

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Budget Estimates 2013 - 14; 3 June 2014
Answers to questions on notice from Department of Veterans' Affairs

Question 1

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Mental Health issues among veterans

(FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p. 81)

Senator FAWCETT asked:

Senator FAWCETT: The minister mentioned that a veteran does not have to establish their mental health condition is related to service before being able to access treatment. Can you just tell us what percentage of people who seek support are in that category?

Mr Carmody: I might get somebody else to assist me in answering the percentage. That is in the non-liability space.

Ms Daniel: I think we would have to take that on notice.

Senator FAWCETT: I am happy to take that on notice. I am glad that they can get the treatment without having to go through the stress of proving it, but I am just interested to know how large that cohort is.

Senator Ronaldson: It is a very considerable improvement, as your background experience would appreciate

Answer

Under non liability healthcare arrangements, as at March 2014, there were 3,746 veterans with diagnosed posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety and/or depression. The Department of Veterans' Affairs will pay for treatment for these eligible veterans without the need for the condition to be linked to service.

The figure of 3,746 veterans does not include veterans who subsequently have the same condition accepted as a service-related liability for compensation purposes.

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Question 2

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.2

Topic: Disability Support

(FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p 81.)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Senator FARRELL: Do you have the figure for Commonwealth seniors card holders?

Ms Foreman: No, we do not have that figure.

Senator FARRELL: I am talking about as it relates to veterans here.

Ms Foreman: Not for this measure. We have just got the payments that are affected by this measure.

Senator FARRELL: Disability pensioners receiving income support?

Ms Foreman: Yes, 86,800.

Senator FARRELL: Disability pensioners not receiving income support?

Ms Foreman: I have got a combined figure for that, which is the 86,800.

Senator FARRELL: Are you able to break those two figures down?

Ms Foreman: I will take that on notice.

Senator FARRELL: How quickly could you get that information to us?

Mr Lewis: I doubt this evening if that is—

Senator FARRELL: No, that is okay.

Ms Foreman: We will do our best to get that in the next day or so.

Answer

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card recipients are not impacted by the measure to index payments by Consumer Price Index only in 2017. The 86,800 figure represents the approximate number of disability pensioners to be impacted in 2017-18. As at March 2014, there were 102,907 veterans receiving a disability pension. Approximately 52,338 of these were receiving income support and 50,569 were not. This equates to 50.86 per cent of disability pensioners also receiving an income support payment. Applying this percentage, the Department of Veterans' Affairs estimates there will be approximately 44,150 disability pensioners receiving income support payments in 2017-18.

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Question 3

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: Income Support

(FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p 84.)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Senator FARRELL: War widow or widower pensions receiving income support?

Ms Foreman: That would be 66,850.

Senator FARRELL: War widow/widowers pensioners not receiving income support, is that a combined figure again?

Ms Foreman: That is the combined figure, yes.

Senator FARRELL: Orphan pensioners?

Ms Foreman: I do not have a figure for that number. I will take that on notice.

Answer

Approximately 47,050 war widow(er)'s pension recipients receiving income support supplement will be impacted in 2017-18. As at March 2014, there were 180 recipients of the orphan pension. Orphan pension recipients will not be impacted by the measure to index payments by the Consumer Price Index only in 2017.

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Question 4

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: Income Support

(FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p 85.)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Ms Foreman: The total number of payments made under the ones we have just gone through is 310,350.

Mr Lewis: Which will not equal the same number of individual clients.

Ms Foreman: That is right, because some of them receive multiple payments. The numbers I have just given you add up to 310,350.

Senator FARRELL: Just so I am clear, would there be more clients than that or less clients than that?

Ms Foreman: No, less clients because some receive multiple payments.

Senator FARRELL: Do we know how many receive multiple?

Ms Foreman: No, I do not.

Senator Ronaldson: We can take that on notice.

Answer

310,350 is the anticipated number of payments affected by the measure to index certain payments by Consumer Price Index only in 2017-18. These payments will be made to approximately 220,000 clients in 2017-18.

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Question 5

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.6

Topic: Indexation

(FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p. 85.)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Senator FARRELL: Can you tell us are there any veteran pensioners who will not be affected by this change in what we call the fair indexation?

Mr Harrigan: The payments that Ms Foreman has just outlined cover the majority of payments made by the department. They include the service pension and the flow-on effects to disability pensions. They too, at the moment, are indexed by the CPI, MTAW and PBLCI, so there is a flow-on effect to them as well.

Senator FARRELL: My question was actually the other way: are there any people who do not lose the fair indexation?

Mr Harrigan: In terms of specific payments, there are components of the war widows pension, for example, that are only indexed by CPI at the moment and will continue to be indexed in that way from 2017.

Senator FARRELL: But there is nobody else—

Ms Foreman: Can I take that on notice? We have a large number of payments and there are a small number, I think, that have other wage indices that are used. I will take that on notice and get back to you on that. It is only a small number, though.

Answer

The following table describes payments that are not affected by the measure to index certain payments by Consumer Price Index (CPI) only from September 2017.

Payment	Current indexation method
VEA payments	
Service pension transitional rate	CPI only
Pension supplement (transitional and non-transitional)	CPI only
War widow(er)'s pension Section 30 (1)(c) component	CPI only
Clean energy supplement	CPI only but rate to be frozen from July 2014 as part of a separate budget measure
Rent assistance	CPI only
Deeming threshold	CPI only but to be paused for three years from July 2017 as part of a separate budget measure
Orphan pension	CPI only
Specific disability amounts section 27	CPI only
Veterans supplement	CPI only
Clothing allowance	CPI only
Attendant allowance	CPI only
Recreation transport allowance	CPI only
Funeral benefit	Not indexed

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Decoration allowance	Not indexed
Vehicle allowance	CPI only
Prisoner of war recognition supplement	CPI only
Veterans' Children Education Scheme payments	CPI only
Student start-up scholarship	Not indexed
Relocation scholarship	CPI only
Schoolkids bonus	CPI only
Income support bonus	CPI only
MRCA payments	
Permanent impairment payment	CPI only
Household services allowance	CPI only
Attendant care allowance	CPI only
Eligible young person weekly payment	CPI only
Eligible young person lump sum	CPI only
Compensation for financial advice	CPI only
Wholly dependent partner additional lump sum	CPI only
Funeral compensation reimbursement limit	CPI only
MRCA supplement	CPI only
Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education & Training Scheme payments.	CPI only
Student start-up scholarship	Not indexed
Relocation scholarship	CPI only
Schoolkids bonus	CPI only
Income support bonus	CPI only
Normal weekly earnings (affects rate of incapacity payment for injured member/former member)	Percentage increase in Australian Defence Force Remuneration Agreement
SRCA payments	
Normal weekly earnings (affects rate of incapacity payment for injured member/former member)	Wage price index
Death lump sum	Wage price index
Dependent child weekly payment	Wage price index
Funeral compensation reimbursement limit	CPI only
Incapacity payments – prescribed person	CPI only
Incapacity payments – dependent child	CPI only
Maximum permanent impairment payment	CPI only
Maximum permanent impairment payment – non-economic loss	CPI only

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Household services allowance	CPI only
Attendant care allowance	CPI only
Defence Act	
Severe injury adjustment lump sum	CPI only
Additional lump sum for severe injury adjustment	Wage price index
Dependent child benefit lump sum limit	Wage price index
Financial advice lump sum limit	CPI only

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Question 6

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Income Support

(FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p 100.)

Senator WRIGHT asked:

Senator WRIGHT: Yes, and that takes me to the next part of my question. If you could just tease out for me, then, what mechanisms there are to ensure people are not underpaid as well. Clearly there is an anticipation that some of this will indicate that some people are being underpaid. How does that work?

Ms Foreman: That is right. When we write out to clients we ask them to confirm, or advise us of changes to, their income and assets. What will happen is that people's circumstances will have changed for a very wide variety of reasons: some people's income will have declined, some people's assets will have declined, and others will have increased. So we take that information—the correct information—and recalculate what their payments should be.

Senator WRIGHT: How quickly is that recalculated? Is this a random program or is it a regular—

Mr Lewis: It is a sample.

Ms Foreman: It is a sample. It comes from a review that we are doing, and we tend to focus on people in the high-risk areas close to the asset and income thresholds. They are the people whose change in income could positively or negatively affect their pension.

Senator WRIGHT: Is there any limit to the backdating of the overpayment?

Ms Foreman: I might take that on notice.

Senator WRIGHT: Is there a three-month limit on that one?

Ms Foreman: I will take that on notice.

Answer

There is no limit on the period of backdating for recovery of an overpayment.

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Question 7

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Income Support

(FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p 109.)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Senator FARRELL: Can you tell us on what date this month the seniors supplement will cease to be given to Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders?

Ms Foreman: The last payment of this supplement will be made on 26 June.

Senator FARRELL: Have the recipients of this supplement been advised about the change?

Ms Foreman: It has been announced as part of budget. I will take it on notice, but I do not think we have sent all the recipients a letter at this stage. There is information on our departmental website about budget measures, but I will take on notice whether we have contacted people individually.

Answer

Letters have not been sent to recipients of the seniors supplement as legislation for the cessation of the supplement is yet to be passed by Parliament.

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Question 8

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Income Support

(FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p. 111.)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Senator FARRELL: I have a different question regarding it; you may have answered this question already. What percentage or number of veterans will be moved off the benefit? Do you know that figure?

Ms Foreman: I do not have a figure for the number that will be moved off. I do have a figure for the number that will have a reduced payment.

Mr Lewis: Some will have a reduced payment, some will be unchanged and some will actually have an increased payment because they have been short-changed because of changes to their circumstances under the income or assets test.

Senator FARRELL: But some will be moved off.

Ms Foreman: A small number. I will take, on notice, the actual number.

Answer

Automated reporting from the Enhanced Compliance Program includes information on the numbers of reductions and the average reduction. It does not report on the number of cancellations. Of the Enhanced Compliance Program reviews conducted in 2012-2013, 57.3 per cent of veterans received a reduction in payment, 19.0 per cent received an increase, and 23.7 per cent had no change in their payment.

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Question 9

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Income Support

(FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p. 112.)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Senator FARRELL: Thank you for that information, Minister. Obviously, there is a cut-off point where some people will fall this side of it and some people will fall the other side of it. Can you give us some examples of what the effect of either falling this side or that side of it might be?

Ms Foreman: This measure also needs to be read with the measure where the government is going to be indexing the Commonwealth senior's income test. There is only an income test for this card. At the moment, the limit is \$50,000. If you are single and your income goes over \$50,000, you are not eligible for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card. If it is under \$50,000, you will be eligible. So if you have deemed income, it will add to your income that is assessable for the income threshold. Is that clear?

Senator FARRELL: Yes. Everything you have said tonight has been very clear, Ms Foreman. This measure saves about \$20.9 million—

Mr Lewis: In the veterans affairs department, it looks like it is about \$0.1 million for each year of the forward estimates.

Ms Foreman: It is \$0.3 million over the forward estimates, because of the grandfathering arrangement.

Senator FARRELL: Will the untaxed superannuation include income from the DFRDB and the MSBS in that eligibility assessment?

Ms Foreman: I think it will, but can I take that on notice, please.

Senator FARRELL: Okay.

Ms Foreman: I want to just check that.

Senator FARRELL: What is your reservation?

Ms Foreman: I have not thought that through, but it does apply to all superannuation account based income streams. I think it does, but I just want to take it on notice to confirm.

Mr Lewis: A little excess caution by Ms Foreman. We will make sure we get it right, Senator.

Answer

Both the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefit Scheme and the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme are Defined Benefit Schemes which pay lifetime defined benefit pensions. As these schemes are not account-based income streams, they are not included in the income deeming changes for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card income test.

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Question 10

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.6

Topic: Medical Reviews

(FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p. 115.)

Senator WRIGHT asked:

Senator WRIGHT: But if it is a specialist medical review which, as you said, is more vigorous than the usual reviews, it may well require someone who is in a country area, for instance, to travel to the city. As we know, there are not that many medical specialists in country areas. Will there be any protection against the costs that may be incurred? It may even mean an overnight stay somewhere to do that, with a carer as well.

Mr Harrigan: Not as a result of this budget measure. I think what you have outlined there and described is a circumstance that many veterans face, outside the scope of this review, in accessing treatment on a day-to-day basis, whether it be a specialist or a general practitioner.

Senator WRIGHT: So there is nothing that would assist someone in that position.

Mr Harrigan: No, not that is being provided for in this budget measure.

Ms Foreman: I think we understand the question you are asking. I will take that on notice and get back to you. I need to confer with some of my colleagues about that.

Answer

It is expected that those undergoing review will already have a treating specialist. Provisions exist for the payment of costs associated with travelling for treatment, including costs associated with accommodation and carers. These provisions will apply to those who need to travel in order to obtain a medical report from their treating specialist.

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Question 11

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.2

Topic: British Commonwealth Occupation Force

(FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p 116.)

Senator XENOPHON asked:

Mr Harrigan: BCOF veterans have access to a wide range of benefits under the Veterans' Entitlement Act. They, by virtue of their service, have operational service which allows them to access the disability pension for injuries or illness associated with their service. Depending on the level of disability pension that they are eligible for and the extent of their injuries, they may then become entitled to a repatriation health gold card.

Senator XENOPHON: But not automatically.

Mr Lewis: No.

Senator XENOPHON: Unlike others who have served in warlike activities—is that right?

Mr Lewis: That is right—unlike those with qualified service or warlike service.

Senator XENOPHON: There is previous *Hansard* on this. I understand from a 97-year-old constituent of mine whom I have met and my office is working with—he served in Japan—that there are only about 879 veterans left alive who served during the relevant period prior to June 30, 1947. A large proportion of his former colleagues died from cancer, potentially as a result of exposure to radiation during their service in Hiroshima in the clean-up in the occupation. On notice, can you tell me how many of these veterans are still alive?

Mr Lewis: We will attempt to answer that on notice, yes.

Answer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs does not have data on the actual surviving population of British Commonwealth Occupation Force veterans.

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Question 12

Outcome: 3 Program: 3.1

Topic: Use of the word Anzac

(FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p. 118)

Senator WRIGHT asked:

Senator WRIGHT: Okay. I will put that on notice. The other question goes to Anzac commercialisation. I understand that since the 1920s permission from the DVA has been required in order to use the term 'Anzac'. ABC 7.30 reported this year that the enforcement has been less than stringent leading to the term being used to promote products as diverse as cosmetic surgery. The department apparently advised Triple J's current affairs program that there are about a dozen companies that are permitted to use 'Anzac' for commercial purposes. Is that right?

Major Gen. Chalmers: That is correct. There are some companies who have permission to use the word 'Anzac' for commercial purposes. From the top of my head, mainly they are biscuit manufacturers who manufacture Anzac biscuits.

Senator WRIGHT: To save time, could you provide those on notice, please.

Major Gen. Chalmers: Sure, but I want to put on the record that I would contest the assertion that we do not police the regulations regarding the use of the word 'Anzac'. We carefully guard that legislation—

Answer

The *Protection of Word 'Anzac' Regulations* (the Regulations) have been in place since 1920. Currently the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) uses a permit system put in place in 2002 to track which individuals and organisations have permission to use the word. Permits to use the word 'Anzac' that have been issued for commercial use have all been for the production and sale of Anzac Biscuits.

Since 2002, permits have been issued for the production and/or sale of Anzac Biscuits, to the following organisations:

- Yarrows the Bakers
- House with No Steps
- Coles Myer
- Delissimo
- Wholesome Bake
- Celebrity Cakes
- Betty Crocker (General Mills)
- Kingston Supported Employment Service Inc
- Reedy Creek Nursery Pty Ltd.
- Kmart
- Unibic (Modern Baking Company Pty Ltd)
- The Cookie Barrel
- Mother Meg's Fine Foods (Starbucks)
- Wild Bean Café (BP)
- Australian Convenience Foods Pty Ltd
- Ital Biscuits
- Mozart Vienna Patisserie Pty Ltd
- Independent Grocers Association (IGA)
- Balfours Bakery
- Aldi
- Costco
- Great Temptations Bakery
- Metcash
- AFS Distributors
- Absolute Wholefoods
- Madhouse Bakehouse

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- Coles Supermarkets Australia Ltd
- Yallambee Denilquin Ltd
- Cripps Nubake
- Gloria Jeans Coffees
- Cookiedoughco Pty Ltd
- Snowy Mountains Cookies
- Uncle Toby's (Nestle)
- Irrewarra Sourdough Bakery
- Byron Bay Cookie Company Pty Ltd
- Goodman Fielder Ltd

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Question 13

Outcome: 3 Program: 3.1

Topic: Use of the word Anzac

(FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p. 118)

Senator WRIGHT asked:

Senator Ronaldson: I personally review every brief from the department in relation to the use of this word. I deliberately have not delegated that, as I think I was probably entitled to do. I deliberately have not done that because I think this is the most significant issue that faces us in relation to the inappropriate use of 'Anzac'. I was incensed—

Senator WRIGHT: I am sorry, I am going to cut you short. I beg your pardon, Minister, but I am on borrowed time. I want to know what the factors are that are considered in terms of whether it is appropriate. Again, you can answer that on notice.

Senator Ronaldson: I will take that on notice, but I do need to say that I was absolutely incensed about this prize package, including tickets to the AFL Anzac Day and a free consultation for breast augmentation surgery. We moved very quickly to address that issue. You know exactly the one I am talking about. It was absolutely outrageous.

Answer

Every request to use the word 'Anzac' is assessed under the *Protection of Word 'Anzac' Regulations*, which are available publicly at <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2004C00015>.

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Question 14

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Maralinga Veterans

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator XENOPHON asked:

Currently British Nuclear Test participants are eligible to receive benefits under a 'White Card' (for medical treatment relating to medical conditions accepted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs as related to their service) but not the Gold Card.

1. Does the Government intend to review the eligibility of British Nuclear Test participants for the Gold Card? If not, why not?

2. Can you please define who would be included in the 'eligible beneficiary population'? Do eligible beneficiaries include spouses or other dependents of BNT participants?

In November 2011 the Government costed the proposal of providing BNT participants with a Gold Card. The costing report stated the total cost over 4 years to the Government of such a policy would be \$128 million. This was based on an eligible beneficiary population of 1,829 in 2012-13, falling to 1,385 in 2015-2016.

I ask because in an answer to a question on notice I submitted in 2013, the Department of Veterans Affairs stated they were aware of 601 surviving BNT participants.

3. How do you explain this disparity in numbers?

4. Can the Department provide an update as the number of surviving BNT participants as at June 2014, or the latest available figures (and if so, for what period)?

Answer

1. British Nuclear Tests programme (BNT) veterans have eligibility under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) and some will already have a Gold Card in connection with other service or due to their level of disability.

BNT veterans have access to compensation and health care treatment under the VEA for conditions accepted as caused by BNT defence service. Additional allowances and benefits may also be payable, depending on individual circumstances.

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Individuals who satisfy the definition of having rendered BNT defence service are eligible for treatment of malignant cancer, pulmonary tuberculosis, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder and, from 1 July 2014, alcohol use disorders and substance use disorders, irrespective of a service link.

Individuals, whether former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members or civilians, also have access to compensation benefits under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRCA) or the SRCA-like scheme. In addition, under the *Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests (Treatment) Act 2006* (APBNTA), BNT participants can receive treatment for any cancers.

2. and 3.

The concept of an eligible beneficiary population is not defined in the VEA, SRCA or the APBNTA.

The costing prepared by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) in 2011 referred to an eligible beneficiary population of 1,829 in 2012-13 and 1,385 in 2015-16. This particular costing related to the provision of a Gold Card only to the estimated surviving ADF members who were BNT participants. It did not include others involved in the tests, such as Commonwealth employees and third party contractors.

The lesser figure of 601, advised in response to the June 2013 Budget Estimates hearing, represents the number of DVA clients with either an accepted or rejected claim who were identified as having BNT defence service, or have treatment based on BNT service.

4. DVA previously advised that it was aware of only 601 surviving BNT participants, of whom 56 were receiving compensation under the VEA in respect of BNT defence service and the remainder having access to health care under the non-liability health care provisions. As at 13 June 2014 this number had reduced to 577.

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Question 15

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.6

Topic: Military Compensation

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator XENOPHON asked:

In previous Estimates hearings I have asked about the Department's KPIs and details of the time taken to resolve Military Compensation Claims.

1. Could the Department provide information with details of the time it has taken for claims to be resolved – within 120 days, 150 days, 180 days, 12 months, 18 months and 24 months and over – for 2014 so far? Has there been an improvement over the past 12 months?

While the Department has informed me the Key Performance Indicator to determine a liability claim under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) is 120 days on average, in 2013 less than half (2,354) of the 5,220 claims processed met this KPI.

2. Do you consider it acceptable that less than half of claims processed met KPI?

3. What measures has the Department investigated and/or implemented to ensure the majority of claims are meeting KPI?

4. Will the Department be implementing stricter service standards to ensure most claims are resolved in 120 days or under? If so, what are those standards?

5. In claims where no further information is required, would the Commission reasonably be able to determine whether it accepts liability for the claim within 120 days of the date that the claim was given to the Commission?

6. Most compensation schemes benefit from time limits enshrined in law to ensure claims are assessed within a reasonable amount of time. Given the difficulty in meeting KPI, does the Government see merit in legislated time frames?

Answer

1. For the period 1 January 2014 to 30 April 2014, 2,040 liability claims under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) were finalised and the age breakdown is as follows:

No. of claims determined	Time Taken to Process
948	Within 120 days
227	121-150 days
250	151-180 days
558	181-365 days
53	12-18 months
4	18-24 months
0	Over 24 months

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Comparing the four months (1 January 2014 to 30 April 2014) numbers to 12 months (2013) numbers is not meaningful due to the difference in magnitude of claim numbers over the two periods. However, the average time taken to process MRCA liability claims for 2012-13 was 155 days compared to 147 days for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014, which is a reduction of eight days.

2. No, a point made by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) on many occasions.

3. DVA is currently implementing a range of measures to improve the time taken to process compensation claims. The four key strategies to improve the timeliness of processing compensation claims are:

- reducing work on hand;
- improving client communication and engagement throughout the claims process;
- improving case management practices; and
- reviewing and improving business processes.

4. The Department is focused on improving times taken to process compensation claims as outlined above.

5. Yes. As the data provided in answer to the first part of this question shows, there were 948 claims determined within 120 days. This is possible because the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (MRCC) delegates had received all the information required, which allowed determination of the claim within 120 days.

6. The previous Government requested that the MRCC investigate options for the introduction of statutory timeframes under the MRCA and report to Parliament by 1 July 2014. The report was tabled in Parliament on 26 June 2014. The Government does not believe statutory or legislated timeframes are necessary at this time.

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Question 16

Outcome: 1 and 2 Program: 1.4, 1.6 and 2.6

Topic: Cultural issues delaying compensation claims

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator XENOPHON asked:

In previous estimates hearings, I have asked about the cultural issues delaying compensation claims where serving men and woman in the ADF are reluctant to put in claims, due to fears that their career may be adversely impacted if they put in a claim while still serving.

I have been informed the Department's On Base Advisory Service (OBAS) was a key strategy to address these issues.

In the February 2014 Estimates hearings, I asked about the key outcomes and targets for OBAS.

1. I have been informed that the principal measure for the OBAS program is demand and the overall performance of the program is monitored nationally and feedback from Defence Personnel has been positive.

- a. Who monitors the program?
- b. What other factors of 'overall performance' are considered apart from demand?
- c. Does the Department regularly request feedback on the program from Defence Personnel?
- d. Does the OBAS attend bases that have not specifically requested the service?
- e. Can individual Defence Personnel request the service, or does this request need to come from the Commanding Officer?

2. In the February estimates I also put questions on notice about the number of claims lodged by ADF members before and after establishment of OBAS. I was informed that this data is not stored on the basis of ADF status because ADF status only affects eligibility for specific benefits and clients are only required to inform the Department of changes to their ADF status when it will affect their benefits.

- a. How then can the ADF monitor whether or not OBAS is addressing the cultural issues delaying compensation claims if there is no data to show whether or not there have been increases in ADF members submitting claims while still serving since its introduction?
- b. Is ADF considering including this information, even on a confidential basis?
- c. Are there any other strategies to address this issue that can be accurately monitored through the number of claims?

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Answer

1. and a. The On Base Advisory Service (OBAS) is monitored nationally by the Department of Defence / Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Links Steering Committee (DLSC) and locally by the respective state/territory Deputy Commissioners.
 - b. Information considered by DLSC includes: OBAS activity data (member enquiries, liaison and presentation activity); information about who is using the service, who is referring clients to OBAS and where clients are referred to from OBAS.
 - c. OBAS performance data is considered at each meeting of the DLSC. The DLSC includes Defence Personnel. Informal feedback is provided at a local level.
 - d. No, the visiting schedule is an agreement between DVA and the Australian Defence Force and DVA has a presence on base as requested.
 - e. An individual may request to see an On Base Advisor; the request does not have to come from the individual's Commanding Officer. The majority of referrals to the program are through self referral.
2. a. b and c. A regular report on the time between injury and claim for *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* claims is given to the Defence/DVA Links Steering Committee so that DVA and Defence can monitor the timeframes. It will also be included in the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission Annual Report.

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Question 17

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.6

Topic: Income Support

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. What is the number of veterans who will be affected by the Government's CPI-only indexation of the following pensions:

Net Total Persons Receiving Income Support or a Compensation Pension From The Department of Veterans' Affairs –

Veteran Service Pensioners

Partner/Widow(er) Service Pensioners

Total Service Pensioners

Income Support Supplement recipients

Social Security/Age Pensioners

Commonwealth Seniors' Health Card holders

Disability Pensioners receiving Income Support ⁽¹⁾

Disability Pensioners not receiving Income Support

Total Disability Pensioners

War Widow(er) Pensioners receiving Income Support ⁽¹⁾

War Widow(er) Pensioners not receiving Income Support

Total War Widow(er) Pensioners

Orphan Pensioners

Net Total ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ 'Income Support' includes Service Pension, Age Pension or Income Support Supplement.

⁽²⁾ Components do not add to total due to overlaps.

Answer

Refer to Pensioner Summary Statistics provided on the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) website:

http://www.dva.gov.au/aboutDVA/Statistics/Documents/2014_March/PenSumm_Mar2014.pdf

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Question 18

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.6

Topic: Income Support

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. What is the total number of veterans who will be affected by the Government's CPI-only indexation?
2. Can you clarify which, if any, of these pensioners do not lose the fair indexation under the Government's move to CPI-only indexation?
3. Is the war widows' pension which is only indexed by CPI at present?

Answer

1. As at March 2014, there are approximately 270,000 veterans and dependants that would be impacted by the measure to index payments by Consumer Price Index (CPI) only. This includes recipients of the Service Pension, Disability Pension and War Widow(er)'s Pension. By 2017-18 this figure is expected to drop to approximately 220,000.
2. Payments not affected by this measure are included in the response to Question on Notice 5.
3. War widow's/widower's pension is made up of three components, each of which is individually indexed on 20 March and 20 September every year. The three components are added together to make up the pension payable. The following table explains how the three components are indexed:

Component	Indexation
Paragraph 30(1)(a) VEA component	Not indexed but set as equal to the new 'not a member of a couple' Maximum Basic Rate (MBR)
Paragraph 30(1)(b) VEA component	Pension MBR factor
Paragraph 30(1)(c) VEA component	CPI only

Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 5 for a list of payments indexed by CPI.

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Question 19

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.6

Topic: Income Support

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Can you explain the financial impact this will have on the income support supplement, veterans and war widows/widowers' payments and MRCA pensions?
 - a. Have you had feedback from pensioners so far and if so, what are their major concerns?
2. Do the calls indicate there is confusion among the veterans' pensioner community as to the new policy?
 - a. Is timing a cause for confusion?

Answer

1. These payments are currently indexed with reference to the increase in the single maximum basic rate of service pension, effectively the greater of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Pension Beneficiary Living Cost Index or Male Total Average Weekly Earnings. From 20 September 2017, these payments will only be indexed with reference to the CPI.
 - a. As is common after the Budget, the Department of Veterans' Affairs receives correspondence from numerous individuals and ex-service organisations seeking clarification of the impacts on themselves and members.
2. The Veterans' Access Network provides support to the veteran community and clarifies any areas of confusion.
 - b. No.

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Question 20

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Income Support

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. It's been stated that the Government will achieve savings of \$449 million over five years by indexing pensions and equivalent payments and Parent Payment Single by the CPI. Of this amount, is it correct that Veterans' Affairs will achieve \$65.1 million?
2. Can you outline the anticipated savings in Veterans' Affairs on a year-by-year basis?

Answer

1. It is estimated that the Department of Veterans' Affairs will achieve savings of \$65.1 million over the forward estimates period to 2017-18.
2. These savings occur in 2017-18, the year in which the measure commences.

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Question 21

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Income Support

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How much worse off will veterans be as a result of this indexation?
 - a. Do you agree they will lose thousands of dollars as they battle greater cost-of-living pressures?
 - b. How much will they lose?
 - c. Are there any gains for veterans in this measure?

Answer

1. The financial impact of the measure to commence indexation by Consumer Price Index in September 2017 is estimated at \$65.1 million in 2017-18. The impact on individual payment rates varies according to the type of payment, and the exact impact will not be known until August 2017.
 - a. Refer to the response outlined above.
 - b. No veteran or dependant will have their payments reduced as a result of this measure.
 - c. No.

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Question 22

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Income Support

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Do you have figures for the likely impact on the value of these pensions after 2017? ie. how much will veterans' pensions drop in real terms say over five years?
2. Has any modelling been done on the impacts of these changes, on the budget bottom lines of DVA pensioners?

Answer

1. and 2. No.

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Question 23

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.6

Topic: Income Support

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Can the Department please confirm that these indexation changes will mean that Veteran pensions will be lower in the future than they would be under the current pension indexation system, as put in place by the former Labor Government?

Answer

Pensions will continue to be indexed and increase twice annually on 20 March and 20 September under the proposed arrangements. No pension will be cut and no pensioners will have money taken out of their pension under these changes.

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Question 24

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.6

Topic: Income Support

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

If you can estimate the above savings, can you supply an estimate of the overall drop in pensions for the more than 280,000 veterans who will be affected by the indexation change?

Answer

No payment will be reduced as a result of the Government's proposed changes.

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Question 25

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Income Support

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Would you agree with *StandTo*, the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations, that over the previous four years to March 2014, Age Pension, Service Pension and Disability Support Pensions' benchmarking to MTAWWE has resulted in pension payments over that period totalling \$2000 more than they would have been if linked only to CPI?

Answer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs does not administer the age pension or disability support pension. Pensions are effectively indexed to the greater of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWWE). On 20 March 2014 pensions were indexed with reference to the CPI.

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Question 26

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.6

Topic: Income Support

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Do you agree this is an inferior way for pensions to keep up with the cost of living – that pensioners are definitely better off under the current system which is linked to the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings if it is the higher of the three indexation measures?

Answer

It is not appropriate for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to offer an opinion.

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Question 27

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Income Support

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Can you outline changes to the part-Service pensions – currently they have a means-test free area. For e.g. for singles, they can earn \$156 a fortnight before their pension reduces by 50 cents for every extra dollar of income they receive. This is currently indexed so it rises with the cost of living. When will the government's plan to suspend those indexation increases for three years occur?
2. Will this reduce the value of their pensions if their asset or income levels experience modest growth in line with the market?

Answer

1. The measure to pause the indexation of means test thresholds will occur from 1 July 2017.
2. Their income support payment may reduce if there is an increase in the value of their income or assets.

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Question 28

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Income Support

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Is it the case that DVA part pensioners who have their pension determined as a result of savings or financial assets, could be knocked off the pension entirely, as a consequence of frozen income and asset thresholds?

Answer

It is possible that an individual very close to the income or assets cut-off threshold and who has an increase in the value of their income or assets may lose eligibility for income support.

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Question 29

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Budget

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

What is the overall Budget impact on the DVA?

a. Have you calculated how much less you have to work with in your overall Budget position?

Answer

a. Overall Budget Impact

The measures introduced as part of the 2014-15 Budget resulted in the following adjustments (refer page 22-27, 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements).

2014-15 Budget Measures	2013-14 \$000s	2014-15 \$000s	2015-16 \$000s	2016-17 \$000s	2017-18 \$000s
Administered Expenses	(10,662)	(50,134)	(106,648)	(125,071)	(213,861)
Administered Capital	0	6,061	0	0	0
Departmental Expenses	(676)	598	(1,136)	(1,980)	(1,332)
Departmental Capital	(1,522)	513	(69)	(103)	(108)
Total	(12,860)	(42,962)	(107,853)	(127,154)	(215,301)

DVA Departmental Budget Position

The amount of departmental appropriation which the Department of Veterans' Affairs will have over the budget forward estimates is as follows:

	2013-14 \$000s	2014-15 \$000s	2015-16 \$000s	2016-17 \$000s	2017-18 \$000s
Departmental Appropriation	288,461	282,986	273,457	270,267	272,316
Cumulative Reduction		(5,475)	(15,004)	(18,194)	(16,145)

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Question 30

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Budget

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Where will the Budget savings from Veterans' Affairs be directed?
 - a. Will these savings be used within the Veterans' Affairs portfolio?

Answer

1. and a. Where the Budget savings from the Department of Veterans' Affairs will be directed is a decision of government.

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Question 31

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Budget

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

On a practical level, how will the Budget affect the DVA considering you are already under financial pressure as a department?

Answer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will respond to the changing fiscal environment as appropriate.

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Question 32

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Budget

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Will you have to cut staff or programs as a result of less funding?
 - a. If so, can you give details?
 - b. If you are reducing staff numbers, is it likely to be through resignations, voluntary redundancies or involuntary redundancies?
2. Will you consider outsourcing any functions or services?

Answer

1.a and b. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) staffing profile is expected to reduce by 54 FTE in the 2014-15 financial year mostly through natural attrition.

2. There are no current plans to outsource functions or services.

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Question 33

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Budget

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. In the November estimates, Mr Rochow said the DVA is underfunded to the tune of about \$10 million annually in terms of reinvestment. In terms of the efficiency dividend the impact on the DVA operating budget is 2014-15 is \$6 million - with an extra .25% efficiency dividend what will this dollar figure be?
2. What is the cumulative effect in 2015-16 and 2016-17?
3. Will this added efficiency dividend tip the Department into being in serious financial trouble?

Answer

1. Reinvestment refers to the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) Departmental Capital Budget (DCB) funding against DVA's depreciation expense.

	2013-14 \$000s	2014-15 \$000s	2015-16 \$000s	2016-17 \$000s	2017-18 \$000s
DCB	14,056	13,469	13,356	13,373	14,036
Departmental Depreciation	28,996	32,590	29,566	27,045	22,455
Annual Gap	(14,940)	(19,121)	(16,210)	(13,672)	(8,419)

2. The additional 0.25 per cent efficiency dividend was applied as follows (cumulative).

2014-15 Budget Measures	2013-14 \$000s	2014-15 \$000s	2015-16 \$000s	2016-17 \$000s	2017-18 \$000s
Departmental Appropriation	0	(723)	(1,403)	(2,084)	(2,095)
DCB	0	(35)	(69)	(103)	(108)

3. The additional efficiency dividend adds to the Department's budgetary pressures. The Department is undertaking a risk based process to develop short, medium and long term strategies to manage its resources.

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Question 34

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.2, 1.6

Topic: TTTP

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Mr Lewis has made it very clear that it is important to “crack the problem” of the backlog of unprocessed claims in the Department of Veterans' Affairs. How close is the department to succeeding in this regard?
2. How much longer until waiting times are optimal?
3. What impact will the Budget have on claims processing times?

