

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES, 25 OCTOBER and 15 DECEMBER 2017
 Defence Portfolio/Department of Veterans' Affairs/Australian War Memorial

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard 25/10/2017, page or Written QoN
	DVA				
1	H&CS	KAKOSCHKE -MOORE	Assistance Dogs Tender	<p>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: The AusTender website: if somebody was going to try to access documents on there, is that available to the public—</p> <p>Mr Lewis: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: or do you need to create an account?</p> <p>Mr Lewis: I don't believe so.</p> <p>Ms Hancock: You do have to enter your details in order to download the documents, but anyone can do that.</p> <p>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: So you don't need to be a company or a charity; there are no restrictions on that.</p> <p>Ms Hancock: No.</p> <p>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Will you advertise?</p> <p>Mr Lewis: That would be the fastest way to provide it to you. We could respond on notice, but I think the fastest way would be to do a straight download.</p>	122
2	H&CS	KAKOSCHKE -MOORE	Assistance Dogs Trial	<p>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Will you advertise?</p> <p>Mr Lewis: That would be the fastest way to provide it to you. We could respond on notice, but I think the fastest way would be to do a straight download.</p> <p>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: And will you be advertising about the trial?</p> <p>Mr Lewis: The minister put out a press release in relation to the trial.</p> <p>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: I got the press release about the trial, but I didn't know about the documents being on AusTender from last Friday. So I just wondered if there would be advertising about it.</p> <p>Mr Lewis: We might look to see what more we can do to get the message out about that.</p>	122
3	H&CS	LAMBIE	Mefloquine	<p>Mr Lewis: There is one bit I would like to take on notice and come back to you on. I would like to consult with Defence to determine the extent to which we could readily track those people that you have mention to see whether we might, via our Defence channels, access those individuals and provide them with some information. Defence might do that, rather than ourselves, but I'm happy to take on notice whether, by working with our colleagues in Defence, we might be able to reach out in the way you've suggested.</p> <p>Senator LAMBIE: Even if Defence takes it on and uses their last known address when they discharged to at least try and get a letter through to them, maybe that would be an option. I notice that the Royal Australian Regiments are now coming—I'll pass this in, not sure if you have seen it. At their last council meeting, this was one of their big agenda points that they are noticing. There would have been quite a few Royal Australian Regiment people taking that stuff, and it's now concerning them, so maybe Defence could do that bit.</p> <p>Mr Lewis: It's possible the contact details have gotten stale over time, but we will consult them to see what we can do there.</p>	127
4	PMA	LAMBIE	Mefloquine letter to GPs	<p>Dr Gardner: Very well. Last year I wrote to every general practitioner in Australia to alert them to this issue, to say to them, 'Here are some resources, including on a Commonwealth Health TGA and the Defence Department website, and to provide them with contact details if they needed further information.'</p> <p>Senator LAMBIE: Did you inform those doctors what they should be looking for in those patients?</p> <p>Dr Gardner: That's a somewhat leading question, because we in DVA don't specify what to look for or the treatments.</p> <p>Senator LAMBIE: You've got SOPs, for goodness sake. Surely, come on.</p> <p>Dr Gardner: We said: 'Here are some independent websites that you can look at. This is an issue which is of concern to many veterans, especially in North Queensland and a few in and around the Melbourne region, which is where the two clusters are. If you need advice, here is the definitive advice, and, if you'd like to get back in contact with DVA, here are my contact details.' We sent that</p>	128

