |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

<p><b>SQ24-001077</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Department functions/official receptions expenditure - Update to SQ24-000458</p>	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. List of functions;</li> <li>b. List of attendees;</li> <li>c. Function venue;</li> <li>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>e. Details of any food served;</li> <li>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001078</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Minister or Assistant Minister functions/official receptions - Update to SQ24-000459</p>	<p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. List of functions;</li> <li>b. List of attendees;</li> <li>c. Function venue;</li> <li>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>e. Details of any food served;</li> <li>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001079</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Facility upgrades - Update to SQ24-000460</p>	<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 2024/25 to date?  a. Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).  b. Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2024/25 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?  a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).  b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001080</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Travel costs - Update to SQ24-000461</p>	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 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 2024/25 to date?</p>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001081</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure - Update to SQ24-000462</p>	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>a. 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 2024/25 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>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001082</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Credit cards - Update to SQ24-000463</p>	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <p>a. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff?</p> <p>b. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was it for?</p> <p>c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>e. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</p> <p>g. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>h. What was the total value of those purchases?</p> <p>i. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid?</p> <p>j. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</p> <p>k. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or</p>	<p>Written</p>	

contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2024/25 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?

l. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?

m. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.

n. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since June 2024.



<p><b>SQ24-001083</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters - Update to SQ24-000464</p>	<p>In relation to department:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. What has the Department learned from past Comcare claims?</li> <li>3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?</li> <li>4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? 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.</li> <li>5. Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency appeared in any proceeding before the Fair Work Commission? If so, on what date(s)?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------	---	---	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001084</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Number of reviews - Update to SQ24-000465</p>	<p>Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent to date; and</li> <li>g. the date the review is due to be completed.</li> </ul> <p>Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022.</p> <p>Please provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent;</li> <li>g. the date the review was due to be completed;</li> <li>h. the date the review was completed;</li> <li>i. the date the review was provided to the Department;</li> <li>j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and</li> <li>k. the date the review was provided to the Minister’s office.</li> </ul> <p>Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2024.</p> <p>Please provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>l. the name of the review;</li> <li>l. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>l. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------	--	--	----------------	--

- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li><li>I. the budgeted cost of the review;</li><li>I. the amount spent;</li><li>I. the date the review was due to be completed;</li><li>I. the date the review was completed;</li><li>I. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</li></ul> |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

<p><b>SQ24-001085</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Entities (including advisory boards and agencies) - Update to SQ24-000466</p>	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001086</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office - Update to SQ24-000467</p>	<p>Since 1 July 2024, 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>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001087</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ASL Allocation - Update to SQ24-000468</p>	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	<p>Written</p>	

<b>SQ24-001088</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Market research provided to the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000469	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.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001089</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications - Update to SQ24-000470	<p>How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown of the number including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications withdrawn;</p> <p>b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</p> <p>c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</p> <p>d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</p> <p>e. the number of applications subject to internal review;</p> <p>f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC;</p> <p>g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT;</p> <p>h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and</p> <p>i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001090</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications in the Minister's Office - Update to SQ24-000471	<p>How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications by Minister,</p> <p>i. the number of applications that are yet to be decided;</p> <p>ii. the number of applications refused; and</p> <p>iii. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.</p>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001091</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Portfolio estimates variations and movement of funds - Update to SQ24-000472</p>	<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>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001092</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Flexible work arrangements - Update to SQ24-000473</p>	<p>How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</li> <li>ii. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</li> <li>iii. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</li> <li>iv. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</li> <li>v. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</li> </ul> <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff of the department/agency had approved work from home arrangements in cities where the department/agency does not hold any office space?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001093</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Artificial Intelligence - Update to SQ24-000474</p>	<p>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? Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001094</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>Senate Estimates and QoNs - Update to SQ24-000475</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</li> <li>2. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister's office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</li> <li>3. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</li> <li>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 4 to 8 November 2024.</li> <li>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of the Question on Notice;</li> <li>b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice;</li> <li>c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister's office;</li> <li>d. the date the Minister's office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled;</li> <li>e. the date the Question on Notice was provided to the Committee; and</li> <li>f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff in the department/agency are responsible for the management of the responses to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice? Please provide a breakdown of the number by APS level.</li> <li>7. On what date did the department/agency provide briefing material to the relevant Ministerial office to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 4 to 8 November 2024?</li> <li>8. Did the department/agency meet with any Minister or staff of any</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------	--	--	----------------	--

				<p>Minister in order to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 4 to 8 November 2024?</p> <p>9. Is the department/agency aware that questions asked at Senate Estimates and questions asked in writing following the Senate Estimates hearing are to be treated in the same manner?</p>		
<b>SQ24-001095</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Communications campaigns - Update to SQ24-000476	<p>1. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>b. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency engaged any social</p>	Written	



				media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.		
<b>SQ24-001096</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Conflict of interest declaration - Update to SQ24-000477	<p>1. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</p> <p>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001097</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Secretary leave and acting arrangements - Update to SQ24-000478	Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2024, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001098</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Staff positions - Update to SQ24-000479	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions are currently vacant within the department/agency?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of the positions by APS level.</p> <p>2. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2024?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>4. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>5. As at 1 July 2024, what is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?</p> <p>6. Since 1 July 2024, how many SES members of the department/agency have left the department/agency?</p>	Written	

				7. Since 1 July 2024, how many APS members of the department/agency have left the department/agency?		
<b>SQ24-001099</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Property - Location, maintenance & costs - Update to SQ24-000480	<p>As at 1 July 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2024. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001100</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Longest continuing serving member of the Department - Update to SQ24-000481	As at 1 July 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	

<b>SQ24-001101</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Public Holidays - Update to SQ24-000482	<p>As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001102</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Staff Training - Update to SQ24-000483	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001103</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Funding for operational expenditure - Update to SQ24-000484	Since 1 July 2024, how many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001104</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Election commitments - Update to SQ24-000485	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001105</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	External guest speakers - Update to SQ24-000486	Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001106</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	External retreats for staff - Update to SQ24-000487	Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	

<b>SQ24-001107</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	International Travel - Update to SQ24-000488	Since 1 July 2024, how many official international visits have been taken by staff?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001108</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Security clearances - Update to SQ24-000489	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001109</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Staff in communications/ media - Update to SQ24-000490	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff work in the communications / media team of the Department/agency?</p> <p>a. Please provide a breakdown of positions by APS level.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001110</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Centralised guidance on answering Senate Estimates QoNs	<p>1. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information bring provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, since 1 July 2024, on what dates has the department/agency received any guidance from the Prime Minister's Office or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in relation to answering questions on notice?</p> <p>a. Who made the contact with the department/agency?</p> <p>b. How was the communication made?</p> <p>c. Did the department/agency provide a copy to the department/agency's Ministerial office?</p> <p>d. Did the department/agency receive a copy from the department/agency's Ministerial office?</p> <p>e. Did the department/agency use the document in order to respond to questions asked at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information bring provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from</p>	Written	

				witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, has the department/agency sought advice from the Australian Public Service Commission in relation to the use of centralised guidance for answering questions from the Parliament, in particular where the department/agency could provide the information?		
<b>SQ24-001111</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Desk Allocation - Update to SQ24-000492	As at 1 July 2024, how many work stations/desks/terminals does the department/agency provide for staff?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001112</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Variations to Determinations - Update to SQ24-000493	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2023, has any portfolio Minister sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, has the Remuneration Tribunal altered any determination in respect of an officer or employee of the department/agency? If so, on what date(s)?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001113</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration -	Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency been the subject of any claim under the Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration? If so, how many claims has the department been the subject of?	Written	

			Update to SQ24-000494			
<b>SQ24-001114</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Appeals - Update to SQ24-000495	Under the Legal Services Directions, how does the department/agency consider reasonable prospects of success for an appeal? Would the department/agency use a third party lawyer, that is separate to the first case, to do a sense check prior to launching an appeal?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001115</b>	Department of Education	Jane Hume	United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29)	<p>1. Has the department/agency had or will have any staff attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia? Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The number of staff, broken down by APS classification;</li> <li>b. The expected cost of travel, broken down by the cost of flights and accommodation;</li> <li>c. The first date of travel for department/agency staff; and</li> <li>d. The last date of travel for department/agency staff.</li> </ul> <p>2. Has any Minister or Assistant Minister of the department/agency been approved to attend or has attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Please provide a list of which Ministers or Assistant Ministers have been approved to attend or have attended.</li> </ul>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001116</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Ministerial briefs - Update to SQ24-000496</p>	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister? 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?</p> <p>4. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>5. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft?</p> <p>6. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001117</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Hospitality in the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000497</p>	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, 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 2024, 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>	<p>Written</p>	

<b>SQ24-001118</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Staffing in the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000498	<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 February 2024.</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 February 2024.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001119</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Meetings with Ministers - Update to SQ24-000499	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? 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 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001120</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister - Update to SQ24-000500	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001121</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Paper - Update to SQ24-000501	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written	



<p><b>SQ24-001122</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Committee and taskforce memberships - Update to SQ24-000502</p>	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2024.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2024.</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"> <li>a. the name of the interdepartmental committee;</li> <li>b. a list of the membership;</li> <li>c. the date it was established; and</li> <li>d. its purpose.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	--	--	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001123</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   2022-23 October Budget savings - Update to SQ24-000503</p>	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses and the subsequent 2024-25 Budget measure, Savings from External Labour – extension:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 years, in aggregate and broken down across those years?</li> <li>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"> <li>a. External labour hire</li> <li>b. Consultancy</li> <li>c. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>d. Travel</li> <li>e. Legal expenses</li> </ol> </li> <li>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?</li> <li>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?</li> <li>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"> <li>a. External labour hire</li> <li>b. Consultancy</li> <li>c. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>d. Travel</li> <li>e. Legal expenses</li> </ol> </li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	---	---	----------------	--

- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</li><li>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</li><li>c. If so, why and was it approved?</li></ul> |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

<p><b>SQ24-001124</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Agency functions/official receptions expenditure - Update to SQ24-000504</p>	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. List of functions;</li> <li>b. List of attendees;</li> <li>c. Function venue;</li> <li>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>e. Details of any food served;</li> <li>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul> <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. List of functions;</li> <li>b. List of attendees;</li> <li>c. Function venue;</li> <li>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>e. Details of any food served;</li> <li>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001125</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Facility upgrades - Update to SQ24-000505</p>	<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 2024/25 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 2024/25 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</li> <li>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001126</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Travel costs - Update to SQ24-000506</p>	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 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 2024/25 to date?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001127</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure - Update to SQ24-000507</p>	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2024/25 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 2024/25 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>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001128</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Credit Cards - Update to SQ24-000508</p>	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff?</li> <li>2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was it for?</li> <li>3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> <li>4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> <li>5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> <li>6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</li> <li>7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2024/25 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What was the total value of those purchases?</li> <li>b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid?</li> <li>c. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</li> </ol> </li> <li>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 2024/25 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</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?

10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.

a. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since June 2024.

<p><b>SQ24-001129</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters - Update to SQ24-000509</p>	<p>In relation to department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims?</li> <li>3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?</li> </ol> <p>In relation to the department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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"> <li>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.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency appeared in any proceeding before the Fair Work Commission? If so, on what date(s)?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	---	---	----------------	--



<p><b>SQ24-001130</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Number of reviews - Update to SQ24-000510</p>	<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"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent to date; and</li> <li>g. the date the review is due to be completed.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent;</li> <li>g. the date the review was due to be completed;</li> <li>h. the date the review was completed;</li> <li>i. the date the review was provided to the Department;</li> <li>j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and</li> <li>k. the date the review was provided to the Minister’s office.</li> </ul> <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent;</li> <li>g. the date the review was due to be completed;</li> <li>h. the date the review was completed;</li> <li>i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	--	---	----------------	--

<b>SQ24-001131</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Entities (including advisory boards and agencies) - Update to SQ24-000511	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001132</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office - Update to SQ24-000512	<p>Since 1 July 2024, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001133</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   ASL Allocation - Update to SQ24-000513	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001134</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Market research provided to the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000514	<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>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001135</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Freedom of Information applications - Update to SQ24-000515</p>	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of applications withdrawn;</li> <li>b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>e. the number of applications subject to internal review;</li> <li>f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC;</li> <li>g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT;</li> <li>h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and</li> <li>i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</li> </ul> <p>2. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of applications by Minister,</li> <li>b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided;</li> <li>c. the number of applications refused; and</li> <li>d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.</li> </ul> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	--	--	----------------	--

<b>SQ24-001136</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Portfolio estimates variations and movement of funds - Update to SQ24-000516	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</li><li>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.</li></ol>	Written	
--------------------	---	-----------	--	---	---------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001137</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Flexible work arrangements - Update to SQ24-000517</p>	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</li> <li>b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</li> <li>c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</li> <li>d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</li> <li>e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</li> </ul> <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff of the department/agency had approved work from home arrangements in cities where the department/agency does not hold any office space?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001138</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Artificial Intelligence - Update to SQ24-000518</p>	<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>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001139</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Senate Estimates and QoNs - Update to SQ24-000519</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</li> <li>2. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister's office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</li> <li>3. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</li> <li>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 4 to 8 November 2024.</li> <li>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of the Question on Notice;</li> <li>b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice;</li> <li>c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister's office;</li> <li>d. the date the Minister's office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled;</li> <li>e. the date the Question on Notice was provided to the Committee; and</li> <li>f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff in the department/agency are responsible for the management of the responses to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice? Please provide a breakdown of the number by APS level.</li> <li>7. On what date did the department/agency provide briefing material to the relevant Ministerial office to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 4 to 8 November 2024?</li> <li>8. Did the department/agency meet with any Minister or staff of any</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	--	--	----------------	--

Minister in order to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 4 to 8 November 2024?

9. Is the department/agency aware that questions asked at Senate Estimates and questions asked in writing following the Senate Estimates hearing are to be treated in the same manner?

<p><b>SQ24-001140</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Communications campaigns - Update to SQ24-000520</p>	<p>1. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?  a. Has that research been provided to a Minister’s office?  B. Did the Minister’s office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001141</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Conflict of interest declaration - Update to SQ24-000521</p>	<p>1. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?  2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001142</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Agency Head leave and acting</p>	<p>Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2024, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.</p>	<p>Written</p>	



			arrangements - Update to SQ24-000522			
<b>SQ24-001143</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Staff positions - Update to SQ24-000523	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions are currently vacant within the department/agency? Please provide a list of the positions by APS level.</p> <p>2. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2024?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>4. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>5. As at 1 July 2024, what is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?</p> <p>6. Since 1 July 2024, how many SES members of the department/agency have left the department/agency?</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many APS members of the department/agency have left the department/agency?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001144</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Property - Location, maintenance & costs - Update to SQ24-000524	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2024. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p>	Written	

				3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.		
<b>SQ24-001145</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Longest continuing serving member of the Agency - Update to SQ24-000525	As at 1 July 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001146</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Public Holidays - Update to SQ24-000526	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001147</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Staff Training - Update to SQ24-000527	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001148</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Funding for operational expenditure - Update to SQ24-000528	Since 1 July 2024, how many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written	

<b>SQ24-001149</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Election commitments - Update to SQ24-000529	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001150</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   External guest speakers - Update to SQ24-000530	Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001151</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   External retreats for staff - Update to SQ24-000531	Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001152</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   International Travel - Update to SQ24-000532	Since 1 July 2024, how many official international visits have been taken by staff?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001153</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Security clearances - Update to SQ24-000533	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001154</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Staff in communications/ media - Update to SQ24-000534	As at 1 July 2024, how many staff work in the communications / media team of the Department/agency? Please provide a breakdown of positions by APS level.	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001155</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Centralised guidance on answering SEQoNS</p>	<p>1. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, since 1 July 2024, on what dates has the department/agency received any guidance from the Prime Minister’s Office or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in relation to answering questions on notice?</p> <p>a. Who made the contact with the department/agency?  b. How was the communication made?  c. Did the department/agency provide a copy to the department/agency’s Ministerial office?  d. Did the department/agency receive a copy from the department/agency’s Ministerial office?  e. Did the department/agency use the document in order to respond to questions asked at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information bring provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, has the department/agency sought advice from the Australian Public Service Commission in relation to the use of centralised guidance for answering questions from the Parliament, in particular where the department/agency could provide the information?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001156</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ACARA   Desk Allocation - Update to SQ24-000536</p>	<p>As at 1 July 2024, how many work stations/desks/terminals does the department/agency provide for staff?</p>	<p>Written</p>	

<b>SQ24-001157</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Variations to Determinations - Update to SQ24-000537	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2023, has any portfolio Minister sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, has the Remuneration Tribunal altered any determination in respect of an officer or employee of the department/agency? If so, on what date(s)?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001158</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration - Update to SQ24-000538	Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency been the subject of any claim under the Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration? If so, how many claims has the department/agency been the subject of?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001159</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   Appeals - Update to SQ24-000539	<p>1. Under the Legal Services Directions, how does the department/agency consider reasonable prospects of success for an appeal?</p> <p>2. Would the department/agency use a third party lawyer, that is separate to the first case, to do a sense check prior to launching an appeal?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001160</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	ACARA   United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29)	<p>1. Has the department/agency had or will have any staff attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia? Please provide:</p> <p>a. The number of staff, broken down by APS classification;</p> <p>b. The expected cost of travel, broken down by the cost of flights and accommodation;</p> <p>c. The first date of travel for department/agency staff; and</p> <p>d. The last date of travel for department/agency staff.</p> <p>2. Has any Minister or Assistant Minister of the department/agency been approved to attend or has attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of</p>	Written	

				Australia? Please provide a list of which Ministers or Assistant Ministers have been approved to attend or have attended.		
<b>SQ24-001161</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Ministerial briefs - Update to SQ24-000540	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister? 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?</p> <p>4. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>5. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft?</p> <p>6. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>	Written	

<b>SQ24-001162</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Hospitality in the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000541	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, 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 2024, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001163</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Staffing in the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000542	<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 February 2024.</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 February 2024.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001164</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Meetings with Ministers - Update to SQ24-000543	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? 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 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001165</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   New Policy Proposals provided to each	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	

			Minister - Update to SQ24-000544			
<b>SQ24-001166</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Paper - Update to SQ24-000545	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001167</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Committee and taskforce memberships - Update to SQ24-000546	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2024.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2024.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</p> <p>a. the name of the interdepartmental committee;</p> <p>b. a list of the membership;</p> <p>c. the date it was established; and</p> <p>d. its purpose.</p>	Written	



<p><b>SQ24-001168</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>AITSL   2022-23 October Budget savings - Update to SQ24-000547</p>	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses and the subsequent 2024-25 Budget measure, Savings from External Labour – extension:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 years, in aggregate and broken down across those years?</li> <li>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"> <li>a. External labour hire</li> <li>b. Consultancy</li> <li>c. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>d. Travel</li> <li>e. Legal expenses</li> </ol> </li> <li>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?</li> <li>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?</li> <li>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"> <li>a. External labour hire</li> <li>b. Consultancy</li> <li>c. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>d. Travel</li> <li>e. Legal expenses</li> </ol> </li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	---	---	----------------	--

- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</li><li>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</li><li>c. If so, why and was it approved?</li></ul> |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

<p><b>SQ24-001169</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>AITSL   Agency functions/official receptions expenditure - Update to SQ24-000548</p>	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. List of functions;</li> <li>b. List of attendees;</li> <li>c. Function venue;</li> <li>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>e. Details of any food served;</li> <li>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul> <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. List of functions;</li> <li>b. List of attendees;</li> <li>c. Function venue;</li> <li>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>e. Details of any food served;</li> <li>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001170</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>AITSL   Facility upgrades - Update to SQ24-000549</p>	<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 2024/25 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 2024/25 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</li> <li>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001171</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>AITSL   Travel costs - Update to SQ24-000550</p>	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 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 2024/25 to date?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001172</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>AITSL   Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure - Update to SQ24-000551</p>	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2024/25 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 2024/25 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>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001173</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>AITSL   Credit Cards - Update to SQ24-000552</p>	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff?</li> <li>2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was it for?</li> <li>3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> <li>4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> <li>5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> <li>6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</li> <li>7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2024/25 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What was the total value of those purchases?</li> <li>b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid?</li> <li>c. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</li> </ol> </li> <li>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 2024/25 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</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?

10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.

a. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since June 2024.

<p><b>SQ24-001174</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>AITSL   Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters - Update to SQ24-000553</p>	<p>In relation to department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims?</li> <li>3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?</li> </ol> <p>In relation to the department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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"> <li>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.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency appeared in any proceeding before the Fair Work Commission? If so, on what date(s)?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	---	---	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001175</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>AITSL   Number of reviews - Update to SQ24-000554</p>	<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"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent to date; and</li> <li>g. the date the review is due to be completed.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent;</li> <li>g. the date the review was due to be completed;</li> <li>h. the date the review was completed;</li> <li>i. the date the review was provided to the Department;</li> <li>j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and</li> <li>k. the date the review was provided to the Minister’s office.</li> </ul> <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent;</li> <li>g. the date the review was due to be completed;</li> <li>h. the date the review was completed;</li> <li>i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	--	---	----------------	--



<b>SQ24-001176</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Entities (including advisory boards and agencies) - Update to SQ24-000555	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001177</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office - Update to SQ24-000556	<p>Since 1 July 2024, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001178</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   ASL Allocation - Update to SQ24-000557	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001179</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Market research provided to the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000558	<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>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001180</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>AITSL   Freedom of Information applications - Update to SQ24-000559</p>	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of applications withdrawn;</li> <li>b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>e. the number of applications subject to internal review;</li> <li>f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC;</li> <li>g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT;</li> <li>h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and</li> <li>i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</li> </ul> <p>2. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister’s office since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of applications by Minister,</li> <li>b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided;</li> <li>c. the number of applications refused; and</li> <li>d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.</li> </ul> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001181</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>AITSL   Portfolio estimates variations and movement of funds - Update to SQ24-000560</p>	<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>	<p>Written</p>	

<b>SQ24-001182</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Flexible work arrangements - Update to SQ24-000561	<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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</li> <li>The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</li> <li>The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</li> <li>The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</li> <li>The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</li> </ol> <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff of the department/agency had approved work from home arrangements in cities where the department/agency does not hold any office space?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001183</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Artificial Intelligence - Update to SQ24-000562	<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>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001184</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>AITSL   Senate Estimates and QoNs - Update to SQ24-000563</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</li> <li>2. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister's office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</li> <li>3. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</li> <li>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 4 to 8 November 2024.</li> <li>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of the Question on Notice;</li> <li>b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice;</li> <li>c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister's office;</li> <li>d. the date the Minister's office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled;</li> <li>e. the date the Question on Notice was provided to the Committee; and</li> <li>f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff in the department/agency are responsible for the management of the responses to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice? Please provide a breakdown of the number by APS level.</li> <li>7. On what date did the department/agency provide briefing material to the relevant Ministerial office to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 4 to 8 November 2024?</li> <li>8. Did the department/agency meet with any Minister or staff of any</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	--	--	----------------	--

				<p>Minister in order to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 4 to 8 November 2024?</p> <p>9. Is the department/agency aware that questions asked at Senate Estimates and questions asked in writing following the Senate Estimates hearing are to be treated in the same manner?</p>		
<b>SQ24-001185</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Communications campaigns - Update to SQ24-000564	<p>1. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>B. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency engaged any social</p>	Written	

				media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.		
<b>SQ24-001186</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Conflict of interest declaration - Update to SQ24-000565	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</li> <li>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</li> </ol>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001187</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Agency Head leave and acting arrangements - Update to SQ24-000566	Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2024, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001188</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Staff positions - Update to SQ24-000567	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions are currently vacant within the department/agency? Please provide a list of the positions by APS level.</li> <li>2. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2024?</li> <li>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</li> <li>4. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</li> <li>5. As at 1 July 2024, what is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?</li> <li>6. Since 1 July 2024, how many SES members of the department/agency have left the department/agency?</li> </ol>	Written	

				7. Since 1 July 2024, how many APS members of the department/agency have left the department/agency?		
<b>SQ24-001189</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Property - Location, maintenance & costs - Update to SQ24-000568	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2024. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001190</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Longest continuing serving member of the Agency - Update to SQ24-000569	As at 1 July 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	

<b>SQ24-001191</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Public Holidays - Update to SQ24-000570	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001192</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Staff Training - Update to SQ24-000571	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001193</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Funding for operational expenditure - Update to SQ24-000572	Since 1 July 2024, how many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001194</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Election commitments - Update to SQ24-000573	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001195</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   External guest speakers - Update to SQ24-000574	Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001196</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   External retreats for staff - Update to SQ24-000575	Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001197</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   International Travel - Update to SQ24-000576	Since 1 July 2024, how many official international visits have been taken by staff?	Written	



<b>SQ24-001198</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Security clearances - Update to SQ24-000577	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001199</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Staff in communications/ media - Update to SQ24-000578	As at 1 July 2024, how many staff work in the communications / media team of the Department/agency? Please provide a breakdown of positions by APS level.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001200</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Centralised guidance on answering SEQoNS	<p>1. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, since 1 July 2024, on what dates has the department/agency received any guidance from the Prime Minister's Office or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in relation to answering questions on notice?</p> <p>a. Who made the contact with the department/agency?</p> <p>b. How was the communication made?</p> <p>c. Did the department/agency provide a copy to the department/agency's Ministerial office?</p> <p>d. Did the department/agency receive a copy from the department/agency's Ministerial office?</p> <p>e. Did the department/agency use the document in order to respond to questions asked at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information bring provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, has the department/agency sought advice from the</p>	Written	

				Australian Public Service Commission in relation to the use of centralised guidance for answering questions from the Parliament, in particular where the department/agency could provide the information?		
<b>SQ24-001201</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Desk Allocation - Update to SQ24-000580	As at 1 July 2024, how many work stations/desks/terminals does the department/agency provide for staff?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001202</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Variations to Determinations - Update to SQ24-000581	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2023, has any portfolio Minister sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, has the Remuneration Tribunal altered any determination in respect of an officer or employee of the department/agency? If so, on what date(s)?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001203</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration -	Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency been the subject of any claim under the Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration? If so, how many claims has the department/agency been the subject of?	Written	

			Update to SQ24-000582			
<b>SQ24-001204</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   Appeals - Update to SQ24-000583	<p>1. Under the Legal Services Directions, how does the department/agency consider reasonable prospects of success for an appeal?</p> <p>2. Would the department/agency use a third party lawyer, that is separate to the first case, to do a sense check prior to launching an appeal?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001205</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	AITSL   United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29)	<p>1. Has the department/agency had or will have any staff attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia? Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The number of staff, broken down by APS classification;</li> <li>b. The expected cost of travel, broken down by the cost of flights and accommodation;</li> <li>c. The first date of travel for department/agency staff; and</li> <li>d. The last date of travel for department/agency staff.</li> </ul> <p>2. Has any Minister or Assistant Minister of the department/agency been approved to attend or has attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia? Please provide a list of which Ministers or Assistant Ministers have been approved to attend or have attended.</p>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001206</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Ministerial briefs - Update to SQ24-000584</p>	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister? 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?</p> <p>4. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>5. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft?</p> <p>6. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001207</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Hospitality in the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000585</p>	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, 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 2024, 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>	<p>Written</p>	

<b>SQ24-001208</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Staffing in the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000586	<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 February 2024.</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 February 2024.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001209</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Meetings with Ministers - Update to SQ24-000587	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? 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 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001210</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister - Update to SQ24-000588	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001211</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Paper - Update to SQ24-000589	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001212</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Committee and taskforce memberships - Update to SQ24-000590</p>	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2024.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2024.</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"> <li>a. the name of the interdepartmental committee;</li> <li>b. a list of the membership;</li> <li>c. the date it was established; and</li> <li>d. its purpose.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------	--	--	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001213</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   2022-23 October Budget savings - Update to SQ24-000591</p>	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses and the subsequent 2024-25 Budget measure, Savings from External Labour – extension:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 years, in aggregate and broken down across those years?</li> <li>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"> <li>a. External labour hire</li> <li>b. Consultancy</li> <li>c. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>d. Travel</li> <li>e. Legal expenses</li> </ol> </li> <li>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?</li> <li>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?</li> <li>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"> <li>a. External labour hire</li> <li>b. Consultancy</li> <li>c. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>d. Travel</li> <li>e. Legal expenses</li> </ol> </li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------	---	---	----------------	--

- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</li><li>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</li><li>c. If so, why and was it approved?</li></ul> |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|



<p><b>SQ24-001214</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Agency functions/official receptions expenditure - Update to SQ24-000592</p>	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. List of functions;</li> <li>b. List of attendees;</li> <li>c. Function venue;</li> <li>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>e. Details of any food served;</li> <li>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul> <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. List of functions;</li> <li>b. List of attendees;</li> <li>c. Function venue;</li> <li>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>e. Details of any food served;</li> <li>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001215</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Facility upgrades - Update to SQ24-000593</p>	<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 2024/25 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 2024/25 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</li> <li>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001216</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Travel costs - Update to SQ24-000594</p>	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 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 2024/25 to date?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001217</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure - Update to SQ24-000595</p>	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2024/25 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 2024/25 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>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001218</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Credit Cards - Update to SQ24-000596</p>	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff?</li> <li>2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was it for?</li> <li>3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> <li>4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> <li>5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> <li>6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</li> <li>7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2024/25 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What was the total value of those purchases?</li> <li>b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid?</li> <li>c. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</li> </ol> </li> <li>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 2024/25 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</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?

