

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Question No: 115

Topic: Administration

Reference: Written

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

1. How many briefs in total have gone from the ACCC and AER to Ministers since the 2016 Federal Election?
2. How many briefs have been signed
3. What is the average time that a brief has been in each relevant Minister's office?
4. Please list the titles and dates of each brief
5. Please list the topics and areas on which the ACCC and AER have briefed the Minister
6. Have any meetings been held between Ministers and senior ACCC officials? On what dates have those meetings occurred? Please provide copies of the agendas, talking points, and any action minutes taken at each of these meetings.
7. Does a regular meeting occur between the ACCC and, separately, the AER and the relevant Minister? How frequently do these meetings occur? Please provide copies of the agendas, talking points, and any action minutes taken at each of the last 12 of these meetings.
8. Does a regular meeting occur between the ACCC and, separately, the AER and the ministerial advisers? How frequently do these meetings occur? Please provide copies of the agendas, talking points, and any action minutes taken at each of the last 12 of these meetings."

Answer:

1-5. The ACCC and AER provide briefs to relevant ministers on a range of matters, either providing information on relevant issues, detailing a report to be tabled in Parliament or to make a recommendation. The ACCC is not in a position to disclose the nature of its advice to Government.

6. Minister's diaries are a matter for them.

7-8. The ACCC and AER meet with relevant Ministers and ministerial advisers as required or on a needs basis to ensure they are kept informed of activities in line with the Government's Statement of Expectations and the Statement of Intent, available online:

- ACCC: <https://www.accc.gov.au/system/files/ACCC%20Statement%20of%20Intent%20-%2026%20June%202014.pdf>
- AER: <https://www.aer.gov.au/communication/aer-publishes-statement-of-intent-for-2014-15>.

Meetings may not necessarily involve formal agendas or action minutes with topics discussed relating to upcoming ACCC or AER announcements and Government policy items impacting the ACCC or AER. To attempt to provide this information specifically would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.