

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1 March 2017  
 Defence Portfolio/Department of Veterans' Affairs/Australian War Memorial

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page or Written QoN	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
	<b>Australian War Memorial</b>						
1	Australian War Memorial	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>SACE visitors</b>	<b>CHAIR:</b> Thank you, Dr Nelson. On the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience, can you give us an update including, if on notice, the number of visitors who have been through in the different locations?	102	5/05/17	
2	Australian War Memorial	<b>BACK</b>	<b>End of First World War Commemorations 2018</b>	<b>CHAIR:</b> Before I go to Senator Fawcett, the presence of the Israeli Prime Minister in Sydney last week reminded me of the events at Beersheba on 31 October. I wonder to what extent the War Memorial is involved in that commemoratives process. <b>Dr Nelson:</b> The Department of Veterans' Affairs is overseeing a major event which will commemorate Beersheba in October. <b>CHAIR:</b> We will perhaps leave that to further discussion with— <b>Dr Nelson:</b> We are providing some material for the interpretive centre that is being constructed there and we will also provide a commemorative service for Beersheba at the War Memorial at our last post. We will also bring for public display objects that we have to complement what is already in our First World War galleries. <b>CHAIR:</b> I will put you on notice as well. That, of course, is the events leading up to commemorating the end of the First World War in 2018.	103	5/05/17	
3	Australian War Memorial	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Ministerial Functions</b>	In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio since 1 January 2016, can the following please be provided: a) List of functions; b) List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister's family or personal staff; c) Function venue; d) Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e) Details of any food served; f) Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g) Details of any entertainment provided.	Written	5/05/17	
4	Australian War Memorial	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Vacancies</b>	Please provide a list of all statutory, board and legislated office vacancies and other significant appointments vacancies within the portfolio, including length of time vacant and current acting arrangements.	Written	5/05/17	
5	Australian War Memorial	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Consultancies</b>	Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive) for spending in calendar year 2016 on external consultants/service providers in the following categories please be provided: a) social media; b) photography; c) graphic design; d) web design; e) electronic communications; f) acting or public speaking training; g) ergonomics.	Written	5/05/17	
6	Australian War Memorial	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Cost of Gifts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of all gifts purchased for use by departmental officials in calendar year 2016? Can an itemised list of gifts and costs thereof (GST inclusive) please be provided?</del></li> <li>• <del>Who was the recipient of each gift? For what purpose was each gift given?</del></li> </ul> a) What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of all gifts purchased for use by <u>Ministers in the portfolio</u> in calendar year 2016? b) Can an itemised list of gifts and costs thereof (GST inclusive) please be provided? c) Which Minister gave each gift? d) Who was the recipient of each gift? e) For what purpose was each gift given?	Written	5/05/17	

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	<b>DVA</b>						
7	Commemorations & War Graves	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>Budget expenditure – Villers-Bretonneux</b>	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Yes. So we got some information some time ago and we looked at the budget expenditure for 2017-18 and 2016-17. So \$2.1 million in 2016-17 is to be spent managing the project?</p> <p><b>Major Gen. Chalmers:</b> I would have to take that on notice. I only have the broad figures in front of me. So, unless my colleague has those detailed figures—</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> I will just go back. In 2015-16, there was \$1.4 million, rising to 2.1 million in 2016-17. My line of questioning then was: how much are you spending on airfares flying up and down to manage the contract? On notice, could you please provide that completed expenditure?</p> <p><b>Major Gen. Chalmers:</b> Certainly, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Thank you.</p>	136-137	5/05/17	
8	Commemorations and War Graves	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Advertising and information campaigns</b>	<p>a) How much has the Department spent on advertising and information campaigns since 1 October 2016 (GST inclusive)? Can a list of all Contract Notice IDs for the Austender website in relation to advertising and information campaign contracts please be provided?</p> <p>b) How much did the Department spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored Facebook posts in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)?</p> <p>c) How much did the Department spend on Google adwords advertising in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)?</p>	Written	5/05/17	
9	Commemorations and War Graves	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Market research</b>	<p>a) How much did the Department spend on market research in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)?</p> <p>b) Can a list of all market research contracts entered into please be provided, together with the Austender Contract Notice number?</p> <p>c) What was the purpose of this market research?</p> <p>d) Did it relate to an advertising or information campaign? If so, which campaign?</p>	Written	5/05/17	
10	Commemorations and War Graves	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Media and Public Relations</b>	<p>a) How much has the Department spent on media monitoring since 1 October 2016 (GST inclusive)?</p> <p>b) Can a list of all Contract Notice IDs for the Austender website in relation to media monitoring contracts please be provided?</p> <p>c) How many media or public relations advisers are employed in the Department? At what APS level (eg EL2, APS5) is each staff member employed?</p> <p>d) Can an organisational chart for the relevant area of the Department please be provided?</p> <p>e) What was the total cost of employing relevant staff in calendar year 2016 (please provide a global figure)?</p>	Written	11/05/17	