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				to every registered doctor in Australia. Senator LAMBIE: Would I be able to have a copy of that letter, please, Minister? Dr Gardner: It has been provided previously, but we could find another copy. Senator LAMBIE: Sorry, I haven't seen it. Mr Lewis: I think the senator is asking for it to go back to the committee.	
5	R&S	LAMBIE	Advocates	Senator LAMBIE: How many level 4 advocates do you have right now? Ms Vardos: Senator, at the moment we have a handful of level 4 advocates— Senator LAMBIE: A handful? What are you saying? Half a dozen advocates? Ms Vardos: It is probably around 40. I'd have to take the exact number on notice and I can get back to you on that. We have run a course in the last 12 months, which is what we call a level 4 course, to ensure there are suitably qualified level 4 advocates in the system at the moment. We are currently preparing a trial under our new advocacy program to deliver a level 4 recognition of prior learning course and that will be trialled early in 2018.	129
6	R&S	LAMBIE	Advocate Training	Senator LAMBIE: You've just done a course. How long before that course was your last course? Ms Vardos: I'd have to take that on notice or I can have a look later. I have the documentation but it will be difficult to pull that out specifically.	130
7	H&CS	GALLACHER	TPI Projections	Senator GALLACHER: Every six months, you can find out how many TPI recipients there are? Mr Harrigan: Yes, that's right. As at March 2017, there were 27,861 recipients of the TPI pension. Senator GALLACHER: We know what that figure is and it's published every six months. So does the department do any modelling, probably encompassing some actual assessments, on these numbers in the forward estimates? Do we know whether that is— Mr Lewis: I wouldn't describe it as modelling. Basically, when you're doing the forward estimates, you need to estimate what your client group will be in all of the various cohorts—how many war widows will we have, how many TPIs will we have, how many on disability support pensioners of various kinds—and those are projected forward just based on amortisation stats and other assumptions. Senator GALLACHER: We know what the baseline is every six months? Mr Lewis: We could probably give you a projection on that. Senator GALLACHER: Is the projection plus or minus? Mr Lewis: There's probably a plus and a minus. But I'll go to Ms Foreman. Ms Foreman: We'll take that question on notice. Senator GALLACHER: Yes, I think that would be good.	134
8	BSS	LAMBIE	Round Table Membership	Senator LAMBIE: Nearly 20 out of—how many organisations out there that call themselves organisations? Nearly 500. How do you cherrypick here? Because obviously the people you've had on those round tables for a very, very long time have allowed us to go into chaos. I have a question as to what they've been contributing. One of those would be the RSL, I have no problem in saying that. I say that with the utmost respect to the war widows. That's fine. Those widows are pretty much settled in their payments. What we have to do is worry about the younger organisation. I need some of those other service organisations to be on that round table. They've had their opportunity for many years, and look where's it's got to, Veterans' Affairs. Look what's happening to my generation. We are terribly concerned about that. Mr Lewis: We have the round table, we have the younger veterans forum. The organisation to which you refer, I'm not sure who they represent. Senator LAMBIE: This is one of the Vietnam veterans. Do you have the VVAA and the VVFA at the table? Mr Lewis: Yes, we do. Senator LAMBIE: So obviously they are asking now for sub-branches. Mr Lewis: We have the press clips at the table. What organisation do they represent? Senator LAMBIE: This is the Hunter region Vietnam veterans. Mr Lewis: The national—	136