10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.

a. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since June 2024.

<p><b>SQ24-001219</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters - Update to SQ24-000597</p>	<p>In relation to department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims?</li> <li>3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?</li> </ol> <p>In relation to the department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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"> <li>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.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency appeared in any proceeding before the Fair Work Commission? If so, on what date(s)?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------	---	---	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001220</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Number of reviews - Update to SQ24-000598</p>	<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"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent to date; and</li> <li>g. the date the review is due to be completed.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent;</li> <li>g. the date the review was due to be completed;</li> <li>h. the date the review was completed;</li> <li>i. the date the review was provided to the Department;</li> <li>j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and</li> <li>k. the date the review was provided to the Minister’s office.</li> </ul> <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent;</li> <li>g. the date the review was due to be completed;</li> <li>h. the date the review was completed;</li> <li>i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------	--	---	----------------	--

<b>SQ24-001221</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Entities (including advisory boards and agencies) - Update to SQ24-000599	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001222</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office - Update to SQ24-000600	<p>Since 1 July 2024, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001223</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   ASL Allocation - Update to SQ24-000601	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001224</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Market research provided to the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000602	<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>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001225</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Freedom of Information applications - Update to SQ24-000603</p>	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of applications withdrawn;</li> <li>b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>e. the number of applications subject to internal review;</li> <li>f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC;</li> <li>g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT;</li> <li>h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and</li> <li>i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</li> </ul> <p>2. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of applications by Minister,</li> <li>b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided;</li> <li>c. the number of applications refused; and</li> <li>d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.</li> </ul> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001226</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Portfolio estimates variations and movement of funds - Update to SQ24-000604</p>	<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>	<p>Written</p>	



<p><b>SQ24-001227</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Flexible work arrangements - Update to SQ24-000605</p>	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</li> <li>b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</li> <li>c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</li> <li>d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</li> <li>e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</li> </ul> <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff of the department/agency had approved work from home arrangements in cities where the department/agency does not hold any office space?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001228</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Artificial Intelligence - Update to SQ24-000606</p>	<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>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001229</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Senate Estimates and QoNs - Update to SQ24-000607</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</li> <li>2. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister's office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</li> <li>3. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</li> <li>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 4 to 8 November 2024.</li> <li>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of the Question on Notice;</li> <li>b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice;</li> <li>c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister's office;</li> <li>d. the date the Minister's office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled;</li> <li>e. the date the Question on Notice was provided to the Committee; and</li> <li>f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff in the department/agency are responsible for the management of the responses to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice? Please provide a breakdown of the number by APS level.</li> <li>7. On what date did the department/agency provide briefing material to the relevant Ministerial office to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 4 to 8 November 2024?</li> <li>8. Did the department/agency meet with any Minister or staff of any</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------	--	--	----------------	--

				<p>Minister in order to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 4 to 8 November 2024?</p> <p>9. Is the department/agency aware that questions asked at Senate Estimates and questions asked in writing following the Senate Estimates hearing are to be treated in the same manner?</p>		
<b>SQ24-001230</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Communications campaigns - Update to SQ24-000608	<p>1. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>B. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency engaged any social</p>	Written	

				media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.		
<b>SQ24-001231</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Conflict of interest declaration - Update to SQ24-000609	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</li> <li>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</li> </ol>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001232</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Agency Head leave and acting arrangements - Update to SQ24-000610	Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2024, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001233</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Staff positions - Update to SQ24-000611	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions are currently vacant within the department/agency? Please provide a list of the positions by APS level.</li> <li>2. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2024?</li> <li>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</li> <li>4. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</li> <li>5. As at 1 July 2024, what is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?</li> <li>6. Since 1 July 2024, how many SES members of the department/agency have left the department/agency?</li> </ol>	Written	

				7. Since 1 July 2024, how many APS members of the department/agency have left the department/agency?		
<b>SQ24-001234</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Property - Location, maintenance & costs - Update to SQ24-000612	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2024. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001235</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Longest continuing serving member of the Agency - Update to SQ24-000613	As at 1 July 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	

<b>SQ24-001236</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Public Holidays - Update to SQ24-000614	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001237</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Staff Training - Update to SQ24-000615	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001238</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Funding for operational expenditure - Update to SQ24-000616	Since 1 July 2024, how many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001239</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Election commitments - Update to SQ24-000617	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001240</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   External guest speakers - Update to SQ24-000618	Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001241</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   External retreats for staff - Update to SQ24-000619	Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001242</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   International Travel - Update to SQ24-000620	Since 1 July 2024, how many official international visits have been taken by staff?	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001243</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Security clearances - Update to SQ24-000621</p>	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001244</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Staff in communications/ media - Update to SQ24-000622</p>	<p>As at 1 July 2024, how many staff work in the communications / media team of the Department/agency? Please provide a breakdown of positions by APS level.</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001245</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>ARC   Centralised guidance on answering SEQoNS</p>	<p>1. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, since 1 July 2024, on what dates has the department/agency received any guidance from the Prime Minister's Office or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in relation to answering questions on notice?</p> <p>a. Who made the contact with the department/agency?</p> <p>b. How was the communication made?</p> <p>c. Did the department/agency provide a copy to the department/agency's Ministerial office?</p> <p>d. Did the department/agency receive a copy from the department/agency's Ministerial office?</p> <p>e. Did the department/agency use the document in order to respond to questions asked at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information bring provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, has the department/agency sought advice from the</p>	<p>Written</p>	

				Australian Public Service Commission in relation to the use of centralised guidance for answering questions from the Parliament, in particular where the department/agency could provide the information?		
<b>SQ24-001246</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Desk Allocation - Update to SQ24-000624	As at 1 July 2024, how many work stations/desks/terminals does the department/agency provide for staff?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001247</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Variations to Determinations - Update to SQ24-000625	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2023, has any portfolio Minister sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, has the Remuneration Tribunal altered any determination in respect of an officer or employee of the department/agency? If so, on what date(s)?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001248</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration - Update to SQ24-000626	Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency been the subject of any claim under the Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration? If so, how many claims has the department/agency been the subject of?	Written	



<b>SQ24-001249</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   Appeals - Update to SQ24-000627	<p>1. Under the Legal Services Directions, how does the department/agency consider reasonable prospects of success for an appeal?</p> <p>2. Would the department/agency use a third party lawyer, that is separate to the first case, to do a sense check prior to launching an appeal?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001250</b>	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	ARC   United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29)	<p>1. Has the department/agency had or will have any staff attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia? Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The number of staff, broken down by APS classification;</li> <li>b. The expected cost of travel, broken down by the cost of flights and accommodation;</li> <li>c. The first date of travel for department/agency staff; and</li> <li>d. The last date of travel for department/agency staff.</li> </ul> <p>2. Has any Minister or Assistant Minister of the department/agency been approved to attend or has attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia? Please provide a list of which Ministers or Assistant Ministers have been approved to attend or have attended.</p>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001251</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Ministerial briefs - Update to SQ24-000628</p>	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister? 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?</p> <p>4. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>5. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft?</p> <p>6. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many briefs has the Department/Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001252</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Hospitality in the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000629</p>	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, 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 2024, 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>	<p>Written</p>	

<b>SQ24-001253</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Staffing in the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000630	<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 February 2024.</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 February 2024.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001254</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Meetings with Ministers - Update to SQ24-000631	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? 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 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001255</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   New Policy Proposals provided to each Minister - Update to SQ24-000632	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001256</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Paper - Update to SQ24-000633	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001257</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Committee and taskforce memberships - Update to SQ24-000634</p>	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2024.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since February 2024.</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"> <li>a. the name of the interdepartmental committee;</li> <li>b. a list of the membership;</li> <li>c. the date it was established; and</li> <li>d. its purpose.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	--	--	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001258</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   2022-23 October Budget savings - Update to SQ24-000635</p>	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses and the subsequent 2024-25 Budget measure, Savings from External Labour – extension:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 years, in aggregate and broken down across those years?</li> <li>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"> <li>a. External labour hire</li> <li>b. Consultancy</li> <li>c. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>d. Travel</li> <li>e. Legal expenses</li> </ol> </li> <li>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?</li> <li>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?</li> <li>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"> <li>a. External labour hire</li> <li>b. Consultancy</li> <li>c. Advertising campaigns</li> <li>d. Travel</li> <li>e. Legal expenses</li> </ol> </li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	---	---	----------------	--

- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</li><li>b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</li><li>c. If so, why and was it approved?</li></ul> |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

<p><b>SQ24-001259</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Agency functions/official receptions expenditure - Update to SQ24-000363</p>	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. List of functions;</li> <li>b. List of attendees;</li> <li>c. Function venue;</li> <li>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>e. Details of any food served;</li> <li>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul> <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. List of functions;</li> <li>b. List of attendees;</li> <li>c. Function venue;</li> <li>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>e. Details of any food served;</li> <li>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>g. Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001260</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Facility upgrades - Update to SQ24-000637</p>	<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 2024/25 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 2024/25 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</li> <li>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	

<b>SQ24-001261</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Travel costs - Update to SQ24-000638	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</li> <li>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</li> <li>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> </ol>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001262</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Media monitoring, advertising, information campaigns and promotional merchandise expenditure - Update to SQ24-000639	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> <li>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2024/25 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</li> <li>3. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2024/25 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</li> <li>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	



<p><b>SQ24-001263</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Credit Cards - Update to SQ24-000640</p>	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff?</li> <li>2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was it for?</li> <li>3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> <li>4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> <li>5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2024/25 to date?</li> <li>6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</li> <li>7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2024/25 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What was the total value of those purchases?</li> <li>b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid?</li> <li>c. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</li> </ol> </li> <li>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 2024/25 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</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?

10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.

a. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since June 2024.

<p><b>SQ24-001264</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Comcare and Fair Work Commission matters - Update to SQ24-000641</p>	<p>In relation to department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims?</li> <li>3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?</li> </ol> <p>In relation to the department/agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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"> <li>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.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency appeared in any proceeding before the Fair Work Commission? If so, on what date(s)?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	---	---	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001265</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Number of reviews - Update to SQ24-000642</p>	<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"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent to date; and</li> <li>g. the date the review is due to be completed.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent;</li> <li>g. the date the review was due to be completed;</li> <li>h. the date the review was completed;</li> <li>i. the date the review was provided to the Department;</li> <li>j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and</li> <li>k. the date the review was provided to the Minister’s office.</li> </ul> <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the name of the review;</li> <li>b. the purpose of the review;</li> <li>c. the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>e. the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>f. the amount spent;</li> <li>g. the date the review was due to be completed;</li> <li>h. the date the review was completed;</li> <li>i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	--	---	----------------	--

<b>SQ24-001266</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Entities (including advisory boards and agencies) - Update to SQ24-000643	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001267</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Data by electorate for portfolio minister's office - Update to SQ24-000644	<p>Since 1 July 2024, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001268</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   ASL Allocation - Update to SQ24-000645	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001269</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Market research provided to the Ministers' offices - Update to SQ24-000646	<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>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001270</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Freedom of Information applications - Update to SQ24-000647</p>	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of applications withdrawn;</li> <li>b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>e. the number of applications subject to internal review;</li> <li>f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC;</li> <li>g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT;</li> <li>h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and</li> <li>i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</li> </ul> <p>2. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister’s office since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of applications by Minister,</li> <li>b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided;</li> <li>c. the number of applications refused; and</li> <li>d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.</li> </ul> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff in the Department/Agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001271</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Portfolio estimates variations and movement of funds - Update to SQ24-000648</p>	<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>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001272</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Flexible work arrangements - Update to SQ24-000649</p>	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</li> <li>b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</li> <li>c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</li> <li>d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</li> <li>e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</li> </ul> <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff of the department/agency had approved work from home arrangements in cities where the department/agency does not hold any office space?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001273</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Artificial Intelligence - Update to SQ24-000650</p>	<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>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001274</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Senate Estimates and QoNs - Update to SQ24-000651</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</li> <li>2. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister's office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</li> <li>3. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</li> <li>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 4 to 8 November 2024.</li> <li>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of the Question on Notice;</li> <li>b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice;</li> <li>c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister's office;</li> <li>d. the date the Minister's office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled;</li> <li>e. the date the Question on Notice was provided to the Committee; and</li> <li>f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff in the department/agency are responsible for the management of the responses to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice? Please provide a breakdown of the number by APS level.</li> <li>7. On what date did the department/agency provide briefing material to the relevant Ministerial office to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 4 to 8 November 2024?</li> <li>8. Did the department/agency meet with any Minister or staff of any</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------	--	--	----------------	--



				<p>Minister in order to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 4 to 8 November 2024?</p> <p>9. Is the department/agency aware that questions asked at Senate Estimates and questions asked in writing following the Senate Estimates hearing are to be treated in the same manner?</p>		
<b>SQ24-001275</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Communications campaigns - Update to SQ24-000652	<p>1. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>B. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency engaged any social</p>	Written	

				media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.		
<b>SQ24-001276</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Conflict of interest declaration - Update to SQ24-000653	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</li> <li>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</li> </ol>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001277</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Agency Head leave and acting arrangements - Update to SQ24-000654	Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2024, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001278</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Staff positions - Update to SQ24-000655	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions are currently vacant within the department/agency? Please provide a list of the positions by APS level.</li> <li>2. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2024?</li> <li>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</li> <li>4. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</li> <li>5. As at 1 July 2024, what is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?</li> <li>6. Since 1 July 2024, how many SES members of the department/agency have left the department/agency?</li> </ol>	Written	

				7. Since 1 July 2024, how many APS members of the department/agency have left the department/agency?		
<b>SQ24-001279</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Property - Location, maintenance & costs - Update to SQ24-000656	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2024. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001280</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Longest continuing serving member of the Agency - Update to SQ24-000657	As at 1 July 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written	

<b>SQ24-001281</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Public Holidays - Update to SQ24-000658	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001282</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Staff Training - Update to SQ24-000659	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001283</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Funding for operational expenditure - Update to SQ24-000660	Since 1 July 2024, how many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001284</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Election commitments - Update to SQ24-000661	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001285</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   External guest speakers - Update to SQ24-000662	Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001286</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   External retreats for staff - Update to SQ24-000663	Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001287</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   International Travel - Update to SQ24-000664	Since 1 July 2024, how many official international visits have been taken by staff?	Written	

<b>SQ24-001288</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Security clearances - Update to SQ24-000665	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001289</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Staff in communications/ media - Update to SQ24-000666	As at 1 July 2024, how many staff work in the communications / media team of the Department/agency? Please provide a breakdown of positions by APS level.	Written	
<b>SQ24-001290</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Centralised guidance on answering SEQoNS	<p>1. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, since 1 July 2024, on what dates has the department/agency received any guidance from the Prime Minister’s Office or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in relation to answering questions on notice?</p> <p>a. Who made the contact with the department/agency?</p> <p>b. How was the communication made?</p> <p>c. Did the department/agency provide a copy to the department/agency’s Ministerial office?</p> <p>d. Did the department/agency receive a copy from the department/agency’s Ministerial office?</p> <p>e. Did the department/agency use the document in order to respond to questions asked at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information bring provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, has the department/agency sought advice from the</p>	Written	

				Australian Public Service Commission in relation to the use of centralised guidance for answering questions from the Parliament, in particular where the department/agency could provide the information?		
<b>SQ24-001291</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Desk Allocation - Update to SQ24-000668	As at 1 July 2024, how many work stations/desks/terminals does the department/agency provide for staff?	Written	
<b>SQ24-001292</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   Variations to Determinations - Update to SQ24-000669	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2023, has any portfolio Minister sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, has the Remuneration Tribunal altered any determination in respect of an officer or employee of the department/agency? If so, on what date(s)?</p>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001293</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration - Update to SQ24-000670</p>	<p>Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency been the subject of any claim under the Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration? If so, how many claims has the department/agency been the subject of?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001294</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Jane Hume</p>	<p>TEQSA   Appeals - Update to SQ24-000671</p>	<p>1. Under the Legal Services Directions, how does the department/agency consider reasonable prospects of success for an appeal? 2. Would the department/agency use a third party lawyer, that is separate to the first case, to do a sense check prior to launching an appeal?</p>	<p>Written</p>	

<b>SQ24-001295</b>	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	TEQSA   United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29)	<p>1. Has the department/agency had or will have any staff attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia? Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The number of staff, broken down by APS classification;</li><li>b. The expected cost of travel, broken down by the cost of flights and accommodation;</li><li>c. The first date of travel for department/agency staff; and</li><li>d. The last date of travel for department/agency staff.</li></ul> <p>2. Has any Minister or Assistant Minister of the department/agency been approved to attend or has attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia? Please provide a list of which Ministers or Assistant Ministers have been approved to attend or have attended.</p>	Written	
--------------------	---	-----------	--	--	---------	--



<p><b>SQ24-001296</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Jacqui Lambie</p>	<p>Commonwealth Funding for Schools</p>	<p>1. Can the department provide details on the amount of commonwealth funding that has been allocated to private schools in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tasmania?</li> <li>b. South Australia?</li> <li>c. Queensland?</li> <li>d. New South Wales?</li> </ul> <p>2. Can the department provide details on the amount of commonwealth funding that has been allocated to independent schools in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tasmania?</li> <li>b. South Australia?</li> <li>c. Queensland?</li> <li>d. New South Wales?</li> </ul> <p>3. Can the department provide details on the amount of commonwealth funding that has been allocated to Catholic schools in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tasmania?</li> <li>b. South Australia?</li> <li>c. Queensland?</li> <li>d. New South Wales?</li> </ul> <p>4. Can the department provide details on the amount of commonwealth funding that has been allocated to government schools in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tasmania?</li> <li>b. South Australia?</li> <li>c. Queensland?</li> <li>d. New South Wales?</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--------------------------------	----------------------	---	---	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001297</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Official functions and receptions</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: We would be grateful if you can provide that further information. I have a couple of concerns about your responses, Secretary. In corporate, under question No. 3 you state that the 'department provided information on official functions and receptions held to 31 May in SQ24-000458'. That's your response. That's paragraph No. 3. Have you brought that with you today so we can get the update of the official functions and receptions?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Just help me with the question number on that one?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: In your response to Senator O'Sullivan's letter—this is the 6 November letter—under corporate at paragraph No. 3, you have provided information, but what I'm seeking is whether you brought with you today an update on official functions and receptions since 1 June to date.</p> <p>Mr Cook: No, we haven't.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Is it possible for you to provide it to us this morning?</p> <p>Mr Cook: On notice? That requires an entire department process. We'd have to go to every area of the department to seek advice. We don't hold that centrally. We've explained that before. It takes us time to collate that. We didn't have time to collate that information. I am very happy to take it on notice.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>4</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	--	--	----------------	----------

<p><b>SQ24-001298</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Guidelines for the Commonwealth Prac Payment</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: In your responses in higher ed—this is paragraphs 25 and 26—you state that the 'department provided information on the draft guidelines for the Commonwealth prac payment in IQ24-000048' and 'there has been no change since this response was provided'. The problem with that response, Secretary, is it actually said that the information release was a matter for government. We understand that. We're actually seeking those guidelines. Do you have a copy of those guidelines?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No. Our answer remains the same.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: You're required to provide the guidelines. We've asked for that document. Can you provide them to us today?</p> <p>Mr Cook: If you ask it during this, I'm not required to provide the guidelines as part of an information-gathering process.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, I realise that.</p> <p>Mr Cook: It was as a courtesy that I provided the information I provided to you today—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: As a courtesy, given the Commonwealth prac payment is an important matter before the parliament, we are seeking the guidelines. Is it possible for you to provide those to us today?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Do they exist? Have they been drafted?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm actually not aware. They'd have to be higher ed portfolio.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Maybe you could seek some information and come back to us as to the status of those guidelines?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes. We can talk about that in higher ed.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>4-5</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	---	---	----------------	------------

<p><b>SQ24-001299</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Draft rules for the National Student Ombudsman</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm obviously dealing with these housekeeping issues. The draft rules for the National Student Ombudsman are a matter for the Attorney-General's Department. Could we also have a copy of the draft rules?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That would be a question for the Attorney-General's Department.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, I'm actually asking for—</p> <p>Mr Cook: We don't provide information from other departments.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you saying you don't hold the draft guidelines?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I don't hold the draft guidelines.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you saying the department doesn't hold the draft guidelines?</p> <p>Mr Cook: They're not our responsibility.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm not asking that question.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Regardless, as the accountable authority, these rules are not my responsibility.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm not talking about your authority. Does the department have a copy of those guidelines? When we come to higher ed, could you please provide a copy of those guidelines?</p> <p>Mr Cook: My position remains the same, and there's quite clear guidance about questions about other departments' responsibilities. Section 4.17 of the official witness guideline states that 'it is important that witnesses take care not to intrude on responsibilities of other departments and agencies' and that 'where a question falls within the administration of another department'—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It's extraordinary that you're now—</p> <p>Mr Cook: 'or agency, an official may request that it be directed to that department or agency'. That is what I've just done.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No. 1, it's extraordinary you're arguing that the Department of Education has no responsibility for the National Student Ombudsman.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I didn't say that at all; I'm talking about the actual rules you've sought information on.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What I'm asking, in accordance with Senate rules, is: could you please provide a copy of those rules held by the department, which we would be seeking as soon as possible today?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll refer that to the Attorney-General's Department.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>5-6</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	---	--	----------------	------------

Senator HENDERSON: No, Secretary, I'm asking for the copy that you hold in your department.

Mr Cook: I'll take it on notice.

Senator HENDERSON: Please don't—

Mr Cook: I'll also say it's important that witnesses take care not to assume the responsibilities of other departments and agencies.

Senator HENDERSON: Let's not duck and weave, because you're required—

Mr Cook: 'Where a question falls within the administration of another department or agency, an official may request that it be directed to the department or agency or be deferred until that department or agency is consulted.'

Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, with respect to any document held by your department, you are required under the Senate rules to provide it, and I'm seeking that document.

Mr Cook: I remind you that the government guidelines for official witnesses before parliamentary committees and related matters are very clear. They have been in existence since 2015. If nothing else, we would have to consult with the Attorney-General's Department before we provide that information.

Senator HENDERSON: This is extraordinary. This is the National Student Ombudsman bill being brought forward and championed by your minister. Now you're ducking and weaving, so I really—

Mr Cook: Sorry. That's a total misrepresentation. I'm actually advising what the government guidelines are for official witnesses.