11	Corporate (MaPS coordinated)	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>2016 Election Commitments</b>	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> We will not pursue that any further. This next question probably needs to be taken on notice. The government made a number of election commitments prior to the 2016 federal election. Can the department provide a breakdown, on notice, of the government's election commitments, including any deadlines for delivery and the legislated requirements that will be necessitated by way of either regulation or legislation to implement those election commitments?</p> <p><b>Mr Lewis:</b> Certainly.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> I am advised here that you have probably had some practice with that because Senator Ronaldson asked for it when he was in opposition. So there might be a template there somewhere.</p> <p><b>Mr Lewis:</b> We are happy to assist.</p>	130	11/05/17	

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12	Corporate (MaPS coordinated)	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>2016 Election Commitments attainability</b>	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Also, can the department advise which of these commitments have been met and which have not; what financial impacts these have had, or will have; and whether there are any commitments, in the department's view, which are unattainable by way of budgetary requirements or legislation/regulatory provisions.</p> <p><b>Senator Payne:</b> I am not sure the department will provide an opinion as such on that, Senator, but—</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> I am sure we will get an appropriate response on those.</p> <p><b>Senator Payne:</b> the department will respond as best as they can.</p>	130	5/05/17	
13	Corporate (MaPS coordinated)	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Ministerial Functions</b>	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio since 1 January 2016, can the following please be provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of functions;</li> <li>List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister's family or personal staff;</li> <li>Function venue;</li> <li>Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>Details of any food served;</li> <li>Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ol>	Written	11/05/17	
14	Corporate (MaPS coordinated)	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Corporate Functions</b>	<p>In relation to expenditure on any departmental functions or official receptions etc since 1 January 2016, can the following please be provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List of functions;</li> <li>List of attendees;</li> <li>Function venue;</li> <li>Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>Details of any food served;</li> <li>Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ol>	Written	5/05/17	
15	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Cost of Plants and Gardens</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of acquiring and maintaining indoor plants for all departmental premises in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of external gardens and landscaping for all departmental premises in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of acquiring and maintaining indoor plants for ministerial offices in calendar year 2016? Please provide separate figures for each Minister's office in the portfolio, covering ministerial offices both at Parliament House and elsewhere.</li> </ol>	Written	20/04/17	
16	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Cost of Subscriptions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of subscriptions to print and online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals etc in calendar year 2016 for the Department? Please provide a complete list of each service top which the Department subscribed.</li> <li>What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of subscriptions to print and online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals etc in calendar year 2016 for Ministers in the portfolio? Please provide a complete list of each service top which ministerial offices subscribed.</li> </ol>	Written	11/05/17	
17	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Cost of Gifts</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of all gifts purchased for use by departmental officials in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>Can an itemised list of gifts and costs thereof (GST inclusive) please be provided?</li> </ol>	Written	5/05/17	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) Who was the recipient of each gift?</li> <li>d) For what purpose was each gift given?</li> <li>e) What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of all gifts purchased for use by Ministers in the portfolio in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>f) Can an itemised list of gifts and costs thereof (GST inclusive) please be provided?</li> <li>g) Which Minister gave each gift?</li> <li>h) Who was the recipient of each gift?</li> <li>i) For what purpose was each gift given?</li> </ul>			
18	Corporate (MaPS coordinated)	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Water Coolers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of providing water coolers at departmental premises in calendar year 2016? Please provide a breakdown of costs for acquiring and maintaining/resupplying water coolers.</li> <li>b) What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of providing water coolers to ministerial offices in calendar year 2016? Please provide a breakdown of costs for acquiring and maintaining/resupplying water coolers.</li> </ul>	Written	5/05/17	
19	Corporate (MaPS coordinated)	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Cost of Snacks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of supplying fruit and other snacks at departmental premises in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>b) What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of supplying fruit and other snacks to ministerial offices in calendar year 2016? Please provide a breakdown of the costs for each separate ministerial office, covering both offices at Parliament House and elsewhere.</li> </ul>	Written	20/04/17	