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				<p>Senator LAMBIE: The Newcastle and Hunter region.</p> <p>Mr Lewis: We have both the VVAA and the VVFA on our round tables.</p> <p>Mr Orme: We also have state forums that are conducted by our state deputy commissioners. I've been to a number of those this year all around the country. So each state is able to represent their issues at the state level and at the national level as well. The state deputy commissioners meet with their stakeholders two or three times a year.</p> <p>Mr Lewis: I'm wondering whether we need to respond, national and state.</p> <p>Senator LAMBIE: Maybe I could have a list of who is at the round tables. That would be great.</p> <p>Mr Lewis: There's no problem with that. We have a national framework, but we also have state based frameworks.</p>	
9	DVA Executive	ABETZ	Festive Messages	Please provide the messages (if any) sent to staff (on the most recent occasions) of Christmas/New Year, Easter and Ramadan by the Secretary of the Department, or agency head, at the relevant time.	Written
10	BSS	ABETZ	Enterprise Agreement	In the most recent Enterprise Agreement negotiations, was/were any side-agreement/s, protocol/s, arrangement/s, agreement/s entered into? If so, please provide a copy.	Written
11	AWM	ABETZ	Festive Messages	Please provide the messages (if any) sent to staff (on the most recent occasions) of Christmas/New Year, Easter and Ramadan by the Secretary of the Department, or agency head, at the relevant time.	Written
12	R&S	KAKOSCHKE -MOORE	Transition Training	How many courses at the Bachelor level or higher, has the department approved for veterans to undertake as part of their transition or rehabilitation process?	Written
13	Neil BAYLES	KAKOSCHKE -MOORE	Transitioning Pilot	<p>The government announced on 24 October 2017 that \$4.0 million will be provided over two years to pilot a case management service for transitioning or recently discharged Australian Defence Force members.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What will this case management service consist of? How will it be different from services that already exist? Is there any policy prepared for this case management service? If so, can my office receive a copy? Will this service be assisting veterans into further education? If a veteran identifies a need for tertiary education while being case managed will DVA provide them with support to access this? If so, what type of support will be provided? 	Written
14	BSS	McALLISTER	Staffing Levels	<p>Please provide as at 30 June 2017:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ASL by state Headcount of people employed as <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Labour Hire, Contractors, or outsourced staff, and the value of each of these contracts for the 2016-2017 financial year. The total number of people who have a log in to the departmental IT system, and the breakdown by category of these log-ins (permanent, non-ongoing, casual, labour hire, outsourced, contractors, and any other category that has access to the system). The total number of people who have a security/access pass into your departmental buildings, and the breakdown by category of these pass holders (permanent, non-ongoing, casual, labour hire, outsourced, contractors, and any other relevant category). A list of organisations/companies that have staff who can log into your departmental IT 	Written

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				system.	
15	BSS	McALLISTER	Staff Training	<p>Does any part of your agency/department have a service delivery function, or which has face to face interactions with the public?</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you provide staff with training on how to deal with client aggression or customers experiencing mental illness? 2. Please provide the dates and locations that training has been run over the last 5 years. 3. How many of your staff have received this training? How many in the last 2 years? 4. Who provides this training? 	Written
16	Neil BAYLES	McALLISTER	Digital Transformation Agency	<p>As at 31 October 2017:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What projects are you undertaking in conjunction with the Digital Transformation Agency? 2. For each project: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What criteria are you using for assessing success? b. What is the role of the DTA in the project? c. What is the timeframe for completion? 	Written
17	AWM	McALLISTER	Staffing Levels	<p>Please provide as at 30 June 2017:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ASL by state 2. Headcount of people employed as <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Labour Hire, b. Contractors, or c. outsourced staff, d. and the value of each of these contracts for the 2016-2017 financial year. 3. The total number of people who have a log in to the departmental IT system, and the breakdown by category of these log-ins (permanent, non-ongoing, casual, labour hire, outsourced, contractors, and any other category that has access to the system). 4. The total number of people who have a security/access pass into your departmental buildings, and the breakdown by category of these pass holders (permanent, non-ongoing, casual, labour hire, outsourced, contractors, and any other relevant category). 5. A list of organisations/companies that have staff who can log into your departmental IT system. 	Written
18	AWM	McALLISTER	Staff Training	<p>Does any part of your agency/department have a service delivery function, or which has face to face interactions with the public?</p> <p>If yes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you provide staff with training on how to deal with client aggression or customers experiencing mental illness? 2. Please provide the dates and locations that training has been run over the last 5 years. 3. How many of your staff have received this training? How many in the last 2 years? 4. Who provides this training? 	Written