Senator HENDERSON: It's not a total misrepresentation. It's extraordinary that you're now ducking and weaving and not wanting to hand these guidelines over. Maybe they're not drafted?

Mr Cook: Chair, I don't appreciate the reflection.

Senator HENDERSON: I don't appreciate your not complying.

Mr Cook: Can I take it on notice?

CHAIR: Let's get this under control.

Senator HENDERSON: Thanks, Chair. I'll move on. Thank you for taking that on notice, Secretary.

<p><b>SQ24-001300</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Non-disclosure agreements</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Given you would hold, I expect, a copy of the rules in your department, thank you for agreeing to consult and taking that on notice, Secretary. I want to move to non-disclosure agreements. Could you please advise how many non-disclosure agreements the department or the minister has entered into since 1 July 2022?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I don't think we'll have that information available to us. I'm not aware of that, but Mr Markovic might be able to help.</p> <p>Mr Markovic: I don't have the number of non-disclosure agreements that the department has entered into. I'm not sure that we would have information about the minister entering into agreements, but I'm happy to take that on notice for you and provide a response.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you would, please.</p> <p>Mr Markovic: I just don't have that information.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: To the extent that it's possible to bring it back this morning, we would be grateful. Can you provide the number of NDAs signed each year by year since 1 July 2022? We're also seeking the subject matter for each of the NDAs. For instance, can you advise us whether you've entered into an NDA in relation to the Commonwealth prac payment, for instance?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm not aware of that, no.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could bring that forward, Secretary, to the extent that you are able to this morning, we would be grateful.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: My understanding is that there's been a large increase in the number of NDAs being used by the minister and his department. What's the basis for using an NDA to consult with stakeholders?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, what was your question?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What's the basis for using an NDA to consult with stakeholders?</p> <p>Mr Cook: An NDA would be more about confidentiality, I'm assuming. Are there particular circumstances that you're asking for?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm advised there have been a number of NDAs that the department entered into, so maybe you could take that on notice and come back to us?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes. I don't know what advice you have about that, but I'm not aware of it.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>6-7, 10-12</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------------	--	----------------	-------------------

Senator HENDERSON: Thank you. If you could return it to us on notice, we would be grateful....

...

Senator HENDERSON: I return to the non-disclosure agreements, because I have some clarity that stakeholders have been asked to sign non-disclosure agreements just to have conversations with the Department of Education in relation to various proposals. I'm also being given advice that the number of non-disclosure agreements has really accelerated in the past couple of years. These have actually been issued by the department in terms of a requirement just to have discussions with stakeholders. Is there any possible way that you could come back to us as soon as possible to give us further information about that?

Mr Cook: We'll do our best. I've never seen one. I'm literally not aware of them. They haven't come through me. Whether it's our various policy teams, I would need to get information about the detail of what you've put forward—unless you have anything else you can share with me about particular areas of the department?

Senator HENDERSON: Only that I'm of the understanding that there has been a big acceleration in the use of non-disclosure agreements. I know it's a big department, but are these issued without your knowledge?

Mr Cook: As they would normally do, they don't come through me. I don't sign these things off.

Senator HENDERSON: If you could, on notice—

Mr Cook: We'll do what we can.

Senator HENDERSON: Thank you very much.

Senator BROCKMAN: Do you have a chief counsel, a legal department?

Mr Cook: We do have a legal department.

Senator BROCKMAN: Surely they would have a copy of every NDA that the department requires to be signed?

Mr Cook: I'm not sure. We'll take it on notice and see what we can find for you. I'll do my very best.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Is counsel here?

Mr Cook: Sorry. I took it on notice as you asked me to, so I'm getting information to you.

Senator HENDERSON: I was actually asking for the information initially

				<p>and you said you didn't know about any NDAs.</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's right; I don't. I'm not the chief legal counsel on this. I've had a change of job.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Fantastic. She's in the room. Thank you very much.</p> <p>Ms Davin: No, I'm not aware of non-disclosure agreements that the department has entered into, but we can take it on notice and have a look.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I am a former commercial lawyer, so I've got some knowledge. Thank you very much for reflecting on me, Minister. I used to do that job. Moving on, if you could please provide on notice the information and also who does sign off on non-disclosure agreements in the department, who's issuing them, which parts of the department and what's the process? I am surprised as general counsel that you don't know about these non-disclosure agreements. Also, are you entering into confidentiality agreements? I know that some departments differentiate in terms of the nature of the different agreements.</p>		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--



<p><b>SQ24-001301</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Staff training on grants process</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: ...I refer to the publication of grants. This came back from your budget estimates pack under FOI. We've discovered that 403 grants were not published within the 21-day timeframe in the first nine months of 2023-24. This is four times greater than the entire financial year of 2022-23 where there were 50 grants not published within the timeframe. Why has there been such a blowout in that requirement? I believe that officials have been counselled in relation to the failure to publish grants within the timeframe.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes. Any breach like that is inappropriate. I think we might covered this at the last estimates with Senator O'Sullivan as well. Obviously, as secretary I'm disappointed that has happened. In terms of those breaches, 357 of those breaches were due to administrative error—I'll ask the Chief Financial Officer to give more detail around that—46 of the breaches were from an IT system error where there was an IT issue with the system itself, which has since been rectified.</p> <p>Mr Boyd: In relation to the administrative error, there was one team in the department that was undertaking a grant program. There was a large volume of grants with that. They'd followed all the steps in relation to the actual grant process itself, except for the final one, which was the publication of the grants on GrantConnect. GrantConnect is the whole-of-government system. We detected that the grants weren't being published, so we then worked with the area to make sure they were all subsequently published.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Just to be clear, these are decisions made in relation to grants only?</p> <p>Mr Boyd: The breach relates only to the reporting—not the grant and the process around the grant itself.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It's the reporting of the decision of the grant; is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Boyd: Yes, and who the grant is going to.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It just seemed an enormous spike in non-compliance.</p> <p>Mr Cook: It was—absolutely. I couldn't agree more. It was one area of the department. That area has been counselled. It was to do a large number of grants, as you saw. They were required to put those grants up within 21 days. They didn't meet the 21 days. That was what the breach was. They have to be actually posted or published within 21 days. They didn't meet that timeframe. It is not grants themselves.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>7</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	---	--	----------------	----------

Senator HENDERSON: Were there any sensitivities involved in any of these grants that might explain why they weren't published in time? There wasn't any other motive? I'm not drawing that conclusion; I'm just asking.

Mr Cook: No. There was an administrative error in almost all of them. The administrative error was that the responsible officer didn't have the grants posted within 21 days, as they were required to do.

Senator HENDERSON: In terms of the administrative error, was there any connection with any delay out of the minister's office? These decisions had been made, so it wasn't like the minister was stalling.

Mr Cook: No, it's nothing to do with the minister's office. This is purely a departmental issues in terms of administration of the publication of those grants.

Senator HENDERSON: As part of the counselling, are staff being retrained as well?

Mr Cook: Yes. Mr Markovic can probably give some more detail.

Mr Markovic: The secretary has already indicated that the breaches are of high importance to the department. We have been doing significant work around training with our staff and making sure that people understand the processes and procedures. To give you some evidence of that, for the period 1 July to 30 September, the department as a whole has recorded 24 breaches—a significant reduction from last year. Clearly, 24 is still too many. We want that to be zero. We are working closely with our staff on training, on making sure that people are appropriately counselled and on eliminating PGPA breaches where we can. I want to give you some confidence that we are treating this seriously and trying to make progress on improving this.

Senator HENDERSON: On notice, could you provide a copy of those documents in relation to the training and counselling? Obviously, I understand you may want to redact names.

Mr Markovic: I was going to say that the counselling is probably a little bit harder, but we can certainly give you some advice on what we've done on the training material.

<p><b>SQ24-001302</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Further details of recorded breaches</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could just update the committee on those breaches?</p> <p>Mr Boyd: For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024, breaking up the 24 total that we referred to, there were eight that related to reporting of procurements in AusTender. It is a similar kind of thing. The procurement is fine. It was that final step of reporting for that related to reporting of grants in GrantConnect. That was the big drop—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Not within the timeframe?</p> <p>Mr Boyd: Not within the 21-day timeframe. That's the big drop Mr Markovic was referring to. We had one where somebody didn't have the authority to enter into an arrangement. They had been acting and then were not acting. We detected that and corrected it. We've had 11 inadvertent misuses of credit cards.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What's the total amount?</p> <p>Mr Boyd: It is \$477.23. All of those 11 have been followed up and repaid.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could provide on notice the details of that, that would be great. I wanted to ask about the breaches involving approved commitments and entering into arrangements. You've just referenced one. There were three other instances between the 1 February and 31 May this year, and the official again has been counselled. It's a relatively small amount of only \$480. Is this a case where someone is entering into an agreement or an arrangement without authority?</p> <p>Mr Boyd: In that one, my recollection is it was less about authority. They hadn't followed some of the internal guidance the department has when entering into the arrangement. I am just trying to think back. My recollection is it wasn't that they didn't have the authority; it was more that they hadn't followed some of the steps we as a department put in place.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I wouldn't mind that information on notice, if you could just provide what the requirements are and where the breach occurred. There were gifts and benefits—three instances—where I assume they weren't declared; is that right?</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>10</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	---	--	----------------	-----------

<p><b>SQ24-001303</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Government response to ACCC and PC reports on ECEC</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I'll table an article out of the AFR which reported that the government is looking at a flat-fee policy for early childhood education, ahead of the next election—potentially, \$10 or \$20 a day. My team will hand that over. I'm looking at the back of the room. Thank you, guys. Just while that's coming, has the department been tasked by Minister Clare or Minister Aly to look at the cost of a flat-fee policy option for child care?</p> <p>Ms Crane: The department's provided a range of advice on all things childcare subsidy and early childhood education and care to both ministers, and, as you would have seen in the Productivity Commission report that was tabled—which, in part, is advice to government—there's also been information provided to government through that.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Minister, is this something that the government is considering?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I don't really have anything further to add to Ms Crane's answer. Obviously, the Productivity Commission report and the ACCC report have come down. The government have said they'll respond in due course. That's as much as I can update, sorry.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Minister, when will the government release its response?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I don't know. Sorry, Senator O'Sullivan. I'm sure it will be in due course.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you take that on notice, please?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you come back to us with a timeline?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Specifically, are you intending to release it in this term of parliament?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'll take it on notice.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>68-70</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	---	---	----------------	--------------

<p><b>SQ24-001304</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Flat-fee policy</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I'll table an article out of the AFR which reported that the government is looking at a flat-fee policy for early childhood education, ahead of the next election—potentially, \$10 or \$20 a day. My team will hand that over. I'm looking at the back of the room. Thank you, guys. Just while that's coming, has the department been tasked by Minister Clare or Minister Aly to look at the cost of a flat-fee policy option for child care?</p> <p>Ms Crane: The department's provided a range of advice on all things childcare subsidy and early childhood education and care to both ministers, and, as you would have seen in the Productivity Commission report that was tabled—which, in part, is advice to government—there's also been information provided to government through that.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Minister, is this something that the government is considering?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I don't really have anything further to add to Ms Crane's answer. Obviously, the Productivity Commission report and the ACCC report have come down. The government have said they'll respond in due course. That's as much as I can update, sorry.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Is the government aware of the concerns from the sector in relation to the flat-fee policy, including viability and quality concerns?</p> <p>Ms Crane: We are certainly aware of some of the commentary that has happened in relation to models overseas, and that same conversation has been had with some of the departmental officials that we've spoken to. In that context, yes, a desire to ensure that, if there was any consideration of changes to the model, no matter whether that was set fee or something else, quality is of utmost importance and the sector has made their views very clear on that. They are interested in making sure that quality was factored into that and that there wasn't a decline in the focus or the way that quality is thought about in the sector.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: In relation to the various costings, can you give us an answer on whether—I'm just not sure whether it is clear whether you've actually done any specific modelling or costings on a flat-fee model or even multiple flat-fee models?</p> <p>Ms Crane: Our response earlier was that we've provided advice on a</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>68,70</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------	--	----------------	--------------

				<p>range of options. That would include almost all elements of the things considered in the PC report and outside.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: And costed?</p> <p>Ms Crane: Some of those will have been costed.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can we get copies of that?</p> <p>Ms Crane: I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Thank you.</p>		
<b>SQ24-001305</b>	Department of Education	Steph Hodgins-May	Rejected CCS applications	<p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: Does the government keep a record of how many people's CCS applications have been rejected as a result of the CCS activity test?</p> <p>Ms Crane: If that data existed, Services Australia would have it. We would have to take that on notice. In terms of the activity test itself, it is dictating the hours of subsidised care as opposed to the straight eligibility for it, but we're happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: That would be great, thank you. I'm</p>	Hansard	72

				interested to see how many have been rejected in the last year, if you've got that data, and then how many since 28 June when the PC report was handed down.		
<b>SQ24-001306</b>	Department of Education	Steph Hodgins-May	CN3356794 - KU Children's Services	<p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: Can I please ask that the documents are tabled by the secretariat for this section? The contract between the Department of Education and KU Children's Services, CN3356794, was first signed in June 2016 and was valued at \$8.3 million. It was recently amended for a 12th time and is now worth \$32.2 million. Why has this contract not been put out for re-tender in the past eight years?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: I will refer that to my colleague Rachel O'Connor, who has the details on that particular one, but I think that relates to the inclusion development fund manager for the inclusion support program. They have been the inclusion development fund manager for that period of time. Essentially, the contract has been varied to allow for continuity of service for the program that is looking after children with additional needs. Essentially, we've been able to continue that service delivery under their remit for the period of time since the inception of that contract. Part of the contract—and I think Ms O'Connor has the details—includes not only their fees but also some of the program moneys. I might defer to Ms O'Connor for the detail on that.</p> <p>Ms O'Connor: That is correct. That contract refers to KU Children's Services role as the inclusion development fund manager.</p> <p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: Does your department have any intention of putting this contract out for re-tender? Given that it has been amended 12 times, is there any intention to put it back out?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: Contract variations have been put in place up until now, as we just discussed. The end date for that particular contract will be 30 June, and we're in discussions now about continuity of that with government. That's still under discussion at this stage.</p> <p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: Just to clarify, that's 30 June 2025?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: Grant No. GA9648 has paid \$562 million to KU Children's Services over eight years. Has this money been reported</p>	Hansard	73-74, 88-89

anywhere publicly for transparency?

Ms Twyman: I will hand over to Ms O'Connor for the details on that one, but that contract has also got the inclusion development fund manager details within it, and it also has a number of elements of the program funding which are delivered by the organisation, KU. But are not for their purposes; they are for the program purposes. That's why it's such a significant amount. Ms O'Connor, I think you have the detail on that.

Ms O'Connor: That amount is reported on the GrantConnect system. There are some limitations in terms of how that's reported, in that it's linked to KU Children's Services in that system, but it is not what KU Children's Services receive. That includes the IDF subsidy, and KU Children's Services role is to assess that and make recommendations to the department, but the department then authorises the approval of funds to release under that subsidy.

Senator HODGINS-MAY: Is what the money is actually being spent on reported? I'm trying to understand what level of detail is available for us to review.

Ms O'Connor: The amount of money that is spent through the IDF subsidy is reported against.

Senator HODGINS-MAY: And what it's spent on?

Ms O'Connor: What it's spent on is the additional educator applications that KU Children's Services receives applications for.

Senator HODGINS-MAY: And that's listed, individually, on GrantConnect?

Ms O'Connor: I don't believe that information is contained on GrantConnect, but I can take that on notice and respond in terms of exactly where it's reported and what it's reported against.

Senator HODGINS-MAY: Ms Crane, did you have something to add?

Ms Crane: I think, Senator, what you're asking for is for each of the services that will have received the subsidy for the additional educator, where you might find the individual service listed.

Ms Twyman: And that would not be on GrantConnect. Essentially the way the inclusion support program works is that it's got various different elements, but the particular element that we're talking about here is where additional educators or support are given for services to include children with additional needs. It's a plethora of services nationally, and it would be quite a large quantum. KU would



hold that detail, obviously, for accountability purposes, but it wouldn't necessarily be reported specifically on GrantConnect, because they're not grants per se under the terms of the GrantConnect obligations to report.

Senator HODGINS-MAY: It seems like a significant amount of money to not have some sort of public transparency around those itemised amounts. If you could please provide on notice the particulars of what that money was spent on, that would be most appreciated. I've finished on that particular topic.

...

Senator HODGINS-MAY: Ms Twyman, while you're still up here, I might ask one more question following on from my earlier questions around the contract between the Department of Education and KU Children's Services. We talked about the fact that the variation will end on 30 June and that the department is still considering what will happen after that date. Are you able to provide some information around what steps the department is taking to ensure that the provider of this service is delivering the best value for money?

Ms Twyman: I'm hoping this will answer your question. We have a range of functions within the department around contract management and around ensuring the providers are providing value for money but also quality of service. That includes monitoring through the contracts—so monitoring the milestones and making sure they are being met and working with them to ensure that's occurring. Within the Inclusion Support Program, we in the department are the delegate for financial decisions. We ensure that that is done according to those delegations and in tandem with the work they are providing us so that we're satisfied to make those decisions. In terms of other performance areas, we have regular contract management meetings with KU. We call to attention where there are areas of concern, and together we work through what the solutions to those might be.

Senator HODGINS-MAY: Is there anything that could be provided to us, for us to understand those discussions that have been had and where sometimes performance is being questioned, and delivery—that review of that contract. Is there any information you're able to provide to us around those benchmarks and service delivery?

Ms Twyman: We can take that on notice. A lot of that conversation would be fairly confidential to the contract, but we could have a look

				<p>at what details can be shared around the contracts more broadly. Specific conversations may be difficult, but I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: Thank you very much.</p>		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--

<p><b>SQ24-001307</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Steph Hodgins-May</p>	<p>Child Care Subsidy fraud</p>	<p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: ... I want to follow up on a question that my colleague Senator Faruqi asked at the 2022-23 budget estimates. It's question on notice SQ23-000271, about the department's use of the Israeli spyware technology Cellebrite and what metadata it was obtaining. In response to Faruqi's question, the department said an example would be information from phones of people suspected of committing child care subsidy fraud. That information can be used in a prosecution. It might provide evidence that care wasn't occurring or that there was collusion between parents and educators of fraudulent schemes, claiming subsidy for care that wasn't occurring, in information on phones. That was from that previous question on notice. Can I please get information from the department about how many people you suspect of committing child care subsidy fraud?</p> <p>Mr Moon: Let me find the right page.</p> <p>Ms Crane: While Mr Moon is finding that, just to clarify, in terms of the data that we will hold, the investigations and the work that we will do are around providers. That would be the family daycare educators in centre based day care. In terms of the actions against individuals or if it was fraudulently claimed payments for child care subsidy, that would be something that would be picked up by Services Australia. So the information that Mr Moon is going to have will be around the actions taken by providers.</p> <p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: Noted.</p> <p>Mr Moon: Also it's probably worth mentioning that we partner with Services Australia to do our digital forensics, so the application of those methodologies, more often than not, in the use of Cellebrite, is through Services Australia. In terms of the number of active investigations, during the 2023-24 financial year, as at 30 June, we had undertaken 145 compliance regulatory investigations and activities that we had commenced. We had also finalised 78. In the same period we've done 262 provider audits, largely looking at attendance. We commenced 262 and finished 178. We have also looked at a range of infringements against certain parts of family assistance law. I'm happy to table that, noting the time, but there are an extensive range in terms of things like notification to the secretary on matters like fee reporting, late or inaccurate sessions, and compliance with requirements around working-with-children checks.</p> <p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: In that table, do you have any figures on how</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>74</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------------	--	----------------	-----------

many of them have been prosecuted as a result of those investigations?

Mr Moon: I believe I do. In the 2024-25 financial year, year to date as at 31 October, we had six people facing criminal charges in court. This financial year, for the same period, one person was successfully prosecuted, and that follows, in 2023-24, seven people being prosecuted.

Senator HODGINS-MAY: In terms of those who were prosecuted and found to have done nothing wrong, have you got those figures as well?

Mr Moon: I might take that on notice.

Senator HODGINS-MAY: That would be great, thank you. When you collect the data, how long is it stored for—the metadata?

Mr Moon: In terms of the Celebrite collection?

Senator HODGINS-MAY: Yes.

Mr Moon: I might need to take that on action because of Services Australia's interaction.

Senator HODGINS-MAY: Okay. Terrific. I might put my remaining questions about that on notice because I do need to zip to another committee. Chair, will I get another 15-minute block?

<p><b>SQ24-001308</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Medium term Commonwealth spend on child care subsidy</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: In relation to the current Commonwealth spend on childcare subsidy, can I get the cost per year and then also, over the forward estimates, the total CCS?  Mr Cook: To start, my understanding is that, in 2023-24, \$13.6 billion was spent on CCS. Are you after the forwards as well?  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes.  Mr Cook: I'm sure my team will have the forwards.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Have you got medium term there as well?  Mr Cook: No, we won't have medium term, Senator.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: I'll get you to take that on notice.  Mr Cook: Sure. We'll have the forwards when my team finds them.  Ms Crane: Senator, this is as at the May budget 2024-25. In 2023-24, total expenditure on childcare programs was \$14.326 billion. In 2024-25, it's expected to be \$14.991 billion; 2025-26, \$15.446 billion; 2026-27, \$16.322 billion; and 2027-28, \$17.220 billion, with a four-year total of \$63.979 billion.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: And then you've taken on notice the medium term. If you come back to us, that will be great.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>75</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	---	---	----------------	-----------

<p><b>SQ24-001309</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Ministerial meetings with stakeholders - briefings on flat fee and universal child care</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: A low flat fee combined with a 100 per cent subsidy for lower-income families has been put at \$9.1 billion a year in 2023-24 dollars. Again, that's \$9.1 billion in additional expenditure?  Mr Cook: That's correct.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: And the same question in relation to the accuracy?  Ms Arcaro: Yes.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: You're confirming that it's the same answer. In relation to the preparation of costings, has the department prepared a brief at all for Minister Clare or Minister Aly?  Ms Crane: Specifically with what you're referring to?  Mr Cook: I think the report.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: In relation to the flat fee.  Ms Crane: In terms of receiving the report, the Productivity Commission themselves provided briefings to the ministers around what they had found and some of the data that went behind it, just in terms of their thinking. Our brief to the office around it will have simply been, 'The report is here, and here's the summary.' As I indicated earlier, the advice and other things would be a matter of course, but it wasn't specifically about the Productivity Commission report being received.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: And what about any briefs for specific meetings that the ministers held with stakeholders on this?  Ms Crane: We provide meeting briefs for both offices as requested, depending on what the meeting is.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you let us know who those meeting briefs have been for and which stakeholders?  Ms Crane: Can I confirm which type of meeting? There'll be lots of meetings there.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: In the context of flat fee but also universal child care.  Ms Crane: We're happy to take that on notice.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Thank you.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>76</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	--	---	----------------	-----------

<b>SQ24-001310</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Departmental meetings with Thrive by Five	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: ... How many times has the department met with the Thrive by Five organisation since the last estimates?</p> <p>Ms Crane: We'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I certainly haven't; I know that.</p> <p>Ms Crane: No. I think we did have one scheduled in the diary, which I think was postponed due to illness, but we'll confirm that. We'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Thank you.</p>	Hansard	76
<b>SQ24-001311</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	2024-25 budget	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: In response to question on notice SQ24-00089, the department advised that 30 million had been set aside in the 2024-25 budget to hire staff, establish IT systems and payment processes to deliver a wage increase. Can you detail for us what that 30 million was for?</p> <p>Mrs Chandra: I'm happy to take that one on notice, but broadly it covers resourcing to deliver the grants, so that's a team of assessors, and that'd quite a large team. That's up to 60 people in 2024-25. It also covers builds. The department is building a new online grant application system using the SmartyGrants software. It covers those costs. And there are some costs in there for Services Australia to build and update their payment system.</p>	Hansard	78
<b>SQ24-001312</b>	Department of Education	Karen Grogan	Out-of-pocket costs	<p>Senator GROGAN: Thank you, Chair. I want to go back to the aborted line of questioning from Senator Brockman around the out-of-pocket costs on the childcare subsidy data. Can you tell us what the out-of-pocket costs of parents using long day care looked like in June 2023 compared to June 2024?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: Senator, for centre based daycare—that's a bit of a tongue twister!—in the June quarter 2023, so before cheaper child care, the average out-of-pocket cost per hour per child is \$4.36 and in the June quarter 2024 it is \$3.82.</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: Do you break that down into any percentages over those periods?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: We can. I don't have the percentage on me, but I think we could potentially—</p> <p>Senator GROGAN: That's okay; just take that on notice. That's fine.</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: Yes, we'll take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	79

SQ24-001313	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Changes to outside school hours care - consultation	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: ... Was anyone consulted prior to the announcement of changes to outside school hours care and preschool children?</p> <p>Ms Crane: There was consultation undertaken as part of that. There are probably two main groups that we would consult with around that. It goes to the early childhood education and care reference group and to the Early Childhood Policy Group. One is the sector representatives that we work with and the other is the departmental officials at my level that we work with in states and territories.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you provide us, on notice, with the membership of those groups?</p> <p>Ms Crane: Yes.</p>	Hansard	80
SQ24-001314	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Changes to outside school hours care - briefing	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Did the department provide advice regarding this decision and, if so, what was the advice?</p> <p>Ms Crane: We would have provided a brief to Minister Clare as part of any consideration of this and in submitting the minister's rules for sign-off.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can we get a copy of that?</p> <p>Ms Crane: I'm happy to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	80
SQ24-001315	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Changes to outside school hours care - stakeholder concerns	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Has the government received feedback from the long day care sector since the announcement?</p> <p>Ms Crane: We've received feedback from a range of stakeholders across the sector—I would say 'mostly favourable'—around the intent of this in terms of ensuring that a child that's in preschool doesn't have to move locations. The conversation with some centre-based day care has been a question around whether this might change the usage patterns for some of their children, particularly where they might be located near a nearby preschool, and it might be that the child goes to that preschool and not to theirs for a preschool program. That would be the extent of that. More broadly, in any changes that we would talk about with the sector, their interest is ensuring that there is continuity of service and quality.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: When you say that's the extent of it, that's the extent of any of the concerns that you've received?</p> <p>Ms Crane: That we've received directly. I'll have to take on notice whether there are any others, but in terms of any conversation I've been in they have been the main concerns raised.</p>	Hansard	80-81