20	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Coffee Machines</b>	<p>Can an itemised list of coffee machines at departmental premises please be provided including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) make and model;</li> <li>(ii) purchase or lease cost;</li> <li>(iii) ongoing maintenance costs;</li> <li>(iv) ongoing cost of supplying coffee and other consumables?</li> </ul>	Written	20/04/17	
21	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Mobile devices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) How many mobile telephones are currently on issue to departmental to staff?</li> <li>b) Can an itemised list showing make and model please be provided?</li> <li>c) How many new mobile phones were purchased by the Department in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>d) What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of purchasing mobile telephones for departmental staff in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>e) How many mobile telephones had to be replaced due to damage in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST inclusive)?</li> <li>f) How many mobile telephones were reported lost or stolen in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST inclusive)?</li> <li>g) How many iPads/tablets are currently on issue to departmental staff?</li> <li>h) Can an itemised list showing make and model please be provided?</li> <li>i) How many new iPads /tablets were purchased by the Department in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>j) What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of purchasing ipads/tablets for departmental staff in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>k) How many iPads tablets had to be replaced due to damage in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST inclusive)?</li> <li>l) How many iPads /tablets were reported lost or stolen in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST inclusive)?</li> </ul>	Written	20/04/17	
22	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Stationary and paper</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) How much did the Department spend on stationary and office supplies (excluding paper) in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)?</li> <li>b) How much did the Department spend on paper in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)?</li> </ul>	Written	20/04/17	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) What brand of paper does the Department use?</li> <li>d) Is this paper Australian made?</li> <li>e) If no, why doesn't the Department buy Australian made paper?</li> </ul>			
23	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Executive office</b>	Have the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, been upgraded since 1 October 2016? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive)?	Written	20/04/17	
24	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Facilities upgrades</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Have the facilities of any of the Department's premises been upgraded since 1 October 2016, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</li> <li>b) If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade please be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive)? Can any photographs of the upgraded facilities please be provided?</li> </ul>	Written	5/05/17	
25	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Vacancies</b>	Please provide a list of all statutory, board and legislated office vacancies and other significant appointments vacancies within the portfolio, including length of time vacant and current acting arrangements.	Written	20/04/17	
26	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Redundancies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) How many staff were made redundant in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>b) How many were voluntary redundancies?</li> <li>c) How many were forced redundancies?</li> <li>d) What was the total cost of all redundancies (expressed as a single global figure)?</li> <li>e) Have any staff made redundant in calendar year 2016 subsequently carried out work for the Department as a contractor? If so, please provide an itemised list of relevant contracts and related Austender Contract Notice numbers.</li> </ul>	Written	20/04/17	
27	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Websites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by departmental staff in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>b) What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by departmental staff in calendar year 2016?</li> </ul>	Written	20/04/17	
28	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Consultancies</b>	<p>Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive) for spending in calendar year 2016 on external consultants/service providers in the following categories please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) social media;</li> <li>(ii) photography;</li> <li>(iii) graphic design;</li> <li>(iv) web design</li> <li>(v) electronic communications</li> <li>(vi) acting or public speaking training;</li> <li>(vii) ergonomics.</li> </ul>	Written	20/04/17	
29	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>iTunes/Android</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Does the Department have an iTunes account? If so, what was the total expenditure on iTunes in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through iTunes in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>b) Does the Department have an Android account? If so, what was the total expenditure on Android in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through Android in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>c) Do any ministerial offices in the portfolio have an iTunes account? If so, what was the total expenditure on iTunes in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? Please provide separate figures for each Minister. What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through iTunes in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>d) Do any ministerial offices have an Android account? If so, what was the total expenditure on Android in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? Please provide separate figures for each Minister. What</li> </ul>	Written	20/04/17	

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				applications/subscriptions/services purchased through Android in calendar year 2016?			