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is progressively reducing the number of compensation claims on hand under all three Acts. Claims on hand reduced from 7,001 on 1 July 2013 to 5,496 on 31 May 2014.
2. During 2013-14, there has been a reduction in compensation claims processing times under all three Acts. DVA continues to work on strategies to reduce the time taken to process compensation claims, with the objective of meeting key performance indicators.
3. DVA is committed to meeting the targets for compensation claims processing and in an environment of reduced resources, it will be imperative that client service standards are maintained. DVA will do this by effective resource management, reducing duplication and continuing to review and improve departmental practices and processes.

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Question 35

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Travel for Treatment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

What is the current turnaround on travel reimbursement claims for veterans?

Answer

A total of 8,461 travel reimbursement claims have been processed for the period 1 June 2014 to 20 June 2014. Of these claims, 99.76 per cent (8,440) were completed within the Service Charter standard time frame of 28 days.

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Question 36

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: IT

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Has DVA introduced a new IT system to assist with more efficient claims processing?
 - a. Will the Budget have any impact on upgrading the DVA IT system to cope with claims processing and its general administration?

Answer

1. No. The Department of Veterans' Affairs is primarily concentrating on reviewing and improving internal business processes for claims processing, before considering development of Information Technology solutions.
 - a. No.

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Question 37

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.2 and 1.6

Topic: TTTP

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

What is the emotional and financial impact of waiting for claims to be assessed?

Answer

The Government recognises that lengthy claims processing times impact on the certainty necessary for veterans and their families. The Government is determined to reduce 'Time Taken to Process' to provide timely help and assistance to veterans and their families.

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Question 38

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Phone Outage

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Has the DVA phone system been out of action since we last spoke In February 2014? This was described as a special, unique phone system outage never encountered before.
2. What was the problem with the DVA telecommunication provider? Who is that provider?

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs' phone system has not experienced further outages.
2. The problem was caused during the changeover of providers from Macquarie to Telstra. Due to human error, a change was implemented earlier than it should have been between the two providers.

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Question 39

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Staff

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many people does your department employ?
 - a. What is the number of staff employed in each state and Territory as at 30 June 2013, and what is their age, gender and classification level?
 - b. What is the number of staff currently employed in each state and territory, and what is their age, gender and classification level?

Answer

1. The number of people employed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) as at 30 April 2014 is 2028.

a. For the number of people employed by the Department at 30 June 2013, please refer to DVA's Annual Reports 2012-13 Table A1 and Table A2.

Please refer to Table 39.1 below and to DVA's Annual Reports 2012-13 Table A1 and Table A2 for staffing levels regarding age, gender and classification level at 30 June 2013.

Table 39.1: Employees by age range and employment type at 30 June 2013

Age	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Full Time Statutory Office Holders	Total
Less than 20	3	1		4
20 - 30	155	47		202
30 - 40	359	39		398
40 - 50	519	19		538
50 - 60	644	24	5	673
Greater than 60	238	5		243
Total	1918	135	5	2058

b. Please refer to Tables 39.2, 39.3 and 39.4, below for staff currently employed in each state and territory, and their ages, gender and classification levels as at 30 April 2014.

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Table 39.2: Employees by age range and employment type at 30 April 2014

	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Full Time Statutory Office Holders	Total
Less than 20	5			5
20 - 30	160	25		185
30 - 40	373	18		391
40 - 50	529	10		539
50 - 60	648	7	5	660
Greater than 60	245	3		248
Total	1960	63	5	2028

Table 39.3: Full-time and part-time employees by gender and location at 30 April 2014

	NSW	QLD	SA	NT	TAS	VIC	WA	ACT	Total
Full-time male	126	134	63	7	19	120	45	248	762
Full-time female	156	227	75	7	34	129	57	342	1027
Part-time male	5	1			2	9	4	13	34
Part-time female	33	43	13	2	12	33	12	57	205
Total	320	405	151	16	67	291	118	660	2028

Table 39.4: Total number of employees by actual classification and location at 30 April 2014

	NSW	QLD	SA	NT	TAS	VIC	WA	ACT	Total
APS1	2	5				2	2	8	19
APS2	25	17	3	1	1	5	4	7	63
APS3	49	59	35	3	22	43	24	10	245
APS4	39	50	10	1	9	32	14	63	218
APS5	92	121	48	3	12	76	39	61	452
APS6	70	86	30	5	19	88	25	180	503
EL1	26	44	19	1	2	33	5	188	318
EL2	9	17	4	2	2	6	3	79	122
GAPS								15	15
Legal 1 (EL1)	2					3		7	12
Legal 2 (EL2)								3	3
MO3		2							2
MO4		1							1
PAO1 (APS5)								2	2
PAO2 (APS6)								2	2
PAO3 (EL1)	1	1						8	10
SPAO (EL2)								2	2
SES1	1		1			1	1	16	20
SES2	1	1				1		5	8
Advocate (EL1)	2	1	1			1	1		6
Statutory	1							4	5
Total	320	405	151	16	67	291	118	660	2028

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Question 40

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Staff

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. What functions have been transferred between transferred from one state or territory to another since the federal election in 2013?

a. Can you please provide details by function of the, number of staff employed, the age, gender and classification of staff employed in the function that was transferred, where it was based prior to the transfer and where it was transferred to?

b. How many of these people are employed in Canberra?

Answer

1. to a.

Functions transferred	Number of staff employed	Age	Gender	Classification	Previous Location of Function	Current Location of Function
MRCA Initial Liability	1.0 *	N/A	N/A	APS5	Darwin	Perth
SRCA Initial Liability	0.5 *	N/A	N/A	APS5	Darwin	Perth
Incapacity Payments	0.5 *	N/A	N/A	APS5	Darwin	Perth

* All positions were substantively and actually vacant at the time of transfer.

b. Nil.

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Question 41

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Staff

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many people did your department employ in Canberra immediately prior to the 2013 federal election?
2. How many employees have been transferred out of Canberra since the 2013?
3. How many of your employees have been transferred to Canberra since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide their age.
 - b. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide their wage. Please provide the figure for before their transfer and after their transfer.
 - c. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide their gender.
 - d. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide the area of the department they worked in. Please provide this detail for before their transfer and after their transfer.
 - e. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide a description of their position. Please provide this detail for before their transfer and after their transfer.

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs had a total of 638 staff located in Canberra as at 6 September 2013.
2. and 3. a. to e. Matters relating to the location and workplace of staff are determined to meet the Department's needs.

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Question 42

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Staff

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. For every transferred employee please provide an explanation for their transfer?
 - a. For every transferred employee please provide any other cost incurred by the department because of that transfer?
 - b. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. Staff requested transfers and these were granted.
 - a. No cost was incurred by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.
 - b. Dates of transfers were 4 November 2013 and 17 March 2014.

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Question 43

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many positions have been made redundant in your department since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these positions were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these positions were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these positions were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Six positions were made redundant from the 2013 federal election to 30 April 2014.
 - a. Six positions were ongoing.
 - b. Nil.
 - c. Three of these positions were situated in the Australian Capital Territory.

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Question 44

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many of the employees filling these redundant positions were redeployed since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Three employees were redeployed from the 2013 federal election to 30 April 2014.
 - a. Three employees were ongoing.
 - b. None of the employees were non-ongoing.
 - c. Two of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory.

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Question 45

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many of these employees were offered voluntary redundancies since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Three of these employees were offered voluntary redundancies from the 2013 federal election to 30 April 2014.
 - a. Three of these employees were ongoing.
 - b. Nil.
 - c. One of these employees was situated in the Australian Capital Territory.

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Question 46

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many accepted voluntary redundancies since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Three employees accepted voluntary redundancies from the 2013 Federal election to 30 April 2014.
 - a. Three employees were ongoing.
 - b. Nil.
 - c. One employee was situated in the Australian Capital Territory.

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Question 47

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many employees were offered the choice between a voluntary redundancy and redeployment since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Three employees were offered the choice between a voluntary redundancy and redeployment from the 2013 federal election to 30 April 2014.
 - a. Three of these employees were ongoing.
 - b. Nil.
 - c. One employee was situated in the Australian Capital Territory.

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Question 48

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

For all employees who accepted voluntary redundancies since the 2013 federal election please:

- a. Provide a dollar figure of their pay out, their age, gender and a description of their position including APS level, contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing), responsibilities and where they were located.
- b. Please specify what component of that figure was paid out entitlements (annual leave etc).
- c. Please specify any other costs incurred by the department because of this redundancy.
- d. Please provide the reason a voluntary redundancy was offered for their position.
- e. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

- a. Three employees ranging from APS6 to EL2 staff accepted voluntary redundancies since the 2013 federal election to 30 April 2014. Redundancy payments for the three employees totalled \$147,493.89. Full details of the employees' ages, genders and position descriptions cannot be specified for privacy reasons.
- b. Payments of leave in lieu at cessation for the three employees totalled \$90,938.99.
- c. There were no additional costs incurred by the Department of Veterans' Affairs because of the redundancies.
- d. Due to privacy issues, reasons for the redundancies will not be provided.
- e. The last days of employment were from December 2013 to April 2014.

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Question 49

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

For all employees who were redeployed please provide:

- a. Their age, gender and a description of their position prior to and after redeployment, including the wages of these positions, the APS level of these positions, the contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing) and where they were located.
- b. Please specify any other costs incurred by the department because of this redeployment.
- c. Please provide the reason for that redeployment.
- d. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

- a. and d. Three employees were redeployed since the 2013 federal election to 30 April 2014. No other information is provided as it may divulge the identities of the three people.
- b. There were no additional costs incurred because of the redeployments.
- c. The employees were potentially excess.

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Question 50

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Since the 2013 federal election, how many employees in your department have been made forcibly redundant?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. One employee was made redundant involuntarily since the 2013 federal election.
 - a. This employee was ongoing.
 - b. Nil.
 - c. Nil.

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Question 51

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many of these employees were offered voluntary redundancies or redeployments prior to being made forcibly redundant?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. One employee was offered voluntary redundancy or redeployment prior to being made redundant involuntarily from the 2013 federal election to 30 April 2014.
 - a. This employee was ongoing.
 - b. Nil.
 - c. Nil.

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Question 52

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

For employees who were made forcibly redundant since the 2013 federal election please provide:

- a. Their age, gender, the dollar figure of their pay out and a description of their position including APS level, contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing) responsibilities and where they were located.
- b. Please specify what component of that figure was paid out entitlements (annual leave etc).
- c. Please specify any other costs incurred by the department because of this redundancy.
- d. Please provide the reason for that redundancy.
- e. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

- a. and e. One employee took an involuntary redundancy since the 2013 federal election to 30 April 2014. No other information is provided as it may divulge the identity of this person.
- b. The employee was paid out accrued annual leave of 73.4 hours and long service leave of 0.9 months.
- c. There were no additional costs incurred because of this involuntary redundancy.
- d. The position was made redundant.
- e. The last day employed was 12 February 2014.

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Question 53

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many people are employed in your department on non-ongoing contracts?
2. How many people are employed in your department on ongoing contracts?
3. How many non-ongoing contracts has your department extended since the 2013 federal election?

Answer

1. As at 30 April 2014, there were 63 employees on non-ongoing contracts.
2. Nil. The Department of Veterans' Affairs does not use ongoing contracts.
3. In the period from the 2013 federal election until 30 April 2014, there were 130 extensions of non-ongoing contracts which related to 78 employees.

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Question 54

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many non-ongoing contract extensions did your department submit the Public Service Commission for approval?
2. How many of these extensions were approved by the Public Service Commission?
 - a. For every approved extension please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, their length of continuous employment by the APS, the length of approved extension, the reasons why the extensions was submitted and the reasons why the extension was approved by the Public Service Commission, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

1. Nil.
2. and a. N/A

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Question 55

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many of these extensions were rejected by the Public Service Commission?
 - a. For every rejected extension please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, their length of continuous employment by the APS, the length of extension sought by the department, the reasons why the extensions was submitted and the reasons why the extension was rejected by the Public Service Commission, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

1. Nil.

a. N/A.

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Question 56

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many non-ongoing contracts have been extended by your department without the Public Service Commission's approval?
 - a. For every unapproved extension please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, their length of continuous employment by the APS, the length of the unapproved extension, the reasons why the extension was granted, whether the extension was submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval, and the reasons why the extension was granted without the approval of the Public Service Commission, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

1. In the period from the federal election to 30 April 2014, 130 non-ongoing contracts have been extended.
 - a. There have been no unapproved extensions. All extensions have been approved by the Secretary in line with the Australian Public Service Commission interim recruitment arrangements.

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Question 57

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many non-ongoing contracts have expired without extension since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. For every expired non-ongoing contract please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, their length of continuous employment by the APS, the reason why an extension was not sought, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

1. In the period from the 2013 federal election to 30 April 2014, 72 non-ongoing contracts expired without extension.
 - a. The information sought is not readily available. To provide a complete response would involve considerable time and effort and be too resource intensive.

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Question 58

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

How many new employees have been engaged by your department on non-ongoing contracts since the 2013 federal election?

Answer

In the period from the 2013 federal election to 30 April 2014, 35 new employees were engaged on non-ongoing contracts.

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Question 59

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

How many new non-ongoing engagements were submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval since the 2014 federal election?

Answer

Nil. Under the Australian Public Service Commission Interim Recruitment arrangement, the Secretary approves non-ongoing engagements.

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Question 60

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many of these new non-ongoing engagements were approved by the Public Service Commission?

a. For every approved new engagement of a non-ongoing employee please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, the length of their non-ongoing contract, whether this position was advertised externally, the reason for engaging this new employee and the reason given by the Public Service Commission for approving this engagement, as well as all relevant dates relating to this application.

Answer

1. Nil.

a. N/A.

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Question 61

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many of these new non-ongoing employee applications were rejected by the Public Service Commission?
 - a. For every new non-ongoing engagement rejected by the Public Service Commission please provide the following details: APS level, a description of their job, the length of their non-ongoing contract, the reason for engaging the new employee and the reason given by the Public Service Commission for rejecting this engagement, as well as all relevant dates relating to this application.

Answer

1. Nil.

a. N/A.

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Question 62

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many new employees have been engaged on non-ongoing contracts without the approval of the Public Service Commission?
 - a. For every non-ongoing employee engaged without the Public Service Commission's approval please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, the length of their non-ongoing contract, whether this position was advertised externally, the reason for engaging this new employee and the reason for engaging this employee without the Public Service Commission's approval, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

1. 35 new non ongoing employees have been engaged. Under the Australian Public Service Commission interim recruitment arrangements, the Secretary approves non-ongoing engagements.
 - a. The information sought is not readily available. To provide a complete response would involve considerable time and effort and be too resource intensive.

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Question 63

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

How many new employees have been engaged by your department on ongoing contracts since the 2013 federal election?

Answer

Nil. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 53 part 2.

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Question 64

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

How many new ongoing engagements were submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval since the 2013 federal election?

Answer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has sought approval to advertise or to access current 'Orders of Merit' from the Australian Public Service Commission for the following positions:

- 1 x APS6 Contemporary Client Contact (order of merit);
- 1 x EL1 Repatriation and Medical Authority (advertise);
- 1 x EL2 Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) (advertise);
- Up to 22 entry level positions including ICT apprentices, cadets and graduates (advertise);
and
- 17 x APS6 VVCS (advertise).

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Question 65

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many of these new ongoing engagements were approved by the Public Service Commission?
 - a. For every approved new engagement of a ongoing employee please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, the length of their ongoing contract, whether this position was advertised externally, the reason for engaging this new employee and the reason given by the Public Service Commission for approving this engagement, as well as all relevant dates relating to this application.

Answer

1. Positions approved by the Australian Public Service Commission are outlined in the response to Question on Notice 64.
 - a. The information sought is not readily available. To provide a response would involve considerable time and effort and would be too resource intensive.

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Question 66

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many of these new ongoing employee applications were rejected by the Public Service Commission?

a. For every new ongoing engagement rejected by the Public Service Commission please provide the following details: APS level, a description of their job, the length of their ongoing contract, the reason for engaging the new employee and the reason given by the Public Service Commission for rejecting this engagement, as well as all relevant dates relating to this application.

Answer

1. Nil.

a. N/A.

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Question 67

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many new employees have been engaged on ongoing contracts without the approval of the Public Service Commission?
 - a. For every ongoing employee engaged without the Public Service Commission's approval please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, the length of their ongoing contract, whether this position was advertised externally, the reason for engaging this new employee and the reason for engaging this employee without the Public Service Commission's approval, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

1. Nil.

a. N/A

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Question 68

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.2

Topic: Disability Pensions – change to commencement of payment provision

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Can you briefly outline the different types of disability pension currently available and how many veterans are currently on these disability pensions?
 - a. Have you a breakdown of the numbers by theatre of war i.e. Vietnam, Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, peacekeeping operations?
2. On average how many ex-servicemen and women apply for these pensions annually?
3. Are you expecting an increase as a result of the return of service personnel from the Afghanistan war?

Answer

1. and a. Refer:

http://www.dva.gov.au/aboutDVA/Statistics/Documents/2014_March/PenSumm_Mar2014.pdf

2. On average approximately 7,000 individuals apply for disability pensions per annum.
3. As disability pensions under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* relate to service prior to 1 July 2004, an increase in disability pension claims as a result of the return of service personnel from Afghanistan is not expected.

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Question 69

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.2

Topic: Disability Pensions – change to commencement of payment provision

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. It's been stated that the Government will achieve savings of \$38.8 million over four years by axing the current three months' backdating of successful Veterans' Disability Pension claims from January 1, 2015.
 - a. Will these savings mainly affect ex-servicemen and women from Afghanistan?
 - b. Can you outline the anticipated savings in Veterans' Affairs on a year-by-year basis?
2. The back payment was in place to "recognise the unique nature of military service." Does this no principle longer apply?

Answer

1a. This measure impacts claims for disability pension under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA). The VEA does not apply to claims for conditions related to post 1 July 2004 service, only those relating to pre 1 July 2004 service. Claims for conditions that arise from post 1 July 2004 service are compensable under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) only.

b. \$38.8 million is the net savings for Government, which includes an expected flow on impact of increased expenditure in the Social Services portfolio for mutual clients. The estimated savings in the Department of Veterans' Affairs portfolio for this measure are:

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
5.8	11.5	11.4	11.2

2. This measure will align the backdating provisions relating to the disability pension with permanent impairment compensation payments under the MRCA.

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Question 70

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.2

Topic: Disability Pensions – change to commencement of payment provision

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Why is it important to “restore equity” between Disability Pension compensation and income support payments under the Veterans' Entitlements Act and permanent impairment payments under the Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Act which has no backdating provisions?

Answer

Permanent impairment compensation under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* and disability pension under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* are similar in nature in that they are both compensation for conditions related to defence service. This measure will establish equitable arrangements for the payment of compensation to veterans. Veterans making claims under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* will continue to have the costs of their treatment for accepted conditions met at Commonwealth expense for three months prior to the date of claim.

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Question 71

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.2

Topic: Disability Pensions – change to commencement of payment provision

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Is it correct that for someone who is successful in applying for a DVA disability pension on the Special rate (from January 1, 2015) will miss out on a payment of \$8405?
 - a. And for someone on the general rate of DVA Disability pension, they will miss out on a payment \$2987?

Answer

1. A person granted the special rate would no longer be entitled to a back payment of three months of their pension.
 - a. A person on general rate would no longer be entitled to a back payment of three months of their pension.

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Question 72

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.2

Topic: Disability Pensions – change to commencement of payment provision

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

During Supplementary Budget Estimates in November, Mr Carmody stated that backdating of disability claims under the Veterans Entitlements Act was an incentive to "put your hand up and lodge a claim as early as you can, even if you have no information and do not have enough data." This response by Mr Carmody was in relation to questions by Senator Xenophon about the desperate need to ensure serving men and women in the Defence Force came forward early rather than being reluctant for fear their career might in some way be impacted if they put in a claim. Ms Spiers noted that the average time between injury and claim in DVA was significantly higher than in the Comcare jurisdiction and this three months' back payment was seen as an incentive amidst a culture of reluctance to claim. Is Mr Lewis and the Department concerned that the Budget axing of this three months' back payment will take away this incentive?

Answer

The three month backdating only applies to conditions related to certain service prior to 1 July 2004 under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA). This measure aligns disability pension compensation under the VEA with permanent impairment compensation under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* for post 1 July 2004 service.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) continues to encourage members and former members to lodge their claim as soon as possible. The Department's presence at Defence bases across the country allows DVA to communicate this message to those still serving. Benefits to lodging a claim as soon as possible include early access to compensation and support payments and payment of treatment expenses.

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Question 73

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.6

Topic: Veterans' Incapacity Payments – Review by Medical Specialist

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Can you tell us how often veterans on incapacity payments undergo a review by a medical specialist under the current arrangements?
 - a. Are these reviews specifically to ascertain if a service-related injury continues to impact their ability to work?
 - b. Is this measure designed to get as many veterans as possible back into the workforce as soon as possible?
2. Does this mean the criteria for returning to work will be any less strict than it is now? Is this a numbers game in terms of producing results and saving money, rather than placing the medical

Answer

1. Specialist medical evidence is sought when a veteran commences incapacity payments. Following this, a medical certificate and/or reports from treating specialists or general practitioners are sought after a veteran has received payments for 12 weeks and then, every 12 months.
 - a. Yes.
 - b. This measure ensures that the incapacity payments an individual receives are commensurate with the severity of their service-related conditions that are impacting on their ability to work. Existing rehabilitation processes will continue to assist an individual with their process of recovery.
2. No. There will be no change to the current policy/legislation that applies to incapacity payments.

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Question 74

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.6

Topic: Veterans' Incapacity Payments – Review of Medical Specialist

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many veterans are in receipt of incapacity payments?
 - a. Are there different categories?

Answer

1. As at March 2014 there were 1,902 members and former members receiving incapacity payments under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* and 1,989 members and former members receiving incapacity payments under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.
 - a. There are no distinct categories of incapacity payments.

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Question 75

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.6

Topic: Veterans' Incapacity Payments – Review by Medical Specialist

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Is it correct that TPI, Gold Card and White Card holders who receive disability compensation payments for permanent disabilities will not have to undergo reviews every 12 months?
2. Will most of these be recipients of MRCA and SRCA payments? Can you break down those numbers who will have to undergo reviews according to war service i.e. Afghanistan, Iraq, etc...

Answer

1. Disability pension payments, including special rate of disability pension (commonly known as T&PI) under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* are not part of the measure to review incapacity payments. Some Gold and White Card holders may be subject to a review if they are also in receipt of incapacity payments under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRCA) or the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA). The review will not impact their Gold or White Card eligibility.
2. The review will involve recipients of Incapacity Payments made under the SRCA and MRCA. It is not possible to break down the individuals that will be reviewed by the nature or location of their service.

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Question 76

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.6

Topic: Veterans' Incapacity Payments – Review by Medical Specialist

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

The recipients covered by this proposed budget measure are younger individuals who are being paid for conditions that are classified as 'temporary', and particularly those who are suffering from only one condition that prevents them from returning to the work force. The wider, older veterans' community will be unaffected by this measure.

Have you a breakdown of the conditions which are preventing them from returning to work?

Answer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs publishes data on the most claimed conditions under the relevant Acts in the Annual Report. These conditions may impact an individual's ability to work. Refer to the Department of Veterans' Affairs 2012-13 Annual Report, p. 77, for the top 15 most frequently claimed conditions under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* in 2012-13.

It should be noted that the acceptance of a condition being service-related does not equate automatically with an inability to work. Assessments of ability to work and/or levels of permanent impairment are determined after the acceptance of liability.

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Question 77

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.6

Topic: Veterans' Incapacity Payments – Review by Medical Specialist

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Are there any particular conditions which keep veterans on compensation payments longer than other conditions?
 - a. Can you tell us what they are?
2. If they are suffering from PTSD, are they given extra time on compensation payments?
 - a. Will this new measure place PTSD sufferers or those experiencing depression or other psychological problems under greater pressure – which could worsen their condition?

Answer

1. and a. This data is not available as veterans may have a variety of conditions, not all of which impact their ability to work. The Department of Veterans' Affairs records all accepted conditions but does not have data linking this to their ability to work. Refer Question on Notice 76 for the 15 most claimed conditions under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* and the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.
2. The length of time that an individual receives incapacity payments will depend on their circumstances and the nature and severity of their injuries or disease. This will take account of medical advice and each individual's rehabilitation plan.
 - a. In undertaking these reviews, the Department will continue to take account of the circumstances of each individual while ensuring that the level of incapacity payments received reflects an ongoing inability to work.

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Question 78

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.6

Topic: Veterans' Incapacity Payments – Review by Medical Specialist

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Do these veterans get to choose their own medical specialist when they are asked to undergo a review?
 - a. If not – are they under pressure if they have to see a new medical specialist and have to re-hash their condition and experience which may not be good for them psychologically? They may not want to talk about catastrophic events they have experienced as they feel bad enough as it is.

Answer

1. and a. If the veteran has a treating specialist, then a report will be obtained from that specialist. Options for those without a treating medical specialist will be discussed with the client noting their individual preferences.

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Question 79

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.6

Topic: Veterans' Incapacity Payments – Review by Medical Specialist

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. In terms of a return to work, does the doctor have the final say?
 - a. Who makes the final determination?
 - b. If the veteran disagrees with the outcome, what are his options?
 - c. Will they be under pressure to go out and get employment?
2. Is it likely that soldiers who are suffering PTSD feel weak and have trouble accepting they are suffering psychologically may feel pressured into saying they are feeling better and can try to move on. When the reality is, they may still be suffering greatly and may not like crowds or confrontation?

Answer

1. No.
 - a. Staff from the Department of Veterans' Affairs decide whether a person is able to participate in rehabilitation and return to work, based on evidence provided by a person's treating specialist and/or general practitioner.
 - b. Individuals have the right to seek an internal review or appeal to the Veterans' Review Board.
 - c. Only those individuals assessed as having the capacity will be expected to participate in vocational rehabilitation, which for most will include a goal of returning to work.
2. No. Rehabilitation for all conditions including posttraumatic stress disorder, is a managed process guided by medical evidence and specialist rehabilitation input to assist individuals with the capacity for work to attempt to return to work.

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Question 80

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.6

Topic: Veterans' Incapacity Payments – Review by Medical Specialist

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. We all know there is a stigma surround mental health problems including PTSD and that some personnel may see these signs and symptoms as “weak”. Could they agree to go off benefits and seek a job even if they were not psychologically ready?
2. What happens if they get a job, but it doesn't pan out – can they go back on incapacity payments?

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) encourages individuals to complete their rehabilitation with support from DVA. This support might be financial through incapacity payments, psychosocial or vocational and may be associated with a goal to return the individual to civilian employment. An individual may also choose to seek employment without DVA assistance.
2. Yes, if a person's service-related injury or illness results in an incapacity for work they may be eligible to go back on incapacity payments.

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Question 81

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1
Topic: Seniors Supplement
 (Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

In reference to the 29,000 veterans who are either Gold Card holders or Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders not receiving income support who will no longer receive assistance via the Seniors Supplement, can you provide a breakdown of the precise number of veterans who will be affected by this and list the pensions they receive?

Answer

The reference to the 29,000 veterans is an estimate of the average number affected by this measure over the 2014-15 financial year. As at 30 May 2014, the recipients of Seniors Supplement holding a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) or a Gold Card are as follows:

Seniors Supplement Recipients	
CSHC	5,703
Gold Card Holder	29,594
Net total Seniors Supplement recipients	31,459
Note: some Seniors Supplement recipients hold both a CSHC and a Gold Card	

These card holders are in receipt of the following Department of Veterans' Affairs payments. Not all cardholders receive a pension.

War Widows (<i>Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 / Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004</i>)	17,754
<u>Disability Pensioners</u>	
General Rate only	5,780
Special Rate Disability Pension (Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI), Temporarily Totally Incapacitated, and Blind. TPI only (3,618)	3,633
Extreme Disablement Adjustment	697
Intermediate Rate	234
Total Disability Pensioners	10,344

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Question 82

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1
Topic: Seniors Supplement
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

CSHC holders will still receive the Clean Energy Supplement and a range of concessional benefits including lower co payments for medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and access to the lower threshold for the extended Medicare Safety Net. Can you outline how many veterans are receiving this supplement and benefits?

Answer

Those impacted by the measure and receiving the Seniors Supplement and clean energy supplement are detailed in Question on Notice 81.

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Question 83

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1
Topic: Seniors Supplement
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

The Seniors Supplement is currently \$876.20 for singles and \$1320.80 for couples combined, per annum which helps them pay for energy costs, telephone, internet, rates, water and sewerage expenses.

- a. Are there any other budget measures that will provide this group of low and middle income veterans, with support in lieu of this cut in payments?
- b. What advice is the Department giving to veterans who contact the DVA and are worried about losing this income?
- c. Has the Department contacted each veteran to warn them they are losing the Seniors Supplement?

Answer

- a. The clean energy supplement will continue to be paid to eligible persons (as the energy supplement) to assist with energy costs.
- b. The Department of Veterans' Affairs is advising clients that as part of the 2014-15 Budget, the Government intends to abolish the seniors supplement and this change is subject to the passage of legislation.
- c. The seniors supplement is paid quarterly with the last payment made on 26 June 2014. An article in the winter 2014 edition of *Vetaffairs* advised that the seniors supplement will be abolished subject to the passage of legislation. Clients will be notified of this payment ceasing after the legislation giving effect to the measure has been passed by Parliament.

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Question 84

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.1

Topic: Dental and allied health provider fees – defer and align indexation

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Has the Department informed DVA dental and allied health providers that there will be a continued suspension of indexation for fees for medical and related DVA services and that indexation will not occur until July 1, 2016?
2. How many providers are there and how many have been notified? What type of providers are in the allied health provider category?
3. Can you expand the detail on the medical and related DVA services involved?
4. In Minister Ronaldson's Budget speech, he stated: 'Efficiencies in delivering services to veterans include aligning the indexation of DVA funded services for dental and allied health care providers with current arrangements for Medicare and DVA medical services. This will not change how veterans access these services, but will ensure consistency across health care providers.' How does this provide consistency?

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is in the process of advising dental and allied health providers of the budget measure. Communication activity includes face-to-face communication through DVA's Advisory Committees¹, letters to peak body representatives with material for distribution to their members, and via the DVA website.

2 and 3. In the 2012-13 financial year, there were a total of 29,173 providers of dental and allied health services to DVA clients under DVA arrangements. The table below shows a breakdown of the number of providers by each category.

Provider Category	No. of Providers*
Chiropractic	2,136
Dental	9,479
Diabetes Education	169
Dietetics	797
Exercise Physiology	896
Neuropsychology	42
Occupational Therapy	1,074
Occupational Therapy (Mental Health)	12
Optical	1,745
Osteopathy	729
Physiotherapy	7,734
Podiatry	2,900
Psychology	1,102

¹ Advisory Committee membership comprises representatives from all the dental and allied health peak bodies.

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Social Work	15
Social Work (Mental Health)	72
Speech Pathology	271
Total	29,173

(* source – DVA Department Management Information System)

The Dental Advisory Committee was advised at its meeting of 22 May 2014. The Allied Health Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 21 July 2014 and the Optical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 16 September 2014.

4. A 2013-14 budget measure, under the former Government, deferred indexation for Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and DVA medical services. Consistent with the MBS and DVA medical services, the date of next indexation for dental and allied health providers will be 1 July 2016.

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Question 85

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.1

Topic: Dental and allied health provider fees – defer and align indexation

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Will providers be upset that they are not getting any increases in real terms until July 1, 2016?
 - a. Doesn't this deferral basically squeeze dental and allied health providers i.e. dentists who provide services to Veterans – potentially affecting the quality of services and cost to patients by ignoring inflation in the payments made to service providers.

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is not in a position to comment on the response from health providers to this measure.
 - a. A 2013-14 budget measure, under the former Government, deferred indexation for Medicare Benefits Schedule and DVA medical services. The suspension of indexation for DVA's dental and allied health providers aligns DVA with the *Pausing indexation of some Medicare Benefits Schedule fees and the Medicare Levy Surcharge and Private Health Insurance Rebate thresholds* measure which will apply indexation suspension to all medical services (except General Practitioner services) until 1 July 2016. Under DVA arrangements there is no cost to patients as service providers agree to accept the DVA fee as full payment for services provided.

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Question 86

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.1

Topic: Dental and allied health provider fees – defer and align indexation

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Is it correct that the costs incurred by dentists and allied professionals will continue to rise (due to inflation) but their payments from the Commonwealth won't, until July 2016. Impact will be similar to the impact on GPs who continue to bulk-bill – I.e. a hit to their bottom line?

Answer

Under the Budget measure, the date of indexation for dental and allied health providers will be 1 July 2016 consistent with the indexation date of the Medicare Benefits Schedule and introduced by the former Government. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) does not collect information on health inflation costs. DVA does meet regularly with professional organisations through DVA's Advisory Committees¹ and through those committees, seeks feedback on issues impacting the profession and provision of services to the veteran community.

¹ Advisory Committee membership comprises representatives from all the dental and allied health peak bodies

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Question 87

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.1

Topic: Dental and allied health provider fees – defer and align indexation

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How will this change align indexation of payments to dental and allied health providers with current arrangements for Medicare and DVA medical services?
 - a. Why is it important to have consistency across health care providers?

Answer

1. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 84, part 4.
 - a. It is important to have consistency across health care providers to ensure fee relativity and to reduce administrative overheads by applying indexation increases at the same point each year. This also avoids duplication of effort for medical and allied health software providers.

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Question 88

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.1

Topic: Dental and allied health provider fees – defer and align indexation

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Is it necessary to freeze the amounts paid to DVA dental and allied health professionals to achieve this?
 - a. Are you lowering their payments because they were higher than providers of Medicare and DVA medical specialists?

2. Is there a danger that this Budget measure may result in fewer specialists/dentists who wish to accept DVA patients.

Answer

1. Under a 2013-14 Budget measure, indexation for all medical services (including Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) medical services) was deferred from 1 November 2013 to 1 July 2014, and furthermore set 1 July as the annual indexation point thereafter. DVA's dental and allied health providers were not included in this measure and so this provider group received indexation on 1 November 2013. DVA's 2014-15 measure for its dental and allied health providers defers the scheduled 1 November 2014 indexation to 1 July 2016, consistent with the broader Medicare Benefits Schedule measure.
 - a. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 85 part a.

2. DVA is not aware of any providers withdrawing from DVA arrangements.

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Question 89

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.1

Topic: Dental and allied health provider fees – defer and align indexation

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Do veterans pay a gap for services now – or only if the dentist/specialist requests it?
2. Will the gap go up, putting veterans under more financial pressure?

Answer

1 and 2. Under the Department of Veterans' Affairs arrangements, the fee paid to the provider is for the full cost of the service, and no additional charge is to be levied against the veteran. For a small number of high cost dental items, where the dental service is not linked to an accepted disability, a patient contribution may apply. The Government has excluded veterans from the provisions of the General Practitioner co-payment for Gold and White Card holders.

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Question 90

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.1

Topic: Dental and allied health provider fees – defer and align indexation

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Is it likely that these DVA dental and allied health providers may stop providing services to veterans, because it is not financially viable to do so?
 - a. Have any contacted the Department to say this?
 - b. If so, how many?

Answer

1. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 88, part 2.

a and b. As at 19 June 2014, no Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) dental or allied health providers had contacted DVA on this issue.

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Question 91

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Enhanced Compliance Programme

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many will receive a reduced payment and how many will be moved off their payments?
 - a. How many will have their payments increased?
 - b. Can you outline the reasons for these movements in payments?
2. Do these reviews mainly concern MRCA and SRCA veterans i.e. those from Afghanistan and Iraq?
3. Is the Department concerned that there are thousands of veterans out there who should not be receiving payments?
4. Does the Department have a target percentage of the number of veterans you hope to move off benefits – or to cut their benefits?
5. Can you outline the anticipated savings in Veterans' Affairs on a year-by-year basis?