<p><b>SQ24-001316</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Changes to outside school hours care - ministerial briefing on stakeholder concerns</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Has the government received feedback from the long day care sector since the announcement?  Ms Crane: We've received feedback from a range of stakeholders across the sector—I would say 'mostly favourable'—around the intent of this in terms of ensuring that a child that's in preschool doesn't have to move locations. The conversation with some centre-based day care has been a question around whether this might change the usage patterns for some of their children, particularly where they might be located near a nearby preschool, and it might be that the child goes to that preschool and not to theirs for a preschool program. That would be the extent of that. More broadly, in any changes that we would talk about with the sector, their interest is ensuring that there is continuity of service and quality.  ...  Senator O'SULLIVAN: We're hearing a lot more than just that single issue. Has the minister asked for any advice in relation to those concerns?  Ms Crane: I'll have to take that on notice. I'm not aware of any, but I don't want to mislead you in that response. I'm happy to take that on notice, and if you have any other representations we're very happy if you want to provide them to us.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>80-81</p>
<p><b>SQ24-001317</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Large provider reporting responsibilities</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: ... I want to go now to large provider reporting responsibilities. In response to QON SQ24-000750, the department advised that it accepted alternative or partial reporting from five providers where circumstances outside of their control meant that they were unable to be finalised and/or audited within the required timeframes. Can you take us through those circumstances?  Mr Moon: We might need to take the specifics on notice, but what I can say is that, under the large provider reporting arrangements, we're required to access both the financial statements and the responses to a range of questions that we provide each of the providers. Where those providers have difficulty supplying us with that information, we do work with them to get the information that we require to undertake the financial viability assessment and the provision of information onto Starting Blocks.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Just confirming, you'll take it on notice and see if you can come back to us with the specific circumstances. The</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>81</p>

				<p>department also advised that one provider was under investigation for failing to report its obligations. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Moon: Yes.</p>		
<b>SQ24-001318</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	Provider financial reporting	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: How many providers are required to submit financial information at the end of the financial year?</p> <p>Mr Moon: It depends on the financial reporting arrangements of the particular provider. We have two kinds—some manage their financial statements on a calendar-year basis, others on a financial-year basis. I'm very happy, in the interests of time, to provide on notice the exact numbers for you.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Based on those different reporting requirements, are there any that have not complied?</p> <p>Mr Moon: There is the one outstanding that we have spoken about. The deadline for the previous financial year—the 2023-24 financial year—has just lapsed, so I think we're still chasing a few, but I can provide up-to-date figures for you on notice if that's helpful.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes.</p>	Hansard	82

<p><b>SQ24-001319</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Publication of provider financial reporting</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: As part of the 2023 'cheaper child care' reforms, all large providers will be required to report their financial information. I note that there is no financial information reported for a number of not-for-profit organisations, including Goodstart and Communities at Work. Why is that?</p> <p>Ms Crane: I might start this response, and Mr Moon can add or correct as need be. The obligation is for those providers to provide the information to the department. The decision on what is published is then a decision for government.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Help me understand: what information is provided and what is not included?</p> <p>Mr Moon: The provider that hasn't complied?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Just generally, the information.</p> <p>Mr Moon: The information for the period would often include information such as a balance sheet, an income statement, a profit and loss statement, a statement of retained earnings, cash flow, a director's report, an auditor's report or, potentially, rental information and other matters that might affect viability, so debtors, creditors—that sort of information.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Just to understand the nature of why it's a decision of the minister, what is or isn't included and what is the minister making a decision over? Is it just the name of the provider, or other information?</p> <p>Ms Crane: All of that information is provided to the department. The decision is about what is published.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes, I understand that, but are some providers published and some not?</p> <p>Ms Crane: There is a distinction at the moment between for-profit and not-for-profit. I'd have to take on notice whether there's a distinction about what's under there.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>82</p>
<p><b>SQ24-001320</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Publication of provider financial reporting - consultation</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Before the decision was made to publish only one tier, was there any consultation with stakeholders from either the department or the minister?</p> <p>Ms Crane: I would have to go back and check what consultation happened. I do recall there was consultation. Whether it was about that specific matter or about the specific types of information that providers were providing to us, and whether it was disclosed—I'd</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>83</p>

				have to take on notice what the nature of the consultation related to. Senator O'SULLIVAN: Thank you.		
<b>SQ24-001321</b>	Department of Education	Perin Davey	Community Child Care Fund - unsuccessful applicants	<p>Senator DAVEY: I want to ask about the latest round of the Community Child Care Fund. In August Minister Aly announced that 430 early childhood education centres would receive a share of \$80 million through the fund. Have you got a table of the services that were successful, including how much each service would get?</p> <p>Ms Crane: That was tabled this morning, so you should have a list of each and every service and the dollar amount that they were provided.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Great!</p> <p>Mr Cook: There's a big bundle, about this big, of—</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: In one of these?</p> <p>Mr Cook: In one of those. It was one of the questions that Senator O'Sullivan asked us, so we've put that information in this morning.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: It's in there. Right, I've got that. I'll dig that up; that's fine. But could you answer this: was it delivered to existing services only or were some of the services that got funding new, insofar as the CCCF?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We call it triple-CF.</p> <p>Ms Crane: Round 4 was open to all. It didn't exclude those who had received it, and we received a mix of applications from those who had received it previously and from new services.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Can you tell me how many applications the department had?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: We received 909 applications in total.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: And 430 were successful?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: A number of those 909 were deemed ineligible. There were 96 applications deemed ineligible and 12 that were withdrawn because they were identified as duplicate applications as well.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Without identifying individual centres, what reasons are there for ineligibility?</p> <p>Ms Twyman: Basically, by not being compliant with the requirements of the grant opportunity. It may be that they haven't submitted or</p>	Hansard	83

weren't able to submit certain details or weren't able to provide the details required for the application or weren't able to address some of the administrative requirements.

Senator DAVEY: Were unsuccessful applicants, including those that were deemed ineligible, given personalised individual feedback or the opportunity to request personalised, individual feedback?

Ms Twyman: It's not our normal process to do individual feedback, but we have given general feedback as part of the tender process. That has been given out to all of them in terms of what the general issues were, and we've grouped them into what the issues were with those that weren't successful.

Senator DAVEY: If someone has applied and is found to be ineligible—it might be because they've failed to fill in one of the boxes or something—they're not informed that they are ineligible because of an administrative error so that in the next round they can be aware of it. They are just told, 'Sorry, you're ineligible,' and, if someone has applied but is unsuccessful, all they get is, 'Sorry, you're unsuccessful this time.'

Ms Twyman: Sorry, we were just conversing on it. Feedback, to me, is at the end of the process. So when we talk about feedback, we're talking about when the general feedback would be given. But in terms of ineligibility, during the process—and I'll just doublecheck this—I believe those services would have been told that that was why their application did not progress. But we will doublecheck that, and I will take that on notice.

<p><b>SQ24-001322</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Slade Brockman</p>	<p>Office for Youth positions and roles</p>	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: I'll try and get through these on the Office for Youth as quickly as possible. You came back with a QON, SQ24-000758, on the ASL breakdown for the Office for Youth. You know where I'm—</p> <p>Ms Sandlant: Do you mind just repeating the number?</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: It ends in 758. Is that enough? Basically, it came back with a breakdown of the Office for Youth. On notice, can you provide an org chart of who reports to whom?</p> <p>Ms Sandlant: Sorry?</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: On notice, can you provide an organisational chart of whom reports to whom within the office?</p> <p>Ms Sandlant: I'll take that on notice. I think we could probably provide you the positions, but not the names, just due to the levels.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Absolutely. The role and who reports to whom.</p> <p>Ms Sandlant: And the team breakdown, yes.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Like an org structure, but without the people's names. That's right?</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Absolutely. Do all the EL1s have someone who reports directly to them?</p> <p>Ms Sandlant: I believe most of them do, yes.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Most? All?</p> <p>Ms Sandlant: I think all—yes. Yes.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: They do? Will we get a breakdown of what each of the EL1s do—a job description, title?</p> <p>Ms Sandlant: I can give you their job title, yes.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Do they all do clearly different roles?</p> <p>Ms Sandlant: Yes. It might be easier for me to explain. There are two teams. One focuses on government priorities and measurements. That team has our youth steering committee in it. It also does our measurement framework under the youth engagement strategy, and it also delivers the National Youth Forum. It works with our government agencies and the government uplift in capability building piece that we do. The EL1s in that team focus on the measurement and the engagement piece, the advice and delivery of youth engagement. The other team is our youth engagement team that does our youth advisory group program. That runs the five youth advisory groups, and that is largely its focus. But it also does our Young Australian of the Year grants work. It does some program work too</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>85</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------	---	---	----------------	-----------

				<p>and our regional, rural and remote engagement work as well. In both teams, the EL1s have specialties in youth engagement. One team then has a speciality around program management and delivery, and, in the other team, the EL1 has a specialty around measurement. That gives you a bit of a breakdown, but on notice I can go into more detail.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: If you can come back with that org chart, that would be really helpful.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<p><b>SQ24-001323</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Youth Advisory Committee meeting March 2024 - travel costs</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN:...In relation to a response to a question SQ24-000919. We have a breakdown of the cost of a trip to Canberra for the group. It included accommodation for five Office for Youth staff but strangely there were no travel costs associated with those five. Can you confirm what is the primary location of those staff?  Ms Sandlant: Is this around the youth consultations?  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes, in Canberra. Have you got that QON 919?  Ms Sandlant: Can you let me know which response, which question within that you are referring to?  Ms Twyman: This one had seven questions.  Ms Sandlant: Is it the table at the back?  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes, it is.  Ms Sandlant: The five staff, I would have to take on notice. But from memory, most of those staff are Canberra based. The reason we stay in the hotel is around child safeguarding and around our protocols.  ...  Senator O'SULLIVAN: In relation to those costs—  Ms Sandlant: For the March meeting?  Senator O'SULLIVAN: for the March meeting: the cost breakdown also included travel and accommodation for two children.  Ms Sandlant: Yes.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: I assume they're not on the committee!  Ms Sandlant: Some of our participants are young parents—so it was the cost of bringing their children along with them so they could participate in the meeting.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: What was the age of those children?  Ms Sandlant: I'd have to take that on notice. I believe one was in early primary school and one was pre-primary school age.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: I understand the care responsibilities, but what's the rationale for having a participant that's required to bring their children?  Ms Sandlant: Effectively, not excluding anyone from being able to participate in the program. By being able to help, in this case, two young mothers to have their children come with them, that meant they were able to participate in the program. Otherwise, due to their responsibilities as mothers and carers, they wouldn't have been able to come across. We operate with our youth participation; we aim to provide accessibility supports that wouldn't exclude anyone on the</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>86-88</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	---	---	----------------	--------------



basis of their personal circumstances from coming to Canberra, including covering all costs, and be accessible to circumstances of young parents and other accessibility circumstances.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: The program went for three nights or five nights?

Ms Sandlant: There were two separate groups coming, but most youth participants stayed two to three nights. The Office for Youth were there for longer; we were there for the outgoing groups and the incoming groups.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: I see. So these were two children of people who are participants in the group?

Ms Sandlant: Yes.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Not the Office—

Ms Sandlant: No, not the Office for Youth—of youth participants from the advisory groups.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: How many nights was their accommodation charged?

Ms Sandlant: I'd have to take that on notice and come back to you, because some people stayed long—

Senator O'SULLIVAN: I want to be clear: I'm not asking for any details of individuals or any information that would identify them.

Ms Sandlant: Some people just stayed longer because of where they lived and flights. I'd have to take exactly what that was on notice.

Ms Twyman: Just to add to Ms Sandlant's comments: some people had to stay longer because of those flights, and that meant our people had to stay longer as well because they had to support those people. That might shed light on why some of that was a bit longer as well. It depended on the age of that person.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Was child care then arranged for those minors, for those children? Or were they in the groups?

Ms Sandlant: They had carers that came along with them as well to look after them during—

Senator O'SULLIVAN: And were costs covered for those carers?

Ms Sandlant: Yes.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Did that include any wages?

Ms Sandlant: No, just flights and accommodation.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay.

<p><b>SQ24-001324</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Youth steering committee - evaluation</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: ... In the same QON (SQ24-000919), you advised the office is in the process of conducting an evaluation of the youth steering committee. How is that a valuation work being done and when do you anticipate it will be completed?  Ms Sandlant: That is in response to question 5?  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes.  Ms Sandlant: For that evaluation, we do surveys of the steering committee members when they start with us, at the midpoint of their work program and when they leave, and that is to test a few things: how they find the program—  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Are they just engaged for that year?  Ms Sandlant: No, they are engaged for two years, so they are at the midpoint of their two-year period. Some committee members did finish after 12 months. Some members extended for a further 12 months and then we brought on new members. It is those three points are when we survey members. I would have to come back to you on notice when the evaluation is finished and the next steps with it. It's not something that was intended for public; it was intended to help us improve the program and the work plan. We also do a similar evaluation with Australian government agencies that engage with the committee. Agencies can bring a work program to the committee and utilise the committee to provide advice on government policy. We test with those officials at the start around their competence and confidence in engaging with young people and at the end as well. Then we also do a follow-up of what they did and how they used that advice and the effect that it has had.  In terms of public reporting, the Engage strategy does have the measurement and evaluation framework. That was launched March this year and it is expected that that reporting will happen next year. The youth steering committee is a part of that strategy, so it will be a part of that reporting.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>86-87</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	--	--	----------------	--------------

<p><b>SQ24-001326</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Steph Hodgins-May</p>	<p>Early childhood education and care access</p>	<p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: Thank you. I have just one more on childcare deserts. Across the country, one in four people don't have access to early childhood education and care because of where they live. You'd know many parents and their kids are on multiple waiting lists, missing out on early years education because they can't secure child care. Minister, has the government identified childcare deserts that could be prioritised to increase supply?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'm happy for the department to respond to that one.</p> <p>Ms Crane: We wouldn't refer to them as deserts, in that sense. The commentary that came through from the ACCC covers probably the same thing, around underserved or unserved markets. In terms of the support to look at what might be done, with the program that Ms Twyman referred to earlier around the Community Child Care Fund round 4, a large portion of where that money would have gone will have been to address underserved or unserved markets—so to establish new services or to expand the services that are there. Certainly, in what we're seeing across the broader ECEC sector, we can see that the number of places has increased by about 39,000 over the last year—so we can see that there has been growth. That's growth across all regions. In terms of the response to address waiting lists, the sector is doing some of that. Some of the programs that Ms Twyman referred to will cover some of the others. We know there's a bit of work in states and territories that is also filling that. But, yes, we are aware that there is commentary from families and providers around the need to increase supply. The Productivity Commission and the ACCC certainly made commentary on that, as well.</p> <p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: Is there any information about how many and where those—I can't recall the language that you used, so I'll say deserts—are?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Underserved.</p> <p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: Is there any information you can provide to us about that decision?</p> <p>Ms Crane: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HODGINS-MAY: Thank you.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>90</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------	--	--	----------------	-----------

<p><b>SQ24-001327</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>ESOS Bill</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Good evening to you all. I wanted to firstly ask you about the ESOS bill. I have to firstly place on the record, Minister, that your characterisation of the impact on the university sector—that it's all the fault of the coalition government—is a complete and utter joke. The sector is in crisis, and, if you think the universities are in crisis, consider what this is doing to the private providers, both in VET and in higher education. Many of them are facing insolvency, bankruptcy, collapse or other serious financial consequences—the loss of their homes. I firstly want to ask you a question, Mr Rimmer. I'm concerned about the answer you gave earlier to Senator Pocock. The department, in its PRISMS system, has said that, yes, these caps are subject to the passing of legislation. I understand that. But anyone who's been given a cap cannot enrol any students above that cap— isn't that correct?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: No, that's not correct. There is no limit in the system at the moment. We've given people information about the limits that would apply if the legislation were passed in the current form and if the government's policy position stays the same about how limits are distributed, but there is no limit coded into the system at the moment.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Okay. So what happens if someone with a cap of, say, 50 enrolls 5,000 students?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: At the moment, they're able to do that. The law of the land entitles them to do that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: And the cap won't operate retrospectively?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: If the legislation is passed in its current form, the cap will operate from 1 January 2025, and all providers who are close to the limit that would apply if that legislation were to pass are well aware of the fact that they are close to that limit.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, that's a different proposition. What I'm asking is: would the legislation operate retrospectively with respect to providers which have enrolled above their notional cap?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I have to disagree with your characterisation of retrospectivity. The limit applies to new students who meet certain conditions and who start their course on or after 1 January 2025.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I understand that, but what happens to those providers? In the example I gave, with the provider who has a cap of 50, what happens to them if that provider enrolls 5,000, which that</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>96-97</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	------------------	---	----------------	--------------

			<p>provider can do quite lawfully at the moment?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We're certainly not seeing any numbers even approximating that degree of disparity.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What happens if they enrol 100? Please explain what happens.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I'm very happy to explain.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What happens when a provider has lawfully enrolled more students than their notional cap?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: When the legislation comes into effect, assuming it does and assuming it takes its current form, every new commencement after that date counts towards the limit. On 1 January, that number is zero. On 15 January, that number might be five. On 30 January, that number might be 10. The provider's limit might be 50. It will take the provider some months to get anywhere near their limit unless there's a provider out there with a business model in which all the students start on 1 January—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm just going to cut to the chase here, because I don't think you understand my question. For a provider that's been given a cap of 50—and I will use a more realistic example—if that provider, between now and 31 December, enrolls 100 new commencements, what happens to those additional 50 enrolments?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: The legislation will, if passed, prevent them, commencing with the 51st enrolment.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So it is effectively operating retrospectively.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I wouldn't agree with that characterisation.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Have you had advice about that?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can we have a copy of that advice, please?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I will take that on notice.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--	--

<p><b>SQ24-001328</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Letter sent to providers who have multiple CRICOS registrations</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I understand that in the last few days the department has sent providers a letter confirming that providers of multiple CRICOS registrations are able to redistribute their total allocation across their organisation. Is that correct?  Mr Rimmer: That's true in a limited number of circumstances. I'll give an example. Victoria University has two CRICOS codes: one that relates to its Melbourne operations and one that relates to its Sydney operations. We've said to them that they are able to shift their limits between those two locations given that the ultimate owner of the operations is the same entity. That's also the case, for example, in relation to Monash University and Monash College.  Senator HENDERSON: But there are actually quite a few providers that have multiple campuses and multiple CRICOS registrations.  Mr Rimmer: There are some. I wouldn't describe it as a huge number, but there are some.  Senator HENDERSON: Could you please table a copy of that letter?  Mr Rimmer: I'm not sure we can table it right now, but we're certainly happy to provide it on notice.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>98-99</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	--	--	----------------	--------------

<p><b>SQ24-001329</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Changes to notional caps</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: What about other pathways colleges? When we last spoke about the bill, in the bill inquiry, you indicated that there was no other negotiation in relation to notional caps that have been given to providers. Has that changed at all?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: No.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you update the committee? Compared to the notional caps that were originally provided, which ones have changed?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I think, from memory, eight have changed in the higher education sector.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you go through what those are?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I think we've provided that on notice to the inquiry.</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: I believe we have. We can run through it again, if helpful. As Mr Rimmer said, there are only eight providers who've received an updated indicative allocation. They received that advice on 19 September. It might be more efficient if we provide the list on notice, if you'd rather.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I wouldn't mind having a look at the list now. Could you just provide it? You don't need to read it out.</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: Certainly. I'll just run through the eight, if that's helpful. I'll ask Dr Oliver to add to that. Those that have been advised of an updated indicative allocation are UNSW Global, Astra Institute of Higher Education, Skyline Higher Education Australia, Australasian Academy of Higher Education, Marasi Education, Jazz Music Institute, Global Leadership Institute and Nova Anglia College.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide that list with the before and after caps, please.</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: Certainly.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I think you'll find they're public on the Senate's website, under 'Orders for the production of documents'.</p> <p>Ms Sandercock: I believe so. We may be able to link it to a question on notice provided through that process.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>99</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------------	--	----------------	-----------

<p><b>SQ24-001330</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>HECS indexation</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, since 1 June 2022, student debt has gone up a massive 16 per cent. Indexation has been more than \$8 billion. So many students are struggling to put food on the table or pay the bills in this cost-of-living crisis. Even if the government's changes to HECS indexation methodology go through the parliament, this will still mean an increase, since 1 June, of 11 per cent. For a student with an average loan of \$27,600, are you able to say how much indexation they will pay?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No, Senator.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Senator, that they will pay in what time period?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Right now, based on the 16 per cent, and if these changes to HECS indexation go through.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, what's the 16 per cent?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: The 16 per cent is the total of the indexation rises that have occurred since 1 June 2022.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We can't validate that number right here and now, but what we can say is: if the legislation passes, there will be an indexation event on 1 June 2025. That indexation event will use the lower of the wage price index or the consumer price index for the relevant period, and that will be applied to people's accounts on that date.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But there's also the retrospective application of HECS indexation for the last two years.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Yes, and—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Anyway, look, if you can't do the calculation, that's fine. I thought you might have that to hand for the average—</p> <p>Mr Cook: We just need a time period, sorry. We don't know what time period you were talking about. We'd have to factor in any voluntary repayments as well, so—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, I'm just talking about the indexation that has occurred since the increase that has occurred since 1 June 2022.</p> <p>Mr Cook: And the question was, sorry, again—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What is the indexation on someone with an average loan?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry. I didn't think that was the question you asked. We'll take that on notice and come back to you on that.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>103-104</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	------------------------	--	----------------	----------------



<p><b>SQ24-001331</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>HELP Loan - correspondence and information relating to costing</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Okay, thank you. In terms of the costing of the measure, I note you say it's a cost to the budget of \$600 million. Can you provide the breakdown of that cost on a year-by-year basis?  Mr Cook: That'll be done through MYEFO.  Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to do that now?  Mr Cook: It's part of the budgetary MYEFO process. We're not able to because that's part of cabinet consideration and it's part of the usual budget process.  Senator HENDERSON: Haven't you done that work, Secretary?  Mr Cook: That number is something that will be done as part of the budget process.  Senator HENDERSON: No, but I'm not—  Mr Cook: The government gave an estimation around it, Senator.  Senator HENDERSON: No, but I'm asking for—  Mr Cook: We cannot give budgetary information until the budget is published.  Senator HENDERSON: Our job, as senators with this committee is to investigate the expenditure and the operations of the department. What I'm asking for is any correspondence or information you have in relation to the costing.  Mr Cook: Sure. We'll take that on notice.  Senator HENDERSON: So you must have costed that \$600 million on a year-by-year basis. It's not a difficult question, Secretary. Can you provide that, please.  Mr Cook: We will take it on notice.  Senator HENDERSON: Can you confirm if you have got those figures?  Mr Cook: In my folder? No.  Senator HENDERSON: Does anyone in the room have them? Or can anyone bring them to the table tonight?  Mr Cook: Senator, I've said I'll take it on notice. We're taking it on notice.  Senator HENDERSON: Clearly, the work has been done, because you've given us the \$600 million figure. Do you know what impact this will have on not just the forwards but the medium term?  Mr Cook: Sorry, what will take—  Senator HENDERSON: This policy measure. Are you able to give us any—  Mr Cook: The marginal rate or the 20 per cent reduction?</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>104-105</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	---	--	----------------	----------------

				<p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to give us any other information in relation to the impact on the budget in the medium or the short term—over the forwards or the medium term?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, I'm just trying to work out if this is the marginal rate or the 20 per cent you're talking about.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: The \$600 million expenditure.</p> <p>Mr Cook: You're talking about both of them?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Is that over the forwards?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you just—Secretary, what I'm trying to understand—</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry. There were two announcements made by government on the weekend. I'm just trying to understand which announcement you're talking about.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm talking about the 20 per cent reduction—</p> <p>Mr Cook: The 20 per cent. Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: on student debt, which of course only applies to those who have a student debt and benefits those who have a large student debt the most. That's one of the reasons it has been so heavily criticised. Are you able to provide any further information on the costings of this policy over the medium term?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We will take that on notice.</p>		
<b>SQ24-001332</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	HELP Loan - impact on students with student debt	<p>Senator HENDERSON: What impact is this going to have on students with a student debt? Have you done any modelling on this at all?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We do have some information on that. About 70 per cent of the impact of the measure will be felt by people on incomes of less than \$90,000. And about 82 per cent of the impact of the measure will be felt by people under the age of 39. And about 60 per cent of the impact of the measure will be felt by women. So we do have some information that we're able to provide in that context.</p>	Hansard	105

				<p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could provide that and any other information you have, particularly in relation to the modelling, that would be very much appreciated—including any correspondence with Treasury as well in relation to the modelling.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure.</p>		
<b>SQ24-001333</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Complaints of antisemitic behaviour - Update to SQ24-000871	<p>Senator HENDERSON: We are obviously trying to make up time, so I'm going to have to move through a couple of other things pretty quickly. I just wanted to ask about the number of complaints received by the department in relation to antisemitism at university campuses. There were three complaints that you noted in response to question on notice SQ24-000871. Can you please provide details on whether there was an investigation, whether these complaints passed on to TEQSA and what action was taken in relation to those complaints? Also, how many complaints have been received by the minister or his office? I've seen a number of complaints being copied into correspondence to the minister. Do you have any details about the number of complaints to the minister? Could you please outline how many of those complaints were actioned and responded to? You might need to do that on notice, but I am concerned that a number of complaints have not been responded to.</p> <p>Ms Morton: I believe our answer to that on notice was that since 1 July 2023 the department had received three complaints about antisemitic behaviour or concerns in higher education and 12 complaints addressed to the minister about that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Over what period? Twelve complaints to the minister between—</p> <p>Ms Morton: Since 1 July 2023 to 3 July 2024, the department had received three complaints and we were aware of 12 complaints that had been addressed to the minister.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: When you say you were aware of 12 complaints—</p> <p>Ms Morton: We get copied into correspondence.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, that's not the question, though. How many complaints has the minister received?</p> <p>Ms Morton: I'd have to take that on notice. I don't have that information.</p>	Hansard	108-109

Senator HENDERSON: I'm certain I've seen many more that have just come into my inbox.