30	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Flights</b>	What was the Department's total expenditure on flights for departmental staff in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)?	Written	20/04/17	
31	Corporate	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Ground transport</b>	What was the Department's total expenditure on the following categories of ground transport in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive): (i) Taxi hire; (ii) Limousine hire; (iii) Private hire car; and (iv) Ridesharing services.		20/04/17	
32	DALAS	<b>ROBERTS</b>	<b>Costs of Legal Services</b>	<b>Senator ROBERTS:</b> That is what I would have guessed and staff would have guessed as well. How much money has DVA spent on lawyers and legal action in the last year and also over the last 10 years? <b>Ms Spiers:</b> I can answer the question about the last full financial year and half-year to date for you. Over the last 10 years I would have to take on notice. <b>Senator ROBERTS:</b> Okay. <b>Ms Spiers:</b> In terms of half-year to date: we break this up as we are required to under the legal services direction, because we have to report this annually to the Office of Legal Services Coordination. External legal costs expenditure half-year to date is \$3,626,593.03. I am not sure about the 3c though!	125	5/05/17	
33	DALAS	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>Policy and implementation feedback</b>	a) Has the Department received any feedback from stakeholders that relevant DVA legislation and current DVA policy implementation and advice often run contradictory to one another? b) Are any efforts been made to address and rectify this, if so what is been done?	written	20/04/17	
34	DALAS	<b>BILYK</b>	<b>Legal Costs for 2016</b>	a) What was the Department's total spend on external legal services (including services provided by the Australian Government Solicitor) (GST inclusive) for calendar year 2016? b) Can an itemised list of costs of each legal matter (GST inclusive) please be provided? c) Can a list of relevant Contract Notices published on Austender please be provided?	written	5/05/17	
35	Health & Community Services	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>Suicide data matched to ComSuper data</b>	<b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Just one observation on the recording of suicides: I have some interaction with the superannuation fund, and I presume everyone in Defence is now in a superannuation fund, and the death payments that are paid out are an easily accessible resource for knowing who got what and how they died. Do you interact with the superannuation fund? <b>Mr Lewis:</b> We do. <b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Are those statistics not easily available? Why do you have to wait for a coronial inquest when we are paying out, on a regular basis, people's superannuation accounts, because their dependants need the money? <b>Ms Champion:</b> Part of the work that the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare originally undertook when they were looking at the issue of suicides was to try to use the ComSuper data, but we might have to take it on notice to give you the details because I cannot quite recall— <b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> I would appreciate it if you would, because— <b>Ms Champion:</b> There were some technical details and issues about how they could match the ComSuper data with Defence. <b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> I know of another industry that has a horrendous record of suicides, and they have that data	128-129	20/04/17	

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				<p>from the superannuation fund that represents that industry.</p> <p><b>Mr Lewis:</b> You have reminded me that there was an issue there because that was the first way we tried to use this as a way of tracking these things. We will take it on notice and give you a proper answer.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Thank you. I just wanted to go to—oh, it is a political issue. All that goodwill is evaporating now.</p>			
36	Health & Community Services	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>Service provision in rural areas</b>	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> When we encourage people to go into rural areas they only do their time and move on. Is there anything you are doing—I know a lot of health departments are doing this—to encourage providers to extend services into regional areas? Is there any involvement from the department in encouraging people to provide services and meet the gaps?</p> <p><b>Ms Campion:</b> I am not aware of any specific initiatives. I might have to take that on notice. As you mentioned, the health department has a range of programs to encourage people to train and work in rural areas, but I am not sure that we have anything in particular.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> I am happy for you to take it on notice.</p>	134-135	20/04/17	
37	Health & Community Services	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>Service Monitoring in Rural Areas</b>	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> I am happy for you to take it on notice. While you are there, is there any proactive monitoring of services across the country, particularly rural and regional areas, to identify shortcomings, particularly in respect of specialised treatment in rural and regional areas? Have you done that in the past?</p> <p><b>Ms Campion:</b> No. As I said, we do not have a particular program to do that. It is more an ongoing process of monitoring, as I said before, what the trends are in terms of requests we get for assistance for travel for treatment or for finding providers nearby who will accept our arrangements. It is an ongoing piece of work that we keep an eye on.</p>	135	20/04/17	