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19	AWM	McALLISTER	Digital Transformation Agency	As at 31 October 2017: 1. What projects are you undertaking in conjunction with the Digital Transformation Agency? 2. For each project: a. What criteria are you using for assessing success? b. What is the role of the DTA in the project? c. What is the timeframe for completion?	Written
20	AWM	McKENZIE	Attendance at Estimates	Given your agency was sent home from Estimates without appearing, advise 1. How many staff you sent to Estimates; 2. What costs this incurred – supply an itemised list, including a. Wage and salary expenses; b. Airfares; c. Accommodation; d. Motor vehicle hire; e. All other incidental expenses associated with your agency’s travel to Canberra for the purposes of appearing before the Committee for Estimates.	Written
21	AWM	ABETZ	Enterprise Agreement	In the most recent Enterprise Agreement negotiations, was/were any side-agreement/s, protocol/s, arrangement/s, agreement/s entered into? If so, please provide a copy.	Written
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	DVA				
22	TED	MOORE	VAN Offices	Senator MOORE: And if the veteran rocks up at the old office— Mr Gerrick: I haven't heard of any situations where that occurs— Senator MOORE: But if one does, is there signage at the old location for a period of time to advise them of the new office location? Mr Gerrick: I'll need to take that on notice. Senator MOORE: If there's not, can we find out why? And if there is, can we find out how long it will last there?	36
23	TED	MOORE	VAN Office Relocations	Senator MOORE: Have you provided information to us in the past about your process of communication of those changes? I'm just aware that we've asked a number of questions about VAN in the past and I don't want to duplicate, because I didn't go back and read all the previous <i>Hansards</i> . I'm just wanting to make sure that— Mr Lewis: We may have, but we'd be happy to take it on notice. Senator MOORE: That would be really useful—in terms of what the standard communication process is, and also the standard consultation process. We have talked about that in the past, but because this does seem to be a pattern now I would imagine that you have some standard arrangements about what you have to do if you're making these decisions. What is the check sheet	36

				that is available for people? What has to be done in what time frame to ensure that the greatest ease of facilitation is arranged? If we can get that, that would be very useful. How many disability car parks will there be in the new location?	
24	TED	MOORE	VAN Office Relocation Expectations	<p>Senator MOORE: Do you have a standard expectation of your locations for what the facilities are around there? I used to work a long time ago—in fact, last century—in the public sector and there were best-practice guidelines, if you were going to have an office, for what you needed in terms of access. Do you have those for your VAN offices?</p> <p>Mr Gerrick: I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Good. I hope Centrelink and DHS would have them, but, if they've been combined, is there a best practice around access, signage, ramps and all those things?</p> <p>Mr Gerrick: When we make the decision to move to this type of arrangement, the process is a very fulsome one between DVA and DHS. We make sure that everything that we implement into the new arrangements is consistent with what we think our clients would expect under that arrangement.</p>	36
25	R&S	MOORE	Non Liability Health Care	<p>Senator MOORE: That's the Aussie Post pilot?</p> <p>Mr Gerrick: Yes—Aussie Post. So, obviously, we need to keep on examining it over the course of the pilot. But, so far, it's been quite encouraging.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: So the particular change—and this is going off at a tangent, and I'll put this on notice—about having served one day, and you told me about the trial at Australia Post, have you looked at any other communication activities around that? It is a significant change. I would imagine your team must be considering, if you're doing that one, there must be other ways. Can I put that on notice?</p>	37
26	TED	MOORE	Future DHS Shopfront Mergers	<p>Mr Lewis: For a lot of our clients, particularly younger people and particularly women, it's actually more convenient, because they might have other business to do at a Human Services shopfront at the same time as they can do their DVA business.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Has the department got plans for further merges in the next 12 months?</p> <p>Mr Lewis: I'll take it on notice, but there are none that particularly occur to me at the moment.</p>	38
27	TED	MOORE	DVA Frontline Services in DHS Shopfronts	<p>Senator MOORE: Are there plans to move other frontline veterans' services into DHS over the next 12 months? You can take that on notice, as well.</p> <p>Mr Lewis: I'll take that on notice. I will just go back to Ms Cosson's comment earlier. In some ways, we're trying to work out ways to expand our footprint, but doing it through other agents.</p>	38
28	TED	MOORE	ICT Upgrade	<p>Senator MOORE: Can we get paper on that from you about what your plan is for your ICT upgrade?</p> <p>Ms Cosson: For the first year, what the Department of Human Services is doing is having a look at the WPIT, the Welfare Payment Infrastructure Transformation.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: We'll ask Human Services that as well, but I was asking about your component. I wasn't asking for theirs. I just want to see it spelled out.</p> <p>Senator Payne: This will all be in the budget papers, but we can certainly provide a breakdown for you.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: But in the budget papers it's very basic. What I'm trying to find out from the department is their plan and their implementation program for what's happening and expected dates.</p> <p>Senator Payne: We'll take that on notice.</p>	39
29	TED	MOORE	ICT Funding	<p>Senator MOORE: That was how it was presented. I just wanted to have that on record. Does the department have indications of what further funding is required in order to ensure that the ICT system is fully funded and of the period for engaging?</p> <p>Mr Lewis: We're moving into a slightly sensitive area.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: I know.</p> <p>Mr Lewis: We're actually engaged in a budget process right now, so I really can't go into the detail of amounts or what it's for.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: This is a budget process for next year's budget?</p> <p>Mr Lewis: We are already engaged in that process. Correspondence has been exchanged. Schedules are starting to be set for ERC. I would love to be able to tell you more.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: I understand the process. Have you any indication of how much has been spent on consultants and contractors to deliver the program in 2017-18?</p> <p>Mr Lewis: We would have detail, but we'll take that on notice.</p>	39
30	TED	MOORE	ICT Funding	<p>Mr Geary: Three key acts. So you've got the Veterans' Entitlements Act, the DRC Act and of course the MRC Act.</p>	41