Ms Morton: I'm not aware of those. As I said, I'll have to take that on notice.

Senator HENDERSON: So, the 12 complaints may not be accurate?

Ms Morton: No, that was the information that we had available to us at the time when we responded to your question on notice.

Senator HENDERSON: Did you check with the minister's office on that?

Ms Morton: I believe we did, yes.

Senator HENDERSON: Alright. In relation to the three complaints to the department, what action was taken?

Ms Morton: I may need to come back to you on notice about that. My understanding is that our usual response, depending on the nature of the complaint, is to advise the complainant to raise the issue with their higher education provider and to also provide advice to them around how they can contact TEQSA and the ombudsman in their particular and state or territory. But I'll need to take the details of those three on notice and am happy to come back to you.

<p><b>SQ24-001334</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Wage retention grant program</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: In relation to the wage retention grant program, who made the decision to go with 15 per cent, and why was that figure chosen?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That was a decision of the government.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: What was the rationale?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm not sure there's a rationale to go with these government decisions. Proposals were put to them. Options were put to them. The government made a decision.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: But behind that? Why 15 per cent?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, I'm not trying to be difficult, but that's what the government decided. The workings of that in terms of the cabinet processes is up to them.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Minister, why 15 per cent, not 10 per cent or 20 per cent? What's the rationale?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: As the secretary said, my understanding is that it was a decision of government. We view it as an interim payment whilst the Fair Work Commission finalises its gender undervaluation review. The decision was made by the government in the interim to boost those wages. Obviously I think that everyone would agree that they have been underpaid for too long. Secondly, there's obviously a workforce element to it as well. While the pay was low, we were struggling to get people to work in the sector, so we thought it was important to boost those wages as a result.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: What is the fee cap for the second year?</p> <p>Ms Crane: It's 4.2 per cent.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Minister, who made the decision to use the same fee cap for both centre based day care and outside school hours, noting that they're quite different services and different cost models?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: The department might be able to help on that one.</p> <p>Ms Crane: Again, there would have been a range of advice provided to government, but that decision is a decision for government.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: What is the exact funding formula the department will be using to calculate how much each service will receive?</p> <p>Ms Crane: That has not been disclosed. The release of that, again, would be a decision for government.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: When will it be released and released to providers?</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>76-77</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------------------	---	----------------	--------------

Ms Crane: That would be a decision for government.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: The program starts within the next month, so, Minister, can providers expect to see some advice on this soon?

Senator Chisholm: I would expect so, but I'd have to take it on notice.

<p><b>SQ24-001335</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Changes to outside school hours care - financial viability of providers</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay. We can do that. There are concerns around financial viability.</p> <p>Ms Crane: Certainly, in the way that it was represented from the limited number of stakeholders, I wouldn't say that the concerns that were raised with us were sectorwide or the majority, but it definitely went to viability, noting that the cost of care for some of the younger age groups is often subsidised by some of the older age groups.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Is that concern from the long-day-care sector in particular?</p> <p>Ms Crane: It was specific to centre-based day care.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Does this change mean that standalone kindergartens and preschools can access the childcare subsidy for providing outside-school-hours care?</p> <p>Ms Crane: For outside-school-hours care, yes. This doesn't change the arrangements for preschool, but it does allow them to run an outside-school-hours care provision on the premises or nearby.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: What is the government's response to services that are concerned about their financial viability, following this ruling?</p> <p>Ms Crane: I'm not aware that there have been any direct questions around financial viability that have been raised with the government. There's certainly nothing that I'm aware of that we've provided briefing on to the office that would be sufficient.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Has the minister received any representations from providers that are concerned about their financial viability in relation to these changes?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you take that on notice, and then what the response would be? Thank you.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>81</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	--	--	----------------	-----------

<p><b>SQ24-001336</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Non-government school census and movement of funds</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you update the committee on the overall changes in school funding between government and non-government schools in terms of that shift? Has there been any change since the budget?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: We've just completed the non-government school census. The results of those census and any changes to forecasting will be settled through the MYEFO process and they'll be published with MYEFO.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you provide a copy of that census on notice and the outcomes of that census, please, including those numbers?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: We'll take that on notice and see in what form that could look like. For clarity, you're asking about the actuals for students in approved authorities for the non-government sector?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's right, and the shifts in funding. The work that you've done to date in terms of the census and therefore what the actual movement of funds will be in terms of payments to both government schools and non-government schools.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: We'll take it on notice.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>15</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	---	---	----------------	-----------



<p><b>SQ24-001337</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>First Nations languages in schools</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: For First Nations languages in schools, there was an underspend of \$2 million.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: With the First Nations language in schools, we're in the process of reprofiling that funding. That's an initiative that we've been working on for some time with First Languages Australia, and that initiative is well progressed. We have had 27 applications for grants and we have had nine approved. The other remaining ones are going through the final stages. We would more consider that to be a reprofiling rather than an underspend. We will anticipate that will be reprofiled and then those grants will finish being awarded and implementation will start from there.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: 'Reprofiled' means that money will be moved back into the budget?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: No.</p> <p>Mr Cook: It's like a movement of funds as well. That money is still there. We've given you some information in the questions that you asked about where that program is up to, whatever question that is. I think we've identified at least \$9 million that we've now allocated, but it's just simply a movement of funds into the next financial year while we finalise the grants with the remaining successful applicants.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It just seems that with this program the money continues to be rolled over. It's taken a long time to get this money out the door. Can you please, on notice, provide us with details of the nine approved applications? Have they been published?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No, because we're still finalising the grant arrangements with them. We've given you the amount of money that has been approved.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: How much is that again?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's \$9 million. Once those grants are actually finally approved and signed with the applicant and the department, they'll publish them.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What's the amount of money that's yet to be allocated?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Mr Mudford will know those figures off the top of his head. On the first languages work, it's been very important to us that we've done this directly with community in First Languages Australia. The first part of this process was working with Indigenous communities about their language plan. We had in the order of over</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>15-16</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	---	--	----------------	--------------

				<p>140 EOIs to work with First Languages Australia on developing a languages plan. From those language plans, 27 communities have put in a grant application to be part of this initiative. The bulk of those 27 communities are still going through the final assessment stage. Of the nine that have been selected, the sorts of things that they will be working on with their local schools include building community language dictionaries; building resources so that community can have access to those resources but it can be used by educators in the schooling system as well; and opportunities to train the educators with cert III and cert IV training. Overall, the costs associated with that initiative—</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry. Can I just correct the record? Was it question 16 that you asked us? I said \$9 million. It's nine applications to the value of \$3.5 million that have been approved and grant agreements renegotiated.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I was very confused about that when I looked at the overall budget allocation.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes, that's totally my fault. I got the nine and \$9 million mixed up. Nine applications to the value of \$3.5 million have been approved, grant agreements have been negotiated, and 18 applications are being assessed of the 27 grant applications that we received. We've given you in question 16 the information you asked for.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide anything else on notice?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes.</p>		
<b>SQ24-001338</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	National Consent Survey	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I would say that, on the evidence, they are not doing a good job at all. Secretary, is there any reason you can explain why there is a delay? Is this the fault of the Human Rights Commission? Have they been tardy? Clearly, this is just ridiculous. Are there delays? Is the minister not approving the survey? If, on notice, you could provide the correspondence in relation to this consent survey between the Human Rights Commission and the department</p>	Hansard	16

				and the minister's office, I would be grateful. Mr Cook: Yes.		
<b>SQ24-001339</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Government and non-government schools expenditure	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, can you provide information on Australian government recurrent expenditure on school education by sector since 2021-22—that is, from 2022-23 onwards—for both government schools and non-government schools?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Just to be clear for my team, who have left me, the amount the federal government has provided to the non-government sector and the government sector by year?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Cook: By 2021—is that right?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I have the data up until 2021-22.</p> <p>Mr Cook: 2021-22 on?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes, that's right.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Let's see what we can give you.</p> <p>Mr Davern: I have here financial year figures for current funding for the government sector/non-government sector, as at budget 2024-25, from financial years 2023-24 through to 2027-28. Would you like me to read out these figures?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you just give it on a year-by-year basis for each financial year? I'm looking for 2022-23.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I don't think we've gone that far back in our data. It will be in the budget papers, so we might have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Maybe just take that on notice. In 2023-24, for government schools, what was the total amount?</p> <p>Mr Davern: \$11.089 billion. For non-government, it was \$17.675 billion.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Do you have forecast expenditure? What can you tell us about 2024-25?</p> <p>Mr Davern: I can give you the same breakdown all the way through to 2027-28.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you.</p> <p>Mr Davern: For the government sector for 2024-25, it's \$11.467 billion; for the non-government sector for the same financial year, \$18.325 billion. For 2025-26 for the government sector, it's \$11.884</p>	Hansard	17-18

billion; for the non-government sector, \$19.101 billion. Moving to 2026-27, for the government sector, it's \$12.321 billion; for the non-government sector, \$19.885 billion. Moving to 2027-28, for the government sector, it's \$12.782 billion; for the non-government sector, \$20.663 billion.

Senator HENDERSON: On notice, could you provide that information so we can see the full amounts?

Mr Davern: Since 2021?

Senator HENDERSON: No, sorry. You've just abbreviated how many billions. We need to see the actual figures. On notice, though, could you provide that data?

Mr Davern: Absolutely.

Senator HENDERSON: On 2027-28? Is there one more year?

Mr Davern: We only had to 2027-28.

Senator HENDERSON: Thank you.

<p><b>SQ24-001340</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Penny Allman-Payne</p>	<p>Presbyterian Ladies College capacity to contribute review</p>	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: I also want to refer to an article that appeared in the Age on 29 September 2024, by Noel Towell. The article is headed 'Funding review ordered for Melbourne private school swimming in federal cash'. That article referred to Presbyterian Ladies College in Burwood, Victoria. That college was spending \$85 million on a new sports complex. It was noted that they made almost \$43 million in fees, charges and parental contributions in 2022 and they also received other funding from private sources in the amount of \$2.7 million. That school also received \$9.2 million from the federal government. At the time Minister Clare said that he had ordered a review into the socioeconomic assessments underpinning that federal funding. I'm glad he did order that review, because some of those numbers blow my mind. I'm keen to understand the status of that review.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Your recollection of the minister's statements is correct. He did instruct the department to undertake a review of PLC Burwood and their capacity-to-contribute score. The department has undertaken that work and I'll ask Mr Davern to speak to some of that.</p> <p>Mr Davern: At the minister's request, the department has undertaken an internal review of our processes for calculating and assuring the 2024 CTC score of 103 for PLC. The scope and findings of the review are currently with the minister for his consideration following which we will communicate the outcome with the school. We are very happy to take a request for the outcome of that review on notice.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: My question is: will it be tabled or otherwise made publicly available once it's complete?</p> <p>Mr Davern: We are very happy to take the outcomes of the review on notice.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>22</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	--	---	----------------	-----------

<p><b>SQ24-001341</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Penny Allman-Payne</p>	<p>Financial hardship policy</p>	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: ... In 2022, De La Salle College drove a family to bankruptcy pursuing unpaid fees. Is the department aware of that case?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I'm not aware of that matter.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: In 2021 Trinity Grammar launched bankruptcy proceedings against a family. Are you aware of that case?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I'm not aware of that matter.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: In 2020, Scotch College pursued a family to bankruptcy. Is the federal department or the government aware of that case?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: The department may well be aware of some of these matters. I'm not aware, but we are happy to take that on notice and let you know what we have.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: My question is: why isn't there any oversight of this? I would have thought that registering a financial hardship policy publicly is the very least the government and the department can require a school to do if they are taking taxpayer money. Do you have a view on that, Minister?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Not particularly. The deputy secretary talked through the responsibilities of state governments when it comes to these matters. Through the arc of history when it comes to schooling and the ability of the schooling system to look after students who might fall on tough times or families who fall on tough times, I think there are some well established examples of where schools would do that where possible. I'm not familiar with all of the circumstances obviously that you talked through there, but I'd certainly encourage those schools to do what they can to look after those people who might have fallen on tough times to ensure their children can continue to receive a consistent education if that's what they want to do.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: My understanding is that private schools don't report those numbers to state and territory departments. Again, I repeat the point I've made several times here throughout estimates on several occasions: the government is giving 80 per cent of public money to the private schools. Could you tell me what barriers exist to gathering the data at a bare minimum for receiving public money? What is the barrier to the department requiring that information to be gathered and provided by those schools?</p> <p>CHAIR: Before you answer that, Senator Allman-Payne, do you want</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>24-25</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------------	--	----------------	--------------

				<p>to ask a follow-up question to this? Then I'll rotate the call.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: I've got two more questions on this line and then we'll only have five minutes in your next rotation. Is that okay?</p> <p>CHAIR: If they're quick.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, Senator, what data are you talking about specifically?</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: The data in relation to schools being required to have a financial hardship policy, so data on whether they have them. Then there is keeping track of—</p> <p>Mr Cook: For families? Sorry, I was thinking it was for schools but it is for the families?</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Yes, and then keeping track of when schools are actually pursuing families without maybe applying their policies.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: In terms of the role of the federal government with the approved authority there are certain conditions approved authorities have to meet in order to be granted approval to operate. The sorts of specifics you're talking to are much more likely to go to the requirements of states and territories about their registering them as organisations—</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: I'm going to stop you there, Ms Brighton, because again that's not my question. My question is: what is the barrier to the federal department, whose level of government is the primary funder, collecting that information? What is the barrier? What's stopping it from doing that?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: What I was going to say is we're happy to take on notice and follow up with jurisdictions, from their regulatory roles, in terms of what information they are able to share with us about the requirements to register as a school as our first step to understanding this issue.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<p><b>SQ24-001342</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Penny Allman-Payne</p>	<p>Private school funding expenditure</p>	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Is there a way for the department to ensure that public funding to private schools is quarantined specifically for the purposes of education?  Mr Simovski: Yes. Under section 29 of the Australian Education Regulations 2023, there's a requirement that the recurrent funding that is provided to schools is used for the purposes of school education. As part of our annual assurance processes, approved authorities for schools are required to submit to the department acquittal certificates under section 34 of the regulations. Those certificates are signed off by the approved authority's independent auditor on the use of those funds.  Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Does the department have any oversight on how much money private schools spend on legal fees?  Ms Brighton: I don't believe so.  Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: In the last 10 years, are you able to tell me how many private schools the department has investigated for concerns around their expenditure?  Ms Brighton: We'll have to take that on notice. I don't have that sort of information in front of me.  Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Have there been cases raised with the department about the issue of taxpayer funds subsidising excessive salaries?  Ms Brighton: I'll have to take that on notice—not that I'm expressly aware of, but it doesn't mean that it hasn't come to the department.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>34</p>
<p><b>SQ24-001343</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Kerryne Liddle</p>	<p>Good to Great Schools program</p>	<p>Senator LIDDLE: Okay. The criteria to be part of this program are for the school to be classified as remote or very remote and for the student cohort to be majority Indigenous. Are you confident that all of the schools that are in the listing and have been selected for Good to Great meet those criteria?  Ms Brighton: Senator, I would have said yes until you asked that question, so I'm happy to go away and have a look at it and make sure that the schools are consistent with the expectation by way of the guidelines.  Senator LIDDLE: Thank you. That would be useful. Has there been any resistance to adopting the Good to Great program from schools that have been identified as delivering that program?  Ms Brighton: Not that I'm aware of. The program will be expanded from 10 to 20 schools. I'm not aware of any concerns being raised.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>37-38</p>



				<p>Senator LIDDLE: Would you like to take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I'm happy to take that on notice.</p>		
<b>SQ24-001344</b>	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	National Teacher Workforce Action Plan status	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can I ask about the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan, please. You've previously provided some answers to question on notice SQ24-000730. I want to clarify a few items and go through each of the action items at a general, high level. Can I confirm if any of the action items are delayed at all in their implementation?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure. We did talk about some of those in terms of the budget delays before, but Ms Birmingham is the expert at the table, so I'll hand to her.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: Thank you. I think everything is broadly on track. I think before lunch we were talking about a small delay, for example, in the High Achieving Teachers Program, because we extended the grant round by a little while so we could push payments into this year rather than trying to have those in place last year. The Workload Reduction Fund is probably behind time as well. That's the one I mentioned where we're still negotiating with the states and territories on the details of the pilots. I don't have a list cut by that, so I'm trying to go through in my mind which things might be categorised—</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Maybe, if you could, take that on notice then. Come back with, against each item, 'on track' or 'delayed' and then a brief reason why on each item.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: I'm happy to do that, yes.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Have any of these recommended actions been descoped or required additional funding from when the action plan was announced?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: No, I wouldn't characterise any of them as having been de-scoped, and, no, I don't believe any of them have had additional money allocated.</p>	Hansard	38

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Sometimes, if something's delayed—

Ms Birmingham: Yes, that's right.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: it means that there's additional funding then required because of the change of costs.

Ms Birmingham: Not of the things I'm looking through here that jump out at me, but I'll take that as part of that question on notice, if you'd like.

<p><b>SQ24-001345</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Microcredential courses for classroom confidence costs</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Thank you. Action item 18 allocated \$10 million to develop microcredentials to support teachers, and I think we were discussing this a bit earlier—being able to provide that support to teachers as part of their professional development. On 30 July the Minister for Education announced more than \$3 million for the University of Adelaide to design and deliver microcredential courses for classroom confidence. What was the exact amount allocated to the University of Adelaide to develop these resources?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: The exact amount is \$3,733,570.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay. It is great to see that there is a focus on classroom management and the suite of materials that will be developed. I understand that's classroom management, explicit teaching and the teaching of phonics.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Are all these modules free?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: They are free till the end of next year for teachers. The first one was released in July. That was the classroom management microcredential. To date, I think over 1,300 educators have signed up to do that course, and around 300 have finished either modules or the whole microcredential.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: You've just perfectly pre-empted my next question. That was good. When will the final two modules from the University of Adelaide, on explicit teaching and the teaching of phonics, be available?</p> <p>Mr Cook: They are.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Sorry?</p> <p>Mr Cook: They're online now—is that correct? I've got the teaching of phonics one and the explicit teaching one here.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: No, I think they shouldn't be available quite yet.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Well, I've got them in front of me. Oh, the start date is 19 November. Sorry.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: That's soon.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Explicit teaching will be on 19 November and teaching phonics is early 2025, but it does give a program overview of all the work that's involved in each of those modules. I'm sorry.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: That was the exact answer. That's great.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: What other—</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, can I just mention that I had the opportunity to meet</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>38-39</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	---	--	----------------	--------------

				<p>with the unit that are organising this a couple of months ago at the University of Adelaide, and they were really impressive and very experienced. They were preparing the course. I felt I just needed to mention that, given that I was there a couple of months ago.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: That's good to hear. What other providers are being looked at at the moment—or are there other providers?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: This was a procurement to the market, getting the university to help us with these microcredentials—so just for delivering these three. So that's the extent of this program.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: So there are no other providers that have been allocated funding for microcredentials?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: You might be thinking of the higher education microcredentials initiative. Maybe higher education will be able to cover that when they speak to you later.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: But specifically for teachers as part of the free short course to help teachers?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: No, this is the one in the schools domain.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: So it's only that one.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay. It's available online, is it?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: That's right.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: So anyone in any jurisdiction can engage with it.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: Yes, correct.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Thank you. I am happy for you to provide this on notice: can we get a breakdown of the costs for each of the units?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: Yes. I'll take that on notice and see what detail we can provide.</p>		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--

<p><b>SQ24-001346</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Visa processing for qualified teachers</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay. Can I ask about prioritising visa processing for qualified teachers, action item 4(a)?  Ms Birmingham: Yes.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: There was a ministerial direction, MD 105, to deal with this. Do you have any data on this? For example, how many people have applied for visas to come and work here as teachers, and how many have been granted?  Ms Birmingham: Let me just see what I have here. I have some data from the latest migration program report from Home Affairs, which was released in October 2024. That shows that there has been a reduction in skilled permanent migration visas being granted to teaching professionals in 2023-24 compared to the previous year. From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, a total of 2,877 places were delivered to applicants in teaching occupations. That's a decrease of 19.5 per cent from the previous year, which was 3,572, but it still represents a significant increase from that number in the years before that. In 2021-22, there were only 548. That was over the COVID period, I guess.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Is there an active program that advertises or promotes this around the world, or is it up to each individual state to do that?  Ms Birmingham: There are certainly activities that states undertake, and Home Affairs also has a program of activity—not necessarily targeting teachers per se. I would have to take it on notice to get some more detail for you about what they do.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>39-40</p>
<p><b>SQ24-001347</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Strong Beginnings (Transition) Fund</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: With the Strong Beginnings (Transition) Fund, 46 providers that deliver IT courses received funding to update their courses.  Ms Birmingham: Yes.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: When was the funding provided?  Ms Birmingham: From memory, it was about April this year. I may need to take that on notice to give you the exact timing of that.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>40</p>

<p><b>SQ24-001348</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Commonwealth teaching scholarships</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay. I'll go to the Commonwealth teaching scholarships. There were a thousand teaching scholarships available under the first round, and you awarded 985. Is that correct?  Ms Birmingham: That was the number at the end of the day, yes.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Your answer to QON SQ24-000858 stated that the places were awarded based on target groups. Can you walk me through how many of the scholarships went to which target groups—for example, Indigenous and low SES students?  Ms Birmingham: I'm just not sure that I have that demographic breakdown available here, but I'm happy to take that on notice.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes, could you give it by each category, including—and there may be others—Indigenous, low SES students, and rural, regional and remote applicants. And how many are first in the family?  Ms Birmingham: I don't think we would—we'll check that.  Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay. Any categories that you've got would be helpful.  Ms Birmingham: Yes, I would be happy to do that.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>40-41</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	---	--	----------------	--------------

<p><b>SQ24-001349</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Pilot to use AI to reduce teacher workloads</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN:....With regard to the Workload Reduction Fund, the WA pilot to use AI to reduce teacher workloads was announced in August.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I understand the pilot is running across eight schools, in both the government and the non-government sector. I think it's really welcome that it is across both. How long will the trial run for?</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: We don't have that information to hand. Can I take that one on notice as well?</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes, of course. Can you walk me through, though, the types of things that will be looked at and what we're hoping AI will assist with.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: I might ask Ms Samuelson if she is able to assist with the detail of that measure.</p> <p>Ms Samuelson: I actually don't have a lot of the detail of that measure; I'm sorry.</p> <p>Ms Birmingham: Can we take that one on notice as well, please?</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes, of course. I'm interested in understanding the types of things that will be looked at and how AI will be used to reduce the workload. It seems quite intuitive, and I can imagine the ways that it could, but could you confirm for me exactly what it will be used for. Will the outcomes of the trial be published?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Perhaps I can take the first part of that question, around what the AI will be used for. The focus of the workload reduction is on the workload of the workforce. In WA, the cross-sectoral pilot will look at how they can use AI for lesson planning as well as the learning activities associated with that lesson planning. WA will use that insight into how the pilot runs, and the structures around it, to look at whether they then roll it out further. In terms of sharing that information, education ministers have a pretty collaborative approach to sharing their insights about how these things are working across the jurisdictions, so I would expect that education ministers are likely to bring some of their insights to ongoing discussions. There are a number of jurisdictions that are looking into AI pilots, specifically around supporting the workforce—definitely not replacing the workforce—focusing on how they can support lesson planning and reduce the workload.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>41</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	--	--	----------------	-----------

<p><b>SQ24-001350</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>National Student Wellbeing Program</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: ....The National Student Wellbeing Program provides \$61.43 million to the states and territories each year to support the employment of wellbeing officers or chaplains in schools. I've got a state-by-state breakdown from the federation funding agreement in front of me that details the share of each state and territory. How were these funding breakdowns derived? How's it worked out?</p> <p>Ms Banerjee: I don't have that information on hand at this point in time, so I'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I could get you a copy of that, because some of these questions go to detail.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Can I just clarify. Your question is: how was the methodology determined for the distribution between states and territories?</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes, precisely. Do you have a breakdown of which schools receive these services in each state and territory?</p> <p>Ms Banerjee: We would have that information for 2023, and we can provide that on notice, because there are obviously around 3,000-plus schools.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes. Could we get a list of the schools that have received funding and their suburb as well. Sometimes the school name doesn't match the location. Do you have visibility of the funding breakdown at a sector level—government, Catholic?</p> <p>Ms Banerjee: Yes, we do.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can we get a breakdown by sector as well?</p> <p>Ms Banerjee: Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Do you know how many hours of support are received at each of the schools?</p> <p>Ms Banerjee: That is at the school level. Each school determines what the need is, and they apply for the funding. It's determined at the local level.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: But do you have visibility of that? I'd appreciate if you don't have it there with you now—</p> <p>Ms Banerjee: We don't have that granular detail, but we do have information on which schools received the funding and how much was allocated.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Is there some sort of formula there? Would a dollar figure relate to the amount of hours being provided?</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>42-43</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	---	--	----------------	--------------



Ms Banerjee: There's a per school amount that we can provide you on notice, but, in terms of number of hours, we don't.

.....

Ms Brighton: I can add that there is a cross-sector panel in each jurisdiction, the panel of government, Catholic and independent school reps. They are the ones that select and prioritise the schools for funding, having regard to the criteria that we've got set out in the federal financial relations agreement. There's quite specific criteria that sits around the expectations, about how the program runs, but it's those panels that are the final determiners in each of the jurisdictions.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Is it a fixed amount per school, a capped amount?

