

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Data Availability and Transparency Bill [Provisions] and Data Availability and Transparency) Consequential Amendments) Bill 2020 [Provisions]

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Data Availability and Transparency Bill

Senator: Kitching

Question reference number: 001

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator KITCHING: Are you able to take that on notice and send back to the committee a list of the agencies that are regarded as having higher skills, or however you might identify them?

Ms Anton: Yes, I will send you a list of the Commonwealth agencies who are integrating authorities as it stands. I don't think I've missed anyone, but if we have, we'll certainly let the committee know.

Senator KITCHING: Thank you. You call them—

Ms Anton: Authorised integrating authorities. I will just ask my team if they can send me a list via email while we're still appearing, to try and save us all some time.

Senator KITCHING: That would be very helpful; I would appreciate that. They have better skills than some of the other agencies—is that right?

Ms Anton: They have a higher level of skills, yes.

Ms Anton: We are looking at the transition arrangements we may have in place. The authorised integrating authorities, which I referenced earlier, have already gone through an assessment process.

Senator KITCHING: But with no guidelines. But you're saying—

Ms Anton: Sorry; they have actually had to follow some guidelines.

Senator KITCHING: Can you table those?

Ms Anton: Yes. We're happy to do that. The information that they've had is publicly available...

Answer:

In 2010, the Australian Government Secretaries Board endorsed a set of principles to govern integration of Commonwealth data, as well as a set of governance and institutional arrangements to support these principles. Details of these arrangements are available publicly at https://toolkit.data.gov.au/Statistical_Data_Integration.html

An important part of the governance and institutional arrangements is being able to hold one agency accountable for the safe implementation of a data integration project. To make this happen, an integrating authority must be appointed for every data integration project involving Commonwealth data. For data integration proposals that involve Commonwealth data and are considered 'high risk', an accredited Integrating Authority must be used.

There are four Commonwealth Integrating Authorities accredited under these arrangements to undertake high risk data integration projects involving Commonwealth data:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Australian Institute of Family Studies
- Department of Social Services.