				<p>Senator MOORE: Did the \$23.9 million cover all of that?</p> <p>Mr Geary: It will. To date, we've spent \$17 million. We think we'll have spent \$24.7 million by the end of the program. That is the current projection. But, basically, the \$23.9 million will cover it, with some tolerance.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: So that will be those elements. That was in the \$23.9 million. Are there any other platforms or systems that are not included in the funding that you've got currently that are at risk of catastrophic failure?</p> <p>Mr Geary: There would be other systems that the VCR program is looking at. I think we have something like 200 systems.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: If you want to take all of that on notice—</p>	
31	TED	MOORE	Systems at Risk of Failure	<p>Senator MOORE: So I have 200. Mr Geary has identified the numbers—particularly in the compensation area that was subject to the \$23.9 million. We now have the \$73.6 million, and a number of those will be addressed then. We're trying to get our head around what's left. Would you prefer to take that on notice? I would imagine it's quite a detailed answer.</p> <p>Ms Cosson: Absolutely. And to work with our Department of Human Services colleagues as well, because they have gone through a prioritisation of our systems of what we need to address in the first year and beyond. So I am happy to take that on notice.</p>	41
32	R&S	MOORE	Industry Advisory Committee Report	<p>Ms Foreman: That's right. The final area that they're focused on at the moment is the Prime Minister's Veterans Employment Awards.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: So they're the key areas in the report. Minister, can we ask through the ministerial process about if and when that report will be made public.</p> <p>Senator Payne: I'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: I know that's all you can do.</p> <p>Senator Payne: I'll take that on notice and, of course, follow that up with Minister Tehan.</p>	42
34	R&S	MOORE	Advocacy Training	<p>Senator MOORE: So there are 65 who've completed?</p> <p>Ms Vardos: There are 65 who've done both the welfare and the compensation training at level 2.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: What about 3 and 4? Has anyone gone through to 3 and 4?</p> <p>Ms Vardos: Level 3 we've just piloted. The pilot finished last week in Sydney. We pilot the courses to test them before actually rolling them out to clients, to make sure that they're suitable. That'll roll out from early next year, and then level 4 will be piloted around April next year.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Has anyone from the 65 done the third level?</p> <p>Ms Vardos: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	47
35	R&S	MOORE	Mentors	<p>Senator MOORE: Is the department aware of how many mentors are available for those retraining?</p> <p>Ms Vardos: I'd have to take that on notice, Senator. There are a number of mentors, and there are different levels of mentoring.</p>	49
36	R&S	MOORE	Access to Advocacy Training and Mentors	<p>Senator MOORE: Have any issues about access to training and mentors for advocates been raised with the department in the last three months, six months or 12 months?</p> <p>Ms Vardos: Yes.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Good.</p> <p>Ms Vardos: If you would like more details, we would probably have to take that on notice.</p>	50
37	R&S	MOORE	BEST Working Party	<p>Senator MOORE: And the working party of the round table? Does that work all the time, or is it a particular working party that's come to look at BEST?</p> <p>Ms Vardos: It's come to look at BEST.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Does it have a time frame or is it just an ongoing group looking at BEST?</p> <p>Ms Vardos: They've had two meetings already.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: When did it start?</p> <p>Ms Vardos: I'd have to take it on notice, but it was recently—in the last two months.</p>	51
38	R&S	MOORE	BEST Working Party Recommendations	<p>Senator MOORE: Last year, when they had a similar working party looking at this, did recommendations come out of last year's working group for changes?</p> <p>Ms Vardos: Yes, but they were very minor, so I'd have to take them on notice. There were some minor tweaks to the points.</p>	53
39	R&S	MOORE	Supporting Younger Veterans Grants	<p>Senator MOORE: Can the department advise how many applications they've received for the supporting younger veterans grants.</p> <p>Ms Vardos: Yes. In round 1 there were 250,000 and the department received 34 applications. Eleven were funded and 23 were unsuccessful. Round 2 has also just been undertaken, which was</p>	53