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) estimates that up to 4,500 income support recipients will have a reduction in their payment as a result of this review.
 - a. The Department estimates that up to 1,400 income support recipients will have an increase in their payment as a result of this review.
 - b. Changes to an individual's circumstances which have not previously been advised to the Department may affect their level of income support payment. Primarily, the change of circumstances relates to changes in income and/or assets.
2. The majority of income support payments are made to veterans who served in the Second World War and in Vietnam. Less than one per cent of service pensions are paid to veterans who served in Afghanistan or Iraq.
3. These reviews are an expansion of an existing program of reviews designed to both prevent and detect incorrect payments. The reviews under the Enhanced Compliance Programme focus on clients who are subject to higher risk of incorrect payments. Most clients try to do the right thing and keep the Department informed of relevant changes of circumstances. However, some do not or cannot for various reasons inform the Department within the prescribed timeframes, resulting in incorrect payments.
4. There is no target percentage for the number of clients whose payments may be reduced or cancelled under the Enhanced Compliance Programme generally, or for this budget measure.
5. Refer to page 22 of the DVA Portfolio Budget Statements for 2014-15.

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Question 92

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Deeming Rates Threshold

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many veterans on a pension or part pension will be affected by resetting the asset test deeming rate thresholds?
2. In what way will they be affected?
 - a. How much will they lose of their pension/part-pension?
 - b. In what other ways could this be detrimental to them?
3. Does this mean that a number of veterans may be taken off the pension until July 1, 2020 when indexation for the reset amounts will commence?
4. How many veterans are likely to be removed from the pension as a result?
5. Can you outline which veterans will be most affected by this?
 - a. What sort of return from a person's financial assets will see them removed from the pension?
6. What is the saving in regard to pensions as a result of this resetting of the Asset Test Deeming Rate Thresholds?

Answer

1. It is anticipated that approximately 60,000 clients in 2017-18 will be affected by the new asset test deeming rate thresholds.
2. and a. Impacts will vary according to personal circumstances.
 - b. It is possible that an individual may lose eligibility for a concession or treatment card if their assessed income increases with the resetting of the deeming thresholds.
3. Personal circumstances will determine individual eligibility.
4. The number that could lose eligibility is not known.
5. and a. It is not possible to advise the rate of return that would render an individual ineligible for the service or age pension.
6. It is estimated that the administered saving in the 2017-18 financial year will be \$4.7 million.

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Question 93

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. On March 5th Minister Ronaldson announced a 'consultation' on the future of VAN shopfront services. What was the structure of this consultation?
 - a. Who was consulted?
 - b. Were veterans contacted in every town/community?
 - c. How many veterans and organisations made contact in regards to the consultation?
 - d. How many submissions were received?
 - e. What were the findings of this consultation period?
 - f. Are these findings documented publicly?

Answer

1. and a. A press release was distributed encouraging submissions from any interested organisation or member of the veteran community. Formal notification was provided to the Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) Round Table, National and State ESO Presidents, and the Deputy Commissioner Consultative Forums in the affected states. Advice was also provided to these forums in all other states and territories. Local ESOs organised forums in Ballarat and Morwell, which representatives from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) attended. Notices were placed on DVA's website, and multiple notices were released on Facebook and Twitter. Local Members of Parliament and Senators with offices in affected regions were notified.
- b. No.

c.

Veterans/organisations	Total
DVA staff	7
Health provider	2
Individual	53
Local ESO	66
ESO Pension/Welfare/Advocate	8
Petition	2
State ESO	11
Members of Parliament	8
Total	157

- d. 157 submissions were received.

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- e. The key findings from the consultation included:
- appreciation for the local Veterans' Access Network (VAN) presence and for the services provided by local VAN staff;
 - concern about a reduction in services or withdrawal of government support for the veteran community and ESOs;
 - expressions of the importance placed upon the availability of face-to-face services, predominantly due to barriers of distance, and inability to use telephone and / or Internet services to satisfy service needs; and
 - concern for the loss of established personal and network relationships that have been formed with local VAN staff.

The majority of issues raised in objection to the potential closure of regional VAN offices, may reasonably be satisfied by:

- delivering outreach services to the affected regions;
- establishing new agency arrangements in that location; or
- a combination of outreach services and agency arrangements.

- f. No.

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Question 94

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

What is the exact date of closure for each DVA VAN shopfront or agency?

Answer

Ballarat, Bairnsdale, Morwell and Wollongong Veterans' Access Network (VAN) offices closed to the public on 13 June 2014. The lease expiry date was 30 June 2014. There is a two week period required to remove ICT equipment and furniture, and clean and return the offices to the condition which the landlord requires, prior to handing the premises back. No office was closed without prior advice to all clients living in the affected area. National, State and local Ex-Service Organisations were also advised.

Current contracted agency arrangements in Bendigo, Mildura and Warrnambool will cease on 31 July 2014.

The Gosford VAN will close to the public on 22 August 2014. The lease expiry date is 8 September 2014.

The Frankston VAN will close to the public on 17 October 2014. The lease expiry date is 31 October 2014.

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Question 95

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How much will be saved by closing each of these VANs?
2. What was the monetary cost of keeping each of the VANs open?

Answer

1. The quantum of savings cannot be broken down by Veterans' Access Network (VAN) site, as the cost of continued outreach services and phone coverage is not calculated on a location by location basis. In total, it is expected that savings in 2014-15 will be \$848,860. This is less than for 2015-16 as Gosford and Frankston VANs will continue to operate for part of 2014-15. It is expected that savings in 2015-16 will be \$1,062,515.
2. The cost of keeping each VAN open, inclusive of staffing and property operating expenses, was:

VAN	Cost
Ballarat	\$365,590
Bairnsdale	\$102,388
Frankston	\$254,979
Gosford	\$363,649
Morwell	\$228,612
Wollongong	\$370,419

Note: As all leases would have required renegotiation, the ongoing cost would realistically have been slightly higher.

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Question 96

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many staff will be made redundant from each VAN/service?
2. Will any of them be transferred to other positions in DVA?

Answer

1. and 2.

Staff were given three options to consider: redeployment within the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA); redeployment within another Australian Public Service agency; and voluntary redundancy. Five staff were subsequently redeployed into positions in the Sydney and Melbourne offices. Nine staff elected to take a voluntary redundancy. All staff were supported throughout this process.

Veterans' Access Network	Voluntary Redundancy	Redeployment
Ballarat	-	3
Bairnsdale	1	-
Frankston	1	1
Gosford	3	-
Morwell	1	1
Wollongong	3	-
Total	9	5

Bendigo, Mildura and Warrnambool are contracted agencies. No DVA staff are affected by the changes in these locations.

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Question 97

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

What arrangements have been made with Centrelink in terms of staff and education of staff for their new roles in dealing with veterans?

Answer

The Department of Human Services (DHS) staff who provide face-to-face services on behalf of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) attend a two-day training course on a broad range of DVA matters and understanding the veteran community, delivered by experienced DVA staff and accompanied with comprehensive reference material. They also maintain ongoing access to a DVA support network comprising experienced DVA staff and are encouraged to use this network whenever further advice is required for a client. DHS staff also act as a referral point for clients to obtain additional support where needed.

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Question 98

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

What will happen to the office equipment from each shopfront/agency?

Answer

Office equipment such as computers, screens and phones are returned to the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) shared services provider, the Department of Human Services. Chairs, desks and filing cabinets will be disposed of in accordance with DVA's internal Chief Executive Instruction – Disposal of Public Property.

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Question 99

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Are there any plans to move more services to Centrelink?
 - a. Is the Government prioritising efficiency over the needs of our veterans?
2. How will Centrelink staff adequately replace the knowledge and experience of dedicated DVA workers who give advice and support on issues ranging from pension benefits, financial assistance, transport problems and mental health issues?

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will continue to review its service delivery arrangements in line with DVA's strategic plan *DVA Towards 2020*. The focus of this plan is to ensure DVA continues to be a responsive and flexible organisation which efficiently delivers high quality, connected services to clients. Any future plans will take into account the needs of the veteran community, the Department's strategic and operational environment, and the Government's commitment to maintain a stand-alone DVA.
 - a. DVA's priority is to provide high quality, connected services to clients. The recent changes ensure quality services are provided through a more effective utilisation of DVA resources.

There has already been positive feedback that DVA clients have been able to undertake both DVA and Centrelink or Medicare business within the one location as a result of recent changes.

2. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 97.

DVA will continue to conduct regular outreach visits to regional areas, including those areas where service delivery arrangements have changed, where a DVA staff member will be available to meet with clients who require additional assistance.

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Question 100

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

The Minister states that visits to DVA VAN shopfronts are down 28% since 2009, but did DVA statistics only take into account 'counter' visits – or did they factor in the visits, presentations and seminars that are conducted by DVA VAN staff at RSL sub branches and other locations, for example throughout regional areas?

Answer

The full range of work undertaken by Veterans' Access Network staff was taken into consideration. However, counter visits are the one measure that is directly related to the need to have a stand-alone office in a location. All other work such as visits, presentations and seminars can be undertaken on an outreach basis from another office. This already occurs in regions that do not have a stand-alone office, and this will occur in the affected regions.

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Question 101

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Can more DVA VAN shopfront or agency closures be ruled out?

Answer

The Government will continue to monitor how best to deliver services which meet the needs of veterans and their families whilst ensuring a stand-alone Department of Veterans' Affairs is maintained.

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Question 102

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Is DVA aware that veterans view their needs as unique and their service to their nation as deserving of special consideration, and that they have a long-standing and deeply held view that they should always be looked after by DVA rather than in Centrelink?

Answer

Yes, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is aware of this, and the appropriate recognition of the unique nature of military service underpins the Government's philosophy on the delivery of DVA services. DVA's experience in other states certainly suggests that veterans are satisfied with the service they receive through similar agency arrangements. A number of the Veterans' Access Network (VAN) sites examined during the consultation serve relatively small veteran communities, with the number of DVA card holders and pensioners in these regions around 2,000 or less. There are areas with larger veteran populations, which are effectively serviced through other arrangements. For example, there is no VAN shopfront in eastern central Queensland and this region is home to over 8,500 DVA beneficiaries. It is appropriately supported by phone, email, and online DVA services, as well as Department of Human Services (DHS) shopfronts and outreach.

If these arrangements do create a hurdle for anyone, those clients can be, and are supported, through outreach.

The Government is committed to a stand-alone DVA. Agency arrangements delivered by DHS serve to provide an information service on behalf of DVA, in locations where DVA cannot otherwise provide a sustainable shopfront service.

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Question 103

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

In one of the RSL submissions, it was stated that “The LAST thing veteran pensioners want, especially those diagnosed and suffering from PTSD or similar ailments, is to be placed in a queue in an unfamiliar office system like the Department of Human Services – Centrelink – or even placed in a telephone queue. They will instead, often not seek assistance?” Was this view taken into account?

Answer

All of the feedback provided during the consultation period was taken into account, along with the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) strategic and operational requirements.

The provision of services to veterans by the Department of Human Services (DHS) on behalf of DVA has been in place in a number of locations for some time and provides a model for maintaining face-to-face services with the veteran community when a stand-alone DVA office is no longer viable. DVA's experience in other states certainly suggests that veterans are satisfied with the service they receive through similar agency arrangements. A number of Veterans' Access Network (VAN) sites examined during the consultation serve relatively small veteran communities, with the number of DVA card holders and pensioners in these regions around 2,000 or less. There are areas with larger veteran populations, which are effectively serviced through other arrangements. For example, there is no VAN shopfront in eastern central Queensland and this region is home to over 8,500 DVA beneficiaries. It is appropriately supported by phone, email, and online DVA services, as well as DHS shopfronts and outreach.

At the DHS Service Centres where this service is provided, it is delivered from an area within the centre that is specifically allocated for DVA clients and identifiable by clear signage.

The DHS staff provide broad advice to DVA clients about DVA services and entitlements. They are also a referral point for clients to obtain additional support where needed.

DVA will continue to conduct regular outreach visits to regional areas, including those areas where service delivery arrangements have changed, where a DVA staff member will be available to meet with clients who require additional assistance.

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Question 104

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Is there concern that closures may adversely affect older veterans and war widows with no access to a computer or who have no desire to use online services but enjoy a face-to-face interaction with a human being?
 - a. Or who have hearing problems so have difficulty with telephone conversations?

Answer

1. On average, only four clients per day are visiting these Veterans' Access Network offices. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is not concerned that these closures will adversely affect our older clients, because our older clients are rarely accessing these services. One of the prompts for examining these services is the fact that many elderly clients are too frail or have no need to attend a shopfront service.

Those who do require face-to-face support can visit the Department of Human Services office to talk to a staff member who is specially trained and supported by DVA, or they can talk to a DVA staff member when they conduct an outreach visit.

- a. DVA general enquiry line staff are trained in how to communicate with clients who have difficulty using the telephone because of hearing problems.

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Question 105

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

The replacement of face to face services with telephone and online services, which can be complicated or frustrating, may result in veterans who need assistance giving up before they are even known to the DVA. Without DVA offices how does the Department prevent veterans who are isolated and need the help of DVA from remaining isolated?

Answer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will continue to ensure appropriate health and wellbeing services are in place, and help these clients connect with Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) and other community providers. DVA will also continue to work with the ESOs when they identify clients who require additional or increased support.

The Department does this for all clients, many of whom do not live in close proximity to a DVA office.

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Question 106

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. In relation to telephone calls to DVA call centres, is there a time limit for each call?
2. If so does this mean a rushed outcome?

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs has never imposed a time limit on any calls.
2. N/A.

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Question 107

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

The face to face service provided by shopfronts is crucial for new or younger veterans who may be struggling with the transition from service to civilian life. Trained and experienced DVA workers are able to assist with day to day issues these veterans may struggle with. They may identify mental health issues and provide non-threatening human contact for people who struggle with bureaucracy or even literacy. How will the Department prevent these vulnerable young people, who have served their country, from 'slipping through the cracks' with the closure of these specialised services?

Answer

The first point of entry into the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is through the compensation claims process and generally not a Veterans' Access Network (VAN) office. This is particularly true of clients who are transitioning from service to civilian life.

DVA provides a regular on-base advisory service to all Australian Defence Force (ADF) bases in Australia. All ADF personnel are required to complete a simple form to indicate if they have spoken to DVA or would like DVA to contact them. They are encouraged by the ADF Transitions Unit to contact DVA prior to discharge, and DVA is formally advised by the ADF of medical and administrative discharges to ensure that DVA is able to assist these personnel prior to them leaving the ADF.

Any of these clients who are identified as struggling with DVA processes or who have particularly complex claims will be referred to an Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) for support and assistance with their claims. If a discharging client is claiming posttraumatic stress disorder or presents as vulnerable, they will also be assessed for additional supports through DVA including Case Coordination.

DVA's experience is that, by and large, the younger cohort of clients prefer to do business online or over the telephone.

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Question 108

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Should it become apparent that online services and the DHS is not providing adequate service for our veterans could services be re-opened or at least provide experienced DVA staff to those areas which are losing their DVA staff? Namely, Frankston, Gosford, Bairnsdale, Wollongong, Bendigo, Mildura and Warrnambool.

Answer

Bendigo, Mildura and Warrnambool are not Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Veterans' Access Network offices. They are agency services provided by contracted organisations. DVA has committed to providing outreach services, delivered by DVA staff, on a monthly basis to all of the locations listed.

The outreach arrangements will be evaluated in early 2015. Any further examination of service delivery arrangements will take into account the needs of the veteran community and the Department's strategic and operational environment.

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Question 109

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. In just two towns – Morwell and Ballarat – a specialised DVA staff member will operate out of the Centrelink office.
 - a. Will there be just one staff member in each office to look after DVA clients?
 - b. How many redundancies will this mean?
 - c. Will veterans require appointments to meet with this staff member?
 - d. Who will pay this worker's wages – Centrelink or DVA?
2. Will this decision be reviewed in January 2015 and can the Minister and the Department categorically rule out scrapping these specialised DVA staff members in Ballarat and Morwell and replacing them with Centrelink staff?

Answer

1. and a. Yes, there will be one Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) staff member in each of the Morwell and Ballarat Department of Human Services (DHS) Service Centres. Those staff members will be available during normal DHS office opening hours. Under the old Veterans' Access Network offices arrangements, the DVA Morwell and Ballarat shopfronts both closed for lunch, and were open by appointment only two days per week in Ballarat and one day per week in Morwell.
 - b. One voluntary redundancy in Morwell, nil in Ballarat.
 - c. Appointments are not required to meet with the DVA staff at the Morwell and Ballarat offices.
 - d. The DVA staff member will continue to receive remuneration from DVA.
2. These arrangements will be reviewed after 12 months. Any further examination of service delivery arrangements will take into account the needs of the veteran community and the Department's strategic and operational environment.

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Question 110

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Morwell DVA VAN staff members were always available and conducted regular trips and visits throughout the towns and district as well as holding veterans' seminars. Will this continue?

Answer

1. Veterans' Access Network (VAN) outreach services will be delivered where needed throughout the region previously covered by Morwell VAN. The outreach services will continue to complement existing channels of communication and support and include a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) staff member visiting on scheduled dates to meet with clients who require additional assistance. These visits will be advertised to the local veteran community and held in an appropriate meeting space.

The face-to-face client interactions will be augmented as required by community-based activities such as grant workshops, Day Club visits, Men's Health Peer Education and presentations on DVA services and entitlements. The outreach program will be evaluated in early 2015.

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Question 111

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. As a cost-saving measure, why didn't the Department take up an offer of free rent from the local RSL at their ground floor unit which included space for a reception area and two offices – instead of having to pay rent?
 - a. Did the local RSL make an approach to purchase the equipment to further enable their work helping veterans with claims?
 - b. Was this turned down, if so why?

Answer

1. The Department of Human Services (DHS) premises comply with Commonwealth Workplace Health and Safety standards and have good security and privacy arrangements in place for staff and clients. It is also more appropriate for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to enter into a transparent and accountable arrangement with another government department, that does not establish a closer affiliation with any one Ex-Service Organisation.
 - a. The President of the Morwell Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) approached the Department about the compactus in the Morwell Veterans' Access Network.
 - b. The approach was turned down. DVA must dispose of assets in accordance with the Department's internal Chief Executive Instruction – Disposal of Public Property. This does not allow the Department to enter into any local or private arrangements with regard to the disposal of public property. The compactus will remain in the ex-Morwell office under the property handover arrangements, as part of DVA meeting its lease obligations to make-good the property to the satisfaction of the landlord upon vacating. The retention of the compactus was requested by the landlord in lieu of other structural work taking place, and this was an acceptable arrangement to DVA. The President of the Morwell RSL has been advised to approach the property owners regarding acquisition of this piece of equipment.

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Question 112

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Will the presence of one DVA worker in Morwell Centrelink be reviewed in January 2015 as the locals believe?
 - a. Are their fears that this worker will be taken away from them unfounded?

Answer

1. The arrangements for a Department of Veterans' Affairs staff member to be co-located in the Department of Human Services Morwell Service Centre will be reviewed after 12 months.
 - a. Any further examination of service delivery arrangements will take into account the needs of the veteran community and the Department's strategic and operational environment.

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Question 113

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Are you aware the local RSL with its ageing officials who are not getting any younger, feel like they are being left to “pick up the pieces for the oldies?” They are referring of course to the older veterans who aren't computer savvy and have problems with hearing on the telephone and want the face-to-face interaction with DVA office to continue.

Answer

Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 104.

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Question 114

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.4

Topic: DVA VAN closures in regional Victoria and NSW

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

There is also community concern that one DVA person based in a Centrelink office can't look after the whole of the Gippsland area. Is this the case?

Answer

The outreach that will be provided to the Gippsland area will not necessarily be provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) staff member based in Morwell. DVA has ensured that there is capacity within the Victorian Veterans' Access Network team generally to augment existing channels of communication by providing the outreach and support services where needed in all areas impacted by these changes. The outreach program will be evaluated in early 2015.

It is worth noting, that the client numbers in the Morwell catchment area are forecast to drop by 25 per cent over the next five years, and 46 per cent over the next ten years. This projection is similar across Victoria, including the greater Gippsland area.

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Question 115

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: DVA representation at community events

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Can you outline the DVA policy on DVA representation at community forums or speaking to veterans and seniors on the ground about the role of the department and the way it operates?
2. Do you receive requests for DVA representatives to attend community functions – for example, forums or morning teas - in MPs' electorates?
 - a. Do you receive these requests from MPs of all political persuasions?
3. How often do DVA representatives attend these functions?
 - a. What are the rules and guidelines?
4. Who decides if a DVA representative attends?
 - a. Does the Minister sign off on or have a say on every request?

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs considers all requests on a case-by-case basis.
2. and a. Yes.
3. and a. Attendance is determined on a case-by-case basis.
4. and a. Such requests are determined on a case-by-case basis.

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Question 116

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: DVA representation at community events

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. In relation to an invitation from the Member for Hotham Clare O'Neil for a DVA representative to talk to seniors at a community event on May 19 2014, along with Medicare and Centrelink representatives, can you tell me at what point Minister Ronaldson was contacted about this invitation?
2. Who did the Minister communicate with in the Department in relation to this invitation?
 - a. Who brought it to his attention?
 - b. Was it raised at a meeting or a meeting held to discuss it?
 - c. Is this the normal protocol or was the fact that the request was coming from a Labor MP a factor?
3. What was the Minister's reaction to the request?
4. Why did he offer a definitive refusal on behalf of DVA?
 - a. Does the Minister always make these decisions?

Answer

1. The Office of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs was contacted on 17 April 2014.
2. a. b. and c. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has an Electorate Liaison Officer Network that brings these requests to the attention of the Minister's Office when such requests are made directly with DVA.
3. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson contacted the Member for Hotham, Ms Clare O'Neil by letter, declining the invitation.
4. and a. Consideration is predominantly given to whether the attendance of apolitical public servants at a particular event is appropriate. On this occasion, it was considered that attendance at this event was not appropriate.

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Question 117

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: DVA representation at community events

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. What is the Government's policy across portfolios on attendance by Government department representatives in terms of imparting information to the community?
2. In the past, attending community events has been within the scope of ordinary duties for Department representatives. Why did this change?
 - a. What prompted a policy of interference?
3. Have there been other invitations from electorates which have been a) turned down or b) accepted?
 - a. Can you outline which electorates?
 - b. Which ones were accepted and which were turned down?
 - c. Have DVA representatives attended functions organised by Coalition or other MPs' offices?

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is unable to comment on cross portfolio matters.
2. and a. DVA considers such requests on a case-by-case basis. Consideration is predominantly given to whether the attendance of apolitical public servants at a particular event is appropriate.
3. No.
 - a. to b. N/A.
 - c. No.

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Question 118

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: New Social Media Guidelines

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Has the Minister or the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet issued the Department of Veterans Affairs with the reported new social media policy guidelines for public servants?
2. Who do these guidelines state and can you give a brief outline of them?
3. Who must adhere to these guidelines?

Answer

1. No.
2. N/A.
3. N/A.

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Question 119

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: New Social Media Guidelines

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Is it correct that the new policy clearly covers the use of social media in an official and unofficial capacity, whether for professional or personal use? And it includes Facebook, Twitter, Linked In, YouTube, Pinterest and Flickr – and even Wikipedia?

Answer

N/A. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 118 part 1.

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Question 120

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: New Social Media Guidelines

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Does this policy applies to staff members using personal computing devices as well as work computers and devices?
 - a. And at any time of the day or night, that is at work or outside working hours?
2. Posts are in breach if they are: "harsh or extreme in their criticism of the Government, Government policies, a member of parliament from another political party, or their respective policies, that they could raise questions about the employee's capacity to work professionally, efficiently or impartially." If DVA staff are found to have breached the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct, could they be sacked?
3. Must colleagues report to the department if they see colleagues contravening these guidelines?

Answer

1. a. 2. and 3. N/A. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 118 part 1.

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Question 121

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: New Social Media Guidelines

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Do the guidelines cover all public servants at all levels?
 - a. If not, which ones are exempt?

Answer

1. and a. N/A. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 118 part 1.

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Question 122

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: New Social Media Guidelines

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Do the guidelines prevent public servants posting their political views online?
 - a. On which forums are they not allowed to publish political comments?
 - b. Are there any others?
 - c. Do they include so called mummy bloggers on parenting websites?
2. Do these new guidelines also pertain to public servants who post anonymously?
 - a. Under what circumstances?

Answer

1. a to c. N/A. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 118 part 1.
2. and a. N/A

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Question 123

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: New Social Media Guidelines

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Have any public servants in the DVA been reported for online political comments?
 - a. What were these comments and on which site?
 - b. What actions were taken against the public servant/servants?

Answer

1. No.

a. and b. N/A

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Question 124

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Mental Health issues among veterans

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

How many veterans currently have diagnosed PTS?

Answer

As at March 2014, there were 28,604 veterans with an accepted service related disability for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other stress related disorders. There are an additional 3,100 veterans known to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) where there is a diagnosis of PTSD, where:

- DVA has not accepted liability for the condition as being service-related; or
- the individual has been accepted under non liability healthcare arrangements, where DVA pays for treatment for conditions not necessarily linked to their military service.

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Question 125

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Mental Health issues among veterans

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

The ADF has reported eight per cent of its personnel suffer from PTS, while some veterans and health professionals believe that figure to be much higher due to the lack of reporting. How can the DVA assist new and older veterans to seek help for service related stress disorders?

Answer

The Government is committed to tackling the mental health needs of veterans and their families and sees this as a critical pillar of the Government's plan for veterans and their families.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has developed a range of mental health wellbeing resources to support serving and former serving personnel and their families. Resources include:

- the *At Ease* online mental health portal (www.at-ease.dva.gov.au). This portal provides serving and former serving personnel with information and advice to help recognise the symptoms of poor mental health, find self-help tools and advice, provide information on accessing professional support, and learn about treatment options;
- smart phone apps: *PTSD Coach Australia* assists those with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to manage their daily life and *ON TRACK with the Right Mix* designed to better manage behaviours in relation to alcohol;
- a series of YouTube videos to increase awareness about mental health and encourage help-seeking behaviours among current and former serving personnel and their families;
- a social media campaign using Facebook to focus attention on veteran mental health, with over two million views; and
- a brochure which sets out the range of mental health support and services available from DVA.

There is a comprehensive service system to provide effective treatment and DVA spends around \$166 million a year on meeting the mental health needs of the veteran and ex-service community. This includes funding for General Practitioner services, psychologist and social work services, specialist psychiatric services, pharmaceuticals, PTSD programs, and in patient and out-patient hospital treatment. The Government's funding for this treatment is demand driven, and it is not capped, that is, if treatment is needed, it is funded.

In addition, the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service provides free and confidential, nation-wide counselling and support for war and service-related mental health conditions.

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Question 126

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Mental Health issues among veterans

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

How many veterans have an accepted disability through DVA for PTSD or other stress related disorders?

Answer

The table below sets out the number of veterans alive as at 28 March 2014 with an accepted service related disability for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other stress disorders. The figures below include disabilities accepted under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* and the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

Number of veterans with PTSD or other stress disorders as at 28 March 2014

Conflict/s cohort	Number of accepted service related PTSD
Pre 1972 conflicts not Vietnam (1)	3,480
Vietnam (2)	20,348
1975-1999 Conflicts (3)	1,003
Post 1999 Conflicts (4)	2,111
Non operational service (5)	2,415
Net Total	28,604

Notes:

Veterans with disabilities attributed to multiple conflicts across groups (e.g. Korea and Vietnam) have been counted in each relevant group.

(1) Includes Second World War veterans and mariners, Korea, Malaya, Far East Strategic Reserve and all peacekeeping operations prior to 1975.

(2) May include some Special Overseas Service veterans who did not serve in Vietnam.

(3) Includes Cambodia, the Gulf War, Iran/Iraq, Namibia, Rwanda, Somalia, Zimbabwe and other operations between 1975 and 1999.

(4) Includes East Timor, Afghanistan, Iraq, Solomon Islands and all other operations since 1999.

(5) Veterans with service related disabilities that have not been attributed to operational service.

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Question 127

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Mental Health issues among veterans

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many veterans have applied for service related mental health claims in the past year?
 - a. How does that compare with the previous three years?
2. How many of these claims were accepted in the past year?
 - a. And in the past three years?

Answer

1. For the period 1 July 2013 to 28 March 2014, there were 1,971 veterans who had a mental health claim determined under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) and/or the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA).
 - a. Based on the first three quarters of the 2013-14 financial year, the total number of veterans who had a mental health claim determined, has increased over the previous three financial years.
2. Of the 3,073 mental health claims under the VEA and MRCA that were determined for the period 1 July 2013 to 28 March 2014, 1,944 (63 per cent) were accepted.
 - a. The acceptance rates in the previous three financial years were:

2012-13	70 per cent
2011-12	65 per cent
2010-11	66 per cent

These figures reflect VEA and MRCA claims only. Any mental health conditions determined under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* are not included as they are not classified under the Statements of Principles (SoPs).

In order for any claim to be accepted the delegate needs to be satisfied that the diagnosed condition is related to service. The claimant must meet at least one of the factors in the relevant SoP and a link to service established. There are SoPs for all commonly claimed mental health conditions. The SoPs are legislative instruments that set out the factors which can connect particular injuries, diseases or death with service. SoPs are determined by the Repatriation Medical Authority.

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Question 128

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Mental Health issues among veterans

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Does the DVA agree with ADF Joint Health Commander, Rear Admiral Robyn Walker, who has stated that no link has been found between operational deployment and suicide?
 - a. Are you aware that many in the veteran community found this comment very unhelpful and upsetting?
 - b. Is it correct that this statement upset many veterans and organisations?

Answer

1. a. and b. The Department of Defence monitors the suicide rates among serving personnel and is in the best position to comment on this question.

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Question 129

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Mental Health issues among veterans

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many suicides have been attributed to depression or other mental health problems among serving and former Defence personnel?
 - a. Does the Department and the Minister agree that in some cases the DVA is making matters worse because getting help is a battle?

Answer

1. The Department of Defence is in the best position to comment on issues relating to serving personnel. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) only becomes formally aware of a veteran's cause of death (by any cause including suicide) when a claim for compensation is made by a surviving dependant. DVA does not hold records of all veterans who have served with the Australian Defence Force, only those who have lodged a claim for benefits or services.

As DVA cannot monitor the population, it is not in a position to determine or comment on any link between depression or other mental health problems and suicide.

Any suicide is tragic. Suicide is the leading cause of death in Australia for men under 44 years and women under 34 years, and serving and ex-serving personnel are not immune from this. This is why DVA is investing significantly in suicide prevention and mental health more broadly.

DVA's Operation Life initiative provides online suicide awareness and prevention resources and face-to-face workshops that are run through the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS).

VVCS also provides counselling and support to all eligible members of the veteran and ex-service community, and their families. This includes access to afterhours crisis counselling with a Veterans Line counsellor, by calling the national 1800 number (1800 011 046).

- a. DVA is unable to respond to this specific question as each claimant's circumstances are different.

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Question 130

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Mental Health issues among veterans

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

How long does it take to get an appointment with a DVA doctor?

Answer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) does not employ doctors to consult with clients. Clients will generally have their own treating doctor but DVA does sometimes refer clients to an appropriate medical specialist in order to investigate and determine a claim.

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Question 131

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Mental Health issues among veterans

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How do they prove those traumas manifest as mental health disorders – how many specialist reviews does the veteran have to undertake?
 - a. Does this contribute to the mental health problems?

Answer

1. A report from a psychiatrist which links a diagnosed mental health condition to a specific service-related event is required. This report may be available as part of a veteran's Defence medical records or it can be provided by the veteran's treating psychiatrist. Alternatively, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will arrange an appointment with a psychiatrist and will write to the veteran advising of the appointment.
 - a. DVA is unable to answer this question as each claimant's circumstances differ.

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Question 132

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Mental Health issues among veterans

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Is DVA ready for the large wave of veterans who may suffer PTSD and whose lives may be falling apart?

Answer

Since 1999, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has seen a modest growth in the number of mental health claims for veterans who have served in post 1999 conflicts. DVA expects to see this modest growth continue in the next few years.

There is a comprehensive service system that stands ready to meet the mental health needs of the veteran and ex-service community. DVA spends about \$166 million a year on veteran mental health purposes. This includes funding for General Practitioner services, psychologist and social work services, specialist psychiatric services, pharmaceuticals, trauma recovery programs, in patient and out-patient hospital treatment and services through the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service. The Government's funding for this treatment is demand driven, and it is not capped.

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Question 133

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Mental Health issues among veterans

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How many Afghanistan veterans have been diagnosed with PTSD?
2. At last estimates there were 2,111 veterans with an accepted condition attributed to their service in Afghanistan, 704 of which were an accepted mental health condition. Can I have these figures updated?
3. Do you predict that this number will increase as the veterans attempt to transition into civilian life.

Answer

1. As at March 2014, there were 714 veterans with service in Afghanistan with an accepted service related disability for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other stress related disorders attributed to their Afghanistan service. There are an additional 97 Afghanistan veterans where there is a diagnosis of PTSD:
 - which has been attributed to other service; or
 - where the individual has been accepted under non liability healthcare arrangements, where the Department of Veterans' Affairs pays for treatment for diagnosed PTSD not necessarily linked to their military service.
2. As at March 2014, there were 2,612 veterans with an accepted condition attributed to their service in Afghanistan under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* or the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*, of which 885 have an accepted mental health condition.
3. As expected, there has been a modest growth in the number of mental health accepted claims for those who served in Afghanistan over the last few years. This trend is expected to continue.

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Question 134

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Mental Health issues among veterans

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How do the numbers of male and female veterans presenting with PTS measure up?
2. Multiple PTS spokespeople, veteran organisations and veterans themselves have publicly stated that the DVA is not prepared for the deluge of PTSD, anxiety, depression and associated mental health issues that will come from ADF's modern conflicts. How prepared are you?
 - a. Is there room for improvement?

Answer

1. As at March 2014, there were 1,940 veterans with an accepted mental health condition for posttraumatic stress disorder from the post 1999 conflicts. These conflicts include East Timor, Solomon Islands, Afghanistan and Iraq. Of these, 1,836 are males and 104 are females.

2. There is a comprehensive mental health service system that stands ready to meet the mental health needs of the veteran and ex-service community. The Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) focus is purchasing and providing effective, evidence-based treatment, spending around \$166 million a year on meeting their mental health needs for veterans and the ex-service community. This amount is demand driven and is not capped.

a. DVA continues to improve its purchasing and provision of effective, evidence-based treatment. DVA works closely with researchers, mental health providers, and clients as well as the Department of Defence, to promote and improve access to effective treatment. Early intervention is key and the Government is determined not to repeat the mistakes of the past.

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Question 135

Outcome: 2 Program: 2.5

Topic: Mental Health issues among veterans

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

PTS, anxiety, or depression may have a delayed onset months or years after a causal event or events. This means often the onus is on the individual and/or health professional to make a linkage of their medical condition to a particular aspect of their service. What processes could be put in place to ensure that veterans who suffer from PTS are not incorrectly diagnosed and are treated with the respect and gratitude that their service warrants.

Answer

There are a number of resources produced by the Department of Veterans' Affairs to assist practitioners to identify and diagnose early signs of mental health conditions in ex-serving personnel.

As of 1 July 2014, all former serving personnel, including former serving members of both the permanent and reserve forces, will be able to access a post-discharge health assessment from their General Practitioner (GP). This is a comprehensive assessment which will help GPs to identify and diagnose the early signs of mental and/or physical health problems that would benefit from further assessment or treatment.