38	Health and Community Services	<b>KAKOSCHKE-MOORE</b>	<b>Assistant Dogs</b>	<p><b>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE:</b> Was I correct, then—and please correct me if I am wrong: has DVA approved an assistance dog to date?</p> <p><b>Ms Foreman:</b> Yes, for people who have sensory and physical conditions. We have a framework for that, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE:</b> Okay. Just in light of what was said, I wanted to double-check my understanding of the circumstances in which those approvals took place. So, there is more than one?</p> <p><b>Ms Foreman:</b> We might have to take that on notice. I am aware of one.</p> <p><b>Senator Payne:</b> Sorry—what was that question, Senator?</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> The question was on financial support for a veteran having, or the cost of, a dog, but it has been on the basis of a defined condition—</p> <p><b>Ms Foreman:</b> Sensory condition.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> which clearly the dog assists with.</p> <p><b>Senator Payne:</b> I am interested in Senator Kakoschke-Moore's questioning. I might take it up with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs myself.</p> <p><b>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE:</b> Thank you.</p>	112	5/05/17	
39	Health and Community Services	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>2010 Steering Committee into Veterans Health Recommendations</b>	<p>a) What recommendations of the 2010 Steering Committee into Veterans health were implemented by the Department?</p> <p>b) Where can these recommendations be located?</p>	Written	20/04/17	

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40	Health and Community Services	GALLACHER	Veterans Health	<p>a) How many specialist providers have agreements with DVA?</p> <p>b) What is the number of specialist services which has been provided to health card holder (by specialist category) over the last five years? Can this please be provided as a breakdown over each financial year.</p> <p>c) What is the waiting time for veterans to access specialists? Can this please be provided as a breakdown over each financial year.</p>	Written	20/04/17	
41	Health and Community Services	GALLACHER	Mefloquine health studies	Has the Government undertaken follow up health studies on the ADF members participated in the Bougainville and East Timor drug trials? If not, why not?	Written	20/04/17	
42	Health and Community Services	GALLACHER	Mefloquine/Tafenoquine	<p>a) Is the Department aware of any work being undertaken to register Tafenoquine with the TGA?</p> <p>b) Has the department been involved in this process or been approached to provide any assistance to register the drug?</p> <p>c) If so, what is this assistance?</p>	Written	5/05/17	
43	Health and Community Services	GALLACHER	Veteran Suicide data and involvement	<p>a) Can the Department provide or update any data on the number of veteran suicides for 2016?</p> <p>b) Can the department advise the number so far for 2017?</p> <p>c) How does the department become aware of a veterans' suicide?</p> <p>d) What involvement does the department have when a coronial inquest is underway?</p> <p>e) What involvement does the department have with the coroner broadly on matters related to the deaths of veterans?</p>	Written	5/05/17	
44	DALAS	KAKOSCHKE-MOORE	Digital Readiness Bill	<p><b>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE:</b> I apologise but I do not have those sections of the social security act to hand. Is section 208 narrower in scope than section 202 in terms of the type of information that can be released?</p> <p><b>Ms Spiers:</b> I am not sure. I do not have 208 with me—I have 202. But 208 is the public interest disclosure equivalent that allows the ability for the Minister for Social Services to make rules for the purposes of the disclosure. There are no rule-making powers as far as I can read with section 202, which is the provision I am told was the fundamental underpinning of the disclosure at the weekend.</p> <p><b>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE:</b> I see. There were no rules governing the release of information under that particular section of the act?</p> <p><b>Ms Spiers:</b> To the best of my knowledge. But, as I said, I am relying on media reports that suggested that it was section 202. It is a disclosure power at section 202, and it is not the provision that we were relying on as the equivalent disclosure provisions for the public interest disclosure rules that were developed in the digital readiness bill.</p> <p><b>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE:</b> If you could confirm your understanding of that on notice that would be fantastic.</p> <p><b>Senator MOORE:</b> Ms Spiers, we met the other day.</p> <p><b>Ms Spiers:</b> Yes, Senator.</p>	113	20/04/17	
45	Rehabilitation & Support	LUDLAM	British Nuclear Tests	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> I recognise that you might need to throw this to the minister if this is considered a policy question, but is there any chance, while there are still some of these people left, that we could just hook them up to an automatic gold card entitlement?</p> <p><b>Ms Foreman:</b> That is probably not a question I can answer at this stage.</p> <p><b>Senator Payne:</b> I do not have any advice on that, but I will take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> If you could, I would greatly appreciate it. Do you have any figures on how many of these individuals might already have a gold card entitlement? I do not know that we have ever seen that before.</p> <p><b>Ms Foreman:</b> I do not think that we do. Can I take that on notice. Some of them would have, but not from their</p>	128	20/04/17	