				<p>\$1 million. In round 2, 24 applications were received. Twelve were successful, valued at \$972 million, and 12 were unsuccessful, valued at \$1.3 million.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: So 972 were successful in the second grant. How much of the 250,000 was expended?</p> <p>Ms Vardos: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	
40	R&S	MOORE	Supporting Younger Veterans Grants	<p>Senator MOORE: I'd just like to get some idea because it's quite a useful piece of information. Was this in line with the department's expectations? You would have had expectations. In terms of numbers of applications and expenditure, how does it compare with other grant programs? You may want to take it on notice.</p> <p>Ms Foreman: Yes.</p>	54
41	R&S	MOORE	Unsuccessful Supporting Younger Veterans Grants	<p>Senator MOORE: With the younger veterans grants, because there was a lot of lead-up to getting this grant round implemented, of that 22 who missed out in round 1—take this on notice—can you tell me how many actually took up the offer to come back and talk with you?</p> <p>Ms Vardos: I will confirm this, but I am pretty sure we phoned them all, because that was an opening round.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: The ones who said, 'I'd like to talk with you'? You contact them with an email and you offer them the chance—</p> <p>Ms Vardos: No, I think we actually phone them; but I will take that on notice and confirm.</p>	55
42	TED	MOORE	Female Veterans Forum	<p>Senator MOORE: I'm just trying to remember some of the announcements but, as yet—and you can take this on notice, if you wouldn't mind—there's been no policy announcement that the minister has made which has been directly linked to the forum. Are you aware—</p> <p>Ms Pope: The one public action that I can recall straightaway is that, just before Anzac Day, the minister put out a press release highlighting women's service, the issue of medals being worn on the right side and so on.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Was that a recommendation of the forum?</p> <p>Ms Pope: Yes, it was.</p>	58
43	TED	MOORE	Female Veteran Forum Statistics	<p>Senator MOORE: Good. The department and the government host a range of fora. Do you keep stats on the percentage of women who attend those?</p> <p>Ms Pope: I couldn't list the statistics, but I certainly know from personal experience that there are women represented on all of the other fora.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Do we keep stats on that? This particular one, the women's veterans and families, was created because women were saying they wanted to have their voices heard more, and that was a really positive initiative. In the various fora that the department maintain, what percentage are women? Just put that on notice.</p>	58
44	Question answered on the day				
45	PG&I	MOORE	ESO Consultation Framework Recommendations	<p>Mr Orme: We have also re-established the operational working party. That was a second-tier forum, below the ESO Round Table, of practitioners. We've had two meetings of the operational working party where we're focusing on the implementation of the act, the experience of advocates, the experience of those who are interacting with the department. It's a very effective, quite robust forum. That is one of the recommendations that had previously fallen off or had come out of the forum, more broadly, so we've re-established that and have had the first couple of meetings for that. In terms of the other 17 recommendations, we can give you—</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Could I get that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Orme: Yes.</p>	59
46	C&C	MOORE	French Windfarm Proposal	<p>Mr Corke: The French government would be very sensitive, as would we, to see our government interfering in the decision-making process that the French government has and, therefore, it really is a case of allowing the consultation to happen, and we participate in that process.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: And we get involved at the departmental level and also the ministerial level?</p> <p>Mr Corke: In this particular case, it happened at the ministerial level. On previous occasions, it didn't elevate to that level.</p> <p>Mr Lewis: We had departmental exchanges at post level with the post in France.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Can you confirm when the minister was made aware of these plans for the wind farm proposal? That will go back for the minister's office. That would be good.</p>	60

