

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

Question: AET 3005

Topic: Cancelled Surveys (ABS)

Written: Page 65-66, 26 February 2014

Senator PRATT asked:

3005. Senator PRATT: Is there a list of work that you are not proceeding with other than this particular survey, the surveys that have been cancelled?

Ms van Halderen: No.

Senator PRATT: Can you provide such a list for the committee?

Mr Palmer: A list of work that we are not doing?

Senator PRATT: Of regular surveys that, if you like, are now no longer done.

Senator LUDWIG: The response was qualified, so when I hear a qualified response I always think you should perhaps take it on notice. In that instance it was not a definitive yes or no. If it is a no, confirm that, but is there work that you normally contract to do that you now will not do, or work which is coming up in the next 12 or 18 months or two years that you normally do that you will not now do?

Mr Palmer: There is work that we have taken off our work program due to funding constraints, so WoLFS and at the same time we removed a survey of tourist accommodation. We reduced the frequency of that one. So in some cases we cancel things and in other cases we just modify the frequency or scope.

Senator LUDWIG: That was my next question.

CHAIR: No more questions, Senator Ludwig. We have run out of time; we have gone over already.

Senator LUDWIG: They have decided to take that on notice. Also those that you have curtailed.

Answer:

3005. The regular ABS surveys that would have been, or will have been conducted but have been cancelled or postponed since 1 July 2012 to date (31 March 2014) are:

- Cancellation of the 2013 cycle of the Work, Life and Family Survey (WoLFS).
- Cancellation of the release of the Business Research and Development (BR&D) All Sector Summary and the associated detailed Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (R&D) estimates.
- Change in release frequency of the:
 - BR&D Survey from annual to biennial;
 - Survey of Tourist Accommodation (STA), from quarterly to annual.

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- Reduction in the level of detail of the BR&D (Field of Research, Socio-economic objective and Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification) across all four sectors - business, government, private non-profit and higher education.