A range of other resources to assist mental health practitioners, including assessment and outcome measurement tools and treatment options is also available on the *At Ease Professional* portal.

The Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) Grants programme provides funding for advocacy, welfare and pension services to assist veterans with compensation claims for all medical conditions.

An additional \$1m per annum of funds over the forward estimates has been made available to the BEST programme. The increased level of funding will support the work of veterans' advocates, and welfare and pension officers to ensure veterans can access the help they need.

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Question 136

Outcome: 3 Program: 3.1 and 3.2

Topic: Centenary of ANZAC – Gallipoli ballot
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Have all unsuccessful applicants been notified?

Answer

Yes.

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Question 137

Outcome: 3 Program: 3.1 and 3.2

Topic: Centenary of ANZAC-Gallipoli ballot

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Since successful applicants have been notified, has DVA been inundated with questions from the public who were successful in the draw?
2. What have been the main issues raised by applicants, successful and unsuccessful?

Answer

1. No.
2. The main issues raised by applicants include requests for explanation of non-selection, information about the wait list and Assisted Mobility services, assistance with internet issues, logging in to a ballot account and updating personal and contact details, as well as seeking advice on arranging travel to Gallipoli and attending the Anzac Day commemorations.

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Question 138

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Centenary of ANZAC – Gallipoli ballot

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. From 1 July 2013 to 31 January 2014 \$511,945.03 was spent on promoting the Gallipoli ballot while \$69,528.70 has been spent on mental health campaign? to inform eligible people about DVA mental health programs). There is no argument from us about the importance of the Centenary of Anzac but can you see a discrepancy here?
 - a. Can you provide a breakdown of both figures
 - b. And these same figures since February 2014

Answer

1. and a. The \$511,945.03 for the Gallipoli 2015 Ballot campaign, a one off significant event for the Australian public, included metropolitan and regional radio advertising, digital and mobile displays, digital searches, social media advertising, and campaign monitoring. This advertising budget was approved by the former Government.

The \$69,528.70 for mental health communications covered one element of communication, promotional activities relating to the mental health programmes. This included social media and online advertising, health industry advertising and audience specific advertising e.g. provider magazines and Defence publications.

- b. Advertising costs for the period 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 are \$296,604.42 to promote the Gallipoli 2015 Ballot and \$1,255.45 to advise availability of mental health services via the At Ease website. Projected spend on mental health programmes advertising for year 2013-14 is \$350,000.

Further information on advertising can be found in Question on Notice 252.

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Question 140

Outcome: 3 Program: 3.1 and 3.2

Topic: Centenary of ANZAC-Gallipoli ballot

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. The structure of the ballot is such that potentially a direct descendant and veteran could have missed out. Is there any system in place to avoid this other than the cascade system?
 - a. Will these people have preference on the waiting list as they did in the original ballot?

Answer

1. The structure and operation of the ballot, including the cascading system was agreed to by the previous Government in 2013.
 - a. Yes. The wait list operates in a way that enables passes that were originally offered in the direct descendant or veteran category to be reissued to the next individual on the wait list within the specific category. Those passes re-issued from the general category will be offered to the next person on the wait list, whether they are a member of the general public, direct descendant or veteran.

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Question 141

Outcome: 3 Program: 3.1 and 3.2

Topic: Centenary of ANZAC-Gallipoli ballot

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

How many of the 160 WWI Veteran Widows accepted?

Answer

15 widows of First World War veterans have responded with an expression of interest in attending the Anzac Day commemorations at Gallipoli in 2015.

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Question 142

Outcome: 3 Program: 3.1 and 3.2

Topic: Centenary of ANZAC-Gallipoli ballot

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Should any of the official guests –which includes widows of WWI veterans – no longer be able to attend – how would those tickets be reallocated?

Answer

This matter is currently under joint consideration by the governments of Australia and New Zealand.

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Question 143

Outcome: 3 Program: 3.1 and 3.2

Topic: Centenary of ANZAC-Gallipoli ballot

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

All applicants who are successful in the ballot will receive two tickets – one for themselves and one for a guest. The second (accompanying person) pass may be transferred to another person. What processes have been put in place to prevent selling of the 'guest' ticket?

Answer

Each applicant when they first applied in the ballot, agreed to the Terms and Conditions and Ballot Rules, which included specific clauses outlining that attendance passes are strictly non-transferable, and cannot be sold, traded, assigned, transferred or exchanged under any circumstances. The clauses also outlined the penalties for a breach or attempted breach of the conditions. When each successful applicant accepted the offer, they again agreed to these same terms and conditions for themselves and on behalf of their accompanying person.

Mr Sassoon Grigorian, Director of Public Policy, eBay Australia and New Zealand wrote to Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson on 17 April 2014 to advise under eBay's Event Tickets policy, eBay members are not permitted to sell tickets to events where all tickets are free to the public. In addition, Mr Grigorian advised that eBay would take steps to prevent listings for ballot tickets to appear on eBay, to ensure the integrity of the Anzac Day commemorations are upheld.

Regular communication and messaging with successful applicants, and information available in the Frequently Asked Questions on the Gallipoli 2015 website, advises individuals of the Terms and Conditions and Ballot Rules they agreed to. In addition, tickets will be produced with security features that would be difficult to replicate.

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Question 144

Outcome: 3 Program: 3.1 and 3.2

Topic: Centenary of ANZAC-Gallipoli ballot

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. The Government of the Republic of Turkey has advised that no other non-official activities will be allowed to occur on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 24-25 April 2015. Was this decision made with the Turkish government?
 - a. When was the Australian government made aware of this?
 - b. When was this announced to the public?

Answer

1. In February and March 2014 the Australian and New Zealand governments sought advice from the Turkish government on arrangements for the Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park on 24-25 April 2015.

a. On 20 March 2014, Turkey's Coordinating Ambassador for Canakkale Commemorative Events, Hasan Asan, gave an interview on SBS's Turkish language radio service. Key elements of the interview included a restating of the importance of the maximum attendance capacity of 10,500 which should not be exceeded, that Australians who weren't successful in the ballot were welcome to watch the ceremonies in another way "provided they're not on the Peninsula", and that they could watch a broadcast of the service from Canakkale. The Coordinating Ambassador also spoke about visitors on cruise ships watching a broadcast but indicated that the Turkish General Staff would be providing advice on safe anchorages. On 27 March 2014, the Coordinating Ambassador confirmed his comments to the Australian Embassy in Ankara.

On 20 May 2014, the Turkish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) provided to the Australian Embassy in Ankara an Aide Memoire (dated 15 May 2014). The Aide Memoire reaffirms the maximum capacity of 10,500 for the Dawn Service at the Anzac Commemorative Site, that there will be only one official ceremony/service on 25 April 2015 and restates a commitment to the August 2015 services. In an email to Post on 21 May 2014, MFA confirmed that the reference to one official ceremony/service referred to the Dawn Service, Lone Pine service and Chunuk Bair service as "one set of official ceremonies/services".

In addition, the Aide Memoire also confirms that cruise ships will not be permitted to anchor at Anzac Cove and North Beach and instead will be diverted to anchorages at Saros Bay and Karanlik Koy.

b. The Aide Memoire also made it clear that Turkey expects Australia and New Zealand to inform public opinion about the agreed arrangements, and in particular address tour operators providing inaccurate information.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) wrote and emailed on 6 June 2014 to all known "Gallipoli 2015" tour and cruise operators and travel agency associations to directly provide this information to key stakeholders and explain where they can find updates.

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DVA updated its Gallipoli 2015 website on 13 June 2014 with specific information for tour operators about limitations for unofficial services and other activities on 24-25 April 2015 and Turkish arrangements for cruise ships. This will be updated as any new information comes to hand.

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Question 145

Outcome: 3 Program: 3.1 and 3.2

Topic: Gallipoli Ballot

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. With such high demand for the event there are many who had planned to attend, even booked flights and tours but missed out in the ballot. What is the situation for those who have paid for tours or flights in good faith (some up to four years ago, long before the restrictions were announced) and will now be unable to visit Gallipoli National Park?
2. What is the expectation of tour companies and travel agents who have received payment for these services that will no longer be possible?
3. How has the government endeavoured to protect Australians from tour operators/travel agents who will not refund, or have perhaps misled tourists? For example, those planning to take part in alternative dawn services conducted by tour operators on beaches near the official site.

Answer

1. to 3. The Department of Veterans' Affairs has advised people who have booked flights, accommodation and tours but were unsuccessful in the ballot, to speak to their travel agent or tour operator regarding arrangements for individuals who do not hold an attendance pass to the official Anzac Day commemorations. They are also being advised to consider the terms of their booking under the Australian Consumer Law.

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Question 146

Outcome: 3 Program: 3.1 and 3.2

Topic: Centenary of ANZAC-Gallipoli ballot

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. The Turkish Government had approved the Australian Government's request for a commemorative service to be held on 6 August 2015 marking the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Lone Pine.
 - a. Will there be a similar process put in place for this event?
 - b. If so, will those who attended ANZAC services be exempt from the second ballot?

Answer

1. a. and b. The 6 August 2015 Lone Pine commemorative service is currently being planned and details for this service will be announced later in 2014. A ballot will not be conducted for attendance at this event.

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Question 147

Outcome: 3 Program: 3.1

Topic: Western Front Interpretive Centre-Villers Bretonneux, France

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. When will the detailed business case for the construction of an Australian Western Front Interpretive Centre at Villers Bretonneux in France begin?
2. Have you a breakdown of what the \$6.9 million outlined in the Budget will be spent on?
3. Who will head the business case development?
4. What is the estimated total cost of the centre?
5. Where will this money come from?
6. Has the recent budget had any effect on the funding of this project?

Answer

1. The development of the detailed business case began in April 2014.
2. The first stage budget provides for:

Consultancies	\$4.750m
Departmental costs	\$0.831m
VAT	\$0.618m
Land Acquisition	\$0.310m
Procurement	\$0.150m
Advisory Panel	\$0.160m
Legal Services	\$0.073m

3. Director, Office of Australian War Graves.
4. The cost will be established by the detailed business case.
5. This is to be the subject of future direction from Government.
6. No.

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Question 148

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many people does your department/agency currently employ? Please provide a breakdown of this figure based on the following:
 - a. State and Territory.
 - b. Age.
 - c. Gender.
 - d. APS level classification.
 - e. Contract type (ongoing or non-ongoing).

Answer

1. a. to e. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 39.

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Question 149

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many people did your department/agency employ as of 30 June 2013? Please provide a breakdown of this figure based on the following variables:
 - a. State and Territory.
 - b. Age.
 - c. Gender.
 - d. APS level classification.
 - e. Contract type (ongoing or non-ongoing).

Answer

1. a. to e. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 39.

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Question 150

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many people did your department/agency employ as of 18 September 2013? Please provide a breakdown of this figure based on the following:

- a. State and Territory.
- b. Age.
- c. Gender.
- d. APS level classification.
- e. Contract type (ongoing or non-ongoing).

Answer

1. b. and e.

Table 50.1: Employees by age range and employment type as of 18 September 2013

Age	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Full Time Statutory Office Holders	Total
Less than 20	2	2		4
20 – 30	159	40		199
30 – 40	374	29		403
40 – 50	530	20		550
50 – 60	643	21	5	669
Greater than 60	234	5		239
Total	1942	117	5	2064

a. and c.

Table 50.2: Full-time and part-time employees by gender and location as of 18 September 2013

	NSW	QLD	SA	NT	TAS	VIC	WA	ACT	Total
Full-time male	127	147	67	6	19	121	49	239	775
Full-time female	159	234	78	13	37	135	57	324	1037
Part-time male	4	2	1		4	8	2	12	33
Part-time female	36	51	13	1	12	29	13	64	219
Total	326	434	159	20	72	293	121	639	2064

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a. and d.

Table 50.3: Total number of employees by actual classification and location as of 18 September 2013

	NSW	QLD	SA	NT	TAS	VIC	WA	ACT	Total
APS1	2	5				2	2	7	18
APS2	26	19	5		1	4	5	8	68
APS3	54	76	39	3	25	44	22	17	280
APS4	37	42	10	2	8	41	15	68	223
APS5	96	125	49	4	15	74	36	63	462
APS6	68	92	32	7	18	87	27	169	500
EL1	25	45	20		3	28	10	170	301
EL2	10	22	2	4	2	6	2	71	119
GAPS								13	13
Legal 1 (EL1)	2					3		10	15
Legal 2 (EL2)								3	3
MO3		2							2
MO4		1							1
PAO1 (APS5)								2	2
PAO2 (APS6)								4	4
PAO3 (EL1)	1	1						7	9
SPAO (EL2)								2	2
SES1	1		1			1	1	16	20
SES2	1	1				1		5	8
Advocate (EL1)	2	3	1			2	1		9
Statutory	1							4	5
Total	326	434	159	20	72	293	121	639	2064

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Question 151

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since 18 September 2013, what department/agency functions have been transferred from one state or territory to another?

For all functions transferred, can you please provide figures for the following:

- a. Number of staff employed before and after the transfer,
- b. Where the function was based before and after the transfer.

Answer

Functions transferred	a. Number of staff employed <u>before</u> the transfer	a. Number of staff transferred <u>after</u> the transfer	b. Where the function was based <u>before</u> the transfer	b. Where the function was transferred <u>after</u> the transfer
MRCA Initial Liability	1.0 *	1.0	Darwin	Perth
SRCA Initial Liability	0.5 *	0.5	Darwin	Perth
Incapacity Payments	0.5 *	0.5	Darwin	Perth

* No actual staff were transferred, as the positions were substantively and actually vacant at the time of transfer.

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Question 152

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

For each employee transferred please provide the followings:

- a. Their age.
- b. Their gender.
- c. Their APS classification.
- d. The wage of the employee before and after the transfer.
- e. The area of the department/agency they worked in before and after their transfer.
- f. A description of their position before and after the transfer.
- g. The dates of their transfer.
- h. An explanation for why the employee was transferred.
- i. Whether they were transferred to or from Canberra.
- j. Any costs incurred by the department/agency due to this transfer.

Answer

- a. to j. N/A, please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 151.

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Question 153

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since 18 September 2013, how many positions have been made redundant in your department/agency?
 - a. How many of these positions were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these positions were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these positions were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. a. to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 43. The answer provided applies whether a start date of 7 September or 18 September 2013 is used.

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Question 154

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of the employees filling these redundant positions were redeployed?
 - a. How many of these positions were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these positions were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these positions were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. a. to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 44. The answer provided applies whether a start date of 7 September or 18 September is used.

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Question 155

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of these employees were offered voluntary redundancies?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. a. to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 45. The answer provided applies whether a start date of 7 September or 18 September 2013 is used.

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Question 156

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many accepted voluntary redundancies?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. a. to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 46.

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Question 157

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many employees were offered the choice between a voluntary redundancy and redeployment?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. a. to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 47. The answer provided applies whether a start date of 7 September or 18 September 2013 is used.

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Question 158

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

For all employees who accepted voluntary redundancies please provide the following:

- a. Their age.
- b. Their gender.
- c. A description of their position.
- d. The APS classification level of their position.
- e. Their wage.
- f. Their contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing).
- g. Where they were located.
- h. A dollar figure of their pay out and what component of that figure was paid out as entitlements (annual leave etc.).
- i. The reason a voluntary redundancy was offered for their position.
- j. Details pertaining to any other costs incurred by the department/agency because of this redundancy.
- k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

- a. to k. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 48.

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Question 159

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

For all employees who were redeployed please provide:

- a. Their age.
- b. Their gender.
- c. A description of their position before and after redeployment.
- d. The APS classification level of their position before and after redeployment.
- e. Their wage before and after redeployment.
- f. Contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing) before and after redeployment.
- g. Where they were located before and after redeployment.
- h. Please provide the reason for the redeployment.
- i. Please specify any other costs incurred by the department/agency because of this redeployment.
- j. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

- a. to j. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 49.

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Question 160

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since the 18 September 2013, how many employees in your department/agency have been made forcibly redundant?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. a. to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 50. The answer provided is identical whether a start date of 7 September or 18 September 2013 is used.

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Question 161

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of these employees were offered voluntary redundancies or redeployments prior to being made forcibly redundant?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. a to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 51. The answer provided is identical whether a start date of 7 September or 18 September 2013 is used.

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Question 162

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

For employees who were made forcibly redundant since the 18 September 2013 please provide:

- a. Their age.
- b. Their gender.
- c. A description of their position.
- d. The APS classification level of their position.
- e. Their wage at retrenchment.
- f. Their contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing).
- g. Where they were located.
- h. A dollar figure of their pay out and what component of that figure was paid out as entitlements (annual leave etc.).
- i. The reason why the employee was made forcibly redundant.
- j. Details pertaining to any other costs incurred by the department/agency because of this redundancy.
- k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

- a. to k. Please refer to the answer to Question on Notice 52.

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Question 163

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

Since the 18 September 2013 how many non-ongoing contracts has your department/agency extended?

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 53, part 3.

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Question 164

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

How many non-ongoing contract extensions did your department/agency submit the Public Service Commission for approval?

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 54.

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Question 165

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of these extensions were approved by the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC)?

For every approved extension please provide the following details:

- a. The employees age.
- b. Their gender.
- c. A description of their position.
- d. Their APS classification level.
- e. Their wage.
- f. Where they are located.
- g. Their length of continuous employment at the APS.
- h. The length of the approved extension.
- i. The reason why the extension was submitted.
- j. The reason why the extension was approved by the APSC.
- k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. a. to k. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 54.

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Question 166

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of these extensions were rejected by the APSC?
For every rejected extension please provide the following details:
 - a. The employee's age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. Their wage.
 - e. Where they were located.
 - f. Their length of continuous employment at the APS.
 - g. The length of the extension sought by the department/agency.
 - h. The reason why the extension was submitted.
 - i. The reason why the extension was rejected by the APSC.
 - j. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. a. to j. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 55.

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Question 167

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since 18 September 2013, how many non-ongoing contracts have been extended by your department/agency without the APSC's approval?

For every unapproved extension please provide the following details:

- a. The employee's age.
- b. Their gender.
- c. A description of their position.
- d. Their wage.
- e. Their position's APS level classification.
- f. Where they were located.
- g. Their length of continuous employment at the APS.
- h. The length of the extension granted by the department/agency.
- i. The reason why the extension was granted.
- j. Whether the extension was submitted to the APSC for approval and if not why the extension was not submitted for APSC approval?
- k. The reasons why the extension was granted without the APSC's approval.
- l. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 56. The answer provided applies whether a start date of 7 September or 18 September 2013 is used.

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Question 168

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since the 18 September 2013 how many non-ongoing contracts have expired without extension? For every non-ongoing contract that has expired without extension please provide the following details:

- a. The employee's age.
- b. Their gender.
- c. A description of their position.
- d. Their wage.
- e. Their position's APS level classification.
- f. Where they were located.
- g. Their length of continuous employment at the APS.
- h. The reason why the extension was not sought for their position.
- i. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1 a. to i. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 57. The answer provided is identical whether a start date of 7 September or 18 September 2013 is used.

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Question 169

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

Since the 18 September 2013 how many new employees have been engaged by your department/agency on non-ongoing contracts?

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 58. The answer provided is identical whether a start date of 7 September or 18 September 2013 is used.

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Question 170

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since the 18 September 2013 how many new non-ongoing engagements were submitted to the APSC for approval?
2. How many of these new non-ongoing engagements were approved by the APSC?
For every approved new engagement of a non-ongoing employee please provide the following details:
 - a. Their age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. Their wage.
 - e. Where their position is located.
 - f. Their position's APS level classification.
 - g. The length of their non-ongoing contract.
 - h. Whether their position was advertised externally.
 - i. The reason for engaging this new employee.
 - j. The reason given by the APSC for approving this engagement.
 - k. Please provide all relevant dates

Answer

1. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 59.
2. a. to k. N/A

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Question 171

Outcome All: Program All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of these new non-ongoing employee applications were rejected by the Public Service Commission?

For every rejected new engagement of a non-ongoing employee please provide the following details:

- a. Their age.
- b. Their gender.
- c. A description of their position.
- d. Where their position is located.
- e. Their wage.
- f. Their position's APS level classification.
- g. The length of their non-ongoing contract.
- h. Whether their position was advertised externally.
- i. The reason for engaging this new employee.
- j. The reason given by the APSC for rejecting this engagement.
- k. Please provide all relevant dates

Answer

1. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 61.

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Question 172

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1 Since 18 September 2013, how many new employees have been engaged on non-ongoing contracts without the approval of the Public Service Commission?

For every unapproved new engagement of a non-ongoing employee please provide the following details:

- a. Their age.
- b. Their gender.
- c. A description of their position.
- d. Their wage.
- e. Where their position is located.
- f. Their position's APS level classification.
- g. The length of their non-ongoing contract.
- h. Whether their position was advertised externally.
- i. The reason for engaging this new employee.
- j. The reason for engaging this employee without the APSC's approval.
- k. Please provide all relevant dates

Answer

1. a. to k. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 62.

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Question 173

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

Since the 18 September 2013 how many new employees have been engaged by your department/agency on ongoing contracts?

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 63. The answer provided is identical whether a start date of 7 September or 18 September 2013 is used.

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Question 174

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since the 18 September 2013 how many new ongoing engagements were submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval?

2. How many of these new ongoing engagements were approved by the Public Service Commission?

For every approved new engagement of a ongoing employee please provide the following details:

- a. Their age.
- b. Their gender.
- c. A description of their position.
- d. Their wage.
- e. Where their position is located.
- f. Their position's APS level classification.
- g. The length of their ongoing contract.
- h. Whether their position was advertised externally.
- i. The reason for engaging this new employee.
- j. The reason provided by APSC for approving this engagement.
- k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 64.

2. a to k. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 65.

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Question 175

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of these new ongoing employee applications were rejected by the Public Service Commission?

For every new ongoing engagement rejected by the Public Service Commission please provide the following details:

- a. Their age.
- b. Their gender.
- c. A description of their position.
- d. Where their position is located.
- e. Their wage.
- f. Their position's APS level classification.
- g. The length of their ongoing contract.
- h. Whether their position was advertised externally.
- i. The reason for engaging this new employee.
- j. The reason provided by APSC for approving this engagement.
- k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. a to k. Please refer to the answer provided to Questions on Notice 66.

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Question 176

Outcome All: Program All

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many new employees have been engaged on ongoing contracts without the approval of the Public Service Commission?

For every ongoing employee engaged without the Public Service Commission's approval please provide the following details:

- a. Their age.
- b. Their gender.
- c. A description of their position.
- d. Where their position is located.
- e. Their wage.
- f. Their position's APS level classification.
- g. The length of their ongoing contract.
- h. Whether their position was advertised externally.
- i. The reason for engaging this new employee.
- j. The reason for engaging this employee without the APSC permission.
- k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. a to k. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 67.

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Question 177

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Appointments

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Please detail any board appointments made from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date.
2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
3. Does the department have a gender ratio target and/or any other policy intended to increase the participation rate of women on boards? If yes, please specify what the target and policy is for each board.
4. Please specify when these gender ratio or participation policies were put in place.
5. Has there been any change to this ratio or policy since September 7, 2013? If yes, please detail t

Answer

The responses to questions 1 and 2 relate to the period from Additional Budget Estimates to 30 April 2014.

1. The below members were appointed to the Anzac Centenary Public Fund Board on 7 March 2014:

- Mr Gary Humphries was appointed as Chair;
- The Hon Con Sciacca AO was appointed as Deputy Chair;
- Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston AC, AFC (Ret'd) was appointed as a member;
- Mr David Tune PSM was appointed as an ex-officio member; and
- Mr Simon Lewis PSM was appointed as an ex-officio member.

The below members were appointed to the Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Veterans' Mental Health on 13 March 2014:

- Vice Admiral Russ Crane AO, CSM, RAN (Ret'd) was appointed as Chair;
- Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith VC, MG was appointed as Deputy Chair;
- Mr Ryan Stokes was appointed as a member;
- Ms Judy Daniel was appointed as an ex-officio member;
- Major General Mark Kelly AO, DSC was appointed as an ex-officio member; and
- Dr Graeme Killer AO was appointed as a member.

Air Vice-Marshal Anthony Needham was appointed as a part-time member of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission on 13 March 2014.

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2. The gender composition of boards, including ex-officio members, across the portfolio is provided in the table below.

Board	Female		Male	
Anzac Centenary Public Fund Board	0	0%	5	100%
Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission	1	20%	4	80%
Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Veterans' Mental Health	1	17%	5	83%
Repatriation Commission	0	0%	3	100%
Repatriation Medical Authority	1	20%	4	80%
Specialist Medical Review Council	7	18%	31	82%
Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service - National Advisory Committee	3	21%	11	79%
Total for boards reported in the Gender Balance Report	13	17%	63	83%
The Veterans' Children Education Boards/Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Boards	22	43%	29	57%
Veterans' Review Board	13	36%	23	64%
Total for boards within the portfolio	35	40%	52	60%
Gender ratio across the portfolio	48	29%	115	71%

3. No, the Department of Veterans' Affairs does not have a gender ratio target.
4. N/A.
5. N/A.

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Question 178

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Lobbyist Register Meetings

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. List all interactions between the department/agency with any representative listed on the lobbyist register since Additional Estimates in February, 2014. List the participants in the meeting, the topic of the discussion, who arranged or requested the meeting, the location of the meeting
2. List all interactions between the Minister/parliamentary Secretary and/or their offices with any representative listed on the lobbyist register since Additional Estimates in February, 2014. List the participants in the meeting, the topic of the discussion, who arranged or requested the meeting, the location of the meeting

Answer

1. Nil
2. The Department of Veterans' Affairs does not maintain records of meetings the Minister for Veterans' Affairs has with any representative listed on the lobbyist register.

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Question 179

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Enterprise Bargaining Agreements (EBAs)

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Please list all related EBAs with coverage of the department.
2. Please list their starting and expiration dates.
3. What is the current status of negotiations for the next agreement/s? Please detail.

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs Enterprise Agreement 2012-14.
2. 1 January 2012 to 30 June 2014.
3. Bargaining for a replacement Enterprise Agreement commenced on 5 June 2014.

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Question 180

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Staff

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many people does your department employ?

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question 39 part 1.

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Question 181

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What is the number of staff employed in each state and Territory as at 30 June 2013, and what is their age, gender and classification level?
2. What is the number of staff currently employed in each state and territory, and what is their age, gender and classification level?

Answer

1. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 39, part a.
2. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 39, part b.

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Question 182

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What functions have been transferred between transferred from one state or territory to another since the federal election in 2013?
2. Can you please provide details by function of the, number of staff employed, the age, gender and classification of staff employed in the function that was transferred, where it was based prior to the transfer and where it was transferred to?
3. How many of these people are employed in Canberra?

Answer

1. to 3. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 40.

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Question 183

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many people did your department employ in Canberra immediately prior to the 2013 federal election?
2. How many employees have been transferred out of Canberra since the 2013
3. How many of your employees have been transferred to Canberra since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide their age.
 - b. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide their wage. Please provide the figure for before their transfer and after their transfer.
 - c. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide their gender.
 - d. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide the area of the department they worked in. Please provide this detail for before their transfer and after their transfer.
 - e. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide a description of their position. Please provide this detail for before their transfer and after their transfer.
 - f. For every transferred employee please provide an explanation for their transfer?
 - g. For every transferred employee please provide any other cost incurred by the department because of that transfer?
 - h. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. 2. 3. a to e. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 41.
3. f. to h. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 42.

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Question 184

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many positions have been made redundant in your department since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these positions were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these positions were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these positions were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. a to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 43.

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Question 185

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many of the employees filling these redundant positions were redeployed since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. a to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 44.

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Question 186

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many of these employees were offered voluntary redundancies since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. a. to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 45.

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Question 187

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many accepted voluntary redundancies since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. a. to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 46.

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Question 188

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many employees were offered the choice between a voluntary redundancy and redeployment since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. a. to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 47.

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Question 189

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For all employees who accepted voluntary redundancies since the 2013 federal election please:

1. Provide a dollar figure of their pay out, their age, gender and a description of their position including APS level, contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing), responsibilities and where they were located.
2. Please specify what component of that figure was paid out entitlements (annual leave etc).
3. Please specify any other costs incurred by the department because of this redundancy.
4. Please provide the reason a voluntary redundancy was offered for their position.
5. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. to 5. Please refer to the answer to Question on Notice 48.

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Question 190

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For all employees who were redeployed please provide:

1. Their age, gender and a description of their position prior to and after redeployment, including the wages of these positions, the APS level of these positions, the contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing) and where they were located.
2. Please specify any other costs incurred by the department because of this redeployment.
3. Please provide the reason for that redeployment.
4. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. to 4. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 49.

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Question 191

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since the 2013 federal election, how many employees in your department have been made forcibly redundant?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. a. to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 50.

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Question 192

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many of these employees were offered voluntary redundancies or redeployments prior to being made forcibly redundant?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory

Answer

1. a. to c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 51.

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Question 193

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Redundancies
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For employees who were made forcibly redundant since the 2013 federal election please provide:

1. Their age, gender, the dollar figure of their pay out and a description of their position including APS level, contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing) responsibilities and where they were located.
2. Please specify what component of that figure was paid out entitlements (annual leave etc).
3. Please specify any other costs incurred by the department because of this redundancy.
4. Please provide the reason for that redundancy.
5. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. to 5. Please refer to the answer to Question on Notice 52.

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Question 194

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many people are employed in your department on non-ongoing contracts?
2. How many people are employed in your department on ongoing contracts?
3. How many non-ongoing contracts has your department extended since the 2013 federal election?

Answer

1. to 3. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 53.

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Question 195

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many non-ongoing contract extensions did your department submit the Public Service Commission for approval?

2. How many of these extensions were approved by the Public Service Commission?

For every approved extension please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, their length of continuous employment by the APS, the length of approved extension, the reasons why the extensions was submitted and the reasons why the extension was approved by the Public Service Commission, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

1. and 2. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 54.

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Question 196

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many of these extensions were rejected by the Public Service Commission?

For every rejected extension please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, their length of continuous employment by the APS, the length of extension sought by the department, the reasons why the extensions was submitted and the reasons why the extension was rejected by the Public Service Commission, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 55.

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Question 197

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many non-ongoing contracts have been extended by your department without the Public Service Commission's approval?

For every unapproved extension please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, their length of continuous employment by the APS, the length of the unapproved extension, the reasons why the extension was granted, whether the extension was submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval, and the reasons why the extension was granted without the approval of the Public Service Commission, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 56.

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Question 198

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many non-ongoing contracts have expired without extension since the 2013 federal election? For every expired non-ongoing contract please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, their length of continuous employment by the APS, the reason why an extension was not sought, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 57.

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Question 199

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many new employees have been engaged by your department on non-ongoing contracts since the 2013 federal election?

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 58.

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Question 200

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many new non-ongoing engagements were submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval since the 2014 federal election?

2. How many of these new non-ongoing engagements were approved by the Public Service Commission?

For every approved new engagement of a non-ongoing employee please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, the length of their non-ongoing contract, whether this position was advertised externally, the reason for engaging this new employee and the reason given by the Public Service Commission for approving this engagement, as well as all relevant dates relating to this application.

Answer

1. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 59.

2. N/A.

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Question 201

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many of these new non-ongoing employee applications were rejected by the Public Service Commission?

For every new non-ongoing engagement rejected by the Public Service Commission please provide the following details: APS level, a description of their job, the length of their non-ongoing contract, the reason for engaging the new employee and the reason given by the Public Service Commission for rejecting this engagement, as well as all relevant dates relating to this application.

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 61.

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Question 202

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many new employees have been engaged on non-ongoing contracts without the approval of the Public Service Commission?

For every non-ongoing employee engaged without the Public Service Commission's approval please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, the length of their non-ongoing contract, whether this position was advertised externally, the reason for engaging this new employee and the reason for engaging this employee without the Public Service Commission's approval, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 62.

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Question 203

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many new employees have been engaged by your department on ongoing contracts since the 2013 federal election?

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 63.

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Question 204

Outcome All: Program All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many new ongoing engagements were submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval since the 2013 federal election?

How many of these new ongoing engagements were approved by the Public Service Commission?

For every approved new engagement of a ongoing employee please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, the length of their ongoing contract, whether this position was advertised externally, the reason for engaging this new employee and the reason given by the Public Service Commission for approving this engagement, as well as all relevant dates relating to this application.

Answer

Please refer to the answers provided to Questions on Notice 64 and 65.

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Question 205

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many of these new ongoing employee applications were rejected by the Public Service Commission?

For every new ongoing engagement rejected by the Public Service Commission please provide the following details: APS level, a description of their job, the length of their ongoing contract, the reason for engaging the new employee and the reason given by the Public Service Commission for rejecting this engagement, as well as all relevant dates relating to this application.

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 66.

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Question 206

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many new employees have been engaged on ongoing contracts without the approval of the Public Service Commission?

For every ongoing employee engaged without the Public Service Commission's approval please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, the length of their ongoing contract, whether this position was advertised externally, the reason for engaging this new employee and the reason for engaging this employee without the Public Service Commission's approval, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 67.

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Question 207

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Existing Resources Program

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since 7 September how many major projects, work, programs or other tasks has the department started as a consequence of government policies or priorities that are required to be funded 'within existing resources'?

- a. List each project or piece of work
- b. List the staffing assigned to each task
- c. What is the nominal total salary cost of the officers assigned to the project?
- d. What resources or equipment has been assigned to the project?

Answer

All work of the Department of Veterans' Affairs is undertaken within existing resources, unless specific supplementation is provided in the budget context.

- a. to d. Refer above.

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Question 208

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since 7 September 2013;

1. Do any contracts managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy?
 - a. If so, please name each contact.
 - b. When was it formed or created?
2. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?

Answer

1. Nil

a. to b. N/A

2. N/A

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Question 209

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Do any agreements managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations on restrictions on advocacy or criticisms of Government policy?
 - a. If so, please name each agreement.
 - b. When was it formed or created?
2. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?

Answer

1. Nil

a. to b. N/A

2. N/A

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Question 210

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each of the contracts and agreements, are there any particular reason, such as genuine commercial in confidence information, for this restriction?

Answer

N/A.

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Question 211

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Have any changes to financial or resource support to services which advocate on behalf of groups or individuals in Australian society been made?
 - a. If so, which groups?
 - b. What was the change?
2. Has any consultation occurred between the Department/Agency and any individuals and/or community groups about these changes?
 - a. If so, what consultation process was used?
 - b. Was it public?
 - c. If not, why not?
 - d. Are public submissions available on a website?
 - e. If no consultation has occurred, why not?
3. Did the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary meet with any stakeholders about changes to advocacy in their contracts and/or agreements?
 - a. If so, when?
 - b. Who did he/she meet with?

Answer

1. Yes.
 - a. Ex-Service Organisations (ESO) applying for Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) grants.
 - b. As an election commitment, an additional \$1 million per annum is available in the BEST grants programme.
2. ESO community through their peak body, the ESO Round Table (ESORT).
 - a. Election commitment information and ESORT meetings.
 - b. Election commitment information, and the ESORT consulting with their constituents.
 - c. N/A
 - d. No.
 - e. N/A
3. No. The Department of Veterans' Affairs has no record of any such meetings.
 - a. to b. N/A.

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Question 212

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Reviews

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
 - a. the date they were ordered
 - b. the date they commenced
 - c. the minister responsible
 - d. the department responsible
 - e. the nature of the review
 - f. their terms of reference
 - g. the scope of the review
 - h. Whom is conducting the review
 - i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
 - j. the expected report date
 - k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs
 - l. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public

Answer

1. Nil to 30 April 2014.

a. to l. N/A

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Question 213

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Reviews

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. For any review commenced or ordered since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
 - a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
 - b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
 - c. If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
 - d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
 - e. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
 - f. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
 - g. If yes, for each, who selected them
 - h. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
 1. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
 2. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
 3. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
 4. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
 5. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

Answer

1. Nil to 30 April 2014.

a. to h. N/A

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Question 214

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Reviews

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, what reviews are on-going? Please list them.
 - a. What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?
2. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
3. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.
4. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
5. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?