Ms Banerjee: Yes, it is. I don't have that number with me, at the moment.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: My understanding is there's a difference between a metro and a regional school, in terms of the loading.

Ms Banerjee: There is a difference.

Ms Brighton: The distribution is up to 20,280 or up to 24,336 for remote or very remote schools.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: I believe this amount was increased back in 2019. Is that correct?

Ms Brighton: I will have to check the previous agreement to confirm what the arrangements were previously, so I'll take that on notice.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: I just want to understand if it's increased since that time. If you can come back to me on that, I'd like to see the historical amounts as well.

Ms Brighton: Can I confirm, when you say 'increase' are you asking whether the per school distribution amount has increased?

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes, correct.

Ms Brighton: We will come back to you on notice on that. The value of this program over that 2022-23 period to the forwards was in the order of 307 million or so. We'll come back on notice.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: I want to know the amount per school, not just the aggregate, because there might be more schools that have increased their overall number. My understanding is that each state and territory establishes a panel of providers; then the schools enter their own agreements with a provider of their choosing from that

panel. Is that correct?

Ms Banerjee: That is correct, to my understanding.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Are you aware of which providers are used at each state and territory level or even at school level?

Ms Banerjee: We would have that information but I don't have it with me at this point in time.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: You can provide that on notice.

Ms Banerjee: Yes.

<p><b>SQ24-001351</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>High Achieving Teachers Program</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Sorry, just to clarify: this is not about the states and territories or about government schools; this is about the limitation placed on non-government schools—only those with an ICSEA of 1,000 or below can access the High Achieving Teachers Program. You've cited a reason for that, saying that the teacher shortages are felt more severely in government schools with an ICSEA below 1,000. What is the data on which you are relying to support that statement?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I don't have that letter in front of me. I think it has two components to it. One is the commentary on the impact on public schools, and the second is on those schools with an ICSEA below 1,000. Our understanding, from the feedback we have from the sector and from the states and territories, is those schools who are lower socio-economic find it more difficult to staff their schools. I appreciate the issue in the Canberra Goulburn diocese—that their ICSEA tends to be much higher. But, as a national policy, our national policy doesn't tend to provide for exceptions based on a particular jurisdiction experience.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Again, you're citing government schools, and this is a limitation that applies only to non-government schools. I'm asking for the data—the basis on which you've made that claim. I understand you didn't address that specifically in your response to Mr Fox, but I am asking if you could provide further information in relation to that. You've made a very clear statement, and I am worried about that.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: We'll take that on notice.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>45-46</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	--	--	----------------	--------------

<p><b>SQ24-001352</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>Chaplains and student wellbeing officers</p>	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I'm a co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of School Chaplaincy, so I'm a big advocate for this program. But I've heard from some providers that this change has meant, maybe unintentionally, that by engaging the staff member directly, to be an employee of the school, it increases costs for the same service. I've got an example. A person who was previously employed by a service provider had their salaries often offset by donations to that service provider through the fundraising activities of that provider. Now, as an employee of a government school, they are paid at the government rate, which is often higher and sometimes double the cost, so the school is receiving a lesser service, because they're having to reduce the number of hours that the person is able to work within the school.</p> <p>A school chaplain, for example, on two days a week, costs around \$30,000 a year but for the same amount as a direct employee it's now \$60,000. So to stay within that funding envelope the school gets, the schools have to reduce the number of hours and time spent directly engaging their students in the school. Are you aware of this?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Not specifically, but under the program, as you're aware, schools can engage chaplains or student wellbeing officers. It'll be a decision of the school whether they engage with a provider of that service or engage them directly. I don't think we have that level of data collected through what we have available to us. We'll take that on notice and double check.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: The concern I've heard—and you can check whether this is a valid concern or not—is that there will be an overall reduction in the number of hours of support provided at schools as a result of these changes. Are you able to provide any data on the number of hours provided under the previous National School Chaplaincy Program compared to the current National Student Wellbeing Program?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: That comparison will be helpful to see if that concern is materialising. We all agree that student wellbeing is absolutely paramount and that it impacts upon families. In particular, mental health support is vital for young people, and the degradation of the amount of support needs to be addressed. I would really appreciate it if you could come back to us with that data, because it's</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>43-44</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	---	---	----------------	--------------

				vital to know what's going on in our country right now. Ms Brighton: Yes. We'll provide what we can.		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--

<p><b>SQ24-001353</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>ACARA   Distribution of NAPLAN scores</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Can I ask about the distribution scores in each proficiency level? They're not published. Why is that? Within a particular band, there can be a huge amount of variation. Is ACARA able to provide that detail to the committee?  Mr Gniel: They are reported on.  Senator HENDERSON: In terms of the detail, what you're publicly reporting on—  Mr Gniel: We can give you the link to those that are publicly available.  ....  Senator HENDERSON: I'm going to ask you to maybe take this on notice for each level and for each year level. As an example, year 3 numeracy 'strong'—that distribution score goes from 378 to 493. What I'm looking for is the distribution of students in that band.  Mr Dyer: The distribution is the percentage of students, and we do publish that.  Senator HENDERSON: How many got 378? How many got 379?  Mr Dyer: No. We never publish that information.  Senator HENDERSON: Exactly, and that's what I'm asking for. We want to see greater transparency in where students are actually sitting. It's a big band. Even to get 'strong' is a big band, between 378 and 493.  Mr Gniel: I think we'll take away what we can provide to you on notice.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>56-58</p>
<p><b>SQ24-001354</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>ACARA   Website expenditure</p>	<p>Senator Henderson:.....Can I just ask for some facts and figures. In terms of your budget, what are you spending per year on running your websites?  Mr Gniel: I think, for that level of detail, I'd want to come back to you with the figures.  Senator HENDERSON: Have you got any breakdown of any figures at all?  Mr Gniel: No, not to that level of detail. We have a number of websites. I'd want to make sure that we're giving you the accurate information. It's not a list that I have in front of me for these estimates—  Senator HENDERSON: You don't have a breakdown of your expenditure?  Mr Gniel: I've got a breakdown in terms of the different areas like assessment, reporting, curriculum and those things, but for that kind</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>66</p>

				<p>of one, I would want to make sure that it was accurate—  Senator HENDERSON: Alright. If you could come back with the annual costs of running each of the websites—  Mr Gniel: Yes, happy to.</p>		
<b>SQ24-001355</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA   Outsourcing costs	<p>Senator HENDERSON: and also copies of your outsourcing arrangements, because I understand that a fair bit of your work is outsourced to third parties. Can you give us a quick description of who's doing what in an outsourced arrangement?  Mr Gniel: We do outsource some of our assessment work. In terms of some item development for the assessments themselves, most of that is done on the most efficient and effective way of us getting that work done. It's a competitive market for those things. We look at suppliers and who provides the best quality, alongside the costs involved.  Senator HENDERSON: So could you provide the committee with a copy with information about your outsourcing arrangements—  Mr Gniel: Yes, I think there's some of it in the annual report—  Senator HENDERSON: on notice—  Mr Gniel: but I can point you to that.  Senator HENDERSON: and also the value of each contract.  Mr Gniel: Again, I think that's in the annual report, but I'll find that for you.</p>	Hansard	66
<b>SQ24-001356</b>	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	ACARA   National curriculum challenges and recommendations	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Alright, thank you very much. Thanks, Mr Gniel. Also, I just want to clarify, for the benefit of those listening or reading Hansard, that, while I have recognised the improvements in the national curriculum—and this goes to the minister's point earlier—I have consistently raised a number of concerns. I'm pleased, Mr Gniel, that today you have acknowledged that there are challenges with the national curriculum. These are concerns I have been raising. And if you are able to provide, on notice, any further detail about those practical challenges that we've talked about in some more detail and what</p>	Hansard	66

				<p>you're doing about it as well, including any recommendations, I'd be really grateful.</p> <p>Mr Gniel: Thanks, Senator.</p>		
<b>SQ24-001357</b>	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	AITSL   Initial Teacher Education Program standards	<p>Senator HENDERSON: ... I also want to look at the teacher standards and the ITE program standards. It's the job of ITE providers to ensure preservice teachers are classroom ready and meet the graduate teacher standards. For instance, the current ITE program standard, schedule 1, for primary programs only mandates half a year of study in literacy and onequarter of a year of study in mathematics across a four-yeardegree. Does AITSL believe this to be sufficient, particularly when we have a national crisis in our NAPLAN results? One-third of children are not passing or are failing NAPLAN—the minimum benchmark requirements in NAPLAN. Are you satisfied with the ITE program standards?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Those standards have been agreed by ministers. The allocation to literacy in particular was recently increased. I think the other thing that's relevant—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: The question was: does AITSL support the current ITE program standards? You're the agency in charge of standards.</p> <p>Mr Misson: We develop them and ministers approve them.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I understand that. Does AITSL agree with the current ITE program standards?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Yes, we do. These things are periodically reviewed, but, yes, we do. What I was—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Where are you up to with the review of these standards?</p> <p>Mr Misson: We've consulted on some changes, and those will be presented to ministers when the ministerial meeting schedule allows.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What are you going to recommend to education ministers in relation to those standards?</p> <p>Mr Misson: We haven't come to a position on that yet. As I said, we're consulting.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could, provide the committee with a</p>	Hansard	52



copy of the work that you've done in that respect—any reports or advice or draft recommendations—so that we can understand the nature of AITSL's work. At the end of the day, your work needs to be reflected in the classroom. Teachers need to be supported, and, if your standards are deficient, Australian teachers suffer the consequences, and so do students.

Mr Misson: Of course, we can provide that.

<p><b>SQ24-001358</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>AITSL   Australian Teacher Workforce Data - annual attrition rate</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I have a question on the ATDW work that you are doing. That was agreed by the education council in 2016 to provide capacity to see the full picture of supply and demand from initial teacher education through to retirement and across states, territories, systems and sectors so that the provision of initial teacher education can be better matched to workforce needs. That was first a requirement back in 2016. You've now taken on further work in relation to teacher shortages, assessing supply and demand. I again ask, for instance, what's the annual attrition rate of teachers in this country?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Let me find that. What we have done on attrition is look, in particular, at early career teachers. Let me find it, and I'll come back to you. But we find that about five per cent of those who graduate go on to become registered and then—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm just after the number—just the attrition rate.</p> <p>Mr Misson: It's only another four or five per cent who leave over the first five years, so it's actually lower than a lot—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Four or five per cent who leave over the first five years.</p> <p>Mr Misson: Added to the five per cent who never register at all for whatever reason.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: The minister has said it's closer to 20 per cent. Is the minister not correct?</p> <p>Mr Misson: I'd have to look at what numbers and what time period and so on the minister was using. It's difficult to comment.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide more detail about the attrition rate notice?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Of course.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>53-54</p>
<p><b>SQ24-001359</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>AITSL   Teacher workforce data funding</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I might need to put the rest of the questions on notice, except for this one. There's been a lot of funding in relation to AITSL's work on teacher workforce and understanding supply and demand through various guises. I think the Australian Teacher Workforce Data initiative was originally funded from July 2017. What's the total funding that you've received to do this work?</p> <p>Mr Bullard: There's the teacher workforce data, in general, and then there are specific funding streams under the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan. Again they attend to the data.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>54</p>

				<p>Senator HENDERSON: Do you want to take that on notice? Can I also ask, on notice, for the original funding agreement approved by the education council in 2016?</p>		
<p><b>SQ24-001360</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Anthony Sheldon</p>	<p>ARC   Independent study into the investment return of ARC research projects</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Good evening. Thank you for waiting and for your patience. I refer to a story written by Sarah Ison in the Australian about the Australian Research Council, 'Absurd research gets taxpayer millions'. I can table that article. It highlighted a range of research projects of arguably dubious nature. This, of course, has happened after ministerial discretion for these grants has been removed. Are you aware of this article?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Yes, I'm aware of it. We've just been given a copy of it as well.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I think we're looking at around \$20 million. Mr Stevens, the member for Sturt, did some excellent work in relation to what appears to be some significant waste of taxpayer dollars, including \$476,000 which was awarded to the University of Sydney to 'challenge the "protectionist myth" that Australia is an island continent girt by sea'. Could you just explain why that research grant would have been approved by ARC? Have you got some issue about the idea that Australia may not be an island?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Thanks, Senator. I think it's a really important question that you've raised, because it goes to the question of public confidence and the funding that we allocate to Australian research.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Absolutely.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: The first point I would make is that there is an incredibly strong indication that the investment that the ARC has been making in public research is paying dividends. A key source for making that comment is the impact study undertaken by ACIL Allen which is available on our website.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Taxpayer dollars are precious. This is the very reason that ministerial discretion over ARC grants is important. There are thousands of grants over many years awarded by the ARC, but when the ARC awards grants like this—this is very significant taxpayer funding being awarded by the ARC. There's \$3.1 million looking at 'the</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>125-126</p>

role of future human values in developing a path towards technologically supported environmental sustainability'. I won't go through the list. I have tabled the list, but the total is some \$20 million. There's no medical or scientific research here. I have no issue with research being done.

Senator FARUQI: Obviously you do.

Senator HENDERSON: I have no issue if someone wants to research a particular subject matter—whether it's investigating whether Australia is an island—but I have a very major issue with taxpayer dollars being used for dubious research. Can you explain why the ARC approved a research project into investigating whether Australia was an island?

Dr Johnson: Senator, perhaps if I could finish my answer—

Senator HENDERSON: No, I don't want the talking points. I would like you to address this grant, please. We've got very limited time.

Dr Johnson: I'm happy to, and I will address the question.

Senator HENDERSON: Quickly, please; we've only got a few minutes.

Dr Johnson: That study found that over 20 years, for every \$1 we invest, there is a return to the Australian public of \$3.32. It found that \$184 billion in increased economic output—

Senator HENDERSON: Sorry, Dr Johnson, I will have to stop you here. I'm not asking you about the study. I'm asking you about why the ARC awarded this grant and other grants of dubious merit.

Dr Johnson: What I'm trying to address is that, through the long-term allocation of funds through our National Competitive Grants Program, we have an independent study which showed the return to the Australian public of that investment. I would refer you to that study.

Senator HENDERSON: No, I don't want to ask about the study.

Dr Johnson: The second point I would make—

CHAIR: I'd be interested in that study.

Senator FARUQI: So would I.

Dr Johnson: We will provide that on notice.

<p><b>SQ24-001361</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>ARC   \$476,000 awarded to the University of Sydney for a research project</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Dr Johnson, I'm sorry, it's because we are so short of time—we have agreed, with the chair, literally 10 minutes each. Can you address my specific question? Why was \$476,000 awarded to the University of Sydney for a research project examining whether Australia is an island continent girt by sea? I'm asking about that particular project.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Indeed. The third point I would make is that the ARC employs a competitive process which is based on peer review. We've been doing this for many years. Peer review is established best practice. The peer review process identifies those grants which it recommends for funding, and those recommendations are provided to the minister of the day.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you not able to answer my question—or could you take it on notice? I'm interested in the merits of this research. There's some \$20 million of research that has been questioned. Another grant is \$487,000 to the University of Tasmania—</p> <p>CHAIR: Dr Johnson, would you take that question on notice, because it would be of assistance to the committee and you'd be able to give a fulsome answer.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I'm very happy to take it on notice.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>126</p>
<p><b>SQ24-001362</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>ARC   Grant approvals</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: This is a separate question, but I am happy to do that. In relation to each of the grants in that article, if you can please provide the basis on which that grant was given, I would be most grateful. More broadly, were you aware of any of these grants, or who were the peer assessors that approved these grants?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: To the best that we were able to reconstruct which grants this article was referring to, I think one of them was made in 2021 under the former government, and we think the rest of them were under the current government, but we'd have to take the details of that on notice.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>126</p>
<p><b>SQ24-001363</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>ARC   Assessors or peer reviewers for each grant</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Terrific. I have sought in a letter through Senator O'Sullivan a list of relevant assessors or peer reviewers for each grant. You've indicated that you don't provide that publicly, but we are seeking that as a committee, so I'd ask that you provide that information, please.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We're very happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Bear in mind that the rules of the Senate require documents to be furnished unless there is a public interest</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>126</p>

				immunity claim or there is some other basis for declining to answer a question. Dr Johnson: Very happy to take that on notice.		
<b>SQ24-001364</b>	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	ARC   Discovery Projects grant scheme	<p>Senator FARUQI: That's really good. I also understand that you are soon to announce the outcomes of the Discovery Projects grant scheme, and, again, I am told by researchers, often, how important this scheme is, because it's, I think, the only way that they can fund basic projects aimed at discovery research—the blue-sky kind of research. But last year you funded fewer discovery projects than ever before. I think there were just 427, from the information I have, and that is less than half the average number funded between, I think, 2002 and 2012, and it has been declining fast since that time. So why are you funding so few discovery projects?</p> <p>Prof. Twomey: We work within a limited budget, and we have a large number of schemes. We have to divide that money between the different schemes. Each year there will be an allocation to a particular scheme for the applications that will be successful there.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: I understand the research funding constraints, but this particular scheme has been declining quite rapidly. Why has that happened? This is the only type of scheme of its kind, really.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We'll check the data that you presented to us. We actually want to check that. We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: If you could check that data and provide me, maybe over the last 20 years, with what's been happening—</p>	Hansard	128

<p><b>SQ24-001365</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>ARC   Consultation on the decline in early career researcher jobs funded by the ARC</p>	<p>Senator FARUQI: Last one question. Discovery projects are also, essentially, the only way researchers can hire an early career researcher to investigate new ideas. Almost all discovery project funds are spent on employing, I think, our youngest and brightest researchers, to be honest. That is, the number of discovery projects funded equals the number of early career researchers employed as a result. Basically, it's one per funded project. Have you modelled or consulted the research community about the impact of such a strong decline in the number of early career researcher jobs funded by the ARC?</p> <p>Prof. Twomey: I think hiring postdoctoral researchers on a discovery project grant is one of the uses of money, but it's not the only expense covered under the discovery project scheme. We have other schemes for early career researchers as well. As you know, there's the DECRA scheme and the Early Career Industry Fellowships, and we also have early career researchers employed under other schemes such as centres of excellence, industrial transformation research, hubs and centres. We have a number of schemes—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Sure, but this is a particular kind of research, right?</p> <p>Prof. Twomey: The discovery project scheme does have an eligibility to employ early career researchers, but it's not the only expense that can be covered there. The point of the scheme is to fund basic research.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: My question is—</p> <p>CHAIR: I knew you were going to get an extra question in there.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: No. I'm just asking the same question again. That wasn't my question.</p> <p>CHAIR: That's my point!</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: My question was: have you actually modelled or consulted the research community about the impact of the strong decline?</p> <p>CHAIR: Alright. I've been stung again.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: If you haven't, then I'd encourage you to.</p> <p>CHAIR: Please answer this last question.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We'll take that bit on notice, but I will note that we went through a very strong consultation with the sector about the policy review of the NCGP, which was an opportunity to talk directly about and to early career researchers, including the way a future potential</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>128-129</p>
---------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------	--	---	----------------	----------------

competitive grants scheme can support early career researchers.

Senator FARUQI: If you take those on notice—

Dr Johnson: Very happy to take that on notice.



<p><b>SQ24-001366</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>TEQSA   Compliance report</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Dr Russell, good evening to you and your colleagues. Apologies for keeping you a bit on the late side. Can I ask about your compliance report? There has been a substantial increase in compliance issues. Can you briefly outline why that's the case? Can you provide a breakdown—you can do that on notice—into the categories of complaints and whether you've got concerns about the integrity of providers, given you've noted in your 2023 compliance report 477 concerns about higher education providers? That is up from 305 in 2022—a 56 per cent increase.</p> <p>Dr Russell: There's a lot in that. We can take that on notice and give you a more detailed answer. Or is there a specific question you'd like us to speak to now?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you give me a breakdown of the different types of providers?</p> <p>Dr Russell: Not from the data I have in front of me—by types of providers, I'm sorry. So we'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Alright. What about your report—do you have anymore recent data? I'm looking at the 2023 compliance report. Do you have up-to-date data on compliance issues, for the 2024 calendar year?</p> <p>Dr Russell: We would very nearly have our 2024 report ready. I suspect that that's still under final review, but that should be available shortly.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So could we have the 2024 report and, again, the category of each complaint as well as the number of concerns raised in relation to each provider for both 2023 and 2024? Have you seen in 2024 a decline in the number of compliance issues? Do you know?</p> <p>Dr Russell: We will take that on notice and provide that with the further information when that data is ready. We have quality checks to make sure that the data is complete, accurate and properly represented, so, as soon as we have that level of confidence, we'll provide that to you.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you. Your report also notes that you've issued warning letters to seven unregistered entities. What was the outcome of those warning letters?</p> <p>Dr Russell: Those warning letters are normally cease-and-desist</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>122-123</p>
---------------------------	--	------------------------	----------------------------------	---	----------------	----------------

			<p>letters. For example, they are sent to unregistered entities that are purporting to offer or confer higher education awards. The normal response to those is that they cease that activity.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I also want to refer to the response that you provided on notice in relation to the warning letters that were sent out, putting higher education providers on notice as to their financial viability under circumstances when no legislation had passed in relation to the student cap. Thank you very much for providing that apology. What action have you taken to ensure that sort of thing doesn't happen again? Could you detail how many of those letters went out and what steps you've taken in response?</p> <p>Dr Russell: I'll ask my colleagues to see if they can locate the number. It was a very small number of letters. I think it was under 10, but we will give you the accurate figure. That particular part of the letter was a matter of human error. I won't name the staff person involved. That matter was reviewed not only with the staff member involved but more widely with staff to ensure that communication and correspondence with providers on this issue are quite clearly based on the fact that it relates to proposed legislation, and not legislation that has been passed. However, all of those providers who received the letter would, in any case, have triggered inquiries about their financial or other aspects of their compliance with the standards because they had flagged as high-risk providers. We monitor various metrics, activities and information from multiple agencies, and we not infrequently ask providers to give us that sort of information. The request remained, but we clearly wrote to and contacted all of those providers and explained that the specific reference to the proposed numbers of international students, should the ESOS legislation be passed, was not correct.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you very much for that.</p>		
--	--	--	---	--	--

<p><b>SQ24-001367</b></p>	<p>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>TEQSA   Compliance investigations</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm going to ask my final question and then put the rest on notice because of the time, Dr Russell. How many compliance investigations have you undertaken regarding international students, specifically on alleged poaching or unethical recruitment practices? There was an article in the Age and the Sydney Morning Herald on 30 July 2024 that highlighted an investigation. Could you indicate what your findings are. Do you have an outcome on that investigation?</p> <p>Ms Nieuwenhuis: Senator Henderson, are you asking about a specific investigation or how many compliance—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: How many compliance investigations have you undertaken? There was also an article in the Age and the Sydney Morning Herald that highlighted a particular investigation into Torrens University.</p> <p>Ms Nieuwenhuis: Since 2023, when there were various regulatory issues with regard to international student integrity, we've undertaken 10 compliance investigations of some form or another.</p> <p>Dr Russell: Assessments.</p> <p>Ms Nieuwenhuis: Thank you. Wrong language—assessments of some form or another. Yes, we are looking into Torrens University. That investigation is still ongoing.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I know that was my last question, but that investigation has been going on since 2023, hasn't it? That's been going on for something like 18 months, and you still don't have an outcome.</p> <p>Ms Nieuwenhuis: I don't know the commencement of that particular matter. But, when we do a compliance process, we first of all inquire to see if there is something of substance, and then, if there is something of substance, it goes into a more formal compliance process. That can take some time, but I don't know the start date.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Alright. Can you take the rest on notice in relation to both of those questions—the broad question about the compliance investigations; the specific claims and the outcome of your investigation; and then the investigation into Torrens University, please.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>124</p>
<p><b>SQ24-001368</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>David Pocock</p>	<p>ARC   Airline Lounge memberships</p>	<p>1. Who in the Agency has a Qantas Chairman's Lounge membership - name and position? 2. Who in the Agency has a Virgin Australia Beyond Lounge</p>	<p>Written</p>	

				membership - name and position? 3. How many spouses of officials also have access to either lounge (I'm not asking for names on this question, just numbers)?		
<b>SQ24-001369</b>	Australian Research Council	David Pocock	ARC   Domestic flights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many domestic flights have the SES taken on Qantas during this term of parliament?</li> <li>2. How many domestic flights have the SES taken on Virgin during this term of parliament?</li> <li>3. How many domestic flights have the SES taken on other commercial airlines during this term of parliament?</li> <li>4. How many domestic flights have staff taken on Qantas during this term of parliament?</li> <li>5. How many domestic flights have staff taken on Virgin during this term of parliament?</li> <li>6. How many domestic flights have staff taken on other commercial airlines during this term of parliament?</li> </ol>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001370</b>	Australian Research Council	David Pocock	ARC   Flight upgrades	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many upgrades have the SES received from Qantas during this term of parliament?</li> <li>2. How many upgrades have the SES received from Virgin during this term of parliament?</li> <li>3. How many upgrades have the SES received from other airlines during this term of parliament?</li> <li>4. How many upgrades have non-SES staff received on domestic flights during this term of parliament?</li> </ol>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001371</b>	Australian Research Council	David Pocock	ARC   Frequent flyer memberships	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many SES have the following statuses on their frequent flyer memberships? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qantas Lifetime Silver</li> <li>• Qantas Lifetime Gold</li> <li>• Qantas Lifetime Platinum</li> <li>• Virgin Forever Gold</li> <li>• Virgin Platinum Plus</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. How many non-SES staff have the following statuses on their frequent flyer memberships? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qantas Lifetime Silver</li> <li>• Qantas Lifetime Gold</li> <li>• Qantas Lifetime Platinum</li> <li>• Virgin Forever Gold</li> <li>• Virgin Platinum Plus</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001372</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>David Pocock</p>	<p>ESOS Bill - Bond University</p>	<p>1. Given Bond University's status as a not-for-profit fully accredited university by TEQSA and full member of Universities Australia with a proven track record of student success and responsible management, what justification does the Department have for not treating it in the same manner as other non-profit universities in the allocation of indicative 2025 NOSC?</p> <p>2. Can the Department of Education provide data or evidence that supports the decision to apply a different methodology in the allocation of indicative 2025 NOSC to Bond University compared to other non-profit universities?</p> <p>3. When the Minister explained the introduction of the caps he said: "The level that we're setting for universities is about 15 per cent higher than it was before the pandemic. And the level for private vocational providers will be about 20 per cent less. For universities all up, it means they'll be able to enrol about as many international students next year as they did last year, 2023. For some, it will be less, and for some it will be more. The big winners are regional universities. Almost every regional university will be able to enrol more international students next year than they did last year."</p> <p>Subsequently, why did the Department provide Bond University, a TEQSA accredited regional university, with an indicative cap that is very significantly lower than its pre-pandemic 2019 level and over 30% lower than its 2023 level in direct contradiction to the Minister's statement?</p> <p>4. Bond University has consistently maintained the Department of Home Affairs' lowest risk rating of EL1, yet it faces a severe reduction compared to 2019 levels - a 53% cut to its international student commencements. Could you explain why Bond University, which has the highest level of integrity metrics, is subject to deeper cuts compared to other higher-risk institutions? Specifically, how does the Department justify imposing stricter caps on a proven low-risk university while allowing growth for other universities which have higher risk ratings?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------	------------------------------------	--	----------------	--

