

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

**Department/Agency:** Treasury

**Question:** SBT 4263

**Topic:** Paid Parental Leave - Meeting with State Treasuries

**Reference:** Hansard page no. 19 - 22 October 2014

**Senator:** Wong, Penny

**Question:**

Senator WONG: When did you first start meeting with state treasuries about this?

Ms Croke: We started having discussions with state and territory treasuries before Christmas. I would have to confirm that. I think we had our first telephone conference before Christmas.

Senator WONG: You think it concluded some time after the budget?

Ms Croke: Certainly, it was around May. I would have to take on notice an exact time. I do know, though, that at the COAG meeting in May PPL was discussed.

Senator WONG: Are you able, on notice, to give me details of those meetings? How many meetings were held? Was it a steering group or a working group? How did you describe it?

Ms Croke: It was a working group. I could certainly take on notice how many times—

Senator WONG: Yes, take it on notice so that I can get a sense of that.

Ms Croke: Okay.

**Answer:**

**SBT 4263.** Following the Senior Official Meeting in November and COAG in December 2013, it was agreed Senior Officials and Commonwealth and State and Territory (State) Treasuries' would undertake work on implementation arrangements and funding for the proposed new PPL scheme. A Working Group was established to develop a possible methodology for calculating State financial contributions to the new, national Paid Parental Leave (PPL) scheme. This work by Treasuries was one aspect of broader COAG consideration of State contributions and delivery arrangements under the new PPL scheme.

Commonwealth and State Treasuries held four meetings on 10 December 2013; 20 December 2013; 21 January 2014 and 18 February 2014. The Treasuries' Working Group concluded its work after the COAG meeting of 2 May 2014, which considered a proposed funding model for States' financial contributions to a new PPL scheme.