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				<p>British nuclear test experience but from their service elsewhere.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> I am not sure we have ever been able to establish what proportion of those people—</p> <p><b>Ms Foreman:</b> No, I do not have that figure on me, but I will see if I can get it.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> I appreciate it, and Senator Payne has undertaken to find out if there is anything in the works.</p>			
46	Rehabilitation & Support	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>Grant Approvals</b>	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> So the department simply assessed all of these projects. For the ones that have met the criteria, you have applied some scrutiny and due diligence to it, and you have recommended them up. Only 33 projects went out for the \$500,000; is that how it went?</p> <p><b>Ms Vardos:</b> In that particular round. The department receives for this program, I think, anywhere between 100 and 200—I would have to take the exact number on notice—and the majority of the applicants actually get their grants up. It is very rare, in this program, not to have them up. Where there are concerns that their grant applications do not meet the guidelines for the program, we will work with those organisations to make sure that their grants are in line so that they can be accepted in the next round. The figures that you are talking about, I suspect, are in relation to that particular round, but there will be other rounds. As I mentioned, there are generally four, but it could be up to six rounds per annum, depending on the year.</p>	130	20/04/17	
47	Rehabilitation & Support	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>Mefloquine Support Team</b>	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Has the Minister for Veterans' Affairs has undertaken to establish a dedicated DVA mefloquine support team?</p> <p><b>Dr Gardner:</b> That has been done. I mentioned earlier that we have this processing team in Melbourne who have been taught. The other part of it is that in the two weeks before the Townsville outreach program in December, I hosted an evening meeting in Townsville for general practitioners and clinical psychologists to bring them up to date, in conjunction with the ADF, on anything to do with mefloquine. We got their signed consent, so that when veterans came to those Townsville three-day meetings—we had the 91 people—if anyone said, 'My doctor does not know about mefloquine. Who can I see?' We will say, without recommending, 'Here is a list of five doctors, pick one of these. All of these people know about this and are prepared to help you if they can.'</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> How many FTEs would have been in this dedicated team?</p> <p><b>Dr Gardner:</b> I believe there are four, but I would have to double check that. John Geary might be able to give us the numbers.</p>	117	20/04/17	
48	Rehabilitation & Support	<b>ROBERTS</b>	<b>Compensation Claims</b>	<p><b>Senator ROBERTS:</b> How many claims for compensation from Australian military veterans were rejected by DVA in the last 12 months, in last five years and in the last 10 years, and what are the percentages?</p> <p><b>Mr Orme:</b> We will have to take that question and the detail on notice, but I highlighted to you earlier the number of decisions that were taken. For primary decisions, in 2015-16 there were 44,588 and in 2014-15 there were 48,711. So DVA make in the order of 50,000 primary decisions for establishing initial liability a year. On top of that, as we discussed previously, the secretary mentioned the non-liability health care. We now have two tracks. The key element is that, where liability is established, we provide treatment once a liability is determined. The second part of that phase is then determining the level of impairment and, if you like, compensation. In non-liability health care, we have people immediately into treatment upon calling the department and saying they have one of those five conditions mentioned previously. That is non-liability health care, where we separate the requirement for establishing liability and immediately get the veteran into treatment.</p> <p><b>Senator ROBERTS:</b> Yes, I have talked with the department secretary and John Harris, and I met with the minister during the break, and we are going to do something to help publicise that tomorrow or the next day.</p> <p><b>Mr Lewis:</b> If I could say one thing about the question you have asked, though: we have said we can take it on notice, but you have mentioned going back five or 10 years and I am not sure our system is going to be good enough to give you what you want. But we will take it on notice and see what is available.</p>	123-124	20/04/17	

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page or Written QoN	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
49	Rehabilitation & Support	GALLACHER	Industry Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) How many business people have signed on to be a part of the Industry Advisory Committee?</li> <li>b) Who are they?</li> <li>c) Are they a cross section of industries?</li> <li>d) What consideration is given to ensuring different sectors are involved?</li> <li>e) Can the department provide the breakdown of the gender of the members?</li> <li>f) Is the Department proactively asking different businesses to be involved? If yes, how many?</li> </ul>	Written	20/04/17	
50	Rehabilitation & Support	GALLACHER	Advocacy, Training and Development Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) How is the Advocacy, Training and Development Program delivered to individuals?</li> <li>b) If this is through Registered Training Organisation's (RTO's), how many RTO's deliver the program?</li> <li>c) Where are they located?</li> </ul>	Written	20/04/17	