				5. What specific criteria were applied in the decision to group Bond University, a not-for-profit university, in the same group as non-university, for-profit providers?		
<b>SQ24-001373</b>	Department of Education	David Pocock	Brindabella Christian Education Limited (BCEL)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What consequences will the Minister apply to BCEL (and its key persons) given AAT conditions and education regulations haven't been met?</li> <li>2. How is the Minister ensuring Commonwealth funds aren't being paid to an insolvent entity?</li> </ol>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001374</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>AITSL   Professional Standards for Teachers</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm sorry to cut you off because we've got limited time, but I just want you to—and if you can't address it, please take it on notice. I know this is your first estimates, but I really would ask you: what are the defects with the current standards? Could we get on notice a copy of each proposal that was put up to education ministers which shows the improvements you were seeking to make. The bottom line for Australian teachers is that we need to make sure they are supported by the best professional standards. Could I maybe, Ms Brighton, ask you about this. You would be perhaps across this. Why have the teacher standards not been updated since 2010?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Perhaps it might be useful to just talk a little bit about the standards, because the standards establish a framework for teaching professional knowledge, professional practice and professional engagement—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes, I know that.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: When we talk about professional knowledge, we want graduates to demonstrate an understanding and a knowledge of social and intellectual development and the characteristics of students. That's the standard. Then the assessment of the individual against the standard—as Mr Bullard was just saying—goes to the contemporary evidence base that's available—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can I just specifically ask you about the defects with the current standards. Do you have any information about what they are?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: No, I don't. But what I would say to that is, as Mr Bullard said, it might be time for AITSL to consider the standards and confirm if they're still contemporary. I'm not aware of the number of 13 times that you've referenced—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's from the ANAO report. That was specified. I believe I'm relying on that particular report. If the standards are not appropriate—because AITSL has made multiple recommendations to improve the standards—do you have any information at all as to where there are defects with the current standards, and what needs to be changed?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Again, to be clear, and without having the ANAO report in front of me, those are occasions where we have suggested publicly that the standards should be reviewed. We haven't proposed specific changes.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>51-52</p>
---------------------------	--	------------------------	--	--	----------------	--------------

Senator HENDERSON: What I'm trying to understand—  
Mr Misson: Some of the issues with the standards that stakeholders have raised include the one you raise—that perhaps there's now a stronger evidence base for what constitutes effective teaching. That could be either a reference or incorporated into the standards. There is an issue around the applicability of the standards to early childhood teachers, given the great reform and professionalisation of teaching in that sector over the past decade. There are—I think, understandably—sometimes concerns about whether the standards that refer to technology are up to date. These are some of the things that have changed in the context that, again, make a case for reviewing these standards—like you'd review the curriculum; like you'd review anything.

Senator HENDERSON: It's hard to get too far into the weeds, because we've got limited time, but I am concerned that AITSL is not doing the job it should be doing. I'm not necessarily pointing the finger at AITSL only, because your work is contingent on the decision of education ministers, but I am concerned that teachers are not being supported by the best teaching standards. I will ask you to provide information on notice as to, every time you've put these up, what the improvements are that you've suggested, what has been knocked back and what the current position of AITSL is in relation to the professional standards for teachers. What are the professional standards for teachers that AITSL believes should be applied right now? If you can, provide those on notice. We understand that there are defects, but we want to understand the detail. What are those defects?



<p><b>SQ24-001375</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>AITSL   Teacher shortage data</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Your previous chairman, John Hattie, said that it is through the Australian Teacher Workforce Data initiative that we have a clear picture of teacher shortages. That was in your annual report of 2022-23. This work has been ongoing for many years, so I'm keen to understand: what is that clear picture? I can't see that clear picture.</p> <p>Mr Misson: Again, we published a wealth of data on aspects of the teacher workforce within the scope of that original project. That, I think, particularly combined with some of the data that states and territories hold, is very useful for employers to get a handle on supply and demand. What we haven't published and, to be fair, have not been asked to publish yet but are working on, is, as I said, the bit that brings that together and projects it into the future so that we have the number, if you like.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What is the number? What's the shortfall? That's the core responsibility.</p> <p>Mr Misson: We've been commissioned to do that work, we're doing it within the agreed timelines and we'll publish it when it's approved.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you please provide to the committee on notice the work that you've done to date so that we can understand how you quantify the teacher shortage?</p> <p>Mr Misson: We'll take that on notice.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>54</p>
<p><b>SQ24-001376</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Anthony Sheldon</p>	<p>Cranbrook School investigation</p>	<p>How is the investigation into Cranbrook School progressing and when is it anticipated to be finalised?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001377</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Anthony Sheldon</p>	<p>Compliance enforcement for schools or Approved Authorities</p>	<p>What options for compliance enforcement does the Department of Education have when a school or Approved Authority refuses to provide the Department of Education relevant documents under circumstances similar to the Cranbrook School?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001378</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>South Australian schools funding</p>	<p>1. Non-government schools in South Australia will no longer receive funding for mid-year reception classes from the end of 2024.</p> <p>a. What is the reason for the Department of Education ceasing the provision of this funding?</p> <p>b. Mid-year reception is available for children attending a government school in South Australia. Does the Commonwealth provide funding for mid-year reception students at government schools?</p>	<p>Written</p>	

<b>SQ24-001379</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Better and Fairer Schools Agreement - Additional funding	<p>1. What is the additional amount of funding that will be provided to each jurisdiction under the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement?</p> <p>2. Please provide the additional funding and total funding to be paid to each jurisdiction by financial year over the forward estimates and medium term</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001380</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Better and Fairer Schools Agreement - National reforms	<p>The Better and Fairer Schools Agreement outlines national reforms,</p> <p>a. The Year 1 phonics check will be required by all jurisdictions. Will the Commonwealth provide a consistent Year 1 phonics check to be used across all jurisdictions to ensure all Australian children are tested equally?</p> <p>b. Each jurisdiction will be required to implement a numeracy check.</p> <p>i. Who is developing the numeracy check?</p> <p>ii. In which year will students undertake the numeracy check?</p> <p>iii. Will this be consistent across all jurisdictions?</p> <p>iv. When will the numeracy check be available?</p> <p>v. Which experts are being consulted in the development of the numeracy check?</p> <p>c. What measurements will be used to assess how evidence-based teaching is being delivered?</p> <p>i. Have all states and territories agreed to mandating evidence-based teaching in the delivery of the curriculum?</p> <p>ii. Will there be targets set for the use of this?</p> <p>d. Which targeted supports have been agreed to with the three jurisdictions that have signed the agreement to date?</p> <p>i. Please detail the supports to be delivered in each jurisdiction.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001381</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	School student attendance	<p>The 2023-24 result for students attending school 90% or more of the time was 61.6%</p> <p>1. What action is the government taking to ensure children are in school and learning.</p> <p>2. Have you briefed the Education Ministers Meeting on the issue of absences?</p> <p>3. What actions have been agreed by Education Ministers to address the concerning absence data?</p>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001383</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Schools Upgrade Fund</p>	<p>1. During the 2022 election campaign the now Albanese Government promised East Hammersley Primary School in WA, in the electorate of Cowan \$50,000 for a green sustainable classroom. Question on Notice SQ24-000719 states that following discussions between your department and the school, the school indicated the project was no longer required.</p> <p>a. Did the school provide a reason the project was no longer required?</p> <p>i. What was the reason?</p> <p>b. On what dates did the department communicate with the school and determine this position?</p> <p>2. During the 2022 election campaign the now Albanese Government promised Ngunnawal Primary School in the ACT, the electorate of Fenner \$50,000 for shade sails. SQ24-000718 states that following discussions between your department and the school, the school indicated the project was no longer required.</p> <p>a. Did the school provide a reason the project was no longer required?</p> <p>i. What was the reason?</p> <p>b. On what dates did the department communicate with the school and determine this position?</p> <p>3. During the 2022 election campaign the now Albanese Government promised Thornbury Primary School in VIC, the electorate of Cooper, \$50,000 to upgrade the toilet facilities. SQ24-000719 states that following discussions between your department and the school, the school indicated the project was no longer required.</p> <p>a. Did the school provide a reason the project was no longer required?</p> <p>i. What was the reason?</p> <p>b. On what dates did the department communicate with the school and determine this position?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------------	--	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001384</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Voluntary Mental Health Check Tool</p>	<p>1. On what date did the Voluntary Mental Health Check Tool go live?  2. Were all of the funds expended on this project – the full \$10.8 million?  3. QoN SQ24-000860 states schools can register to use the tool on the website. How many schools have registered?  4. The website notes the tool provides real time data about student mental health and wellbeing. Who has access to this data?  a. Is it just the schools?  b. Does Macquarie University, who developed the tool collect the data too and analyse it?  c. Will they provide any reports or analysis to government about the findings?  d. Have any reports been provided to date?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001385</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>GO Foundation and the RISE Initiative</p>	<p>On 11 July 2024 Minister Clare and former Minister Burney announced funding for two programs and scholarships, the GO Foundation and the RISE Initiative.  1. Are there targets or measurements that will be used to assess the effectiveness of these programs?  2. How long will each program run for?  3. Can you provide the funding profile for each of these organisations?  4. In what locations are these programs available?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001387</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>HELP student loans</p>	<p>1. Is the Government’s announcement to wipe 20% of student loans an election commitment or Government policy?  a. Currently there is more than \$81 billion owed in HELP loans, with around \$32 billion of debt not expected to be repaid. What impact will this measure have on the total value of HELP debt and the fair value?  b. What is the breakdown of debts owed in each HELP loan category ie. HELP, FEE-HELP, VET FEE-HELP? Please provide the number of debts and value of each loan category.  c. Please provide the fiscal, underlying cash balance and headline cash balance impacts of this policy by financial year over the forward estimates and medium term.  d. What impact will this measure have on the forecast indexation revenue?  e. To give this measure effect by 1 June next year, when would the legislation need to be passed by?  f. Has the department commenced drafting of any legislation to give effect to this measure?</p>	<p>Written</p>	

				<p>g. What consultation have you had with the Australian Tax Office about this announcement?</p> <p>h. How long would the ATO need to implement this measure and have the 20% reduction of student debt take effect on 1 June?</p> <p>i. Are there any cohorts of individuals or debt categories that would be excluded from this policy?</p>		
<b>SQ24-001388</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Changes to the repayment rates for HELP debts	<p>1. On 2 November 2024, the Government announced changes to the repayment rates for HELP debts.</p> <p>a. When will this policy change commence?</p> <p>b. Please provide the financial modelling for this policy over the forward estimates and medium term.</p> <p>c. Please provide the impact on the headline cash balance and the underlying cash balance?</p> <p>d. What impact will this measure have on the forecast indexation revenue?</p> <p>e. How will this change impact repayment times for debtors.</p> <p>i. Please provide the modelling on how this measure will impact repayment times?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001389</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Education Services for Overseas Students Bill	<p>1. Under the changes in the Education Services for Overseas Students Bill, foreign scholarship holders are exempt from the NOSC. What is the estimated number of foreign students who will study in Australia on a foreign scholarship in each year over the forward estimates?</p> <p>2. How much funding has been spent to date on ICT upgrades to support the changes under the Education Services for Overseas Students Bill?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of all briefs to the Minister on the Education Services for Overseas Students (Quality and Integrity) Bill 2024.</p>	Written	

<b>SQ24-001390</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Australian Tertiary Education Commission	<p>1.. Will the Australian Tertiary Education Commission be established by 1 July 2025?</p> <p>a. How much funding has been provided for the establishment of ATEC?</p> <p>i. Please provide the funding profile over the forward estimates.</p> <p>ii. Please provide the amount of funding expended to date on establishing the ATEC.</p> <p>b. Will the Chief Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner positions be advertised or will they be Ministerial appointments?</p> <p>c. Who are the members of the Implementation Committee?</p> <p>i. How often does the Committee meet?</p> <p>ii. How many times have they met to date, and on which dates?</p> <p>d. The establishment of the ATEC will be as a statutory authority, when will legislation be introduced to support its establishment?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001391</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Commonwealth supported places	<p>1. In Question on Notice SQ24-000789 the answer stated 19 providers had updated their forecast indicating they would not be able to deliver their allocated places.</p> <p>a. How many places in total are unable to be allocated?</p> <p>b. Please provide the number of places unable to be allocated by provider.</p> <p>c. SQ24-000789 indicated \$83.1 million would be uncommitted, as a result of these under enrolments. Has that funding been reallocated to any other measure or returned to the Budget?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001392</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Higher Education Disability Support Program	<p>SQ24-000794 provided the amount paid to each provider under the Higher Education Disability Support Program in 2023.</p> <p>1. How many students did this support at each provider which received funding?</p> <p>2. Please provide a copy of the reports submitted by each provider in July in relation to this funding detailing what the funding was expended on.</p> <p>3. Has the Department received any complaints from students about the allocations or use of these funds, or their needs are not being met?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001393</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Startup Year Program	<p>1. How many students have enrolled in each of the Startup Year Programs?</p> <p>2. How many students have taken up a Startup Year Loan?</p>	Written	

<b>SQ24-001394</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Antisemitic behaviour complaints	<p>1. SQ24-000871 advised the Department had received 3 complaints of antisemitic behaviour, and the Minister had received 12 complaints.</p> <p>a. What action did the department take on each of these complaints?</p> <p>b. Was there an investigation?</p> <p>c. Did you contact each of the implicated providers?</p> <p>d. Did you pass these complaints on to TEQSA?</p> <p>e. Was a formal response provided to each of the complainants?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001395</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Respect at uni study	<p>1. Please provide an update of the work on the Respect at uni study.</p> <p>a. What work has been undertaken to date?</p> <p>b. How many stakeholders have you met with or interviewed?</p> <p>c. What public consultation has there been?</p> <p>d. Is the interim report still on track to be delivered to Government in December?</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001396</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Charles Darwin University new medical school	<p>1. The Government committed \$24.6 million in the 2024-25 Budget to fund a new medical school at Charles Darwin University. This funding was to be provided over four years from this financial year. SQ24-000891 stated the funding profile for this commitment had not yet been finalised and wouldn't be until exploratory work had been completed by Charles Darwin University.</p> <p>a. Has this exploratory work been undertaken yet?</p> <p>i. If not: When will it be completed?</p> <p>b. The answer also stated you had received 14 other proposals for medical schools or medical school programs over the last year.</p> <p>i. Where these proposals requested for or were they unsolicited?</p> <p>ii. Please provide a copy of each of the proposals received.</p>	Written	
<b>SQ24-001397</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Suburban University Study Hubs	<p>1. Applications for the Suburban Study Hubs opened in May 2024. How many applications did you receive through this grant process?</p> <p>a. On which date was the brief provided to the Minister recommending successful grant applications?</p> <p>b. Have there been any changes to the boundary areas for the Suburban Study Hub Program?</p>	Written	

<p><b>SQ24-001398</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Managed Growth Funding System</p>	<p>1. How many submissions did you receive into the consultation for the Managed Growth Funding System?  a. Please provide a copy of each of the submissions?  b. Have you established a working group for this proposal?  c. If so, how many times has the group met?  d. Have members been required to sign a non-disclosure agreement or confidentiality agreement?  e. Under this new model, will universities still be funded for places that are not occupied or will they only receive funding for enrolled students?  f. There was a section on page 2 of the consultation paper that stated “The Managed Growth Target would represent a hard cap on CSP’s at that institution, with providers not eligible for Commonwealth Grant Scheme Funding and not permitted to retain student contribution amounts for enrolments”. Please clarify if universities still be able to enrol full fee paying domestic students?  i. Would those students be able to access FEE-HELP?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001399</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Commonwealth Prac Payments</p>	<p>1. When will the eligibility and means test requirements for the Commonwealth Prac Payment be finalised?  a. Please provide a copy of any draft eligibility and means test requirements.  b. How many working groups have been established for the Commonwealth Prac Payment?  i. Please provide a list of members for each of the working groups.</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001400</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Enabling places</p>	<p>1. How much funding does the Commonwealth currently provide for enabling places?  a. Please provide the amount each university receives and the number of places.  b. Enabling places may also attract an ‘enabling loading’ amount. How much enabling loading funding for these places is paid to each provider?  c. How much will funding will be provided for FEE-FREE Uni Ready Courses each year over the forward estimates?  i. How many places will be funded each year over the forward estimates?  ii. How many places will each provider receive?  iii. This measure will commence on 1 January 2025, when will providers be notified of their allocations?</p>	<p>Written</p>	



<p><b>SQ24-001401</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>National Higher Education Code</p>	<p>1. Please provide an update on the development of the National Higher Education Code to prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence.</p> <p>a. The paper tabled in the House of Representatives by the Minister in September stated there was a new expert unit being established within the Department to conduct compliance, support the sector on best practice and gather data. Has this unit been established?</p> <p>i. How many people are working in this unit?</p> <p>b. One of the elements of the code is that universities and all higher education providers will need to update their policies to define gender-based violence and unacceptable behaviour amongst a range of other things. Will there be a timeframe imposed in which providers will need to have this done by?</p> <p>c. In the paper tabled by the Minister, under item 3. Procedures it notes provers will be required to investigate and resolve any reports made within 45 business days.</p> <p>i. What will be the consequence if that timeframe is not met? Will there be penalties imposed?</p> <p>d. Have you established what data will be collected by providers to support the new data collection requirements?</p> <p>i. How much of this already exists and is reported on? What will be the new data elements that will need to be collected?</p> <p>e. The requirement to adhere to the new National Code will also extend to student accommodation, both that directly of the university and any accommodations operated by third parties.</p> <p>i. Have third party accommodation providers been involved as part of the working groups?</p> <p>ii. What consultation have you had with accommodation providers in the development of the code?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------------------	--	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001402</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>ACARA   NAPLAN - Proficiency Level Distributions</p>	<p>National NAPLAN results are reported according to 4 proficiency levels across each of the 5 learning domains. These proficiency levels are expressed as a range with NAPLAN scale score cut points defining the minimum and maximum NAPLAN score for each proficiency level (see NAP, results and reports). NAPLAN results for each domain, by year are reported nationally as an average NAPLAN score.</p> <p>For example, in Year 3 numeracy, the proficiency level “Strong” cuts in (i.e. from Developing) at NAPLAN score 378 and cuts out (i.e. to Exceeding) at NAPLAN score 493. The average NAPLAN score for Year 3 numeracy is 403.8.</p> <p>1. Please provide a breakdown of the distribution of NAPLAN scores within each proficiency level, by each domain, and by year level, by segmenting each proficiency level into 10 score bands.</p> <p>2. Using the above example, how many Year 3 students scored between 378-389, 390-400, 401-412, 413-423, 424-435, 436-446, 447-458, 459-469, 470-481, 482-492 in their numeracy test?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001403</b></p>	<p>Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>ACARA   Mapping of the Australian Curriculum</p>	<p>1. Please provide in excel a breakdown of the F-10 Australian Curriculum that enables the mapping of content elaborations to learning areas, subjects and the cross-curriculum priorities, by year, including (but not limited to) the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year level</li> <li>• Learning area</li> <li>• Content code</li> <li>• Content description</li> <li>• Elaboration/s</li> <li>• Cross-curriculum priority</li> <li>• Cross-curriculum organising idea</li> <li>• Cross-curriculum code</li> <li>• Cross-curriculum description</li> </ul> <p>2. Please apply best judgement to construct a spreadsheet table that facilitates the analysis of cross-curriculum elaborations across the core content.</p>	<p>Written</p>	

				3. Please provide, in hard copy, a copy of the current version of the national curriculum		
<b>SQ24-001404</b>	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Australian Teacher Workforce Data initiative	<p>1. Please provide all documents and correspondence between AITSL and the Education Council (EC), Education Ministers Meeting (EMM), Australian Education Senior Officials Committee (AESOC), the Australian Government Department of Education, the ATWD Oversight Board, and any other relevant body, in relation to the creation, purpose, scope, funding, resourcing and deliverables of the Australian Teacher Workforce Data initiative, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All requests and advice leading up to EC approval for the ATWD in 2016;</li> <li>• All relevant documents, including (but not limited to) RFQ, RFT, proposals, submissions, budgets, correspondence and funding agreements in relation to the first funding agreement for the period on, or around July 2017 to July 2021;</li> <li>• All relevant documents, including (but not limited to) RFQ, RFT, proposals, submissions, budgets, correspondence and funding agreements in relation to the second (renewal) funding agreement for the period on, or around July 2021 to 30 June 2025;</li> <li>• All relevant documents, including (but not limited to) RFQ, RFT,</li> </ul>	Written	

				<p>proposals, submissions, budgets, correspondence and funding agreements in relation to the delivery of National Teacher Workforce Action Plan (NTWAP) items 25-27;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All relevant documents, including (but not limited to) RFQ, RFT, proposals, submissions, budgets, correspondence and funding agreements in relation to the delivery of interim supply-demand analysis for the Australian Government Department of Education prior to the delivery of NTWAP items 25 and 26; and</li><li>• All relevant documents, including (but not limited to) RFQ, RFT, proposals, submissions, budgets, correspondence and funding agreements in relation to future funding of the ATWD post 30 June 2025</li></ul>		
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<p><b>SQ24-001405</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>AITSL   Australian Professional Teacher Standards</p>	<p>1. The Australian National Audit Office performance audit of AITSL at section 4.4 notes that between January 2020 and September 2023, AITSL recommended the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers be revised 13 times, and none of these recommendations have been adopted by education ministers.</p> <p>2. Please provide details for each of the occasions AITSL recommended the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers be revised, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of recommendation</li> <li>• Description of changes proposed by AITSL</li> <li>• Rationale and supporting evidence for the proposed changes</li> <li>• Stakeholders consulted / engaged</li> <li>• Meetings (and minutes) the recommendations were discussed</li> <li>• To whom the recommendation was made</li> <li>• Who / what was the obstacle to reform</li> <li>• Rationale / reason for recommendation not proceeding</li> <li>• Outcome / key decision-maker/s</li> </ul> <p>2. Please provide AITSL internal budgeting and resourcing information in relation to the maintenance and promotion of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and the activities and functions those funds and resources enable.</p> <p>3. In relation to the Addendum - Accreditation of initial teacher education programs in Australia: Standards and Procedures, Standard 3.5 (a) enables the substitution of graduate English language proficiency standards for First Nations language proficiency for First Nations language speakers. Does this mean that First Nations ITE graduates are not required to possess English language proficiency equivalent to the top 30% of the Australian population? If so, what impact will this have on the learning outcomes of students who are taught by teachers lacking in English language proficiency?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
---------------------------	--	------------------------	--	---	----------------	--

<p><b>SQ24-001406</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>AITSL   Australian Teacher Survey (2024)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the response rate for the 2024 ATWD Teacher Survey, by state and territory, and how does this compare to previous years?</li> <li>2. Is the survey still open in some states and territories?</li> <li>3. What is the target response rate set by the ATWD Oversight Board?</li> <li>4. What did AITSL do to increase the response rate in 2024?</li> <li>5. Did the Federal Minister for Education promote the 2024 Teacher Survey to teachers, schools and principals?</li> <li>6. When will the results be published?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001407</b></p>	<p>Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>AITSL   Indigenous cultural responsiveness capability framework</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please provide all research, drafts and working documents used in the development of the “Indigenous cultural responsiveness capability framework”, including feedback and correspondence from AITSL’s Advisory Group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and members of the Critical Focus Group.</li> <li>2. Under this framework what percentage of the Australian teacher workforce (including pre-service teachers) does AITSL estimate fall into stage 1 (Cultural Destructiveness) and Stage 2 (Cultural Blindness) of the Intercultural Development Continuum?</li> <li>3. What is the theoretical framework (e.g. CRT) underpinning the cultural capability framework, and is this consistent with the theoretical underpinnings of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers referred to in the Capability Framework?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001408</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>ARC   Project funding reviews</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please provide an update on the outcome of communications between the ARC and Macquarie University regarding its review into the project funding for Dr Randa Abdel Fattah?</li> <li>2. Please provide a further explanation regarding how Dr Abdel-Fattah's conduct might contradict ARC grant conditions.</li> <li>3. Please provide all correspondence received from the department or the minister's office relating to the investigation by the ARC into the grants awarded to Dr Abdel-Fattah.</li> <li>4. Please provide clarify under what specific circumstances the ARC would consider terminating a grant agreement with a university, particularly if a researcher is involved in activities that appear to contravene ARC standards or bring disrepute to the funded project?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001409</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>ARC   Funded projects</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please provide details on how the ARC ensures projects funded with public money represent a sound investment, particularly in cases where the research may be viewed as niche or abstract?</li> <li>2. Given the new legislative changes, how does the ARC balance academic freedom with fiscal responsibility in awarding grants, particularly in cases where research topics may be controversial or perceived as low priority by the public?</li> <li>3. Has there been any internal review to address potential misalignment between ARC's funded projects and broader taxpayer expectations?</li> </ol>	<p>Written</p>	