Answer

1. Ongoing reviews are listed in the table below, costed to 30 April 2014.

1. Ongoing reviews	Additional description	a. Cost
Review of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) rehabilitation business model	External contractors have not been involved in this review.	Information on the cost of ongoing staff for this review is not readily available and would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide.
Review of statutory timeframes	(not required)	External contractors - \$39,615 (GST excl.) Information on the cost of ongoing staff for this review is not readily available and would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide.
Review of Veterans' Advocacy Training	(not required)	\$17,397.44 (GST excl.)
Cross Agency Working Party on Incapacity Payments	This review is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examining incapacity payment provisions under the <i>Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004</i>; • originated from the 2012 Government response to the Review of Military 	Specific information on the cost to date is not readily available and would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide.

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	<p>Compensation Arrangements of 2011; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being undertaken primarily by DVA staff with assistance from other government agencies. 	
Cross Agency Working Group on Compensation/Superannuation.	<p>This review is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examining the scope for streamlining administration between military compensation and military superannuation; • originated from the 2012 Government response to the Review of Military Compensation Arrangements of 2011; and • being undertaken primarily by DVA staff with assistance from other government agencies. 	Specific information on the cost to date is not readily available and would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide.
Business Process Improvement Review.	This review is examining compensation business processes and identifying areas where improvements can be made.	\$244,408 (GST excl.).

2. No.

3. Nil.

4. Nil.

5. N/A.

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Question 215

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Reviews

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What reviews are planned?
 - a. When will each planned review be commenced?
 - b. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
 - c. When will government respond to each review?
 - d. Will the government release each review?
 - e. If so, when? If not, why not?

Answer

1. Defence Service Homes Insurance - Scoping Study as per 2014-15 Budget.
 - a. August 2014.
 - b. December 2014.
 - c. The Government will consider the review once completed.
 - d. Unknown.
 - e. N/A

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Question 216

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Computers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. List the current inventory of computers owned, leased, stored, or able to be accessed by the Ministers office as provided by the department, listing the equipment cost and location and employment classification of the staff member that is allocated the equipment, or if the equipment is currently not being used
2. List the current inventory of computers owned, leased, stored, or able to be accessed by the department, listing the equipment cost and location
3. Please detail the operating systems used by the departments computers, the contractual arrangements for operating software and the on-going costs

Answer

1. The computers provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to the Minister's offices are:

Type	No.	Cost per unit	Location	Allocated to
PCs (Thin and Thick Clients)	6	\$927.53	Parliament House	Ministerial Staff
Laptops	3	\$1,858.17	Parliament House	Advisor Media Advisor Aide-de-Camp
PCs (Thin Clients)	5	\$927.53	Melbourne	Ministerial Staff
Total	14	\$15,777.34		

2. The Department currently owns the following computers:

Type	# Computers	Cost per computer	Total
PCs (Thin and Thick Clients)	2,760	\$927.53	\$2,559,982.80
Laptops	160	\$1,858.17	\$297,307.20

As of July 2014, this equipment was located nationally across all states and territories in 50 sites, and includes equipment provided to the Minister's offices (both at Parliament House and in Melbourne). See attachment A for equipment location list.

3. The operating systems are:
 - Thin Client kits utilise Windows 7 Thin Client
 - Thick Client kits utilise Windows XP Professional

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The software license for the operating system is sourced through the whole of government Microsoft Volume Sourcing Agreement administered by the Department of Finance. DVA paid \$415,366.26 in 2013-14 Financial Year for Microsoft Products relating to the Microsoft Volume Sourcing arrangement. This included operating software costs and a wide range of other Microsoft products, such as Microsoft Office and other desktop software products.

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ATTACHMENT A

Australian Capital Territory

1. Lovett Tower, 13 Keltie Street, Woden
2. 28-30 Corinna Street, Woden (Veterans' Access Network (VAN))
3. 6-8 Campion Street, Deakin (Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS))

New South Wales

4. 280 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills (VAN and Veterans' Review Board (VRB))
5. Shop 45, Tweed Shopping Centre, Tweed Heads (VAN)
6. 250 Mann Street, Gosford (VAN)
7. 17 Conway Street, Lismore (VAN and VVCS)
8. 8 Auckland Street, Newcastle (VAN and VVCS)
9. 88 Phillip Street, Parramatta (VVCS)
10. 99 Phillip Street, Parramatta (VAN)
11. Memorial Avenue, Rookwood Necropolis, Rookwood (Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG))
12. 120 Miller Road, Villawood (Repository/File Store)

Northern Territory

13. 14 Winnellie Road, Winnellie (VAN and VVCS)
14. Memorial Drive, Adelaide River (OAWG)

Queensland

15. 259 Queen Street, Brisbane (VAN and VRB)
16. 12 Short Street, Southport (VAN and VVCS)
17. 129 Horton Parade, Maroochydore (VAN and VVCS)
18. 99 Russell Street, Toowoomba (VAN)
19. 15 Astor Terrace, Spring Hill (VVCS)
20. Graham Road, Bridgeman Downs (OAWG)
21. 520 Flinders Street, Townsville (VAN)
22. Evans Street, Belgian Gardens, Townsville (OAWG)
23. Ross River Road, Cranbrook, Townsville (VVCS)
24. 996 Wynnum Road, Cannon Hill (Repository/File Store)
25. Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera (supply DVA staff located here with laptops)
26. Laverack Barracks, Townsville (supply DVA staff located here with laptops)

South Australia

27. 199 Grenfell Street, Adelaide
28. 99 Frome Street, Adelaide (VVCS)
29. 760 Goodwood Road, Pasadena (OAWG)

Tasmania

30. 254 - 286 Liverpool Street, Hobart (VVCS and VAN)
31. 105/287 Charles Street, Launceston (VAN)
32. 7/45 Cameron Street Launceston (VVCS)

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- 33. 13/8 Wenvoe Street, Devonport (VVCS)
- 34. Queens Walk, Hobart (OAWG)
- 35. Quarantine Road, Kings Meadow, Launceston (OAWG)

Victoria

- 36. 300 Latrobe Street, Melbourne (VAN and VRB)
- 37. 54-58 Wells Street, Frankston (VAN)
- 38. 200 Malop Street, Geelong (VAN)
- 39. 715 Raglan Parade, Warrnambool (VAN)
- 40. 81 Hume Street, Wodonga (VAN and VVCS)
- 41. 440 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne (VVCS)
- 42. North Drive, Springvale Necropolis, Springvale (OAWG)
- 43. 620 Lorimer Street, Port Melbourne (Repository/File Store)
- 44. 4-12 Albert Street, Ballarat VIC 3350
- 45. Corner Chapel Street and Elign Street, Morwell VIC 3840

Western Australia

- 46. 140 St George's Terrace, Perth (VAN and VRB)
- 47. 7 Kintail Road, Applecross (VVCS)
- 48. Smyth Road, Nedlands (OAWG)

Minister's Offices

- 49. Level 14, Collins Street, Melbourne
- 50. Suite M1 49, Parliament House, Canberra

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Question 217

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Briefings for other parties

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Non-Government parties other than the Australian Labor Party? If yes, please include:
 - a. How are briefings requests commissioned?
 - b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
 - c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
 - d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.
 - e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
 - f. Which Non-Government Parties or Independents, excluding the Australian Labor Party have requested briefings and/or information?

Answer

1. a. to f. Nil to 30 April 2014.

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Question 218

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Office Recreation Facilities

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 has the department/agency purchased or leased or constructed any office recreation facilities, activities or games (including but not limited to pool tables, table tennis tables or others)?
 - a. If so, list these
 - b. If so, list the total cost for these items
 - c. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure
 - d. If so, where were these purchased
 - e. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased
 - f. If so, what is the current location for these items?
 - g. If so, what is the current usage for each of these items?

Answer

1. No.

a. to g. N/A

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Question 219

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Stationery requirements

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers / Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - a. Detail the items provided to the minister's office
2. How much was spent on departmental stationary requirements from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date.

Answer

1. and a. Expenditure on stationery is recorded for the whole Department of Veterans' Affairs under a single account code and it would be too resource intensive to identify what proportion was attributed to the Office of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs.
2. From 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014, the Department spent \$210,761 on stationery and office requisites. The Department's chart of accounts does not provide for a breakdown between stationery and office requisites.

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Question 220

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Electronic Equipment
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Other than phones, ipads or computers – please list the electronic equipment provided to the Minister's office since Additional Estimates in February, 2014.

- a. List the items
- b. List the items location or normal location
- c. List if the item is in the possession of the office or an individual staff member of minister, if with an individual list their employment classification level
- d. List the total cost of the items
- e. List an itemised cost breakdown of these items
- f. List the date they were provided to the office
- g. Note if the items were requested by the office or proactively provided by the department

Answer

- a. to g. Nil.

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Question 221

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Media Subscriptions
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.
 - b. What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d. What is the cost for this from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

Answer

- 1.a. There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 38, part 1.a from Additional Budget Estimates 26 February 2014.
- b. From 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014, the cost was \$2,399.40 (GST excl.). It would be too resource intensive to provide this figure from Additional Budget Estimates in February.
- c and d. There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 38, part 1.c. and d. from Additional Budget Estimates, 26 February 2014.

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Question 222

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Media Subscriptions
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d. What is the cost for this from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

Answer

1. and a. There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 39, part 1.a from Additional Budget Estimates, 26 February 2014.

b. Expenditure on newspapers, magazines and publications are recorded against four account codes – one code for Newspapers, Subscriptions, Journals and Magazines, one for online publications and the other two codes for library funding (includes books and subscriptions for Manuals, Magazines and Journals). To apportion what was attributed to just magazines, newspapers and other publications would be too resource intensive. The total expenditure against these account codes from 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014 was \$96,321.

c. There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 39, part 1.c from Additional Budget Estimates, 26 February 2014.

d. The portion of the cost of newspapers, magazines and publications attributed to the Minister's Office from 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014 was \$4,386.

The figures listed above, for questions b and d, are from 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014 as it would have been too resource intensive to provide them from the requested start date of 26 February 2014.

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Question 223

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Media Subscriptions
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d. What is the cost for this from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

Answer

1. a. to d. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 222.

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Question 224

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Media Subscriptions
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What publications does your department/agency purchase?
 - a. Please provide a list of publications purchased by the department and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d. What is the cost for this from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

Answer

1. a. to d. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 222.

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Question 225

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Media Monitoring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
 - b. What has been spent providing these services from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c. Itemise these expenses.

Answer

1. The total expenditure by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) on media monitoring services for the period 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 was \$27,098.65 (GST excl). This includes all media monitoring services provided to the Minister's Office and DVA as there is only one media monitoring service and one cost that covers both the Minister's Office and the Department. This figure is provided from 1 February 2014, as it would be too resource intensive to provide figures from Additional Budget Estimates. There has been no change to these arrangements since the 2013 Federal Election.
 - a. iSentia.
 - b. See Part 1 above.
 - c. Of the amount specified above:
 - \$20,798.65 related to media monitoring; and
 - \$6,300.00 related to media distribution.

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Question 226

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Media Monitoring
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
 - b. What has been spent providing these services from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c. Itemise these expenses

Answer

Please see response to Question on Notice 225.

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Question 227

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Media training

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date:
 - a. Total spending on these services
 - b. An itemised cost breakdown of these services
 - c. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
 - d. The number of employees who have utilised these services and their employment classification
 - e. The names of all service providers engaged
 - f. The location that this training was provided

2. For each service purchased from a provider listed under (1), please provide:
 - a. The name and nature of the service purchased
 - b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
 - c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - e. The total amount spent on the service
 - f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

Answer

There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 44 and 45 from Additional Budget Estimates 26 February 2014.

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Question 228

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Media training

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:

- a. The location used
- b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion
- c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer

There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 46 from Additional Budget Estimates 26 February 2014.

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Question 229

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Provision of Equipment - ministerial

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs?
 - a. Itemise equipment and cost broken down by staff or minister classification

Answer

1. and a.
Blackberry handsets

Item	Cost	Staff or Minister classification
Blackberry 9780	\$768.50	Minister
Blackberry 9790	\$768.50	Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Adviser
Blackberry 9700	\$768.50	DVA Adviser
Blackberry 9780	\$768.50	DVA Adviser
Blackberry 9780	\$768.50	Media Adviser
Blackberry 9780	\$768.50	Office Manager
Blackberry 9800	\$768.50	Aide-De-Camp

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Question 230

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Provision of equipment - ministerial

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive, video cameras) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide a list of what is provided across the department of agency, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives each item.

Answer

Yes, electronic equipment is provided to the Department of Veterans' Affairs staff, based on business requirements. Purchase and ongoing costs for phone and data plans and usage associated with mobile phones, blackberries, and wireless broadband services for iPads and Laptops are set in accordance with Whole-of-Government panel pricing arrangements.

Provision of a detailed breakdown of equipment provided to staff by cost and staff level would involve considerable time and effort and be resource intensive.

The current cost for each device type across the whole of the agency, including the Minister and his office, is as follows and is current as at 30 June 2014:

Device	Total Number	Total Purchase Cost	Item Ongoing Costs	Total Payment Made (13-14 FY excl GST)
Mobile Phone	314	\$46,786.00 (average \$149.00 per device)	\$5.00 per month, plus call & SMS costs	\$139,401.18
Blackberry	77	\$43,749.86 (average \$568.18 per device)	\$34.95 per month, plus call & SMS costs and excess data charges	\$57,097.53
iPads	149	\$138,242.94 (average \$927.80 per device rounded)	\$35.00 per month, plus excess data charges	iPad services included as part of the Wireless Broadband costs
Wireless Broadband (includes iPad services)	205	There was no cost for the Wireless Broadband 4G cards	\$35.00 per month, plus excess data charges	\$81,863.16
Tokens to enable remote access to DVA systems	1,510	\$83,050.00 (ie \$55.00 per device)	No ongoing costs	
Laptops	160	\$297,307.20 (ie \$1,858.17 per device)	No ongoing costs	

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USB Drives	130	\$2,730.00 (average \$21.00 per device)	No ongoing costs	
Video Camera	1	\$650.00 (This item was purchased in 2007 and cost approximately \$650.00)	No ongoing costs	

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Question 231

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Commissioned Reports

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, how many Reports (including paid external advice) have been commissioned by the Minister, department or agency?

Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.

2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost?

a. How many departmental or external staff were involved in each report and at what level?

b. What is the current status of each report?

c. When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer

1. Nil

2. a. to c. N/A

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Question 232

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Ministerial Website

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much has been spent on the Minister's website since Additional Estimates in February 2014?
 - a. List each item of expenditure and cost
 - b. Who is responsible for uploading information to the Minister's website?
 - c. Are any departmental staff required to work outside regular hours to maintain the Minister's website?

Answer

1. No expenditure, outside business as usual, has been incurred on the Minister's website since Additional Budget Estimates in February 2014.
 - a. N/A.
 - b. The Department of Veterans' Affairs Anzac Centenary and Communication Branch is responsible for uploading information to the Minister's website.
 - c. While staff do not regularly work outside regular hours to maintain the Minister's website, they may occasionally be required to work for short periods of time on significant commemorative anniversaries, such as Anzac Day, to upload a message or a media release from the Minister.

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Question 233

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Report Printing
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Have any reports, budget papers, statements, white papers or report-like documents printed for or by the department been pulped, put in storage, shredded or disposed of?
 - a. If so please give details; name of report, number of copies, cost of printing, who order the disposal, reason for disposal

Answer

1. Yes

a. See table below

Name of Report	Number of Copies	Cost of Printing (GST Excl)	Who ordered the disposal	Reason for disposal (pulped, put in storage, shredded or disposed of)
Veterans' Review Board Annual Report 2012-13	500	\$2,590	N/A	Copies held in storage for use and distribution as required.
Annual Reports 2012-13 Repatriation Commission; Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission; Department of Veterans' Affairs	692	\$12,207	N/A	Copies held in storage for use and distribution as required.

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Question 234

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: FOI Requests

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since September 7, 2013:

1. How many requests for documents under the FOI Act have been received?
 - a. Of these, how many documents have been determined to be deliberative documents?
2. Of those assessed as deliberative documents:
 - a. For how many has access to the document been refused on the basis that it would be contrary to the public interest?
 - b. For how many has a redacted document been provided?

Answer:

1. Since 7 September 2013, the Department of Veterans' Affairs has received 2779 requests under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).
 - a. In response to these 2779 requests, 17 documents were determined to be deliberative in accordance with section 47C of the FOI Act.
2.
 - a. Of these 17 documents, eight documents were refused in full.
 - b. Of these 17 documents, nine documents were released in part.

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Question 235

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Ministerial Motor Vehicle
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Has the minister been provided with a motor vehicle since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so:
 - a. What is the make and model?
 - b. How much did it cost?
 - c. When was it provided?
 - d. Was the entire cost met by the department? If not, how was the cost met?
 - e. What, if any, have been the ongoing costs associated with this motor vehicle? Please include costs such as maintenance and fuel.
 - f. Are these costs met by the department? If not, how are these costs met?
2. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine if a minister is entitled to a motor vehicle.
 - a. Have these guidelines changed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so, please detail.
3. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine how a minister is to use a motor vehicle they have been provided with. Please include details such as whether the motor vehicle can be used for personal uses.
 - a. Have these guidelines changed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so, please detail.

Answer

1. to 3. There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 101 from Additional Budget Estimates 26 February 2014.

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Question 236

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Ministerial Staff Vehicles (non MoPs)

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Outside of MoPS Act entitlements, have any of the Minister's staff been provided with a motor vehicle since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so:
 - a. What is the make and model?
 - b. How much did it cost?
 - c. When was it provided?
 - d. Was the entire cost met by the department? If not, how was the cost met?
 - e. What, if any, have been the ongoing costs associated with this motor vehicle? Please include costs such as maintenance and fuel.
 - f. Are these costs met by the department? If not, how are these costs met?
2. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine this entitlement to a motor vehicle.
 - a. Have these guidelines changed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so, please detail.
3. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine how a motor vehicle is to be used that they have been provided with. Please include details such as whether the motor vehicle can be used for personal uses.
 - a. Have these guidelines changed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so, please detail.

Answer

1. to 3. There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 102 from Additional Budget Estimates 26 February 2014.

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Question 237

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Ministerial Staff Vehicles

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Have any of the Minister's staff been provided with a motor vehicle under the MoPS Act entitlements since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so:
 - a. What is the make and model?
 - b. How much did it cost?
 - c. When was it provided?
 - d. Was the entire cost met by the department? If not, how was the cost met?
 - e. What, if any, have been the ongoing costs associated with this motor vehicle? Please include costs such as maintenance and fuel.
 - f. Are these costs met by the department? If not, how are these costs met?
2. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine this entitlement to a motor vehicle.
 - a. Have these guidelines changed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so, please detail.
3. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine how a motor vehicle is to be used that they have been provided with. Please include details such as whether the motor vehicle can be used for personal uses.
 - a. Have these guidelines changed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so, please detail.

Answer

1. to 3. The Special Minister of State will respond to Questions on Notice regarding ministerial entitlements on behalf of all departments and agencies.

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Question 238

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Building Lease Costs
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What has been the total cost of building leases for the agency / department since Additional Estimates in February, 2014?

Please provide a detailed list of each building that is currently leased. Please detail by:

- a. Date the lease agreement is active from.
- b. Date the lease agreement ends.
- c. Is the lease expected to be renewed? If not, why not?
- d. Location of the building (City and state).
- e. Cost of the lease.
- f. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.

Answer

1. The total cost of building leases for the Department of Veterans' Affairs from 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014 was \$19,090,000.

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a. to f. Table 1 provides a detailed list of each building that is currently leased.

Table 1 – Currently Leased Buildings

Building Address	Lease Start date	Lease End Date	Lease renewed Y / N	Lease Cost Per Annum	Why Building Necessary? / Reason for not Renewing
ACT - 6-8 Champion Street, Deakin	7/06/2011	6/06/2016	Y	\$134,132	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
ACT - Levels Mezzanine to 6 Lovett Tower, 13 Keltie Street Woden	1/05/2007	30/06/2016	N	\$9,514,740	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department. The Department will relocate at lease end to more cost efficient premises.
ACT – Levels 7-22 Lovett Tower, 13 Keltie Street Woden	1/07/2006	30/06/2016	N	Incl. above	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department. The Department will relocate at lease end to more cost efficient premises.
ACT - Car Parks only - Centra Plaza, Woden	1/06/2012	Month to month	Y	\$44,716	The property provides car parking for departmental officers.
ACT – 30 Corinna Street, Woden	4/10/2010	3/10/2017	Y	\$185,056	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
NSW - Suite 6 and 8, Conway Court, 17 Conway Street, Lismore	1/07/2012	30/06/2017	Y	\$195,313	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
NSW - Corporate Square, 43 Burelli Street, Wollongong	1/07/2011	30/06/2014	N	\$72,175	This property will close 30 June 2014 as part of the service delivery reforms. Veterans will be able to access services in the region via the Department of Human Services (DHS) office in Nowra and outreach services from Sydney.

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Building Address	Lease Start date	Lease End Date	Lease renewed Y / N	Lease Cost Per Annum	Why Building Necessary? / Reason for not Renewing
NSW - Ground Floor, 250 Mann Street, Gosford	9/09/2011	8/09/2014	N	\$72,717	This property will close September 2014 as part of the service delivery reforms. Veterans will be able to access services in the region via the DHS office in Wyong and outreach services from Sydney.
NSW - 120 Miller Road, Villawood	1/07/2013	30/06/2016	Y	\$18,034	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
NSW - Suite 1 and 2 Ground Floor 6 Auckland Street, Newcastle	9/03/2014	8/03/2017	Y	\$224,874	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
NSW - 110 George Street, Parramatta	1/01/2011	31/12/2014	Y	\$78,717	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
NSW - Suite 1 and 2 88 Phillip Street, Parramatta	16/04/2011	15/04/2015	Y	\$297,122	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
NSW - Central Plaza B, Levels G - 5 280 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills	1/11/2009	31/10/2017	Y	\$4,012,490	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
NSW - Shop 45 Tweed Mall, Tweed Heads 2485	1/05/2013	30/04/2015	Y	\$145,172	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
NT – Unit 1 Winnellie Central, 14 Winnellie Road, Winnellie	1/03/2012	28/02/2022	Y	\$241,241	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
QLD - Suite G2/340 Ross River Road Aitkenvale	1/12/2012	30/11/2015	Y	\$238,004	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
QLD - 15 Astor Terrace, Spring Hill	1/12/2012	30/11/2015	Y	\$292,211	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
QLD - 99 Russell Street, Toowoomba	1/04/2014	31/03/2016	Y	\$64,683	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.

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Building Address	Lease Start date	Lease End Date	Lease renewed Y / N	Lease Cost Per Annum	Why Building Necessary? / Reason for not Renewing
QLD - Level 5, 12 Short Street, Southport	13/06/2011	12/06/2014	N	\$188,239	This property will close in September 2014 and be replaced with the new premises in Broadbeach.
QLD - Shop 2/129 Horton Parade Maroochydore	1/07/2010	30/06/2015	Y	\$209,257	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
QLD - Level 1, 520 Flinders Street, Townsville	1/09/2010	31/08/2015	Y	\$372,829	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
QLD - Levels 4-8, 259 Queen Street, Brisbane	27/01/2011	26/01/2019	Y	\$5,419,027	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
QLD - 996 Wynnum Road Cannon Hill	1/12/2011	30/11/2014	Y	\$253,446	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
SA - 199 Grenfell Street, Adelaide Levels G to 2	1/11/2011	31/10/2019	Y	\$1,518,068	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
SA - 199 Grenfell Street, Adelaide Level 3N	1/07/2012	31/10/2019	Y	Incl above	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
SA - Ground Floor, 99 Frome Street, Adelaide	1/02/2012	30/06/2015	Y	\$193,077	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
TAS - 29 Elphin Road, Launceston	11/03/2011	10/03/2014	N	\$68,154	The property provided client contact and administrative services to the Department. The service delivery model has changed. Elphin Road has ceased and new centres are now open in Launceston and Devonport.
TAS - Loyd Lane, Glenorchy	1/01/2011	31/12/2015	Y	\$5,621	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
TAS - Barrack Place 254-256 Liverpool St Hobart	1/05/2009	30/04/2019	Y	\$896,761	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.

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Building Address	Lease Start date	Lease End Date	Lease renewed Y / N	Lease Cost Per Annum	Why Building Necessary? / Reason for not Renewing
TAS - 105/287 Charles Street, Launceston	1/05/2013	30/04/2018	Y	\$41,444	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
TAS – Suite 8 - 45 Cameron Street Launceston	14/02/2014	13/02/2015	Y	\$19,800	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
TAS - Suite 13 - 8 Wenvoe Street, Devonport	14/02/2014	13/02/2015	Y	\$17,160	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
VIC - 620 to 622 Lorimer Street, Port Melbourne	1/03/2013	28/02/2016	Y	\$396,202	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
VIC - Levels 11-13, 300 La Trobe Street, Melbourne	1/07/2011	30/09/2019	Y	\$2,250,619	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
VIC - 68a McLeod Street, Bairnsdale	1/07/2012	30/06/2013	N	\$10,945	This property will close 30 June 2014 as part of the service delivery reforms. Veterans will be able to access services in the region via the DHS office in Morwell and outreach services from Melbourne.
VIC - Level 4 / 440 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne	1/06/2012	31/05/2015	Y	\$294,425	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
VIC - 12 Dawson Street South, Ballarat	1/07/2012	30/06/2014	N	\$58,552	This property will close 30 June 2014 as part of the service delivery reforms. Veterans will be able to access services in the region via the DHS office in Ballarat.
VIC - U3 200 Malop Street, Geelong	1/07/2012	30/06/2014	Y	\$102,180	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
VIC - 10 George Street, Morwell	1/07/2012	30/06/2014	N	\$22,306	This property will close 30 June 2014 as part of the service delivery reforms. Veterans will be able to access services in the region via the DHS office in Morwell and outreach services from

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					Melbourne.
Building Address	Lease Start date	Lease End Date	Lease renewed Y / N	Lease Cost Per Annum	Why Building Necessary? / Reason for not Renewing
VIC - 81 Hume Street, Wodonga	1/07/2013	30/06/2016	Y	\$97,047	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
VIC - 715 Raglan Parade, Warrnambool	1/04/2007	31/07/2014	N	\$8,112	The Veterans' Information Service previously provided by a contractor from this site will now be available through DHS.
VIC - Shop 6 54-58 Wells Street, Frankston	1/11/2010	31/10/2014	N	\$49,831	This property will close 31 October 2014 as part of the service delivery reforms. Veterans will be able to access services in the region via the DHS office in Frankston.
WA - 7 Kintail Road, Applecross	1/02/2014	31/01/2017	Y	\$313,366	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.
WA - 140 St Georges Terrace, Perth	5/10/2011	4/10/2019	Y	\$1,930,572	The property provides client contact and administrative services to the Department.

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Question 239

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Building Lease Costs
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Please provide a detailed list of each building that had a lease that was not renewed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014. Please detail by:

- a. Date from which the lease agreement was active.
- b. Date the lease agreement ended.
- c. Why was the lease not renewed?
- d. Location of the building (City and state).
- e. Cost of the lease.
- f. Why the building was necessary for the operations of the agency / department.

Answer

a. to f. The below table refers:

a	b	c	d	e	f
Lease active date	Lease end date	Location	Why lease not renewed?	Cost of lease	Why building necessary?
11 March 2011	10 March 2014	29 Elphin Road, Launceston, Tasmania.	Building no longer suitable. A better service delivery model was implemented to extend services via serviced offices in Launceston and Devonport.	Approx. \$103,964 (GST Excl.), over the full term of the lease.	To support the veteran community through Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Services.

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Question 240

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Building Lease Costs
 (Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Please provide a detailed list of each building that is expected to be leased in the next 12 months. Please detail by:

- a. Date the lease agreement is expected to become active.
- b. Date the lease agreement is expected to end.
- c. Expected location of the building (City and state).
- d. Expected cost of the lease.
- e. Has this cost been allocated into the budget?
- f. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.

Answer

a. to f. The below table lists the buildings that are expected to be leased in the next 12 months from 1 February 2014.

c	a	b	d	e	f
Building address	Lease active date	Lease end date	Lease cost per annum (GST incl.)	Cost allocated in budget?	Why building necessary?
Level 11 and part Level 3 Niecon Tower 22 Albert Avenue Broadbeach, Queensland	1 June 2014	31 May 2021	\$160,439.52	Yes	This office will support the veteran community through client contact services, outreach services and administrative support for the Department.
Suite 7, 45 Cameron Street Launceston, Tasmania	11 April 2014	13 July 2014	\$10,800.00	Yes	This serviced office will support the veteran community through Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Services (VVCS).
Suite 8, 45 Cameron Street Launceston, Tasmania	14 February 2014	10 February 2015	\$18,000.00	Yes	This serviced office will support the veteran community through VVCS.
Office 13, 8 Wenvoe Street Devonport, Tasmania	14 February 2014	10 February 2015	\$17,160.00	Yes	This serviced office will support the veteran community through VVCS.

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Question 241

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Building Lease Costs
 (Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each building owned or leased by the department:

- a. What is the current occupancy rate for the building?
- b. If the rate is less than 100%, detail what the remaining being used for.

Answer

a. to b. The table below lists the occupancy rate for workpoints in buildings leased by the Department of Veterans' Affairs that are reportable in accordance with the Department of Finance guidelines (Australian Government properties within Australia that contain 500m² or more of office space). This data has been extracted from the October 2013 report to the Australian Government Property Data Collection, which is undertaken annually. The time and effort to accurately provide this information for properties that contain less than 500m² of office space would be too resource intensive.

Building	Total No. Workpoints	Occupied Workpoints	Workpoint Occupancy Rate	Use where less than 100% occupancy
ACT – Keltie Street, Woden (Levels 7 to 22)	878	803	91.4%	Minor number of work points available for allocation where required.
NSW – Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills	388	330	85.1%	Planning to consolidate vacant space over time.
QLD – Queen Street, Brisbane	470	393	83.6%	Small numbers of vacant work-points on each of the five floors.
SA – Grenfell Street, Adelaide	182	149	81.9%	Floor reduction will reduce the vacant work-points.
TAS – Liverpool Street, Hobart	79	71	89.9%	Insignificant number of vacant work-points.
VIC – La Trobe Street, Melbourne	341	266	78.0%	Planning to consolidate vacant space over time.
WA – St Georges Terrace, Perth	129	110	85.3%	Small number of vacant work-points on the two floors.
NT – Winnellie Road, Winnellie	21	18	85.7%	Insignificant number of vacant work-points.

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Question 242

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Legal Costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since Additional Estimates in February, 2014

- a. List the total cost for these items, broken down by source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice and the level of counsel used in preparing the advice, whether the advice was internal or external
- b. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spend briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)
- c. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

Answer

- a. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) does not generally disclose the content of legal advice received. It is important for DVA to be able to make fully informed decisions based on comprehensive and confidential legal advice. As such, only total figures for legal services expenditure are provided, noting that Legal Services expenditure is collected on a quarterly basis and the figures below are for the period 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014:

- internal legal services - \$ 0.72 million; and
- external legal services - \$ 1.43 million.

- b. DVA spent \$0.14 million on legal services from other sources (barristers, specialists reports and disbursements). All Counsel were engaged by DVA.

The ratio of male to female counsel per briefing was 12:8.

- c. External legal services are procured under the Legal Services Multi-Use List, using the three parcels of firms established to provide external legal services to DVA.

Where counsel is engaged directly by DVA, or through an external legal services provider, they are engaged in accordance with Appendix D of the *Legal Services Directions 2005*.

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Question 243

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Workplace assessments
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much has been spent on workplace ergonomic assessments since 7 September 2013?
 - a. List each item of expenditure and cost
 - b. Have any assessments, not related to an existing disability, resulted in changes to workplace equipment or set up?
 - c. If so, list each item of expenditure and cost related to those changes.

Answer

1. The total expenditure on workplace ergonomic assessments in the period 7 September 2013 to 24 June 2014 was \$33,934.45. The total expenditure for workplace ergonomic equipment was \$42,438.42.
 - a. Providing a detailed breakdown of each individual item, its cost and for the period requested would involve significant time and effort and be too resource intensive.
 - b. Yes. Many assessments result in minor adjustments to the workstation, ranging from the simple rearrangement of equipment through to the provision of ergonomic equipment to support a safe workplace.
 - c. Providing a detailed breakdown of each individual item, its cost and for the period requested would involve significant time and effort and be too resource intensive.

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Question 244

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Vending Machines
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 has the department/agency purchased or leased or taken under contract any vending machine facilities?
 - a. If so, list these
 - b. If so, list the total cost for these items
 - c. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure
 - d. If so, where were these purchased
 - e. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased
 - f. If so, what is the current location for these items?
 - g. If so, what is the current usage for each of these items?

Answer

1.a to g. Since Additional Budget Estimates in February 2014, the Department of Veterans' Affairs has not purchased, leased or taken under contract any vending machine facilities.

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Question 245

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Ministerial staff turnover

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

List the current staffing allocation for each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary

- a. For each Minister or Parliamentary Secretary list the number of staff recruited, broken down by their staffing classification
- b. For each Minister or Parliamentary Secretary list the number of staff that have resigned, broken down by their staffing classification
- c. For each Minister or Parliamentary Secretary list the number of staff that have been terminated, broken down by their staffing classification
- d. For each Ministerial staff position, please provide a table of how many individual people have been engaged against each position since the swearing in of the Abbott Government, broken down by employing member and the dates of their employment

Answer

- a. to d. The Special Minister of State will respond to Questions on Notice regarding ministerial entitlements on behalf of all departments and agencies.

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Question 246

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Multiple tenders

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. List any tenders that were re-issued or issued multiple times since Additional Estimates in February, 2014:
 - a. Why were they re-issued or issued multiple times?
 - b. Were any applicants received for the tenders before they were re-issued or repeatedly issued?
 - c. Were those applicants asked to resubmit their tender proposal?

Answer

1. On 14 February 2014, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) issued a tender for mental health services in private hospitals. The tender closed on 14 March 2014. Tenders were received from 19 organisations, representing 62 hospitals.
 - a. In evaluating submissions, it was clear that the majority of the organisations did not understand DVA's requirements on one aspect of the tender. After consulting with the external, independent Probity Adviser, DVA requested these tenderers resubmit that part of the tender only, in light of the clarified purpose.
 - b. Yes
 - c. No. Tenderers were asked to resubmit a part of their tender only.

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Question 247

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Market Research
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. List any market research conducted by the department/agency since Additional Estimates in February, 2014:
 - a. List the total cost of this research
 - b. List each item of expenditure and cost, broken down by division and program
 - c. Who conducted the research?
 - d. How were they identified?
 - e. Where was the research conducted?
 - f. In what way was the research conducted?
 - g. Were focus groups, round tables or other forms of research tools used?
 - h. How were participants for these focus groups et al selected?

Answer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has not conducted any Market Research from Additional Budget Estimates in February 2014 until 30 April 2014.

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Question 248

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Departmental Upgrades
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 has the department/agency engaged in any new refurbishments, upgrades or changes to their building or facilities?
 - a. If so, list these
 - b. If so, list the total cost for these changes
 - c. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure
 - d. If so, who conducted the works?
 - e. If so, list the process for identifying who would conduct these works
 - f. If so, when are the works expected to be completed?