51	Rehabilitation & Support	GALLACHER	Claims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Can the Department advise the current average length of time a DVA claim takes from lodgement to a final decision being made?</li> <li>b) Can the Department advise how many claims were accepted and how many were rejected?</li> </ul>	Written	20/04/17	
52	Rehabilitation & Support	KAKOSCHKE -MOORE	Communication strategy for changes to non-liability health care	<p>Mr Roberts-Smith as head of the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce reported that many of the old men who came to the Taskforce had been abused in the Defence Forces when they were boys and they have suffered lifelong impacts and many are living in social isolation and affected by mental health problems, alcoholism and other substance abuse.</p> <p>It is well known that individuals suffering mental health, alcoholism and other substance abuse issues often have increased occurrence of physical health problems reduced life expectancy.</p> <p>These men are now entitled to Non-Liability Health Care and - in view of changes to decision Guidelines - now have better prospects of establishing entitlement to other veterans' benefits for themselves and for their families. If these men die before they have established their entitlements, then there will be very little chance for their families to establish entitlements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Does the Department accept that there is an urgent need to communicate with these men and alert them to these changes?</li> <li>b) Has the Government given any direction to the Department about what priority is to be given to communicating with these men?</li> <li>c) What is the strategy to reach older male veterans?</li> </ul>	Written	20/04/17	
53	Rehabilitation & Support	KAKOSCHKE -MOORE	Communication strategy for changes to guidelines	<p>It is now 8 months since Justice McClellan in the Child Abuse Royal Commission asked the representative of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to take back his 'advice' that the Guidelines for DVA delegates to consider were not in accordance with the law. Departmental officers stated in October Estimates hearings that the Repatriation Commission and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission had agreed in September to changes to these Guidelines. Those Departmental officers also said that there would have to be a communications strategy.</p> <p>The targets for communicating are old men living in social isolation affected by mental health and substance abuse issues.</p> <p>Does the Department accept that these men are not likely to be reached by twitter, Facebook and website messages but</p>	Written	5/05/17	

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page or Written QoN	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p>are likely to be reached by Television and radio coverage?</p> <p>a) Does the Department accept that children affected by abuse who left the Defence Forces after a short time are not likely to be involved with Veterans' organisations and are therefore not likely to be reached by messages to those organisations?</p> <p>I have not seen or heard any messages in mainstream media – television, radio or newspapers about these changes or about NLHC.</p> <p>b) Is the Minister proposing to appear on television and radio to reach out to these victims?</p> <p>c) If not will senior Departmental officers use those options for communicating with these old men?</p>			
54	Rehabilitation & Support	<b>KAKOSCHKE -MOORE</b>	<b>Barriers to access compensation</b>	<p>In the Processes to Support Victims of Abuse report in October 2014 the FADT Committee recommended - recommendation 6 - that the Department of Veterans' Affairs be directed to identify and report to Government on practical and legal barriers for victims of abuse to access DVA benefits. The Department stated in Estimates in 2015 that the Department would report to the Minister in early 2016.</p> <p>a) Has the Department made that report?</p> <p>b) If not why not?</p> <p>c) When does it propose to report?</p> <p>In its October 2014 Processes to Support Victims report the FADT Committee recommended – (recommendation 7) - that consideration be given to options for providing funding to assist organisations like COMBADAS.</p> <p>d) Has the Department reported to Government on that issue?</p> <p>e) If not why not?</p>	Written	20/04/17	
55	Rehabilitation & Support	<b>KAKOSCHKE -MOORE</b>	<b>Rehabilitation</b>	<p>a) Up until the end of 2016, how many current and former serving members were being provided with Rehabilitation as a result of disabilities caused through either warlike or non-war like injuries?</p> <p>b) On average how much in dollar terms is being spent on each recipient annually?</p> <p>c) How many Rehabilitation Providers are contracted to DVA currently both Australia wide and in each state?</p> <p>d) Against the total numbers of recipients, how many people have been returned to part or full time employment outside the ADF in the past 3 years?</p> <p>e) Are you able to also include any cases of former Rehabilitation recipients who have become self-employed?</p> <p>f) Can DVA provide the qualification criteria each Provider places on its Case Workers who deal with former or current serving ADF Members?</p> <p>g) Do DVA demand a certain qualification criteria for each of its Contractors/ Providers?</p> <p>h) What is the hourly rate paid to these Providers?</p> <p>i) Do Providers have to achieve a certain quota to receive and maintain their DVA Endorsement?</p> <p>j) What communication has DVA had with their rehab providers, regarding what programs they can send people to?</p> <p>k) Is there a central referral database they can be referred to?</p>	Written	5/05/17	