47	C&C	MOORE	Centenary of the Armistice Funding	<p>Senator MOORE: The federal department or the minister has not sent out information to states requesting funding for two proposals?</p> <p>Mr Orme: There have been conversations around what could occur, in terms of working groups, one principally led by Sir Angus Houston, around different events. As that conversation has matured as the states have become involved, we're at the state where we are now. As I say, the recent veterans ministers round table was the latest conversation about what the states might prefer to do and about what the Commonwealth and the minister will do in terms of the coordination or the information campaign and the states doing their own things.</p> <p>Mr Lewis: It's such an unusual thing that I'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Yes, please do.</p> <p>Mr Lewis: It's usually the request coming the other way.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Yes, it's usually states saying it. That's my understanding. That's why I was—</p> <p>Mr Lewis: I'd be rather encouraged if I found out something had happened, but I think it's probably pretty unlikely.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Would you see whether—</p> <p>Mr Lewis: We'll take it on notice.</p>	62
48	AWM	GALLACHER	Suicide Memorial	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the AWM able to elaborate on what discussions it has undertaken with the RSL on the Veteran Suicide Memorial? 2. What planning has been undertaken for this Memorial? 3. Has the AWM been seeking advice from mental health professionals on possible unintended consequences of this memorial? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If not; why not? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Do you intend to seek such advice? b. If yes; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Which organisations? ii. What advice has been given? iii. What action will the AWM be taking in relation to this advice? 4. Can the AWM advise on how this site will be funded i.e. is it with Government and RSL funding, or just Government funding? 	Written
49	H&CS	GALLACHER	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Department advise when the comprehensive technical AIHW report is due to be released? 2. Has it been presented to Government yet? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. When is it expected? 	Written
50	C&C	GALLACHER	Statistics on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Department advise if it keeps statistics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes; can the Department please advise what information it collects? 2. Are there higher populations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans in specific locations? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes; can the department on these locations? b. Does the Department provide any specific services in these areas? 	Written
51	TED	GALLACHER	VAN Offices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the department please provide the following information in relation to VAN offices – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Location of each van office b. Staff numbers c. FTE allocation d. Opening hours of each office 	Written

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Cost PA of each site f. When the current lease expires 	
				2. How many clients were assisted by this office in 2016/17	
52	BSS	GALLACHER	Administration	<p>1. Can the department please provide the following information in relation to staffing numbers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Total number of staff, including a breakdown by state and of permanent, part-time and casual b. Total number of clients, including breakdown by state <p>2. Total number of pending clients, including breakdown by state</p>	Written
53	H&CS	GALLACHER	Statistics	Can the Department provide a breakdown of how many DVA clients/veterans are located in each state?	Written
54	VVCS	GALLACHER	VVCS	<p>Can the department confirm whether there are any VVCS counsellor's available after hours in the southern suburbs of Adelaide?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If not, has there previously been after hours support in southern Adelaide? b. Why is there no support after hours in southern Adelaide? c. When did this cease? d. What steps are being taken to address these concerns? 	Written
55	H&CS	GALLACHER	Mefloquine	<p>With regards to the issue of Mefloquine, has any consideration been given to proactively contacting, where possible, those who participated in the 2000 – 2002 drug trials to see how they are progressing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No; why not? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>If the answer is no records held on these individuals post defence – why not? Is this standard protocol? Was any consideration given to maintaining records given that they had participated in a drug trial?</i> b. Yes; has any attempts been made to contact these individuals? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. If not, why not? 	Written

LEGEND

Division	No. of QoNs
R&S	4
HCS	3
BSS	4
PMA	1
Neil BAYLES	2
AWM	6
DVA Executive	1
TOTAL	21
Referred	