Answer

Since Additional Budget Estimates in February 2014, the Department of Veterans' Affairs has made changes to the following offices:

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS), Brisbane

- a. Installation of additional soundproofing in 11 Counselling offices at VVCS Brisbane.
- b. The total cost was \$10,829.50 (GST Incl.).
- c. \$984.50 (GST Incl.) per room for installation of acoustic baffle to one wall in each counselling room.
- d. Demountable Office Technology.
- e. A quote was sought from Demountable Office Technology as they have previously installed acoustic treatment to another office in Queensland which was of a high quality and effective.
- f. Works were completed in April 2014.

Victorian State Office

- a. Painting works in the Victorian State office.
- b. The total cost was \$14,800.00 (GST Incl.).
- c. Works were split into supplies and labour, and the invoice was not itemised.
- d. Prestigious Master Painters.
- e. Engaged same contactors, via direct source, who provided painting works during the 2011 fitout of the Victorian State office.
- f. Works were completed on 5 April 2014.

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Question 249

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Wine Coolers / Fridges

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 has the department/agency purchased or leased any new wine coolers, or wine fridges or other devices for the purpose of housing alcohol beverages, including Eskies?
 - a. If so, list these
 - b. If so, list the total cost for these items
 - c. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure
 - d. If so, where were these purchased
 - e. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased
 - f. If so, what is the current location for these items?
 - g. If so, what is the current stocking level for each of these items?

Answer

1.a to g. Since Additional Budget Estimates in February 2014, the Department of Veterans' Affairs has not purchased or leased any new wine coolers, wine fridges or other devices for the purpose of housing alcoholic beverages, including Eskies.

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Question 250

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Office Plants

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 has the department/agency purchased or leased any new office plants?
 - a. If so, list these
 - b. If so, list the total cost for these items
 - c. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure
 - d. If so, where were these purchased
 - e. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased
 - f. If so, what is the current location for these items?

Answer

1. Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has purchased or leased the following new office plants.

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS), Brisbane

- a. Ten additional plants were hired.
- b. \$132 (GST Incl.) per month.
- c. Ten plants and pots at approximately \$33 per week.
- d. Ambius Indoor Plants.
- e. Currently hire other plants for the VVCS Brisbane office from Ambius Indoor Plants – a quote was sought and approved.
- f. VVCS Brisbane – counselling rooms and meeting rooms.

Victorian State Office

- a. Replacement of four DVA owned plants.
- b. The total cost was \$275 (GST Incl.).
- c. Four office plants at \$68.75 each (GST Incl.).
- d. Existing indoor plant contractor (Zants).
- e. Purchase of replacement plants from existing contractor.
- f. Victorian State Office.

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Question 251

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Provision of equipment - departmental

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Other than desktop computers, list all electronic equipment provided to department/agency staff since Additional Estimates in February, 2014.

- a. List the items
- b. List the purchase cost
- c. List the ongoing cost
- d. List the staff and staff classification that receive the equipment.

Answer

a. b. and d. The following electronic equipment has been provided to departmental staff since Additional Budget Estimates in February 2014:

Item	Purchase cost	Staff classification
20 x mobile phones	\$2,980 (\$149 each)	issued to Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) field staff (various classifications APS1-6)
10 x iPads	\$8,958 (\$895.80 each)	issued to OAWG field staff (various classifications APS1-6)
9 x iPads	\$7,821 (\$869 each)	Executive Secretariat (APS6x5, EL1x3 and EL2x1)
1 x iPhone	\$845	issued to staff co-located in the Department of Human Services (DHS) office (EL2)
1 x iPhone	\$845	issued to Deputy Commissioner, Victoria (SES Band 2)
2 x iPads	\$1550 (\$775 each)	issued to staff co-located in the DHS office (APS4x2)
1 x iPad	\$775	issued to Chief Information Officer support (EL1)

c. Ongoing costs are as follows:

- Wireless Broadband (used in iPads) - \$34.99 per month; and
- Mobile Phones - \$5.99 per month, plus usage.

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Question 252

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Government Advertising
 (Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much has been spent on government advertising (including job ads) since Additional Estimates in February, 2014?
 - a. List each item of expenditure and cost
 - b. List the approving officer for each item
 - c. Detail the outlets that were paid for the advertising

2. What government advertising is planned for the rest of the financial year?
 - a. List the total expected cost
 - b. List each item of expenditure and cost
 - c. List the approving officer for each item
 - d. Detail the outlets that have been or will be paid for the advertising

Answer

1. a to c. The total cost for all advertising for the period 1 February 2014 until 30 April 2014 was \$313,622.23 (GST excl). The expenditure is provided for 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 as identifying costs from Additional Budget Estimates in February would be too resource intensive. In each of the instances, the approving officer was the relevant Senior Executive Service (SES) officer.

Purpose	Amount (GST excl)	Outlets paid	Advertising type
Tender, public notices and recruitment advertising	\$11,020.67	Adcorp	non-campaign
Gallipoli 2015 - to promote the Ballot	\$296,604.42	Universal McCann	campaign
Mental Health - to inform eligible people about the availability of DVA Mental Health Services via the At Ease website.	\$1,255.45	Universal McCann	campaign
Defence Service Home Insurance Scheme - to inform eligible people about the availability of insurance products.	\$4,741.69	Universal McCann	campaign
TOTAL	\$313,622.23		

* Please note that figures presented are those that have been paid to Adcorp and/or Universal McCann within the specified period. Other funds have been committed but do not appear in this table as they have not been paid.

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2. The Department of Veterans' Affairs will continue to advertise the Defence Service Home Insurance Scheme this financial year, and tender, public notices and recruitment advertising will be conducted as required. Funds have been committed and are expected to be paid for Mental Health Programmes. Please refer to Question on Notice 138 for more details. No additional Gallipoli 2015 Ballot campaign advertising is planned; however costs for previous advertising may be reflected in future figures.
 - a. For the total expected costs for Mental Health Programmes advertising, please refer to Question on Notice 138. The total expected cost is unable to be determined at this stage for other abovementioned advertising.
 - b. Each item of expenditure and cost is unable to be determined at this stage.
 - c. The approving officer will be the relevant SES.
 - d. All non-campaign advertising will be arranged through Adcorp, and all campaign advertising will be arranged through Universal McCann and/or Mitchell and Partners Australia Pty Ltd (who have replaced Universal McCann as the Government's master media agency).

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Board	a. How often has the board met since 26 February 2014 to 30 April 2014?	b. What travel expenses are provided?	c. What is the average attendance at board meetings?	d. How does the board deal with conflict of interest?	e. What conflicts of interest have been registered?	f. What remuneration is provided to board members?	g. How does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?	h. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members?	i. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings	j. What have catering costs been for the board meetings; is alcohol served?
Anzac Centenary Public Fund Board	Nil meetings	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16 - http://remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2013/compilations/travel-allowance-compilations/2013-16-determination-official-travel-by-office-holders/2013-16-Determination-26.9.2013.pdf refer to Part 3 - Travel Expenses on page 4	N/A	Terms and conditions signed by Board members contain standard clauses in relation to avoidance of conflicts of interest.	Nil	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/11 - http://remtribunal.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/24495/2013-11-Determination.pdf refer to Part 2 - Fees on page 2	Any issues that might relate to the delivery of services by a Board member are a matter for the Department of Veterans' Affairs Contract Manager to consider.	No	N/A	N/A
Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission	One meeting	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16 - http://remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2013/compilations/travel-allowance-compilations/2013-16-determination-official-travel-by-office-holders/2013-16-Determination-26.9.2013.pdf refer to Part 3 - Travel Expenses on page 4	100%	See <i>Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004</i> refer to Chapter 9, The Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission - Part 6, Meetings and resolutions - Section 379, Commission member to disclose any interest in claims etc.	Nil	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/03 - http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2015/2014-determinations/2014-03-principal-determination-remuneration-and-allowances-for-holders-of-part-time-public-office/2014-03-PTOH-Principal-Determination-1.03.2014.pdf refer to page 14	See <i>Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004</i> refer to Chapter 9, The Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission - Part 5, Membership - Section 372, Termination of appointment of appointed Commission members	No	Nil	N/A
Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Veterans' Mental Health	Nil meetings	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16 - http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2013/compilations/travel-allowance-compilations/2013-16-determination-official-travel-by-office-holders/2013-16-Determination-26.9.2013.pdf refer to Part 3 - Travel Expenses on page 4	N/A	N/A	Nil	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/08 - http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2015/2014-determinations/2014-08-principal-determination-remuneration-and-allowances-for-holders-of-part-time-public-office/2014-08-PTOH-Determination-for-1.7.2014.pdf refer to page 13	N/A	No	N/A	N/A
Repatriation Commission	Two meetings	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16 - http://remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2013/compilations/travel-allowance-compilations/2013-16-determination-official-travel-by-office-holders/2013-16-Determination-26.9.2013.pdf refer to Part 2 - Travel on Official Business on page 3	100%	See <i>Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA)</i> - Volume 3 - Part XI, The Repatriation Commission - Division 2, Constitution and Meetings of Commission - Section 165, Disclosure of interests / Section 189, Commissioner to disclose any interest in claims for pensions etc. / Section 190, Commissioner to disclose other interests	Nil	See Remuneration Tribunal 2013/09 - http://remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2013/determinations/2013-09*-determination-principal-executive-office-classification-structure-and-terms-and-conditions/2013-09-Determination.1.7.2013.pdf refer to page 7	See VEA - Volume 3 - Part XI, The Repatriation Commission - Division 2, Constitution and meetings of Commission - Section 188, Termination of appointment	No	Nil	N/A

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Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA)	One meeting (over two days)	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16 - http://remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2013/compilations/travel-allowance-compilations/2013-16-determination-official-travel-by-office-holders/2013-16-Determination-26.9.2013.pdf refer to Part 3 - Travel Expenses on page 4	100% (n.b. one member attended one day only)	Declarations of interest are completed annually. The RMA Chairperson seeks advice from each Member at the commencement of each meeting as to whether the agenda necessitates any additional declaration or discussion	Nil	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/03 - http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2015/2014-determinations/2014-03-principal-determination-remuneration-and-allowances-for-holders-of-part-time-public-office/2014-03-PTOH-Principal-Determination-1.03.2014.pdf - refer to page 11	N/A	No	Nil	\$138.65. No alcohol is served.
Specialist Medical Review Council (SMRC)	Two meetings	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16 - http://remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2013/compilations/travel-allowance-compilations/2013-16-determination-official-travel-by-office-holders/2013-16-Determination-26.9.2013.pdf refer to Part 3 - Travel Expenses on page 4	100%	The SMRC asks all members to complete a conflict of interest statement when they are appointed.	Nil	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/03 - http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2015/2014-determinations/2014-03-principal-determination-remuneration-and-allowances-for-holders-of-part-time-public-office/2014-03-PTOH-Principal-Determination-1.03.2014.pdf - refer to page 11	The SMRC would have to refer the matter to the Minister who appoints members.	No	Nil	N/A
Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service - National Advisory Committee (VVCS NAC)	Nil meetings	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16 - http://remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2013/compilations/travel-allowance-compilations/2013-16-determination-official-travel-by-office-holders/2013-16-Determination-26.9.2013.pdf refer to Part 3 - Travel Expenses on page 4	N/A	The VVCS NAC has a Code of Conduct which requires, where appropriate, that members disqualify themselves from committee discussion and decisions where a conflict of interest occurs.	Nil	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/03 - http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2015/2014-determinations/2014-03-principal-determination-remuneration-and-allowances-for-holders-of-part-time-public-office/2014-03-PTOH-Principal-Determination-1.03.2014.pdf - refer to Category 2 payments, page 3	The Board Chair reports to the Minister who determines membership.	No	N/A	N/A
Veterans' Review Board (VRB)	The VRB does not hold "meetings" as such, but rather hearings of applications for review. The VRB has held 414 hearings.	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16 - http://remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2013/compilations/travel-allowance-compilations/2013-16-determination-official-travel-by-office-holders/2013-16-Determination-26.9.2013.pdf refer to Part 3 - Travel Expenses on page 4	The VEA sets out the constitution of panels required for hearings. This is usually three members, including a Senior Member, Services Member and a Member. In some limited cases there will be a quorum of two members.	See http://vrb-mirror/pubs/bias.pdf . This guides applicants and members when dealing with a conflict of interest issue. In addition, members must comply with the Standards of Conduct for Tribunal Members. Further, Section 165 of the VEA also deals with "disclosure of interests" by VRB members.	N/A. Please see previous answer.	See Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/03 - http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2015/2014-determinations/2014-03-principal-determination-remuneration-and-allowances-for-holders-of-part-time-public-office/2014-03-PTOH-Principal-Determination-1.03.2014.pdf refer to page 13	The VRB has in place a member competency framework and members are assessed against the framework, twice yearly. In addition, section 164 of the VEA sets out how a member can be removed from office. This requires action by the Governor General or Minister.	No	Nil	N/A

QoN 253

Veterans' Children Education Board	There has been one meeting each of the NSW, QLD and SA Boards.	Under Section 6.2.2 of the Veterans' Children Education Scheme instrument, Board members serve in an honorary capacity but may be reimbursed for travel expenses.	85%	Conflicts of interest are declared.	Nil	Nil	See Section 6.4 of the Veterans' Children Education Scheme instrument.	No	Nil	\$36. No alcohol is served.
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Question 253

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Boards

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since September Additional Estimates in February, 2014;

- a. how often has each board met, break down by board name;
- b. what travel expenses are provided;
- c. what is the average attendance at board meetings;
- d. how does the board deal with conflict of interest;
- e. what conflicts of interest have been registered;
- f. what remuneration is provided to board members;
- g. how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
- h. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members since Additional Estimates in February, 2014?
- i. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings
- j. what have catering costs been for the board meetings held this year; is alcohol served;

Answer

Please refer to the attached spreadsheet for the responses. The responses relate to the period from Additional Budget Estimates to 30 April 2014.

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Question 254

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Senate estimates briefing

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many officers were responsible for preparing the department, agency, Minister or representing Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of senate estimates?
2. How many officer hours were spent on preparing that information?
 - a. Please break down the hours by officer APS classification
3. Were drafts shown to the Minister or their office before senate estimates?
 - a. If so, when did this occur?
 - b. How many versions of this information were shown to the minister or their office?
4. Did the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?
 - a. If so, when did this occur?
 - b. What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.
 - c. When were the changes made?
5. Provide each of the contents page of the Department/Minister/representing Minister's Senate Estimates folder prepared by the department for the Additional Estimates hearings in February 2014.

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs develops a departmental briefing pack, a copy of which is provided to the Minister. All business areas of the Department contribute to its development.
2. It would be too resource intensive to respond to this question and to 2.a.
3. The briefings were discussed with the Minister's Office prior to Senate Estimates.
4. Changes to briefs were minor. It would be too resource intensive to provide a response to a. b. and c.
5. Information on briefings provided to Ministers is not made publicly available in order to maintain agency's ability to properly and effectively brief Ministers.

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Question 255

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Communications Staff
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:

- a. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location.
- b. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location.
- c. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location.
- d. How many are graphic designers?
- e. How many are media managers?
- f. How many organise events?

Answer

The following details are provided for all public relations, communications and media staff in the Department of Veterans' Affairs as at 30 April 2014:

a. (i)

Ongoing Staff by Classification	
Public Affairs Officer Grade 1	2
Public Affairs Officer Grade 2	2
Public Affairs Officer Grade 3	10
Senior Public Affairs Officer	2
TOTAL ongoing Public Affairs Officers	16

- (ii) Public Affairs Officers provide wide-ranging public affairs support to the Minister and the Department. This includes issues management and media liaison, developing and implementing strategic communication initiatives, pursuing proactive publicity opportunities, website design and maintenance, and publication production.

(iii)

Ongoing Staff by Location	
Canberra	14
Sydney	1
Brisbane	1
TOTAL ongoing Public Affairs Officers	16

b. Nil.

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- c. There are four contracted staff members who are Public Affairs Officer Grade 3 located in Canberra. See (a) (ii) above for the work undertaken by Public Affairs Officers.
- d. Three Public Affairs Officers perform the role of a graphic designer.
- e. Nil.
- f. Nil.

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Question 256

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Freedom of Information Consultations with other Departments, Agencies and the Minister

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The following questions relate to requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (the Act):

1. Other than for the purpose of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, does the Department consult or inform other Departments or Agencies when it receives Freedom of Information requests?

If so, for each instance provide a table setting out the following information:

- a. The Department or Agency which was consulted;
- b. The document;
- c. The purpose of the consultation;
- d. Whether an extension of time was sought from the applicant to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension;
- e. Whether an extension of time was sought from the Information Commissioner to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension

Answer

1. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 83 from Additional Estimates 26 February 2014. Since that response was tabled, the Department of Veterans' Affairs has not consulted with any other agency for a purpose other than discussing a section 16 transfer.

a.to e. N/A

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Question 257

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Freedom of Information Consultations with other Departments, Agencies and the Minister

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Other than for the purposes of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, has the Department consulted or informed the Minister's office about Freedom of Information requests it has received?

If yes, provide a table setting out the following information:

- a. The requests with respect to which the Minister or Ministerial office was consulted;
- b. The Minister or Ministerial office which was consulted;
- c. The purpose of the consultation;
- d. Whether an extension of time was sought from the applicant to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension;
- e. Whether an extension of time was sought from the Information Commissioner to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension
- f. Whether any briefings (including formal briefs, email briefings and verbal briefings) were provided to the Minister's office

Answer

1. a to f: The Department of Veterans' Affairs examines each Freedom of Information (FOI) request received and determines, on a case-by-case basis, the need to brief the Minister on the outcome of its FOI decision. It is an adhoc arrangement which depends on the nature and sensitivity of the material being released.

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Question 258

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Freedom of Information Staffing Resources

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The following questions relate to the period from 18 September 2013:

1. For the period of time from 18 September 2013, what was the average FTE is allocated to processing FOI requests?

Answer

1. Staffing resources assigned to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests are listed by Australian Public Service (APS) levels in the below tables. The proportion of time spent on FOI requests by each staff member is estimated by FTE, where one unit indicates one FTE assigned to FOI requests.

Information Law, Canberra	
EL2	.30
EL1	.75
APS5	.75
APS4	.20
Total	2 FTE

Veterans' Access Network Management and Community Support, Sydney	
EL2	.05
EL1	.15
APS6	.20
APS5	2
APS4	3.8
APS3	2
APS2	1
Total	9.2 FTE

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Question 259

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Freedom of Information Disclosure Log

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The following questions relate to the period from 18 September 2013:

For the purposes of meeting its obligations under 11C of the Act, does the Department or Agency:

- a. Maintain a webpage allowing download of documents released under section 11A (direct download)?
- b. Require individuals to contact the Department or Agency to ask for the provision of those documents (request for provision)?
- c. Facilitate to those documents in a different manner (if so, specify).

Answer

a. to c. In accordance with its obligations under section 11C of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, the Department of Veterans' Affairs maintains a Disclosure Log webpage, which provides the contact details for individuals to request the provision of documents published on the Disclosure Log.

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Question 260

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Freedom of Information Disclosure Log

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The following questions relate to the period from 18 September 2013:

If the Department or Agency has moved from a system of meetings its 11C obligations by direct download, to a system of meeting those obligations by request for provision, provide the following information:

- a. The dates for which documents were made available for direct download, and the dates for which documents were made available through request for provision;
- b. The total number of direct downloads of documents released under 11A the Departmental or Agency website;
- c. The total number of requests for provision to documents that had been directly received, and how many had been processed by [date]?
- d. What was the average FTE allocated to monitoring incoming email, collating and forwarding documents providing under a request for provision?
- e. What was the approximate cost for salaries for the FTE staff allocated to this task?

Answer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs continues to meet its obligations under section 11C of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* through provision of documents on request by individuals.

- a. to e. N/A

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Question 261

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Freedom of Information Disclosure Log

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The following questions relate to the period from 18 September 2013:

1. Has the Department or Agency charged any for access to a document under section 11C(4)?

If so, please provide the following information in a table:

- a. On how many occasions charges have been imposed;
- b. The amount charged for each document
- c. The total amount charged;
- d. What is the highest charge that has been imposed.

Answer:

1. Since 18 September 2013, the Department of Veterans' Affairs has not imposed any charges for access to a document under section 11C(4) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

a. to d. N/A

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Question 262

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: With Respect to FOI Requests

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The following questions relate to the period from 18 September 2013:

1. How many documents were assessed (at internal review or - if internal review was not requested - by the original decision maker) as conditionally exempt?

Of those, how many were:

a. Released in full

b. Released in part

c. Refused access on the grounds that release of the document would be contrary to the public interest

d. Other (please specify)

Answer

1. 126

a. 0

b. 80

c. 46

d. N/A

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Question 263

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Functions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Provide a list of all formal functions or forms of hospitality conducted for the Minister since Additional Estimates in February, 2014. Include:
 - a. The guest list of each function
 - b. The party or individual who initiated the request for the function
 - c. The menu, program or list of proceedings of the function
 - d. A list of drinks consumed at the function
2. Provide a list of the current wine, beer or other alcoholic beverages in stock or on order in the Minister's office.

Answer

1. a. to d. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 278.
2. On 28 February 2014, \$553.09 (GST excl.) worth of wine was purchased for official hospitality in the Minister's Office.

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Question 264

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Red Tape Reduction
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
 - a. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target
 - b. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
 - c. How have they been recruited?
 - d. What process was used for their appointment?
 - e. What is the total cost of this unit?
 - f. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.
 - g. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
 - h. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.
 - i. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer

1. There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 93 Part 1. from Additional Budget Estimates 2013-14, 26 February 2014.
 - a. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has been allocated a joint red tape reduction target with the Department of Defence and is on track to meeting the target.
 - b. There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 93 Part 2. from Additional Budget Estimates 2013-14, 26 February 2014.
 - c. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 168 (iii) from Supplementary Estimates 20 November 2013.

There has been one staffing movement since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 168 (iii) from Supplementary Estimates 20 November 2013. The existing EL1 officer moved to another branch within the Department and was replaced through an internal Expression of Interest process by another EL1 officer.

- d. There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 93 Part 4. from Additional Budget Estimates 2013-14, 26 February 2014.
 - e. The estimated cost for the unit dedicated to the deregulation function is \$201,516 for the 2013-14 Financial Year.

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- f. The estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the deregulation function within the unit is \$164,000 for the 2013-14 Financial Year.
- g. There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 93 Part 6. from Additional Budget Estimates 2013-14, 26 February 2014.
- h. SES1 – NV1 granted 21/11/07
 EL2 – Baseline granted 19/5/2010
 EL1 – Baseline granted 4/11/2011
 APS6 – Baseline granted 9/12/2011
- i. There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 93 Part 8. from Additional Budget Estimates 2013-14, 26 February 2014.

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Question 265

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Official residences

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Provide a list of all formal functions conducted at any of the Official Residences, or for the Prime Minister's office or Prime Minister's Dining Room where it has been used in place of the official residences since Additional Estimates in February, 2014. Include:
 - a. The guest list of each function, including if any ministerial staff attended
 - b. The party or individual who initiated the request for the function
 - c. The menu, program or list of proceedings of the function
 - d. A list of drinks consumed at the function
2. Provide a list of the current wine, beer or other alcoholic beverages in stock or on order at any of the official residences, or venues or offices acting as official residences.

Answer

1. As part of the official farewell for the Commemorative Mission to France for the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings and the European Campaign, the Prime Minister invited the Mission Party to Kirribilli House for Morning Tea on 31 May 2014.
 - a. The guest list included:
 - Seven veterans travelling on the Commemorative Mission;
 - Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA);
 - Repatriation Commissioner and Mission Director;
 - Principal Medical Adviser at DVA and Mission Party doctor;
 - Director, Western Front Section, Commemorations Branch, DVA;
 - One nurse;
 - One media officer from DVA; and
 - One veteran support officer.
 - b. DVA.
 - c. Scones and cakes.
 - d. Morning Tea was served from 11am to 12pm, with tea and coffee.
2. DVA is unable to provide advice to this question.

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Question 266

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Travel costs - department
 (Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
2. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
3. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer

1. No departmental officer has accompanied the Minister for Veterans' Affairs on his travel from Additional Estimates in February 2014 to 30 April 2014.
2. From 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014, the Department of Veterans' Affairs spent \$4,424,808 on employee travel, both domestic and international, as outlined in the table below.

Travel type	Cost
Fares and booking fees	\$2,440,398
Travel Allowances (meals and incidentals) / Accommodation / Parking / Tolls	\$1,926,732
Car hire	\$57,678
Total	\$4,424,808

Note: Figures are GST exclusive.

Data on the breakdown of airfares, including domestic and international travel, by type is provided in the following table.

Business class	Fully Flexible	Mid Range	Lowest Restricted
550	158	2167	967

The reasons for travel by departmental officers include attending departmental meetings (once the cost effectiveness of the travel has been established); maintaining war graves in remote areas; arranging and attending commemorative events; and meeting with stakeholders such as ex-service organisations.

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3. Travel is carried out on a needs basis in direct response to business requirements. Forecasting of future travel is not realistic as emerging needs can arise at short notice. Therefore, we are not able to predict the future expenditure in this area.

The figures listed above, for part 2 are from 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014 as it would have been too resource intensive to provide them from the requested start date in February 2014.

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Question 267

Outcome: All Program: all
Topic: Ministerial staff code
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Have there been any identified breaches of the Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct by the Minister, their office or the department?
 - a. If so, list the breaches identified, broken by staffing classification level
 - b. If so, what remedy was put in place to manage the breach?
 - c. If no remedy has been put in place, why not?
 - d. If so, when was the breach identified?
 - e. By whom?
 - f. When was the Minister made aware?
2. Can the Minister confirm that all ministerial and electorate officers in their office comply fully with the ministerial staff code of conduct?
 - a. If not, how many staff don't comply, broken down by classification level?
 - b. How long have they worked for the Minister?
3. Can you confirm they all complied with the code on the date of their employment?
 - a. If not, on what date did they comply?
4. Can you confirm that all disclosures as required by the code were made to the government staffing committee?
 - a. If so, on what date were those disclosure made?
5. By position title list the date each staff member was approved by government staff committee
6. Can you confirm all staff have divested themselves of any and all relevant shares as of the date of their appointment
7. Can you list by number if any staff have been granted exception by the SMOS to remain a director of a company as allowed by the Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct, break down by position level

Answer

1. to 7. The Special Minister of State will respond to Questions on Notice regarding ministerial staff code of conduct on behalf of all departments and agencies.

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Question 268

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Credit Cards

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card. Please update details of the following?
 - a. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
 - b. How is corporate credit card use monitored?
 - c. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
 - d. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
 - e. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer

1. The total number of cards issued to Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) employees, as at 23 June 2014, was 244. The breakdown by employment classification was:

Classification	No. of Cardholders
APS2	7
APS3	15
APS4	31
APS5	31
APS6	60
EL1	34
EL2	36
SES	24
Statutory Position Holders	4
Chair ANZAC Centenary Advisory Board	1
Principal Member Veterans' Review Board	1
TOTAL	244

- a and c. If misuse of a corporate credit card is accidental, then the card holder is asked to repay the funds and the incident is reported on the Certificate of Compliance. If fraud is suspected, then the matter is referred to the DVA Business Compliance Section to undertake a compliance investigation. If there is sufficient material to disclose suspected fraudulent activity, the matter would be referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions for its consideration and possible charging of the individual. Additionally, the Chief Finance Officer may revoke credit cards where regular misuse or maladministration by the cardholder occurs.
- b. Chief Executive Instruction (CEI) 5 outlines the eligibility and processes for issuing and using corporate credit cards, and the responsibilities of the cardholder and manager. The corporate credit card is monitored in a number of ways:

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- Cardholders are required to reconcile monthly card statements which are signed off by their manager. This process ensures the manager has direct responsibility to monitor appropriate use of the cards;
 - The acquitted monthly statements and supporting documentation are forwarded to the area responsible for issuing and monitoring corporate credit cards. This area undertakes quality assurance checks of the acquittals to ensure compliance with the CEI. Internal audit also undertakes periodic reviews of credit card usage, and compliance with the CEI; and
 - DVA's card provider has a process for monitoring transactions and alerts the Department to any unusual spending patterns.
- d. Since Additional Budget Estimates in February 2014, two incidents of corporate credit card misuse were reported in the Certificate of Compliance.
- i. An APS 4 level staff member accidentally placed a DVA credit card in a car parking machine while on overtime. The error was immediately reported and the amount was repaid.
 - ii. An EL 2 staff member used the DVA credit card for a corporate purchase through Paypal. The card details were not removed from the Paypal account and subsequently a personal subscription renewal was inadvertently charged to the same account. The money was paid back and the DVA credit card details removed from the Paypal Account.
- e. Cards are only issued following successful completion of the financial management e-learning module, together with an identified business need and approval by a SES or equivalent level officer. On receipt of a corporate credit card, cardholders are required to sign an agreement which outlines their responsibilities and which specifies that the corporate credit card is to be used only for official purposes. Cardholders are also subject to the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct. In addition, usage restrictions such as spending and individual transaction limits are placed on corporate credit cards by the provider based on cardholder needs and regularly reviewed.

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Question 269

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Shared resources following MOG changes

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Following the Machinery of Government changes does the department share any goods/services/accommodation with other departments?
2. What resources/services does the department share with other departments; are there plans to cease sharing the sharing of these resources/services?
3. What were the costs to the department prior to the Machinery of Government changes for these shared resources?
 - a. What are the estimated costs after the ceasing of shared resource arrangements?

Answer

1. 2. and 3. There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 98 from Additional Budget Estimates 26 February 2014.

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Question 270

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Departmental Rebranding

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Has the department/Agency undergone a name change or any other form of rebranding since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so:
 - a. Please detail why this name change / rebrand were considered necessary and a justified use of departmental funds?
 - b. Please provide a copy of any reports that were commissioned to study the benefits and costs associated with the rebranding.
 - c. Please provide the total cost associated with this rebrand and then break down by amount spent replacing:
 - i. Signage.
 - ii. Stationery (please include details of existing stationery and how it was disposed of).
 - iii. Logos
 - iv. Consultancy
 - v. Any relevant IT changes.
 - vi. Office reconfiguration.
 - d. How was the decision reached to rename and/or rebrand the department?
 - e. Who was involved in reaching this decision?
 - f. Please provide a copy of any communication (including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, notes etc) from within the department, or between the department and the government regarding the rename/rebranding.

Answer

1. No.

a. to f. N/A

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Question 271

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Contracts under \$10,000
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Please provide a detailed list of all contracts entered into worth between \$4,000 and \$10,000 since September 7th, 2013.

Answer

It is not a requirement under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules to record contracts valued at less than \$10,000 on the Department of Veterans' Affairs' contract register. It would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide a list of each contract and the value of that contract.

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Question 272

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Contracts for Temporary Staff

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much did the department/agency spend on temporary or contract staff since September 7th 2013?
2. How many temporary or contract staff were employed since September 7th 2013?
3. How many temporary or contract staff are currently employed?
4. How much was paid for agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff?
5. How much is budgeted in the 2014/15 year for contract staff?
6. What policies/criteria govern the appointment of Contract staff?
7. How is the use of contract staff consistent with a professional, independent public service?

Answer

1. Temporary or contract staff are considered labour hire personnel and numbers change daily. This information is not centrally recorded in the Department of Veterans' Affairs' Human Resource Management System and the time and effort to capture this information would place an unreasonable burden on the Department's resources.

2. The number of labour hire engagements since 7 September 2013 is not readily available. However, as at 30 May 2014, 293 labour hire personnel (comprising 162 ICT staff and 131 non ICT staff) were contracted to the Department.

3. Refer to part 2.

4. The Department does not usually pay agencies to find labour hire personnel.

5. There is no specific budget for labour hire personnel as the Department uses labour hire personnel to fill specialised and/or short term engagements in line with departmental priorities.

6. The Department has issued official businesslines on the circumstances where it is appropriate to use labour hire. Labour hire personnel must be engaged only through appropriate procurement processes such as established panel arrangements. The use of labour hire personnel should only be considered when:

- backfilling essential short term vacancies where other staff are not available;
- specialised technical skills are not readily available within the Department;
- Managers are satisfied that Value for Money is being achieved and is consistent with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines; and
- Managers have utilised formal recruitment procedures (and seek Recruitment and Redeployment Panel approval) to fill ongoing and non-ongoing vacancies.

7. Refer to answer 6.

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Question 273

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Prequalified, Multi-use list tenders

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Does the Department/Agency have existing Prequalified or Multi-use list panels for tenders?
2. Please list all Prequalified or Multi-use list panels, and the firms on them, compiled or used by the department/agency?
3. Do any of your EL or higher staff have interest- financial or otherwise - in any of the firms on your panels?
4. Do any Ministerial staff have directorships in any of the firms on your panels?
5. Do any Ministerial staff have interest- financial or otherwise- in any of the firms on your panel?
6. Have the minister or ministerial staff made representations concerning the panels?
7. Is Australian Public Affairs on any of your panels?

Answer

1. No.
2. The Department of Veterans' Affairs subscribes to the Department of Human Services (DHS) owned Printing and Production Services multi-use list. Refer to DHS for details.
3. Nil.
4. Nil.
5. Nil.
6. No.
7. N/A.

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Question 274

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Unallocated Equipment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Please detail how much electrical equipment, phones and computers the department/agency has in storage or unallocated to staff.
2. Please detail the purchase, storage and ongoing costs associated with equipment, phones and computers in storage or unallocated.

Answer

1. The following electrical equipment is currently in storage or unallocated to staff:
 - 170 x Monitors – pending Desktop Modernisation rollout (Cost = \$34,000)
 - 33 x mobile phones – replacement spares (Cost = \$19,008)
 - 4 x iPads – replacement spares (Cost = \$3,100)
2. There are no storage costs associated with unallocated electrical equipment as it is all stored at Department of Veterans' Affairs offices.

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Question 275

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Advertising

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much has the Department/Agency spent on Advertising since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? Including through the use of agencies.
2. Please detail each advertising campaign including it's cost, where the advertising appeared, production costs, who approved, ministerial or ministerial staff involvement in commissioning.

Answer

Please see response to Question on Notice 252.

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Question 276

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Land Costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much land (if any) does the Department or agencies or authorities or Government corporation within each portfolio own or lease?
2. Please list by each individual land holding, the size of the piece of land, the location of that piece of land and the latest valuation of that piece of land, where that land is owned or leased by the Department, or agency or authority or Government Corporation within that portfolio? (In regards to this question please ignore land upon which Australian Defence force bases are located. Non Defence Force base land is to be included)
3. List the current assets, items or purse (buildings, facilities or other) on the land identified above.
 - a. What is the current occupancy level and occupant of the items identified in (3)?
 - b. What is the value of the items identified in (3)?
 - c. What contractual or other arrangements are in place for the items identified in (3)?
4. How many buildings (if any) does the Department or agencies or authorities or Government Corporation within each portfolio own or lease?
5. Please list by each building owned, its name, the size of the building in terms of square metres, the location of that of that building and the latest valuation of that building, where that building is owned by the Department, or agency or authority or Government corporation within that portfolio? (In regards to this question please ignore buildings that are situated on Australian Defence force bases. Non Defence Force base buildings are to be included).
6. In regards to any building identified in Q4, please also detail, the occupancy rate as expressed as a percentage of the building size. If occupancy is identified as less than 100%, for what is the remaining space used?