56	Transformation	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>PwC Contract</b>	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> All right. Thank you very much for that. If I can move to probably one of the most pressing issues in the department—the ICT systems upgrades. PwC has been engaged by the Department of Finance's Business Advisory Panel. They have come up with \$18.7 million to develop a second-pass business case. Did you meet the deadline on that? Is that completed and submitted to government?</p> <p><b>Ms Cosson:</b> I will just give you an introduction, if I may. The PwC contract, which I think you may have been referencing off our AusTender—I think there was a duplication in its reporting, for one thing. I think the contract value is just over \$9 million—so not the value you just mentioned. With our second-pass business case, as you know, in the budget last year we received some funding to develop that business case to be considered as part of our budget process this year. I can report to the committee that we are on track. I am very pleased with the quality of that report. PwC was a strategic partner to give us advice in the development of that business case because it requires a range of artefacts and it requires us to engage very closely with a number of agencies, but also to look at the digital standards that are required to present a large ICT project. At the moment that business case has been circulated and, as I mentioned, it is now part of the budget process. It has picked up a range of feedback that, as I mentioned—</p>	106-107	20/04/17	

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page or Written QoN	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> I have a number of questions. Can you clarify what you just said to us then? I am talking about Department of Finance business advisory panel from 8 August 2016 until yesterday, 28 February at a cost of \$18.7 million. Are you saying that is wrong? Is it only \$9 million?</p> <p><b>Ms Cosson:</b> I would have to—</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> I think you mentioned a figure of \$9 million.</p> <p><b>Ms Cosson:</b> Yes. Through AusTender, which I do have in my folder, we entered into a contract with PwC for our second pass business case for them to provide the service as a strategic partner. I think the value of that contract was about \$9 million.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Okay. Can we just clarify that?</p> <p><b>Mr Lewis:</b> We might need to check that.</p>			
57	Transformation	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>Business case for transforming DVA</b>	<p>The DVA Budget factsheet for 2016/17 states “\$24.8 was provided to DVA to develop a business case for transforming DVA’s business operations and technology systems to be client focused, responsive and connected. DVA will receive funding of \$18.7 million and will work with the veteran community and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop the business case. DHS will receive \$6.1 million specifically to design the modern information, communication and technology solution that will underpin the business case and integrate with their new whole of government payment system solution.”</p> <p>a) Can the department provide the breakdown of where this funding went?</p> <p>b) How much was paid to PWC to develop the second pass business case?</p>	written	20/04/17	
58	Transformation	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>VAN Offices Information</b>	<p>Can the department please provide the following information in relation to VAN offices –</p> <p>a) Location of each van office</p> <p>b) Staff numbers</p> <p>c) FTE allocation</p> <p>d) Opening hours of each office</p>	written	20/04/17	
59	Transformation	<b>GALLACHER</b>	<b>VAN Office Closures</b>	<p>Can the Department advise when the last VAN office was closed and where this was located? How are services being provided to this community?</p>	written	20/04/17	
60	Corporate	<b>XENOPHON</b>	<b>Government Waste – Department of Veteran Affairs</b>	<p>Given that government and opposition politicians have all raised concerns over time and had policies on government waste:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is there a central government authority responsible for the elimination of waste?</li> <li>2. If so <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is there a government wide definition on the meaning of ‘waste’, and if so, what is that definition?</li> <li>b. How does this central government authority monitor and manage waste within the Department?</li> <li>c. Is there a central government mechanism (e.g. phone number, email address, web site) for public servants or contractors to report Departmental waste?</li> <li>d. How much Departmental waste was identified by the central government authority in FY 13/14, FY 14/15 and FY 15/16?</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. If not: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is there a departmental definition on the meaning of ‘waste’, and if so, what is that definition?</li> <li>b. What are the Department’s arrangements for monitoring and managing waste?</li> <li>c. Is there a central Departmental mechanism (e.g. phone number, email address, web site) for public servants or contractors to report Departmental waste?</li> <li>d. How much waste was identified by the Department in FY 13/14, FY 14/15 and FY 15/16?</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. In either case: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Can Departmental officers or contractors report waste anonymously?</li> <li>b. Are they afforded a protection if they do so?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	written	20/04/17	

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page or Written QoN	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled

**LEGEND**

Division	No. of QoNs
R&S	11
HCS	9
CWG	4
Corporate	21
Transformation	4
AWM	6
DALAS	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58</b>
Referred	1