<p><b>SQ24-001410</b></p>	<p>Australian Research Council</p>	<p>Matthew O'Sullivan</p>	<p>ARC   Ministerial oversight</p>	<p>1. Please provide detail around how the ARC board will ensure transparency and accountability in grant decision-making now the minister no longer has veto power over regular grants?</p> <p>2. How will the ARC ensure these programs are not influenced by political interests?</p> <p>3. How will the ARC differentiate between grants which fall under “national interest” exceptions and those that remain solely within the ARC's authority?</p> <p>4. With two advisory bodies supporting the new board, including an Indigenous forum and a strategic advisory committee, please provide detail on how the I bodies will contribute to the ARC's grant selection process?</p> <p>5. Can the ARC provide updates on the implementation of all recommendations from the independent review of the ARC Act? How has the shift to independent decision-making impacted Australia's international research reputation?</p>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>SQ24-001411</b></p>	<p>Minister</p>	<p>Penny Allman-Payne</p>	<p>Minister for Education   Wellbeing standards for school funding</p>	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Minister, given the wellbeing focus of this government—and I do recognise that is a significant component of the BFSA—will the government look to common standards for all schools that receive public money to ensure they do have policies in place for people experiencing financial hardship and particularly in cases where we're seeing, as I said, parents having to remove their kids when the school is not doing what they should be?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I want to touch on the previous question. I read those same stories you did and they were harrowing. I'd certainly pass on my condolences to the family and friends who were involved in that circumstance. In terms of the question around wellbeing, it obviously is an important issue. I think I've talked about it previously at Senate estimates, probably in answer to questioning by you, around the thing that I was struck most by when we had the roundtable with regards to the School Reform Agreement a couple of years ago. That was probably the session that was most animated from the experts in the room in terms of wellbeing. I am pleased there is a strong focus on it. In terms of the thinking about what would be required, I'm not</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>25</p>



				<p>aware that there are any movements in that space. The Secretary might be able to add to that. I certainly am happy to take on notice and have a chat to Minister Clare about it, because I do understand how important it is.</p>		
<b>SQ24-001412</b>	Department of Education	David Pocock	Brindabella Christian Education Limited (BCEL) - superannuation	<p>Ms Brighton: We have an investigation running into Brindabella Christian Education Limited.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: A very long one.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: It's a very long one, Senator. It is a complex investigation that has a number of different components. That investigation is looking at the elements at law that approved authorities are meant to have in place. One of those key criteria is a fit and proper person in terms of the approved authority. It is an area that is part of the investigation, and that investigation is ongoing.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: I note that two board directors, Flora Tan and Allan Davis, have stepped down from the board. Does this put the school in breach of one of the AAT conditions?</p> <p>Mr Simovski: The school is now in breach of one of the conditions. That is condition 3.7, which states that the board is required to maintain a board size of no fewer than five.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Has the 28 October deadline for quarterly superannuation payments been met?</p> <p>Mr Simovski: I don't have that information.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Maybe on notice then. I've got advice that as of yesterday it hasn't been paid, but I'd be interested in what the department says and what the department is doing about that.</p>	Hansard	28

<p><b>SQ24-001413</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>High Achieving Teachers (HAT) Program - other information</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I wanted to go back to the teacher scholarships and the article that Senator O'Sullivan tabled, 'Schools "targets of Labor hostility"'. It looks like the Australian has been given information that, if teacher scholarships are undersubscribed, they are open to teachers who want to go to non-government schools. As the shadow minister, I have raised ongoing concerns about a number of significant ways in which non-government schools are being discriminated against, and I have raised deep concerns about the fact that non-government schools are excluded from this scheme. Secretary or Ms Brighton, can you advise if this program is undersubscribed?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Thank you for the question. No, the program is not undersubscribed. In our evidence earlier, we talked about a thousand scholarships per year. We had a number of applications. We made offers to candidates. In fact, with the usual process of scholarships, where sometimes people withdraw from the process, we had made more offers. The reason why we have 985 scholarship agreements is that that is the number of people who've decided to sign their agreement and stay with their agreement. We had some people withdraw very late in the piece, which made it difficult to make re-offers. We expect the program to continue to be fully subscribed. I mentioned earlier that we've already had more than 8½ thousand people express an interest in the next round.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Have the criteria changed, which would mean the program is now open to student teachers intending to teach in non-government schools?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: No, the guidelines haven't changed, Senator.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: There's no basis to suggest that this is open to student teachers wanting to teach in a non-government school?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: The program is designed around a commitment to teach, and the commitment is to teach in a public school or in a government-run early learning environment.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Minister, why the discrimination against non-government schools in this important respect? Don't all teachers matter?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I wouldn't describe it that way, Senator Henderson. I saw there were some comments from the minister here about the fact that public schools do need to get on the pathway to being fully</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>44-45</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	--	---	----------------	--------------

funded. The department will probably be able to help me, but the vast majority of students in this country still attend public schools, so that's obviously where the teacher need is most acute. But I do recognise that there is a teacher shortage across the country, and there's a whole method or strategy that we went through this morning about the different elements that we're doing to attract teachers to the profession, whether it be the advertising campaign or whether it be the high-achieving teachers or those coming from other professions. You have to look at it in the whole context of what we're doing to attract more teachers, and this is one part of it.

Senator HENDERSON: The media release of mine was tabled earlier. I'm very happy if you could provide any other information on notice in relation to that program. If I have made an error in that media release, I will, of course, correct it. If I've made any other errors in media releases, I'm sure you'll bring those to my attention, but I think that's the only one.

<p><b>SQ24-001414</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Central Australia Boarding Response - further information</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: ... I will turn to the Central Australia boarding response. At long last, after more than 2½ years, Yipirinya finally has some funding to expand its boarding facilities but less than half of what is required. Secretary, one school received the full funding amount and another school in Alice Springs received only a very small amount of what it sought, and then Yipirinya received only half of what it sought. As you can well understand, providing boarding facilities for Indigenous children, some of the most disadvantaged in the country, is critical not just for their learning but also for their safety and wellbeing. I'm wondering why such a disparate and disproportionate amount of funding was allocated. What was the criteria for that? What was the basis for the decision? Why was such a small amount of funding provided into this program?...</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: This is a joint statement from the Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator McCarthy, and Minister Clare. You would hold that information, surely, because, as part of your scrutiny of this funding being awarded—you don't have any details at all?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Minister Clare and Minister McCarthy made the joint announcement. The NIAA is the accountable authority for the administration of that program and those grants. They will be able to take you through the details tomorrow on what the upgrades look like and what the planned approach is, and I'm sure they will take on notice anything they can't answer at the table.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Wouldn't the minister want to scrutinise and be comfortable with the funding that was announced and what this will deliver, given he is jointly announcing this funding? If I was the minister, I would want to know what this funding was going to deliver. If I'm announcing funding, I would want to know what it was going to deliver and what the outcomes are for these schools and for Indigenous children, who, principally, these boarding schools serve.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: As a competitive grants round, those grants were assessed by an independent panel. I'll check whether Mr Mudford has any visibility on that. If not, I'm sorry, I'm going to have to defer this to the NIAA to answer—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Or you can take it on notice.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: or I can take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Mudford: No, I don't have any further detail from the panel's</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>46-47</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	--	---	----------------	--------------

assessments. I can say that neither minister was the delegate for the grant applications; the delegate was within the NIAA. The detail of the assessment and that advice was provided—

Senator HENDERSON: But you're not suggesting that there's no ministerial responsibility for the announcement they made—

Mr Mudford: No, I'm just saying that the detailed advice around the outcomes of the grant round was provided internally to the appropriate delegate.

Senator HENDERSON: If you could provide further information on notice, because, obviously, there's a big, glaring hole in two of those projects. St Philip's, as I say, applied for \$10 million and received \$1.7 million. Yipirinya only received half of what it needs. These are acutely disadvantaged Indigenous children in Alice Springs, where, as we know, there have been very, very substantial issues.

<p><b>SQ24-001415</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Sarah Henderson</p>	<p>Boarding provider grants</p>	<p>Senator HENDERSON: What about the other plans that Studio Schools have to build other schools? As we know, two of the schools from the program were cut from the program. What's happened to those schools?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: On the other schools that were proposed: I think at a previous hearing we worked through with you in some detail the costs associated with those other schools, and the cost escalations. The focus is on the Manjali school at the moment; that's what there is a budget measure to implement. There are no additional measures at this point in time for other sites. We're working through the Manjali work first.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I know this is in IAA, but there was \$21 million allocated, and Independent Schools Australia raised concern that that money was cut in the last budget, to support Indigenous boarding schools. That was raised by Independent Schools. We also raised concerns, as did Senator Nampijinpa Price. That decision has been reversed. Could you update me on that funding pot, please. When I discuss this measure specifically with the school, it's very unclear as to how the money they receive is assessed and what the criteria is. There's no visibility; suddenly, money just appears in a school's bank account. How is that money provided to the schools? What's the criteria, and why was that funding cut?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I think you're talking about the boarding provider grants program. It's a program that's been a terminating program. Rather than it being cut, it was a program that was due to finish. That—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: You can say 'terminate'; I'll say 'cut'.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: The government has announced an additional two years for the boarding provider grants. Those additional two years will allow time for the boarding design review to be settled, and for government to give consideration to the other factors that are influencing the boarding providers, the services they provide, the quality of services provided as well as the affordability of boarding. Mr Mudford has just joined the table and may have some more to offer in terms of the criteria you need to meet to be eligible for those boarding provider grants.</p> <p>Mr Mudford: Again, this is one that is managed or administered by the National Indigenous Australians Agency; they're responsible for the grant process that selects the boarding providers that will receive the</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>47</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------------	--	----------------	-----------

grant funding under the Indigenous Boarding Providers grants program. They do look at the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boarding students there in determining the eligibility for boarding providers to receive funding under that program.

Senator HENDERSON: Anything else that you can provide on notice in relation to the criteria which underpin that particular fund—I appreciate that it's not your department. Minister, is the government considering providing greater support to boarding schools in remote parts of the country?

Senator Chisholm: I think the department have talked through the action that we've taken, Senator Henderson. If there's further information to provide on that, I'm happy to do it on notice.

<p><b>SQ24-001416</b></p>	<p>Department of Education</p>	<p>Mehreen Faruqi</p>	<p>International university student allocation</p>	<p>Senator FARUQI: ... Turning to the department, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney has recently said that the department's published estimate of 17,247 new international students at Sydney University in 2024—which was provided to the parliament last month—overstated its new overseas student starts by more than 3,000. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Thank you for the question. I believe that was provided in June, not last month. It was based at the time on an order for the production of documents. Based on the data that we had in June, that was our projection. Every month that number would change because every month we have new data. Sydney university is talking about a June dataset. We used our projections based on the inflow of international students in semester 1 this year. That inflow, we believe, has slowed in semester 2 this year. If the question was asked now, we would have a different number because we'd have more data to actually make that—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: What is that different number?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I don't know what the different number is, I'm sorry.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We have agreed with Sydney university that if we were doing the forecast now—it was clearly labelled as a preliminary estimate in the material produced to the Senate—the number would be 3,000 students fewer. That reflects, as the secretary has said, changing patterns of growth in student numbers between 2023 and 2024. It's very relevant, I think, to the question you're asking that the 2024 preliminary estimates that the Senate requested and that we provided, as required, had no impact at all on Sydney university's international student profile limit.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Or the caps either, even though it was off by 25 per cent?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: No, it wasn't off by 25 per cent, sorry, just to correct you. It was off by—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: You said 35 per cent growth year on year, when the actual growth is less than 10 per cent.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I misunderstood your line of reasoning. The number was 3,000, which was a fall from 17,247 to 13,563, which is not 25 per cent, which was where we got confused, I think. That number is not part of the methodology used to calculate Sydney university's international student profile for 2025—it's not, at the current time;</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>92-93</p>
---------------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------------	--	---	----------------	--------------



				<p>obviously, it depends on the passage of the legislation.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: But the whole premise of this policy is based on reducing international student numbers. The international student numbers that you predicted were off anyway. They were much lower than you had predicted. Is that the case for other universities as well, and have you looked at it?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Senator, the premise of the policy is not simply to reduce international student numbers.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: That is what the minister said to me three or four times at least.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I believe I heard the minister talking about the sustainability of the international student sector over the medium term. The premise of the policy is about sustainability over time. It is true that for some but not all universities, if we were doing a 2024 estimate now, it would be a little bit lower; for a couple of universities, including Sydney, it would be quite a lot lower. Other universities are a little bit up on the estimate that we did in 2024. That's the nature of a forecast. If you do a forecast of a full year of activity in June, you are by definition going to be a little bit inaccurate; if you do it in August, you'll be a bit more accurate; if you do it in October, you'll be a bit more accurate again.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Could you provide details of those universities you said were a lot higher than you had predicted in June?</p>		
<b>SQ24-001417</b>	Department of Education	Michaelia Cash	Schools Funding	Please provide the total amount of schools funding in the most recently available FY broken down by state/territory	Written	

<p><b>ANU-22</b></p>	<p>Australian National University</p>	<p>Mehreen Faruqi</p>	<p>ANU   Equity in BAE Systems</p>	<p>Senator FARUQI: Thank you for being here tonight. ANU held 6,758 shares in BAE Systems, worth approximately \$143,000 at the end of October 2023. By the end of November—and this is the time that the genocide was occurring—this had increased to 8,517 shares, at an approximate value of \$171,000. ANU confirmed these numbers were correct in an answer to my question on notice at the last estimates. How many shares does ANU currently hold in BAE Systems? Mr Lonergan: We would have to take that on notice. Prof. Bell: As you'll remember, from when we discussed this at the previous estimates, our funds are managed by fund managers, so we'd need to take the specifics of that amount on notice again.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>109</p>
<p><b>ANU-23</b></p>	<p>Australian National University</p>	<p>David Pocock</p>	<p>ANU   Role reductions due to budget deficits</p>	<p>Senator FARUQI: Just on that, do you have an estimate of how many jobs are likely to be lost as part of these deficits? Prof. Bell: At the moment, for this year we have five change plans that are in consultation with the community. In those change plans, 138 roles are proposed to be reduced for this year. ... Senator DAVID POCOCK: Of that 138 FTE, how many are academic staff? Prof. Bell: I need to make sure we're clear about this: it's headcount, not FTE. That's my mistake. Sorry. Senator DAVID POCOCK: What's the equivalent FTE? Prof. Bell: It won't be known until we're done with the process. There are 134 roles that are impacted. What the implications of that will be for FTE is not known. Senator DAVID POCOCK: Sorry, is it 134 or 138? Prof. Bell: Sorry, 138. I'm also tired. Senator DAVID POCOCK: How many of those roles are academic staff? Prof. Bell: In the first two plans—I think I'm going to have to take it on notice. Senator DAVID POCOCK: Sure, you can take it on notice. I'm interested in what role the council or the chancellor has played in the approvals for the change plans.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>111, 113</p>

ANU-24	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	ANU   School of Art and Design exhibition vandalism	<p>Senator THORPE: Thanks for appearing. Good to see the diversity amongst the university. I'd like to ask questions around an incident from 12 June, where students displayed anti-war artwork and Palestinian flags, which were vandalised and stolen from the Shababeek Memorial Gallery, formerly the project space, in a targeted racist attack. Has ANU undertaken any investigations into this incident of racism? If so, can you please summarise the findings and table any reports.</p> <p>Prof. Bell: Grady, can you take this one?</p> <p>Prof. Venville: That was 12 June?</p> <p>Senator THORPE: Yes.</p> <p>Prof. Bell: This will be SOAD.</p> <p>Prof. Venville: The first one, I think. We did an investigation. It was an in-house investigation to understand what happened to the pieces of work that were presented in the School of Art and Design. We don't know—we were unable to find—why they were taken and why they disappeared. There was no CCTV footage where we could see anything like that, so we don't know what happened. We were unable to ascertain that.</p> <p>Senator THORPE: Will the report from the investigation be made public?</p> <p>Prof. Venville: We can provide the detailed information that we have—yes, absolutely.</p> <p>Senator THORPE: Great. Thank you.</p> <p>Prof. Bell: We'd be happy to do that as a follow-up.</p> <p>Senator THORPE: Why was the initial commitment to reschedule the Palestinian exhibition later rescinded, and what role did higher level management play in overriding the School of Art and Design's decision to provide a new exhibition date? Who made that decision?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: Senator, I can take that one for you. The original request to hang artwork changed in scope, and what was originally installed had not actually been the thing that had been discussed with the school or its committees. No request has been subsequently been received to rehang anything.</p> <p>Senator THORPE: To rehang what was there?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: Or to hang new things.</p> <p>Senator THORPE: What was the issue then? I don't understand. I'll come back to that. Will ANU honour the commitment made by the</p>	Hansard	114
--------	--------------------------------	--------------	---	--	---------	-----

School of Art and Design to provide a new exhibition date for these artists, who are attempting to build community, solidarity and truth-telling around a genocide?

Prof. Bell: To the best of my knowledge, and I'm willing to take this on notice, there has not been a request made to the School of Art and Design to install new works.

<b>ANU-25</b>	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	ANU   First Peoples students at ANU	<p>Senator THORPE: How many students who are First Peoples of this country have you got at ANU? How many?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: I'm not sure exactly.</p> <p>Senator THORPE: Well, that's my question. You might have a nice little unit with a nice little name. We've got prisons that have nice little units with nice little Aboriginal names too, and they're killing our people. So that's lovely, but I want to know how many blackfellas you've got in that university. As I understand it, it's not many. If you could take that on notice, that would be great. I'll ask another question while I've still got time. Sorry to rush it, but we're only given a few minutes. The dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences, CASS, sent emails claiming that the Shababeek exhibition was not an artistic exhibition—it was protest activity—and they threatened disciplinary action. How does ANU address concerns that its practices and policies foster a culture of white supremacy where racialised students feel their artwork, expressions and political voices are devalued and seen as inherently disruptive?</p>	Hansard	115
<b>ANU-26</b>	Australian National University	Sarah Henderson	ANU   Agreements with foreign entities or persons	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I was seeking information about your agreements with foreign entities or persons. You've come back and indicated that there are about a thousand of those agreements, so I'm very happy to come back and perhaps narrow the scope of my request, but I just note that—</p> <p>Prof. Bell: We would be more than happy to provide that for you, but, as you can imagine, a thousand was a lot and it was a short amount of time.</p>	Hansard	118
<b>ANU-27</b>	Australian National University	Sarah Henderson	ANU   Qatar Foundation	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to go back to my question about the Qatar Foundation. Do you have an agreement, arrangement, memorandum of understanding or any other relationship with the Qatar Foundation?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: In order to give the details we're going to need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Alright. I did write to you a couple of days ago about that and asked that question, and I note that there was a blank bit.</p> <p>Prof. Bell: As I said, we'll need to take it on notice. We promise we'll get it to you as quickly as we can.</p>	Hansard	118-119

<p><b>ANU-28</b></p>	<p>Australian National University</p>	<p>Mehreen Faruqi</p>	<p>ANU   Staff Numbers</p>	<p>Senator FARUQI: The Department of Education figures suggest that ANU's staffing level in 2023 was 5,214 full-time-equivalent. What is the current figure?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: That's a very good question. The precise figure for today is something I would need to take on notice, but it is slightly less than it was at the beginning of this year.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: If you could take it on notice I would appreciate that.</p> <p>Prof. Bell: I'm sorry. I don't mean to seem vague. It's one of those ones where there's a lot of movement. I am happy to take the precise number on notice.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>119</p>
<p><b>ANU-29</b></p>	<p>Australian National University</p>	<p>Mehreen Faruqi</p>	<p>ANU   Travel</p>	<p>Senator FARUQI: It's also my understanding—I think these are 2023 figures, but correct me if I'm wrong—that of the \$40 million of travel expenses, \$11 million or so was for business class—that's a quarter—in which only the top executive are allowed to fly. Can you confirm that?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: I can certainly confirm that was our travel budget for last year. I can also tell you that we spent a very fierce hour this morning—my senior leadership team—talking about what controls we need to put in place on our travel moving forward, and there was a rough agreement in that about foregoing business travel in future.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Was 2024 similar in terms of the expenses—\$40 million, and a quarter of that was business?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: I'd need to take the specifics of that on notice, but the reality is we saw very little travel in the pandemic years. In 2020 and 2021 we saw a slow grow-back in travel, and for many of our community travelling is both the way they do their research and the way they share their research and spend time with their communities.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Could you provide the 2024 figures on notice, and did you say that you were going to can business travel for staff?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: We are debating it. We contested it this morning.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: No decisions have been made?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: We're working through ensuring that, as we achieve \$150 million worth of savings, we do it in a deliberative manner and ensuring that we make the right choices for our community in this moment.</p>	<p>Hansard</p>	<p>120</p>

<b>ANU-30</b>	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	ANU   Discrimination complaints	<p>1. How many complaints related to racism has the ANU received in the past year?</p> <p>2. Who within the university is responsible for making decisions on complaints against the institution itself, particularly regarding racial discrimination?</p> <p>a. Can you clarify what specific training these decision-makers have received, particularly in relation to understanding white supremacy, systemic racism, and the impact of institutional biases on marginalised groups?</p> <p>b. Can you please table details of any mandatory training processes as well as details of any additional relevant training current decision-makers have undertaken?</p> <p>c. How do you ensure these individuals are equipped to handle complaints fairly and equitably, especially when the university itself is implicated?</p> <p>3. ANU's policies pledge support for those facing harassment, discrimination, and racism. Yet reports indicate the University has removed student artwork, used the Student Code of Conduct to silence protests, and ignored incidents of harassment against Black, Palestinian, First Nations, and Brown students. How does ANU justify these actions against its own policies on anti-discrimination inclusivity and safety?</p> <p>a. Please provide on notice any reports that have been prepared on this matter including any records of internal correspondence on this matter. including between CASS staff, and between CASS staff and the offices of the vice chancellor, and the College of Arts and Social Sciences, and senior executive staff.</p>	Written	
<b>ANU-31</b>	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	ANU   Detailed disclosure of financial ties	<p>o Could ANU provide a comprehensive list of senior executive staff, ANU Council members, and sub-committee members who directly or indirectly financially benefit from, or hold interests in, companies involved in weapons manufacturing, mining, or any industries linked to environmental harm or human rights abuses?</p> <p>o For each individual, could you specify the nature of their financial</p>	Written	

				connections, including stocks, board memberships, consultancy arrangements, or indirect financial benefits tied to these sectors?		
<b>ANU-32</b>	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	ANU   Institutional conflicts of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Are there any formal or informal relationships between ANU and companies involved in weapons manufacturing, mining, or other sectors with significant ethical concerns? If so, could you clarify the nature and terms of these relationships?</li> <li>i. Please provide a comprehensive list detailing the nature of these interests.</li> <li>o How does ANU ensure that decision-making processes remain unbiased, particularly in areas of research funding, partnerships, or curriculum decisions that may intersect with the interests of Council members or executives?</li> </ul>	Written	
<b>ANU-33</b>	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	ANU   Publicly accessible Conflict of Interest Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Does ANU maintain a publicly accessible register of interests for senior executives and Council members?</li> <li>o What specific policies does ANU have in place to manage conflicts of interest among its leadership, particularly regarding personal financial interests in weapons, mining, or other extractive industries? Are there specific examples of recent situations where such policies have been applied?</li> <li>o How does ANU ensure accountability in decision-making for executives or Council members who stand to gain financially from companies in industries known to cause social or environmental harm? Can ANU provide examples of how these policies have been enforced in the past year?</li> </ul>	Written	
<b>ANU-34</b>	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	ANU   Funding and Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What is the current budget for the Office of Pro-Vice Chancellor of Indigenous Affairs?</li> <li>● Have there been any plans or reports to modify this funding? If so, what are they?</li> </ul>	Written	
<b>ANU-35</b>	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	ANU   Consultancy and External Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Has ANU engaged any consultancy firms or external communication advisors?</li> <li>● If so, can you provide details, including any plans to restructure or eliminate schools or colleges?</li> </ul>	Written	
<b>ANU-36</b>	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	ANU   Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Can you provide a breakdown of costs related to ANU's council and senior executive staff (individual payments, office costs, flights, transportation, hospitality, etc.)?</li> </ul>	Written	



<p><b>ANU-37</b></p>	<p>Australian National University</p>	<p>Lidia Thorpe</p>	<p>ANU   Administration of Scholarships for First Nations Students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Could ANU provide a detailed breakdown of how the National Indigenous University Scholarship funds are allocated, including any administrative expenses, and outline what portion directly supports First Nations students in tuition, living expenses, and academic resources?</li> <li>● What steps is ANU taking to improve access for First Nations students, especially concerning scholarships and financial support?</li> <li>● Scholarship Recipients and Types: How many students currently receive scholarships specifically for First Nations students, and could ANU provide a breakdown of the types of scholarships available (e.g., merit-based, need-based, or program-specific)?</li> <li>● Eligibility and Retention: What criteria determine student eligibility for these scholarships, and what supports are in place to ensure scholarship recipients can complete their studies?</li> <li>● Funding and Outcome Data: Can ANU provide details on the total funding allocated for Indigenous scholarships, along with data on graduation rates, retention, and career outcomes for scholarship recipients?</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	
<p><b>ANU-38</b></p>	<p>Australian National University</p>	<p>Lidia Thorpe</p>	<p>ANU   Follow-up on weapons ties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How many meetings have ANU finance representatives had with financial companies or investment funds linked to weapons manufacturers in the last 10 years?</li> <li>● Can you provide details of these meetings.</li> </ul>	<p>Written</p>	