Answer

1. and 2. Table 1 – Listing of Land Holdings

Holding	Size	Location	Valuation (\$m)
Greenslopes - Lots 123, 124 and 125 of Registered Plan 46047	1932 square metres	Greenslopes, Queensland	1.352
Splay corners – see table 2 below	Small parcels	Various - see table 2 below	Nil

The Repatriation Commission is the legal titleholder of the Greenslopes land, Queensland.

The Australian Housing Commission, Defence Service Homes Corporation, Director of Defence Service Homes, Director of War Service Homes, and the War Service Homes Commissioner were responsible for the development and disposal of land under War Service Homes projects from 1918 to 1977. These entities own 175 small parcels of land described as splay corners, roads, reserves and footpaths. These will be referred to collectively as 'splay corners'.

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Table 2 – Listing of Land Holdings – Splay Corners

Title holder	NSW	QLD	TAS	VIC	WA	TOTAL
Australian Housing Corporation			5	3		8
Defence Service Homes Corporation	16		20	27		63
Director of Defence Service Homes				4		4
Director of War Service Homes	19	5	2	49	2	77
War Service Homes Commissioner	4			12	7	23
TOTAL	39	5	27	95	9	175

3. Table 3 – List of Current Assets on Land Holdings

Holding	Current Assets	a. Occupancy Level and Occupant	b. Value (\$m)	c. Contractual Arrangements in Place
Greenslopes - Lots 123, 124 and 125 of Registered Plan 46047	Nil. Buildings constructed and owned by Australian Red Cross, as lessee, in mid 1940s.	Nil, Australian Red Cross	1.352 (land value only)	Nil
Splay corners – various locations	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

4. Nil.

5. Nil.

6. Nil.

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Question 277

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

From 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014, the Department of Veterans' Affairs spent \$7,516 (GST excl.) on hospitality and entertainment. This was predominantly for small purchases of refreshments for meetings and forums involving external parties, in particular ex-service organisations.

Information relating to date, location, purpose and cost for all events is not readily available. The time and effort to accurately provide this information from the dates specified would be too resource intensive.

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Question 278

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

\$553.09 (GST excl.) was spent on combined hospitality and entertainment expenses for portfolio related activities. The Department of Veterans' Affairs has limited details of the event dates, location or purpose of hospitality provided by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in his office.

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Question 279

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 277.

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Question 280

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 278.

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Question 281

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

In 2013-14, the Department of Veterans' Affairs expects to spend approximately the same amount as it spent in the 2012-13 financial year which was \$25,268 (GST excl.). A similar number of events and meetings, where hospitality and entertainment is provided, are expected to occur. To provide a more detailed breakdown of these costs for each individual event would involve considerable time and effort and be too resource intensive.

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Question 282

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

There is currently no specific hospitality spend being planned.

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Question 283

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 281.

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Question 284

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

There is currently no specific entertainment spend being planned.

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Question 285

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs reviews all expenditure to achieve value for money. Expenditure on hospitality and entertainment is expected to be similar to the previous year.

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Question 286

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Travel costs - ministerial

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. From Additional Estimates in February, 2014, detail all travel conducted by the Minister/parliamentary secretary
 - a. List each location, method of travel, itinerary and purpose of trip;
 - b. List the total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals), and;
 - c. List the number of staff that accompanied the Minister/parliamentary secretary, listing the total costs per staff member, the class of airplane travelled, the classification of staff accompanying the Minister/parliamentary secretary.
2. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer

1. to 2. The Department of Veterans' Affairs does not have information about travel costs by the Minister, as these arrangements are administered by the Department of Finance. The Special Minister of State will respond to Questions on Notice regarding ministerial entitlements on behalf of all departments and agencies.

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Question 287

Outcome: 1, 2 and 3: Program 1.4, 2.4 and 3.1

Topic: Grants

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date. Provide the recipients, amount, intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those locations.
2. Update the status of each grant that was approved prior to Additional Estimates in February, 2014, but did not have financial contracts in place at that time. Provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those grants.

Answer

1. All approved grants are published on the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) website. The information recorded is in accordance with Commonwealth Grant Guidelines (5.2 web-based reporting). Lists of all approved and executed grants, as per the web-based reporting guideline, can be found at:

http://www.dva.gov.au/ex-service_organisations/grants/Pages/ApprovedGrantsList.aspx
http://www.dva.gov.au/ex-service_organisations/grants/Pages/OPCMR.aspx

2. An updated list of grants approved prior to 7 September 2013 which did not have contracts in place on 7 September 2013 (as per Question on Notice 54 from the Additional Budget estimates) is provided below. For a list of all approved grants between 8 September 2013 and 26 February 2014, please refer to the DVA website.

Recipient	Project	Grant amount (GST inc)	Grant Funding Location	Advised of grant	Current status – date grant paid
Centenary of Anzac Hills Community Committee, Baulkham Hills	Six projects to commemorate the Centenary of Anzac. Hold a launch of the Anzac centenary program prior to Anzac Day 2015, publish a program, produce two stage shows and hold a ceremony.	\$100,000	Baulkham Hills, NSW	Yes	25 February 2014
Caboolture-Morayfield District RSL Sub-branch	Relocate and upgrade the Caboolture War Memorial and erect a memorial wall and First World War Honour Roll.	\$20,000	Caboolture, QLD	Yes	4 October 2013

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Recipient	Project	Grant amount (GST inc)	Grant Funding Location	Advised of grant	Current status – date grant paid
Wycheproof and District Historical Society Inc	Restore an Autograph Flag and five Honour Rolls to be displayed in the community museum to commemorate the Anzac centenary.	\$13,224	Wycheproof, VIC	Yes	14 February 2014
Yarriambiack Shire Council	Publish a register of servicemen and one servicewoman from the Warracknabeal district who served during the First World War.	\$3,560	Yarriambiack, VIC	Yes	1 October 2013
Horsham Rural City Council	Hold an exhibition between August and October 2014 at the Horsham Regional Art Gallery to commemorate the First World War servicemen who enlisted in Horsham and to explore the impact it had on the local community.	\$7,400	Horsham, VIC	Yes	Grant Agreement executed 27 June 2014, payment currently being processed.
Friends of the Skipton RSL Sub-branch	Assist with printing 'Skipton's servicemen and women', which chronicles the local men and women who served in conflicts from the First World War to the Gulf War.	\$600 for First World War component.	Skipton, VIC	Yes	16 September 2013
Swan Hill RSL Sub-branch	Install a bronze plaque in each of 15 schools in the Swan Hill district to commemorate those who served in the First World War.	\$11,550	Swan Hill, VIC	Yes	3 January 2014
Rupanyup RSL Sub-branch	Erect a monument, interpretive signage and plant a Lone Pine on the First World War Avenue of Honour, Rupanyup.	\$13,000	Rupanyup, VIC	Yes	25 February 2014

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Recipient	Project	Grant amount (GST inc)	Grant Funding Location	Advised of grant	Current status – date grant paid
Legacy Ararat	Restore the memorial to Sir Cyril Bingham Brudenell at the Buangor Cemetery. Memorial is the focus of community commemorations.	\$6,000	Ararat, VIC	Yes	1 October 2013
Woolsthorpe Progress Association Woolsthorpe	Refurbish the Woolsthorpe First World War Memorial.	\$2,713	Woolsthorpe, VIC	Yes	4 October 2013
Anglesea RSL Sub-branch	To enable a kitchen and toilet upgrade.	\$3,234	Anglesea, VIC	Yes	11 September 2013
Tweed River War Widows Association	To purchase computer equipment for a newsletter project.	\$1,175	Tweed Heads West, NSW	Yes	20 September 2013
Tweed River War Widows Association	To undertake a series of Bus Trips.	\$2,590	Tweed Heads West, NSW	Yes	20 September 2013
Wauchope RSL Sub-branch	To establish a website and purchase video equipment to support a Day Club.	\$4,801	Wauchope, NSW	Yes	23 September 2013
Maitland Vietnam Veterans and Legion Inc	To purchase a marquee to support social activities.	\$5,500	Maitland, NSW	Yes	9 December 2013
RSL Far North Coast District (QLD Branch)	BEST funding – Admin expenses.	\$5,459	Ravenshoe, QLD	Yes	13 September 2013

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Recipient	Project	Grant amount (GST inc)	Grant Funding Location	Advised of grant	Current status – date grant paid
Toowoomba RSL Sub-branch	BEST funding - Admin expenses.	\$3,270	Toowoomba, QLD	Yes	13 September 2013
VVAA Hunter Central Sub-branch	BEST funding - Admin expenses.	\$2,275	Doyalson, NSW	Yes	16 September 2013
New South Wales RSL State Branch	BEST Funding - Salary and Admin expenses for the NSW State Branch and certain Sub-branches.	\$187,854	Sydney, NSW	Yes	All NSW RSL Sub-branch grant payments finalised on 13 January 2014
Legacy Club of Brisbane	BEST Funding - Salary and Admin expenses.	\$67,893	South Brisbane, QLD	Yes	30 September 2013
Veterans Centre Mid North Coast	BEST funding - Admin expenses.	\$7,551	North Coast, NSW	Yes	1 October 2013
Australian Army Aviation Association Inc	BEST funding - Admin expenses.	\$1,599 (the amount provided in November 2013 did not include GST)	Brookfield, QLD	Yes	6 November 2013
Illawarra Veteran's Entitlement Service Inc	BEST Funding - Salary and Admin expenses.	\$36,863	Jambaroo, NSW	Yes	3 February 2014

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Question 288

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. From Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date, what has been the average time period for the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors, consultants or others?
2. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in under 30 days?
3. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 30 and 60 days?
4. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 60 and 90 days?
5. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 90 and 120 days?
6. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days?
7. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency since Additional Estimates in February, 2014?
8. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer

1. For the period 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014, the average time taken to pay accounts under the Government's 30 day payment policy has been 22.78 days.

2. to 6.

Payments	Percentage	Days
6,034	95.64 %	Under 30 days
200	3.17 %	between 30 and 60 days
34	0.54 %	between 60 and 90 days
19	0.30 %	between 90 and 120 days
22	0.35 %	over 120 days

7. No interest has been paid on overdue amounts in the 2013-14 Financial Year.

8. N/A.

The figures listed above, for all questions, are from 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014 as it would have been too resource intensive to provide them from the requested start date in February 2014.

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Question 289

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Question time

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many officers are responsible for preparing the department, agency, Minister or representing Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of Question Time?
2. How many officer hours are spent each sitting day on preparing that information?
 - a. Please break down the hours by officer APS classification
3. Are drafts shown to the Minister or their office before Question Time?
 - a. If so, when does this occur?
 - b. How many versions of this information are shown to the minister or their office?
4. Does the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?
 - a. If so, when does this occur?
 - b. What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.
5. Provide each of the contents page of the Minister and representing Minister's Question Time folder prepared by the department for the week of 11 February 2014.

Answer

1. to 5. There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 81 from Additional Budget Estimates 26 February 2014.

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Question 290

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Meeting Costs
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

From 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014, the Department of Veterans' Affairs spent \$46,512 (GST excl.) on provisioning for meetings. This amount is predominantly for small purchases of refreshments for meetings and forums such as board and committee meetings and meetings with visitors. Information relating to date and location of all events is not readily available. The time and effort to accurately provide this information would be too resource intensive.

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Question 291

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Meeting costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 124 part b. and d. from Supplementary Estimates, 20 November 2013.

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Question 292

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Meeting Costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs expects to spend approximately the same amount during 2013-14 on provisioning for meetings as it spent during the 2012-13 financial year which was \$62,677 (GST excl.). Information relating to date and location of all planned events is not readily available. The time and effort to accurately provide this information would be too resource intensive.

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Question 293

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Meeting costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

There is currently no meeting spend being planned.

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Question 294

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Hire Cars

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for hire car costs?

Answer

1. The expenditure on hire cars from 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014 was \$57,678 (GST excl.). The expenditure is provided for 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014 as identifying costs from Additional Budget Estimates in February would be too resource intensive.

The breakdown by business group was:

Business Group	Amount (\$) (GST excl)
Secretary, Commissioner and Deputy President	3,854
State Deputy Commissioners	8,095
Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service	11,903
Corporate Division and Legal Services	6,946
Client and Commemorations Division	16,131
Rehabilitation and Support Division	2,008
Health and Community Services Division	7,508
Repatriation Medical Authority	427
Veterans' Review Board	806
TOTAL	57,678

2. Hire cars are used in conjunction with official travel. They are used in lieu of taxis when it is cost efficient to do so. They are also used for regional travel in Australia and overseas, and when there is a need to carry equipment such as for training events or by grave maintenance field staff.

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Question 295

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Executive coaching and leadership training

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date:

1. Total spending on these services
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)

Answer

The responses are provided from 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014, as it would have been too resource intensive to provide from Additional Budget Estimates.

1. \$228,227.

2. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Executive Leadership Program is offered to all Executive Level 1 and 2 staff. As at 30 April 2014, DVA had 473 Executive Level 1 and 2 equivalent staff. The Looking Forwards Program is offered to all APS3 to APS6 staff. DVA had 1428 of APS3 to APS6 staff. SES/EL Forums are offered to all SES and EL staff. DVA had 28 SES and 473 Executive Level 1 and 2 equivalent staff.

3. 526 staff attended. See Table 1 for a breakdown of classification. Staff on training are considered on duty and therefore study leave is not required.

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Table 1 – Executive Coaching and/or leadership training services for SES, APS and EL staff purchased by DVA for the period 1 July 2013 – 30 April 2014

Question 295 Question 296 Question 297	Service Provider – Yellow Edge	Service Provider – ODS Management Consulting	Service provider – Think Place	Service Provider – Australian Public Service Commission (APSC)	Service Provider – APSC	Service Provider – APSC	Totals
4. a. The name and nature of the service purchased	Provision of Leadership Training - Executive Leadership Program (ELP)	Provision of Leadership Training - Looking Forwards Program (LFP)	Provision of SES/EL Forums	SES Orientation Programs - 2013	Leadership Conversations and short courses	SES Band 1 Leadership Programs - 2013	
4. b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based	Group based	Group based	Group based	Group based	Group based	Group based	
4. c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification	No.28 Workshop: 20 attendees (12 x EL1) (8 x EL2) No.27 Recall: 13 attendees (13 x EL1) No.28 Recall: 15 attendees (5 x EL2) (10 x EL1)	Recall Melbourne: 12 attendees (2 x APS3) (1 x APS4) (3 x APS5) (6 x APS6) LFP Townsville: 13 attendees (1 x APS2) (1 x APS3) (4 x APS5) (7 x APS6)	Canberra 21 February: 76 attendees (11 x SES) (18 x EL2) (47 x EL1) Canberra 4 March: 79 attendees (14 x SES) (20 x EL2) (45 x EL1)	1 SES Band 1 Officer	9 SES Band 1	2 SES Band 1 Officers	

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Question 295 Question 296 Question 297	Service Provider – Yellow Edge	Service Provider – ODS Management Consulting	Service provider – Think Place	Service Provider – Australian Public Service Commission (APSC)	Service Provider – APSC	Service Provider – APSC	Totals
		LFP Brisbane: 19 attendees (3 x APS3) (7 x APS4) (4 x APS5) (5 x APS6)	Brisbane 18 March: 70 attendees (9 x SES) (21 x EL2) (40 x EL1)				
		LFP Canberra: 12 attendees (6 x APS5) (6 x APS6)	Canberra 26 March: 86 attendees (15 x SES) (27 x EL2) (44 x EL1)				
		Recall Townsville: 11 attendees (1 x APS2) (1 x APS3) (4 x APS5) (5 x APS6)	Melbourne 29 April: 70 attendees (9 x SES) (13 x EL2) (48 x EL1)				
		Recall Brisbane: 18 attendees (3 x APS6) (5 x APS5) (7 x APS4) (3 x APS3)					

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Question 295 Question 296 Question 297	Service Provider – Yellow Edge	Service Provider – ODS Management Consulting	Service provider – Think Place	Service Provider – Australian Public Service Commission (APSC)	Service Provider – APSC	Service Provider – APSC	Totals
		LFP Recall Canberra: 6 attendees (4 x APS5) (2 x APS6)					
Total attendees	Total: 48 attendees	Total: 91 attendees	Total: 381 attendees	Total: 1 attendee	Total: 9 attendees	Total: 2 attendees	Grand total: 532 attendees (This does not represent individual staff – the same cohort attends ELP and LFP workshops and recalls and SES attend more than one SES/EL Forum or APSC leadership event).

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Question 295 Question 296 Question 297	Service Provider – Yellow Edge	Service Provider – ODS Management Consulting	Service provider – Think Place	Service Provider – Australian Public Service Commission (APSC)	Service Provider – APSC	Service Provider – APSC	Totals
4. d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)	<p>ELP Workshop hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 12 EL1 x 22.5 hours = 270 hours ○ 8 EL2 x 22.5 hours = 180 hours <p>Total = 450 hours</p> <p>ELP Recall hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 23 EL1 x 5 hours = 115 hours ○ 5 EL2 x 5 hours = 25 hours <p>Total = 140 hours</p>	<p>LFP Workshop hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 APS2 x 13 hours = 13 hours ○ 4 APS3 x 13 hours = 52 hours ○ 7 APS4 x 13 hours = 91 hours ○ 14 APS5 x 13 hours = 182 hours ○ 18 APS6 x 13 hours = 234 hours <p>Total = 572 hours</p>	<p>SES/EL Forum hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 224 x EL1 x 7.5 hours = 1680 hours ○ 99 x EL2 x 7.5 hours = 742.5 hours ○ 58 x SES x 7.5 hours = 435 hours 	<p>SES Orientation Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1x SES Band 1 x 34 hours = 34 hours 	<p>Leadership Conversations & short courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7 x SES Band 1 leadership conversations x 2 hours = 14 hours ○ 2 x SES band 1 short course x 3.5 hours = 7 hours 	<p>SES Band 1 leadership program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 x SES Band 1 x approximately 100 hours 	

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		<p>LFP Recall hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 APS2 x 4 hours = 4 hours ○ 6 APS3 x 4 hours = 24 hours ○ 8 APS4 x 4 hours = 32 hours ○ 16 APS5 x 4 hours = 64 hours ○ 16 APS6 x 4 hours = 64 hours <p>Total = 188 hours</p>					
Total hours	Total = 590 hours	Total = 760 hours	Total = 2,857.5 hours	Total = 34 hours	Total = 21 hours	Total = 100 hours	Total = 4,362.5 hours
4. e. The total amount spent on the service	Total expenditure: ELP = \$68,802	Total expenditure: LFP = \$52,000	Total expenditure SES/EL Forum = \$81,565	Total expenditure SES orientation = \$3,500	Total expenditure SES leadership conversations and short courses = \$2,360	Total expenditure SES Band 1 leadership program = \$20,000	Total expenditure: \$228,227

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Question 295 Question 296 Question 297	Service Provider – Yellow Edge	Service Provider – ODS Management Consulting	Service provider – Think Place	Service Provider – Australian Public Service Commission (APSC)	Service Provider – APSC	Service Provider – APSC	Totals
4. f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)	The cost noted above includes facilitation, course material and travel costs for facilitators. There is a standard cost for the facilitation, however, the total cost of each program varies depending on the number of participants, course materials required and location of the program.	The cost noted above includes facilitation, course material and travel costs for facilitators. There is a standard cost for the facilitation, however, the total cost of each program varies depending on the number of participants, course materials required and location of the program.	The cost noted above includes facilitation, course material, venue hire, audiovisual hire, catering and facilitator and DVA support staff travel.	The cost noted above is the standard course cost, as set by the APSC and includes the costs of administration, facilitation and all course materials.	The cost noted above represents SES Events subscription package and cost of attendance on short course.	The cost noted above is the standard course cost, as set by the APSC and includes the costs of administration, facilitation and all course materials.	

The above information is provided in relation to leadership training which is either corporately administered or recorded within DVA. It should be noted that within the Department, individual business areas may arrange coaching and leadership training which is specific only to staff in their business area. This training is not centrally recorded and the time and effort to provide this information would be too resource intensive.

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Question 296

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Executive coaching and leadership training

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The names of all service providers engaged for each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:

- a. The name and nature of the service purchased
- b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
- d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- e. The total amount spent on the service
- f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

Answer

- a. to f. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 295, Table 1.

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Question 297

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Executive coaching and leadership training

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:

- a. The location used
- b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer

a. The Executive Leadership Program (ELP) workshop is held at Yellow Edge's premises in Barton, ACT. The Recall is held in the Department of Veterans' Affairs' Canberra Office.

The SES/EL Forums were held at the:

- Quality Hotel Woden, Corner Melrose Drive and Launceston Street, Phillip;
- Jasper Hotel, 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne; and
- Pullman Brisbane, King George Square, Brisbane.

b. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 295, Table 1.

c. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 295, Table 1.

d. There is no separate cost to use the Yellow Edge premises at Barton. This is covered in the total contract cost for Yellow Edge's services. SES/EL Forum venue costs (venue hire, catering and audiovisual):

Canberra - Quality Hotel Woden - 21 February 2014*	\$6,035.50
Canberra - Quality Hotel Woden - 4 March 2014*	\$5,311.50
Brisbane - Pullman - 18 March 2014	\$8,737.72
Canberra - Quality Hotel Woden - 26 March 2014*	\$5,248.00
Melbourne - Jasper Hotel - 29 April 2014	\$5,700.00
Total	\$31,032.72

*Variation in costs is linked to variation in participant numbers and slight change to audiovisual requirements.

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Question 298

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Executive coaching and leadership training

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

In relation to education/executive coaching and/or other leadership training services paid for by the department what agreements are made with employees in regards to continuing employment after training has been completed?

Answer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs does not mandate or suggest any form of agreement relating to continuing employment after training has been completed. Where relevant, the Department encourages employees to share their knowledge with colleagues on their return.

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Question 299

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Executive coaching and leadership training

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For graduate or post graduate study, please breakdown each approved study leave by staffing allocation and degree or program title.

Answer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs does not centrally record full details of staff in receipt of education benefits (i.e. study assistance) nor a breakdown of the type of study assistance received. Therefore the time and effort to provide the information requested would be too resource intensive.

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Question 300

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Staffing Profile

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What is the current staffing profile of the department/agency?
2. Provide a list of staffing numbers, broken down by classification level, division, home base location (including town/city and state)

Answer

1. and 2. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 39 for a current staffing profile of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), including staffing numbers by classification level as at 30 April 2014. Tables 300.1 and 300.2 provide division and home base location information.

Table 300.1: Total number of employees by division at 30 April 2014

	Total
Secretary and Repatriation Commission	9
Deputy Commissioner NSW / ACT	122
Deputy Commissioner NT	7
Deputy Commissioner QLD	147
Deputy Commissioner SA	41
Deputy Commissioner TAS	29
Deputy Commissioner VIC	108
Deputy Commissioner WA	70
Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (Branch)	109
Corporate Division	368
Commemorations and War Graves Division	166
Rehabilitation and Support Division	354
Health and Community Services Division	440
Legal Services, Assurance and Deregulation Branch	25
Total DVA	1995
Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA)	9
Veterans' Review Board (VRB)	24
Grand Total	2028

Note: Staff who work at the RMA and VRB are employed by DVA.

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Table 300.2: Total number of employees by town/city and state at 30 April 2014

	Total
ACT	
Canberra	658
NSW	
Sydney	298
Lismore	7
Newcastle	7
Tweed Heads	4
Wollongong	3
Gosford	3
QLD	
Brisbane	359
Townsville	31
Maroochydore	6
Southport	5
Toowoomba	3
VIC	
Melbourne	277
Wodonga	5
Morwell	2
Ballarat	2
Geelong	2
Frankston	2
Bairnsdale	1
SA	
Adelaide	151
NT	
Darwin	16
TAS	
Hobart	64
Launceston	4
WA	
Perth	118
Total	2028

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Question 301

Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Staffing Reductions
(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - a. What was the reason for these reductions?
 - b. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
 - c. Are there any plans for further staff reductions/voluntary redundancies? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.
 - d. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
 - e. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
 - f. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?
 - g. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?
 - h. What are the voluntary redundancy packages offered? Please detail for each staff level and position
 - i. How do the packages differ from the default public service package?
 - j. How is the department/agency funding the packages?

Answer

1. In the period 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014, total staff reduced by 38 from 2,066 to 2,028 (Head Count). This included three voluntary redundancies.
 - a. To meet budget requirements.
 - b. Yes. There was one involuntary redundancy. For details, please see the answer to Question on Notice 52.
 - c. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 32, part 1a and b. The majority of staff reductions are anticipated through natural attrition and with minimal impact on clients.
 - d. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will need to reduce staff numbers to meet budget requirements.
 - e. No.

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f. From 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014, 33 ongoing staff left the department. Classifications of these staff are listed in the table below.

Ceased Employees (Head Count) - 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014
By Classification and Employment Type

Classification	Ongoing employees	Non-ongoing employees	Total
APS2	3	3	6
APS3	4	16	20
APS4	6	2	8
APS5	5	2	7
APS6	2		2
Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) Professional - APS6	5	3	8
Executive Level 1	3		3
Public Affairs Office Grade 3 (Executive Level 1)	1	1	2
Executive Level 2	3		3
VVCS Professional - Executive Level 2	1		1
TOTAL	33	27	60

g. From 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014, 27 non-ongoing staff left the Department. Classifications of these staff are listed in the table in part f. above.

h. Redundancy packages are offered under the conditions of the DVA Enterprise Agreement 2012-2014, which is available online at:

www.dva.gov.au/aboutdva/publications/corporate/Pages/index.aspx#working

i. There is no difference from the default public service package.

j. Redundancy packages are funded from the Department's existing budget.

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Question 302

**Outcome: All Program: All
Topic: Staffing Recruitment
(Written Question on Notice)**

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many ongoing staff were recruited from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - a. What classification are these staff?
2. How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? W
 - b. what classification are these staff?
3. From Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer

1. In the period from 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014, 26 ongoing staff were recruited.
 - a. The table below shows the classification of ongoing staff recruited.

**Ongoing employees recruited – 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014
By Classification and Type of Recruitment**

Classification	New engagement to APS	Transfer/Promotion within APS	Temporary Assignment from another APS Agency	Existing non-ongoing employee engaged as ongoing	Total
Graduate	9			4	13
APS1				2	2
APS4		4			4
APS5		1	1		2
APS6		3			3
Executive Level 1		2			2
Total	9	10	1	6	26

2. As at 1 February 2014 there were 93 employees on non-ongoing contracts. In the period from 1 February to 30 April 2014, one new non-ongoing staff member was recruited. In the same period, 25 non-ongoing staff ceased and six were engaged as ongoing employees. As at 30 April 2014 there were 63 employees on non-ongoing contracts.

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b. The table below shows the classification of non-ongoing employees in the period from 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014.

Non-ongoing employees – 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014
By Classification

Classification	Head Count As at 1/2/2014	Commenced	Ceased (or changed status to ongoing)	Head Count As at 30/4/2014
APS1	2		2	
APS2	9		3	6
APS3	49	1	19	31
APS4	10		3	7
APS5	11		2	9
APS6	1		1	
APS6 – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service Professional	7			7
Legal 1	1			1
Executive Level 1	1			1
Public Affairs Officer Grade 3 (EL1)	1		1	
SES Band 1	1			1
TOTAL	93	1	31	63

3. For all 94 non-ongoing employees who were employed for some part of the period 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014, the average length of employment was 11.3 months.

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Question 303

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Coffee Machines

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Has the department/agency purchased coffee machines for staff usage since Additional Estimates in February, 2014?
 - a. If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased?
 - b. Why were coffee machines purchased?
 - c. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were purchased? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?
 - d. Where did the funding for the coffee machines come from?
 - e. Who has access?
 - f. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?
 - g. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?

Answer

There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 72 from Additional Budget Estimates 26 February 2014.

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Question 304

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Coffee Machines

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, has the department/agency rented or leased any coffee machines for staff usage?
 - a. If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.
 - b. Why are coffee machines rented?
 - c. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were rented? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?
 - d. Where does the funding for the coffee machines come from?
 - e. Who has access?
 - f. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?
 - g. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?

Answer

There have been no changes since the answer was provided to Question on Notice 73 from Additional Budget Estimates 26 February 2014.

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Question 305

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Printing

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many documents (include the amount of copies) have been printed from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?
 - a. How many of these printed documents were also published online?
2. Did the Department/agency use external printing services for any print jobs since 7 September 2013?
 - a. If so, what companies were used (used)?
 - b. How were they selected?
 - c. What was the total cost of this printing?

Answer

The responses below cover the period from 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014. Please also refer to the response to Question on Notice 74 from Additional Budget Estimates.

1. It would be too resource intensive to provide all relevant documents under this question. Accordingly, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has provided a summary of key documents released to the public.

Name of document printed	Number printed	a. Published online: Yes/No
i. DVA Rehabilitation Brochures	11,507	No
ii. <i>Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004</i>	50	No
iii. March 2014 Edition of Men's Health Peer Education magazine	13,548	Yes
iv. Vetaffairs newspaper Autumn 2014	253,107	Yes

2. The Department used the following external printing services:

a) Companies used	b) How selected	c) Total cost (including GST)
i. Focus Press	Prequalified tender	\$1,410.20
ii. Canprint Communications Pty Ltd	Prequalified tender	\$1,205.00
iii. Canprint Communications Pty Ltd	Selected from a Department of Human Services panel of providers	\$13,500
iv. Independent Print Media Group	Prequalified tender	\$49,960.82

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Question 306

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Corporate Cars

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many cars are owned by each department/agency?
 - a. Where is the car/s located?
 - b. What is the car/s used for?
 - c. What is the cost of each car from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - d. How far did each car travel from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - e. How many cars are leased by each department/agency?
 - f. Where are the cars located?
 - g. What are the cars used for?
 - h. What is the cost of each car from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - i. How far did each car travel from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

Answer

1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) currently owns four cars which includes two commercial vehicles.

a. One car is located in Ankara, Turkey. One car is located in Paris, France. One commercial vehicle is located at Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery, Papua New Guinea. One commercial vehicle is located at Rabaul (Bitu Paka) War Cemetery, Papua New Guinea.

b. The car located in Ankara, Turkey is used for official purposes by the DVA Section at the Australian Embassy and private use by the DVA Counsellor. The car located in Paris, France is used for official purposes by the DVA Section at the Australian Embassy and private use by the First Secretary. The commercial vehicles located in Papua New Guinea are used for the care and maintenance of Port Moresby (Bomana) and Rabaul (Bitu Paka) War Cemeteries and memorials.

c. For the period 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014:

- The running cost of the car in Ankara, Turkey was approximately \$3,340.
- The running cost of the car in Paris, France was approximately EURO 1,882 (AUD \$2,715);
- The running cost of the commercial vehicle located at Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery, Papua New Guinea was approximately \$1,268; and
- The running cost of the commercial vehicle located at Rabaul (Bitu Paka) War Cemetery, Papua New Guinea was approximately \$225.

Note: The costs detailed above exclude depreciation and any employee contributions for private usage. The figures are provided from 1 February 2014, as it would have been too resource intensive to provide these from the requested start date of Additional Budget Estimates.

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d. For the period 1 February 2014 to 30 April 2014:

- The car located in Ankara, Turkey travelled approximately 9,900 km;
- The car in Paris, France travelled approximately 9,994 km;
- The commercial vehicle located at Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery, Papua New Guinea travelled approximately 2,497 km; and
- The commercial vehicle located at Rabaul (Bita Paka) War Cemetery, Papua New Guinea travelled approximately 1,436 km.

e. DVA currently leases 52 vehicles.

f. h. and i. **Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG)**

Site	Cost 1 February 2014 - 30 April 2014	Odometer Readings 1 February 2014 - 30 April 2014
WA War Graves	\$2,454.60	2071
WA War Graves	\$2,516.61	1106
VIC - War Graves	\$3,329.43	8673
VIC - War Graves	\$4,293.36	9548
TAS War Graves	\$2,992.83	4380
TAS War Graves	\$3,406.92	2438
SA -War Graves	\$2,553.81	1016
SA -War Graves	\$2,631.42	2692
SA War Graves	\$5,453.58	4726
QLD War Graves	\$1,792.38	2254
QLD War Graves	\$3,224.91	3439
QLD War Graves	\$1,840.08	3832
NT - War Graves	\$2,027.76	9038
NSW War Graves	\$4,672.89	7226
NSW War Graves	\$4,018.41	9079
NSW War Graves	\$3,224.04	11231
QLD War Graves	\$2,337.63	2682
TOTAL	\$52,770.66	

DVA

Site	Cost 1 February 2014 - 30 April 2014	Odometer Readings 1 February 2014 - 30 April 2014
ACT National Office	\$2,286.00	2,453
ACT Veterans' Access Network (VAN)	\$2,653.17	480
Darwin	\$2,076.30	3,348
Lismore VAN	\$2,376.36	3,846
Newcastle VAN	\$2,353.41	2,660
Parramatta – VAN	\$2,767.50	2,056
Wollongong VAN	\$1,845.24	1,435
Sydney State Office	\$1,847.82	2,680
Sydney State Office	\$2,316.96	630
Sydney State Office	\$1,888.59	2,415
Sydney State Office	\$2,313.72	3,886
Sydney State Office	\$1,325.19	2,218
Perth - State Office	\$2,330.76	2,175
Perth - State Office	\$1,904.97	3,854

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Perth - State Office	\$2,208.30	4,204
Brisbane State Office	\$2,027.76	2,567
Brisbane State Office	\$2,314.65	29,646
Brisbane State Office	\$2,006.49	3,289
Maroochydore VAN	\$1,179.36	1,652
Southport VAN	\$2,557.53	3,759
Toowoomba VAN	\$1,413.66	937
Townsville VAN	\$1,612.71	848
Tweed Heads VAN	\$1,337.19	1,131
Adelaide	\$1,459.11	1,563
Adelaide	\$2,085.39	1,367
Adelaide	\$1,273.68	2,692
Hobart	\$1,775.10	2,368
Bairnsdale VAN	\$2,515.44	2,394
Ballarat VAN	\$2,925.93	8,779
Melbourne State Office	\$2,631.42	1360
Melbourne State Office	\$3,099.66	1,657
Melbourne State Office	\$2,782.32	3,382
Melbourne State Office	\$2,529.12	931
Morwell VAN	\$3,375.81	11,030
Wodonga VAN	\$2,216.28	3,812
TOTAL	\$75,612.90	

g. The leased vehicles are used for official purposes by various departmental sections for official meetings and commemorative events. For example:

- VAN for regional visits to veterans;
- On Base Advisory Service (OBAS) are key liaison points with current serving Defence personnel; and
- OAWG maintains official individual commemorations of the war dead and eligible post-war dead.

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Question 307

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Taxi Costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer

1. The total expenditure on taxis from 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014 was \$478,301 (GST excl.). This figure does not include expenditure on taxis for veterans under the Repatriation Transport Scheme, or for health services for veterans. Expenditure is provided from 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014 as identifying costs from Additional Estimates in February 2014 would be too resource intensive.

The breakdown by business group is:

Business Group	Amount (\$)
Secretary, Commissioner and Deputy President	9,172
State Deputy Commissioners	57,514
Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service	36,355
Corporate Division and Legal Services	127,171
Client and Commemorations Division	55,679
Rehabilitation and Support Division	75,912
Health and Community Services Division	92,873
Repatriation Medical Authority	3,104
Veterans' Review Board	20,521
TOTAL	478,301

2. Taxis are used by Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) staff in conjunction with official travel, such as travelling from the airport to office. Taxis are also used by staff to travel to external meetings, to accompany veterans attending commemorative activities, and by veterans attending DVA related activities.

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Question 308

Outcome: All Program: All

Topic: Consultancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
2. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.
3. Have any consultancies not gone out for tender?
 - a. If so, which ones and why?

Answer

1. The details requested are available under the Reports tab on AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au).
2. Consultancies already planned for this calendar year are listed on the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) Annual Procurement Plan, amended from time to time. The Department's Annual Procurement Plan is available under the Procurement Plans tab on AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au).
3. and a. DVA sources some consultancies via a Request for Proposal from members of relevant panels. The details requested are available under the Reports tab on AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au).

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Question 309

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: List of Objects from Afghanistan

FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p 118

Senator FARRELL asked:

Senator FARRELL: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for waiting so patiently for your turn. You seem to draw the short straw on every occasion, but we will try and make it interesting for you. Dr Nelson, you may recall that we have previously had some discussions at estimates regarding the Tarin Kot memorial that the War Memorial has originally indicated it was prepared to receive on behalf of the Australian people. That was not returned to Australia, as you are aware, but there was an undertaking that a number of items would be returned and kept at the War Memorial. Can you tell us what your understanding is of what those items being returned were?

Dr Nelson: There were a number of items, as I understand it. Two professional staff from the memorial visited Afghanistan early last year and identified a list or an inventory of items which they regarded would be very important to acquire for the national collection for the memorial. The assistant director for the collection, Tim Sullivan, will be able to give you more detail than I can.

Senator FARRELL: Could he do that?

Dr Nelson: Yes, of course. We would also take it on notice to give you a detailed list.

Answer

The detailed list is attached.

Enclosure 1 to
AM1364649
dated October 2013

**LIST OF HERITAGE ITEMS RETURNING FROM AFGHANISTAN FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL**

Serial	Reference No.	Description
SOTG-1	A-1	IED Education Boards from Camp Russell
SOTG-2	A-1	SOTG Task Group Framed Photo * Note 1
SOTG-3	A-2	SOTG Camp Russell Kangaroo Front Gate Sign
SOTG-4	A-2	Camp Russell original wooden sign
SOTG-5	A-3	Toasting Set (decanter, glasses & stand)
SOTG-6	A-4	Captured insurgent equipment (ICOM, webbing and documentation) * Note 1
SOTG-35	A-19	Afghanistan motorcycle (captured from fleeing insurgent during an engagement on 7 Mar 13) * Note 2
SOTG-44	A-23	SOTG Camp Russell memorial stone
FCU-01	4-1	FCU Tarin Kot Troop - door sign
AWM-01	5-1	Engines Off sign from Camp Holland diesel fuel farm * Note 1
AWM-02	5-2	DFAC opening hours/restrictions sign with Tarin Kowt heading
AWM-03	5-3	Red Kangaroo and boomerang attached to Task Group Emblem
AWM-04	5-4	Red Australia Post Box (AFPO 13 Mailbox)
AWM-05	5-5	Dutch windmill
AWM-06	5-6	Stove made from Mack wheel rims
AWM-07	5-7	Call sign scavenger - WIT area * Note 1
AWM-08	5-8	Male & Female toilet block signs
AWM-09	5-9	Drehtainer adaptive protective modular building * Note 3
AWM-10	5-10	RAEME workshop sign (with 3 x fluorescent lights)
AWM-11	5-11	KFC bucket
AWM-12	5-12	Warning sign (set of four)
AWM-13	5-13	Australia Post Mailbag (used as a sign)
AWM-14	5-14	CTU steel sign with memorial to fallen soldier
AWM-15	5-15	Steel memorial commemorating the fallen
AWM-16	5-16	Cenotaph stone inscribed with Memorial Tarin Kowt
AWM-17	5-17	Sign that identifies the location of the Chapel
AWM-18	5-18	Wooden cross with chapel signage
AWM-19	5-19	Improvised bell
AWM-20	5-20	The Paschal candle stand
AWM-21	5-21	Padre's chair, altar and credence table (3 items)
AWM-22	5-22	Original Ghan Chapel sign
MNB-TK-01	6-1	Framed Picture - LCPL A. Jones * Note 4
MNB-TK-02	6-2	Framed Picture - SPR J.R. Larcombe * Note 4
MNB-TK-03	6-3	Framed Picture - PTE M. Lambert * Note 4
MNB-TK-04	6-4	Framed Picture - CPL R. Atkinson * Note 4
MNB-TK-05	6-5	Framed Picture - PTE G.W. Kirby * Note 4
MNB-TK-06	6-6	Framed Picture - SPR J.R. Larcombe * Note 4

Serial	Reference No.	Description
MNB-TK-07	6-8	Framed Picture - Mentoring & Reconstruction Task Force 2 (Jun 09 - Feb 10)
MNB-TK-08	6-9	Framed Picture - SPR J.D. Moerland * Note 4
MNB-TK-09	6-10	Framed Picture - SPR D.J. Smith with Explosive Detection Dog Herbie * Note 4
MNB-TK-10	6-11	Framed Picture - PTE N. Bewes * Note 4
MNB-TK-11	6-12	Framed Picture - CPL M.R.A. Hopkins * Note 4
MNB-TK-12	6-13	Framed Picture - PTE B. Renaudo * Note 4
MNB-TK-13	6-14	Framed Picture - PTE T. Dale * Note 4
MNB-TK-14	6-15	Framed Picture - CPL R. Atkinson * Note 4
MNB-TK-15	6-16	Harry Morant style rifle * Note 5
MNB-TK-16	6-17	Framed Picture - indicating site where SPR J.R. Larcombe was KIA * Note 4
MNB-TK-17	6-18	Memory of Mates - sign
MNB-TK-18	6-19	Steel memorial sign of SPR D.J. Smith and EOD dogs * Note 4
MNB-TK-19	6-20	Steel MTF 4 (2 SQN) Semper Primus - sign
MNB-TK-20	6-21	MF 2 Picture with "Tiger" pictured and number V in background
MNB-TK-21	6-22	1 RTF unit sign - Aug 06 - Apr 07
MNB-TK-22	6-22	1 RAR Band Picture - 09
MNB-TK-23	6-23	Poppy's - signs x 2 * Note 4
MNB-TK-24	6-24	Dedicated to Poppy picture (C Coy 2 RAR) * Note 4
MNB-TK-25	6-25	Picture - TFE4, RTF2, RTF3
MNB-TK-26	6-26	Plaque - Governor General visit to MNB-TK, 25 Apr 08
MNB-TK-27	6-27	Mounted barrel of ASLAV with 25mm round * Note 5
FSU-TK-06	7-6	Memorial for LCPL A. Jones (FSU-4) * Note 4
FSU-TK-07	7-7	Welcome - sign
1	1-1	Memorial Cross & Stand
2	1-2	Star of David * Note 6
3	2-1	Frame Picture - LCPL M. Hopkins * Note 4
4	2-2	Framed Picture - SPR J. Martin * Note 4
5	2-3	Framed Picture - LCPL S. Milosevic * Note 4
12	4-2	Memorial Book - dedicate to Australian personnel who died on Op Slipper (Afghanistan)
TG633.7-01		Wooden sign - Brahman Bar
TG633.7-02		Australian Flag
TG633.7-03		Plaque commemorating - CPL M. Baker * Note 4
TG633.7-04		Brahman Flag

Note 1 - this serial unable to be located, investigating whereabouts.

Note 2 - this serial destroyed locally in error.

Note 3 - this serial has not been approved for return to Australia as a dedicated shipment. Investigating whether an allocation from a dedicated batch being sent to Army is possible.

Note 4 - as a courtesy Army will write to the families of those KIA to confirm that they have no objection to the images of the fallen being displayed in public.

Note 5 – this serial is still subject to approval for importation and has yet to be cleared to return to Australia

Note 6 – the Chief of Defence Force has directed the gifting of this serial to the family of one of the fallen

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Question 310

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Paid Parking Consultation

FADT Hansard Proof 3 June 2014, p 121

Senator STEPHENS asked:

Dr Nelson: We did engage a consulting engineer who specialises in parking—there are such people. Firstly, no-one knows. Until we get to 1 July we just do not know. In fact, the NCA has had to delay the implementation six to eight weeks because of problems that they had not anticipated in terms of implementing it. Nonetheless it will be implemented, we understand. Until it actually starts we will not know exactly what the impact is. My biggest concern is that, by 7.30 or 8.00 in the morning our car parks will be filled, which will cause immense distress for people who frequently come very long distances to visit the memorial, and especially for veterans. Almost every day we have veterans coming to the War Memorial who have never been there but want to come to the memorial before they die. If it is the case that our car parks are filled—and we will not know until, I would think, the end of this year when we should have a clear feel for it—and our worst fears are realised, we will have little choice but to go back to plan A and invest in major infrastructure for this.

Senator STEPHENS: Are you able to provide the committee with the details of that advice that you received?

Dr Nelson: Sure.

Senator STEPHENS: If you could take that on notice, that would be helpful.

Dr Nelson: Of course, yes.

Answer

As a result of the former Government's announcement of the introduction of pay parking on national land, the Memorial considered a range of options for managing parking arrangements at the Memorial. The introduction of pay parking at the Memorial was never considered acceptable by management or by the Council of the Australian War Memorial.

Consistent with the current Government's policy, there is no plan or intention to introduce parking fees at the Memorial for anyone including visitors, staff or volunteers.

Concerns were raised that the Memorial's free car parks could be filled by commuters thereby limiting the parking available for genuine visitors, volunteers and staff. To address these concerns, Council considered a secure ticketing system however at a cost of \$1 million it was prohibitively expensive and Council agreed to implement the low-cost solution of time-limited parking and rely on 'moral persuasion' to modify motorist behaviour.

A traffic consultant has been engaged to provide advice on the implementation of time-limited car parks, including signage (text and positioning) and enforcement arrangements.

Parking in all Memorial car parks will be limited to 4 hours between 7:30am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday excluding public holidays. Staff, contractors and volunteers will be issued with passes to validate their parking in any Memorial car park beyond the posted 4 hour limit. Passes will be

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numbered, in a format and quality that is not easily reproduced by the public and will be managed by the Security sub-section.

Temporary passes can be issued to researchers or other long term visitors so they are not disadvantaged by the time restrictions. These will be issued for a pre-determined period and allocated by vehicle registration so the passes are not used inappropriately. Day passes can also be issued to attendees of functions that extend beyond the four hour limit. These can be issued by Security to the catering contractor for distribution to the function co-ordinator, and may recommend patrons use a specific car park for the duration of the event.

Information about the parking arrangements including how to request temporary long-term parking permits or day passes will be available on the Memorial website (www.awm.gov.au) when the implementation has been completed.

The Memorial's new parking arrangements will come into effect from 1 July 2014.

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Question 311

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Staffing cuts and cuts to programs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. How will the Budget impact the Australian War Memorial operations, plans and commemorations?
2. How much is your Budget – at the November Estimates, you stated that your Budget should be \$8.5 million for 2015-2016. Is that still the case?
3. Will 60% of your budget still be allocated to salaries?

Answer

1. In 2014-15 the Memorial will reduce ongoing staffing positions by six and reduce some public programs including open days and temporary exhibitions.
2. The \$8.5m the Director was referring to was the increase given to the Memorial in 2011-12, not the entire budget for the Memorial. Yes the increased appropriation will reach \$8.5m by 2015-16.
3. Yes, the 2014-15 Budget has been developed in accordance with Council policy of allocating 60 per cent of operational budget to salaries.

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Question 312

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Staffing cuts and cuts to programs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. At the November Estimates, it was stated the AWM employed 339 people of which 264 are ongoing positions and 75 are non-ongoing - that is, 78 per cent of our total staff and 22 per cent respectively. That gives us an FTE of 325.32.- total head count is 339 but FTE 325.32. What is the current staffing profile of the Australian War Memorial?
2. In February, it was stated that approximately 19 jobs would go by 2015. Have any jobs gone to date?
3. Will involuntary redundancies be necessary? Has the Budget affected this decision in particular the further efficiency dividends of .25% imposed on all departments by the Budget?
4. Is it a particularly busy and expensive time for the AWM with the Centenary of Anzac?
5. So cuts will come at a bad time in terms of you achieving all your plans for the Centenary? Were you planning or hoping to increase staff numbers for these special centenary commemorations?

Answer

1. At 30 June 2014 the Memorial employed 357 people. 272 are ongoing and 84 are non-ongoing. Total headcount is 357. FTE is 333.
2. Yes, six.
3. The Memorial is committed to reducing these positions through natural attrition.
4. Yes, the Memorial's expenditure has increased due to the Centenary of the First World War. A number of related projects and programs are well advanced.
5. The Memorial is working with the Government to ensure the Memorial's resourcing is adequate during the Centenary of Anzac.

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Question 313

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Staffing cuts and cuts to programs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. You also said there would be reduced funding for temporary exhibitions and the AWM's Open Day.
2. When is the Open Day for 2014?

Answer

1. Yes, this is correct.
2. There is no Open Day planned for 2014.

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Question 314

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Staffing cuts and cuts to programs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Are the World War I galleries on track for completion in November?
2. Can you provide an update on the Travelling Exhibition?

Answer

1. The First World War galleries are on track for completion in November 2014. A soft opening of the galleries to the public is planned for December 2014, followed by a formal launch in February 2015.
2. The Australian War Memorial continues to work with the Government on this initiative.

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Question 315

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Staffing cuts and cuts to programs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator FARRELL asked:

1. Have staff been informed of the new PMC guidelines in relation to social media?
2. Have there been any contraventions of the guidelines?
3. If so, please outline what happened and the outcome?
4. What are your social media costs?
5. Can you detail these particularly in light of Centenary of Anzac and World War I commemorations?
6. Are these likely to increase?

Answer

1. No.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. The Memorial pays \$10.00 a month for a service that allows us to manage, monitor and measure Twitter activity. The Memorial paid \$2,200.00 in this period for an online social media monitoring service, which monitors coverage of the Memorial on social media platforms. Approximately 35 hours per week of staff time is spent on social media; this work includes planning, posting, responding and monitoring.
5. Social media costs have not yet been greatly affected by the centenary commemorations, but we expect the costs of monitoring to increase as mentions of the Memorial increase. We would also expect an increase in activity in social media, with us making more posts as well as responding to more queries and comments.
6. Yes; we expect the cost of monitoring to increase as it depends on the number of mentions the Memorial gets. We also expect the amount of work on social media channels to increase in line with public expectations, and because social media platforms can be effective ways of alerting people to events.

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Question 316

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many people does your department/agency currently employ? Please provide a breakdown of this figure based on the following:
 - a. State and Territory.
 - b. Age.
 - c. Gender.
 - d. APS level classification.
 - e. Contract type (ongoing or non-ongoing).

Answer

1. As at 30 June 2014* the AWM employed 357 people.
 - a. ACT only - 357.
 - b.

Age	No
Under 25 yrs	9
25 – 34 yrs	98
35 – 44 yrs	110
45 – 54 yrs	77
55 – 64 yrs	54
Over 65 years	9
TOTAL	357

c.

Gender	No
Female	197
Male	160
TOTAL	357

d.

Classification	No
APS 1	0
APS 2	31
APS 3	65
APS 4	35
APS 5	32
APS 6	58
AWM BBB	3
AWM BB1	3
AWM BB2	1
AWM BB3	53
AWM BB4	5
EL1	46

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EL2	21
SES Band 1	3
Stat Off	1
TOTAL	357

e.

Type #	No
Ongoing	272
Non-ongoing	84
TOTAL	356

* Answer provided is to 30 June as it would have been too labour intensive to provide them to the requested end date.

This number totals 356 as it excludes the Statutory Officer of 1

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Question 317

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many people did your department/agency employ as of 30 June 2013? Please provide a breakdown of this figure based on the following variables:
 - a. State and Territory.
 - b. Age.
 - c. Gender.
 - d. APS level classification.
 - e. Contract type (ongoing or non-ongoing).

Answer

1. As at 30 June 2013 the AWM employed 361 people.
 - a. ACT only - 361.
 - b.

Age	No
Under 25 yrs	17
25 – 34 yrs	103
35 – 44 yrs	107
45 – 54 yrs	74
55 – 64 yrs	53
Over 65 years	7
TOTAL	361

c.

Gender	No
Female	205
Male	156
TOTAL	361

d.

Classification	No
APS 1	0
APS 2	38
APS 3	70
APS 4	32
APS 5	31
APS 6	53
AWM BBB	2
AWM BB1	4
AWM BB2	1
AWM BB3	55
AWM BB4	5
EL1	46

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EL2	19
SES Band 1	4
Stat Off	1
TOTAL	361

e.

Type *	No
Ongoing	261
Non-ongoing	99
TOTAL	360

* This number totals 360 as it excludes the Statutory Officer of 1

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Question 318

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many people did your department/agency employ as of 18 September 2013? Please provide a breakdown of this figure based on the following:
 - a. State and Territory.
 - b. Age.
 - c. Gender.
 - d. APS level classification.
 - e. Contract type (ongoing or non-ongoing).

Answer

1. As at 18 September 2013 the AWM employed 367 people.
 - a. ACT only - 367.
 - b.

Age	No
Under 25 yrs	14
25 – 34 yrs	101
35 – 44 yrs	110
45 – 54 yrs	77
55 – 64 yrs	56
Over 65 years	9
TOTAL	367

c.

Gender	No
Female	201
Male	166
TOTAL	367

d.

Classification	No
APS 1	0
APS 2	40
APS 3	68
APS 4	33
APS 5	35
APS 6	54
AWM BBB	5
AWM BB1	3
AWM BB2	1
AWM BB3	53
AWM BB4	5
EL1	46

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EL2	19
SES Band 1	4
Stat Off	1
TOTAL	367

e.

Type *	No
Ongoing	265
Non-ongoing	101
TOTAL	366

* This number totals 366 as it excludes the Statutory Officer of 1

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Question 319

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since 18 September 2013, what department/agency functions have been transferred from one state or territory to another?
2. For all functions transferred, can you please provide figures for the following:
 - a. Number of staff employed before and after the transfer,
 - b. Where the function was based before and after the transfer.

Answer

1. The Memorial has not transferred any functions from one State or Territory to another.
2. Not applicable.

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Question 320

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. For each employee transferred please provide the followings:
 - a. Their age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. Their APS classification.
 - d. The wage of the employee before and after the transfer.
 - e. The area of the department/agency they worked in before and after their transfer.
 - f. A description of their position before and after the transfer.
 - g. The dates of their transfer.
 - h. An explanation for why the employee was transferred.
 - i. Whether they were transferred to or from Canberra.
 - j. Any costs incurred by the department/agency due to this transfer.

Answer

1. Not applicable as the Memorial has not transferred any employees.

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Question 321

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since 18 September 2013, how many positions have been made redundant in your department/agency?
 - a. How many of these positions were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these positions were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these positions were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Six positions have been made redundant.
 - a. Five of these were ongoing.
 - b. One was non-ongoing.
 - c. All of these positions were in the Australian Capital Territory.

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Question 322

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of the employees filling these redundant positions were redeployed?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. None of the employees were redeployed. Election and retention period processes have not yet concluded.
 - a. Two ongoing employees are in this situation.
 - b. Nil.
 - c. All of these positions were in the Australian Capital Territory.

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Question 323

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of the employees were offered voluntary redundancies?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Four of the employees were offered redundancies.
 - a. Four of these were ongoing.
 - b. Nil.
 - c. All of these positions were in the Australian Capital Territory.

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Question 324

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many accepted voluntary redundancies?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Two of the employees accepted voluntary redundancies.
 - a. Two of these were ongoing.
 - b. Nil.
 - c. All of these positions were in the Australian Capital Territory.

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Question 325

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many were offered the choice between a voluntary redundancy and redeployment?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Four of the employees were offered the choice between a voluntary redundancy and redeployment.
 - a. Four of these were ongoing.
 - b. Nil.
 - c. All of these positions were in the Australian Capital Territory.

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Question 326

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. For all employees who accepted voluntary redundancies please provide the following:
 - a. Their age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. The APS classification level of their position.
 - e. Their wage.
 - f. Their contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing).
 - g. Where they were located.
 - h. A dollar figure of their pay out and what component of that figure was paid out as entitlements (annual leave etc.).
 - i. The reason a voluntary redundancy was offered for their position.
 - j. Details pertaining to any other costs incurred by the department/agency because of this redundancy.
 - k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. Due to the small number of employees affected by redundancy within the AWM we believe providing this information could readily identify individuals and could breach their privacy.
 - a. to e. See above.
 - f. Ongoing.
 - g. Australian Capital Territory.
 - h. Due to the small number of employees affected by redundancy within the AWM we are unable to provide this information. Providing this information could readily identify individuals and could breach their privacy.
 - i. Duties could be absorbed or provided through outsourcing.
 - j. Staff counselling - financial, career and emotional support.
 - k. May to October 2014.

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Question 327

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

Written Question on Notice

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. For all employees who were redeployed please provide:
 - a. Their age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. The APS classification level of their position.
 - e. Their wage.
 - f. Their contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing).
 - g. Where they were located.
 - h. A dollar figure of their pay out and what component of that figure was paid out as entitlements (annual leave etc.).
 - i. The reason a voluntary redundancy was offered for their position.
 - j. Details pertaining to any other costs incurred by the department/agency because of this redundancy.
 - k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. One person whose position has been identified as redundant has requested redeployment. This process is currently underway but the redeployment has not occurred yet. Due to the small number of employees affected by redundancy within the AWM we are unable to provide this information. Providing this information could readily identify individuals and could breach their privacy.
 - a. to e. see above.
 - f. Ongoing
 - g. Australian Capital Territory.
 - h. Providing this information could readily identify individuals and could breach their privacy.
 - i. Existing role absorbed by other functions.
 - j. Staff counselling - financial, career and emotional support.
 - k. May 2014.

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Question 328

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since the 18 September 2013, how many employees in your department/agency have been made forcibly redundant?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. None
 - a. to c. N/A

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Question 329

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of these employees were offered voluntary redundancies or redeployments prior to being made forcibly redundant?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. N/A
 - a. to c. N/A

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Question 330

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. For employees who were made forcibly redundant since the 18 September 2013 please provide:
 - a. Their age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. The APS classification level of their position.
 - e. Their wage at retrenchment.
 - f. Their contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing).
 - g. Where they were located.
 - h. A dollar figure of their pay out and what component of that figure was paid out as entitlements (annual leave etc.).
 - i. The reason why the employee was made forcibly redundant.
 - j. Details pertaining to any other costs incurred by the department/agency because of this redundancy.
 - k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. N/A
 - a. to k. N/A

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Question 331

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

Since the 18 September 2013 how many non-ongoing contracts has your department/agency extended?

Answer

32 non-ongoing contracts have been extended since 18 September 2013.

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Question 332

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

How many non-ongoing contract extensions did your department/agency submit the Public Service Commission for approval?

Answer

Nil

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Question 333

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of these extensions were approved by the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC)?
2. For every approved extension please provide the following details:
 - a. The employees age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. Their APS classification level.
 - e. Their wage.
 - f. Where they are located.
 - g. Their length of continuous employment at the APS.
 - h. The length of the approved extension.
 - i. The reason why the extension was submitted.
 - j. The reason why the extension was approved by the APSC.
 - k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. N/A
2. a. to k. N/A

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Question 334

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of these extensions were rejected by the APSC?
2. For every rejected extension please provide the following details:
 - a. The employees age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. Their APS classification level.
 - e. Their wage.
 - f. Where they are located.
 - g. Their length of continuous employment at the APS.
 - h. The length of the approved extension.
 - i. The reason why the extension was submitted.
 - j. The reason why the extension was approved by the APSC.
 - k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. N/A
2. a. to k. N/A

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Question 335

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since 18 September 2013, how many non-ongoing contracts have been extended by your department/agency without the APSC's approval?
2. For every unapproved extension please provide the following details:
 - a. The employee's age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. Their wage.
 - e. Their position's APS level classification.
 - f. Where they were located.
 - g. Their length of continuous employment at the APS.
 - h. The length of the extension granted by the department/agency.
 - i. The reason why the extension was granted.
 - j. Whether the extension was submitted to the APSC for approval and if not why the extension was not submitted for APSC approval?
 - k. The reasons why the extension was granted without the APSC's approval.
 - l. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. 32 (please note: APSC approval is NOT required for extending non-ongoings)
- 2.

a.

Age	No
Under 25	2
25 – 34 yrs	14
35 – 44 yrs	6
45 – 54 yrs	6
55 – 64 yrs	2
Over 65 yrs	2
TOTAL	32

b.

Gender	No
Female	20
Male	12
TOTAL	32

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c.

Description	No
Gallipoli Fellowship	1
Project Officer	2
Reference Officer	1
Machinist	1
e-Business administrative officer	1
Digitised and published records	2
Assistant Curator	7
Education Assistant	10
Mixed Collections Access officer	1
Accounts receivable officer	1
Photo, Sound and Film	1
Research Officer	1
Executive Assistant	1
Executive Officer	1
Senior Web Officer	1
TOTAL	32

d.

Wage	No
\$57,405	12
\$64,361	4
\$65,459	8
\$70,108	2
\$82,030	5
\$98,851	1
TOTAL	32

e.

Classification	No
APS 3	12
APS 4	4
APS 5	2
APS 6	5
AWM BB3	8
EL1	1
TOTAL	32

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- f. All positions located in the Australian Capital Territory.
- g. Unable to report as too resource intensive.
- h. The extensions did not exceed 12 months for non-gazetted recruitment and three years for gazetted recruitment.
- i. The vacant position was funded and critical to business demand.
- j. No they were not submitted to the APSC for approval as there was no requirement to so, as per the interim recruitment arrangements agency head discretion.
- k. The extensions were granted as they are critical to business demand.
- l. Unable to report as too resource intensive.

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Question 336

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since the 18 September 2013 how many non-ongoing contracts have expired without extension?
2. For every non-ongoing contract that has expired without extension please provide the following details:
 - a. The employee's age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. Their wage.
 - e. Their position's APS level classification.
 - f. Where they were located.
 - g. Their length of continuous employment at the APS.
 - h. The reason why the extension was not sought for their position.
 - i. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. 28

2.

a.

Age	No
Under 25	4
25 – 34 yrs	16
35 – 44 yrs	4
45 – 54 yrs	3
55 – 64 yrs	1
Over 65 yrs	0
TOTAL	28

b.

Gender	No
Female	20
Male	8
TOTAL	28

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c.

Communications and Marketing support officer
 Assistant recruitment officer
 Finance officer
 Events and ceremonies officer
 Schools supervisor
 Anzacs curatorial assistant
 Eyeworks documentary coordinator
 Collection donation assistant
 Administration assistant
 IT Sharepoint and project support officer
 Project officer
 E business officer
 Senior finance officer
 Media and marketing officer
 Acquisitions collection services
 Art assistant curator
 Assistant curator;
 Sound assistant curator
 Marketing manager
 Building Services Section representative for the redevelopment of the First World War galleries project
 Senior Communications and Marketing manager
 Manager HR Section

d.

Classification	Wage
APS 2	\$51,779
APS 3	\$57,405
APS 4	\$64,361
AWM BB3	\$65,459
APS 5	\$70,108
APS 6	\$82,030
EL1	\$98,851
EL2	\$128,655

e.

Classification	No
APS 2	3
APS 3	7
APS 4	1
AWM BB3	5
APS 5	5
APS 6	3
EL1	3
EL2	1

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TOTAL	28
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- f. Australian Capital Territory.
- g. Unable to report as too resource intensive.
- h. The vacant position was either not funded, a short term requirement for a specific task, or could not be extended under legislation.
- i. Unable to report as too resource intensive.

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Question 337

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

Since the 18 September 2013 how many new employees have been engaged by your department/agency on non-ongoing contracts?

Answer

29 employees have been engaged by the AWM on non-ongoing contracts.

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Question 338

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since the 18 September 2013 how many new non-ongoing engagements were submitted to the APSC for approval?
2. How many of these new non-ongoing engagements were approved by the APSC?
3. For every approved new engagement of a non-ongoing employee please provide the following details:
 - a. Their age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. Their wage.
 - e. Where their position is located.
 - f. Their position's APS level classification.
 - g. The length of their non-ongoing contract.
 - h. Whether their position was advertised externally (external to the AWM) as per interim recruitment arrangements.
 - i. The reason for engaging this new employee.
 - j. The reason given by the APSC for approving this engagement.
 - k. Please provide all relevant dates

Answer

1. 25 submitted to APSC for approval.
2. Of the 25 submitted, 20 were approved (14 have now been finalised with six positions pending finalisation –no data exists for these six positions as we are yet to employ the staff, hence the following data is only for the 14 finalised positions).
- 3.

a.

Age	No
> 25 yrs	3
25-34 yrs	2
35-44 yrs	4
45-54 yrs	3
55-64 yrs	1
Over 65 yrs	1
TOTAL	14

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b.

Gender	No
Female	9
Male	5
TOTAL	14

c. 12 x Education Assistants. 2 x Conservation

d.

Wage	No
\$52,900	12
\$65,459	2
TOTAL	14

e. All positions in the ACT

f.

Classification	No
APS 3	12
AWM BB3	2
TOTAL	14

g. All offered 18 months contracts

h. Yes gazetted (APSJobs)

i. All deemed as business critical roles

j. Not provided

k. Commenced, 12 x 7/04/14. 9/05/14. 28/04/14

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Question 339

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of these new non-ongoing employee applications were rejected by the Public Service Commission?
2. For every rejected new engagement of a non-ongoing employee please provide the following details:
 - a. Their age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. Where their position is located.
 - e. Their wage.
 - f. Their position's APS level classification.
 - g. The length of their non-ongoing contract.
 - h. Whether their position was advertised externally.
 - i. The reason for engaging this new employee.
 - j. The reason given by the APSC for rejecting this engagement.
 - k. Please provide all relevant dates

Answer

1. No applications have been rejected. The AWM withdrew two applications, a further two applications expired due to a delay in the APSC responding and one is still awaiting APSC approval.
2. N/A

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Question 340

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since 18 September 2013, how many new employees have been engaged on non-ongoing contracts without the approval of the Public Service Commission?
2. For every rejected new engagement of a non-ongoing employee please provide the following details:
 - a. Their age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. Where their position is located.
 - e. Their wage.
 - f. Their position's APS level classification.
 - g. The length of their non-ongoing contract.
 - h. Whether their position was advertised externally.
 - i. The reason for engaging this new employee.
 - j. The reason given by the APSC for rejecting this engagement.
 - k. Please provide all relevant dates

Answer

1. No new employees have been engaged by the AWM on non-ongoing contracts without the approval of the Australian Public Service Commission.
2. a. to k. N/A

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Question 341

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since the 18 September 2013 how many new employees have been engaged by your department/agency on ongoing contracts?

Answer

1. Six new employees have been engaged by the AWM on ongoing contracts.

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Question 342

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. Since the 18 September 2013 how many new ongoing engagements were submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval?
2. How many of these new ongoing engagements were approved by the Public Service Commission?
3. For every approved new engagement of an ongoing employee please provide the following details:
 - a. Their age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. Their wage.
 - e. Where their position is located.
 - f. Their position's APS level classification.
 - g. The length of their ongoing contract.
 - h. Whether their position was advertised externally.
 - i. The reason for engaging this new employee.
 - j. The reason provided by APSC for approving this engagement.
 - k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. 10 were submitted for approval
2. 10 were approved but only five were successfully filled.
- 3.

a.

Age	No
Under 25	0
25 – 34 yrs	3
35 – 44 yrs	0
45 – 54 yrs	1
55 – 64 yrs	1
Over 65 yrs	0
TOTAL	5

b.

Gender	No
Female	3
Male	2
TOTAL	5

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c.

Description	No
Section Head communications	1
eSales	1
Object Conservator	1
Senior Conservator	1
Sheet metal worker	1
TOTAL	5

d.

Wage	No
\$70,108	2
\$82,030	2
\$128,655	1
TOTAL	5

e. All positions located in the ACT

f.

Classification	No
APS 3	0
APS 4	0
APS 5	1
APS 6	2
AWM BB3	1
EL1	0
EL2	1
TOTAL	5

g. All contracts are ongoing

h. Yes gazetted (APSJobs)

i. All positions were determined as business critical roles

j. No reason was provided

k. Commencements dates of employment: 26/05/14, 24/04/14, 7/04/14, 31/03/14, 3/03/14

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Question 343

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many of these new ongoing employee applications were rejected by the Public Service Commission?
2. For every new ongoing engagement rejected by the Public Service Commission please provide the following details:
 - a. Their age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. Where their position is located.
 - e. Their wage.
 - f. Their position's APS level classification.
 - g. The length of their ongoing contract.
 - h. Whether their position was advertised externally.
 - i. The reason for engaging this new employee.
 - j. The reason provided by APSC for approving this engagement.
 - k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. Nil.
2. a. to k. N/A

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Question 344

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Extensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUNDY asked:

1. How many new employees have been engaged on ongoing contracts without the approval of the Public Service Commission?
2. For every ongoing employee engaged without the Public Service Commission's approval please provide the following details:
 - a. Their age.
 - b. Their gender.
 - c. A description of their position.
 - d. Where their position is located.
 - e. Their wage.
 - f. Their position's APS level classification.
 - g. The length of their ongoing contract.
 - h. Whether their position was advertised externally.
 - i. The reason for engaging this new employee.
 - j. The reason for engaging this employee without the APSC permission.
 - k. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. Seven (employment offers made post-election and prior to interim recruitment arrangements taking affect i.e. 6 November 2013. APSC approval was not mandated during this period. Employee actual commencements varied from October 2013 to February 2014)
- 2.

a.

Age	No
Under 25	0
25 – 34 yrs	0
35 – 44 yrs	3
45 – 54 yrs	3
55 – 64 yrs	1
Over 65 yrs	0
TOTAL	7

b.

Gender	No
Female	4
Male	3
TOTAL	7

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c.

Description	No
Payroll Officer,	1
WHS Manager	1
Workplace Relations Manager	1
HR Officer	1
Events Manager	1
Retail Shop	1
Events Officer	1
TOTAL	7

d. All employed within the ACT

e.

Wage	No
\$57,405	2
\$64,361	2
\$98,851	3
TOTAL	7

f.

Classification	No
APS 3	2
APS 4	2
EL1	3
TOTAL	7

g. Ongoing employment

h. Yes, gazetted (APSJobs)

i. All funded ongoing critical roles

j. All offers made prior to the interim recruitment arrangements of 6/11/13

k. Commencement date for each offer made: 25/10/13, 30/10/13, 31/10/13, 1/11/13, 8/11/13, 03/12/13, 17/02/14

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Question 345

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Appointments

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Please detail any board appointments made from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date.
2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
3. Does the department have a gender ratio target and/or any other policy intended to increase the participation rate of women on boards? If yes, please specify what the target and policy is for each board.
4. Please specify when these gender ratio or participation policies were put in place.
5. Has there been any change to this ratio or policy since September 7, 2013? If yes, please detail it.

Answer

1. Nil appointments were made from 26 February – 30 April 2014.
2. As at February 2014 the gender ratio of the Council is three women and 10 men.
3. N/A – appointments to the Council of the Australian War Memorial are made by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. The Memorial is not aware of a gender ratio target or any other policy intended to increase the participation rate of women on boards.
4. N/A
5. N/A

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Question 346

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Lobbyist Register Meetings

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. List all interactions between the department/agency with any representative listed on the lobbyist register since Additional Estimates in February, 2014. List the participants in the meeting, the topic of the discussion, who arranged or requested the meeting, the location of the meeting
2. List all interactions between the Minister/parliamentary Secretary and/or their offices with any representative listed on the lobbyist register since Additional Estimates in February, 2014. List the participants in the meeting, the topic of the discussion, who arranged or requested the meeting, the location of the meeting

Answer

1. Nil.
2. Nil.

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Question 347

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Enterprise Bargaining Agreements

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Please list all related EBAs with coverage of the department.
2. Please list their starting and expiration dates.
3. What is the current status of negotiations for the next agreement/s? Please detail.

Answer

1. Australian War Memorial (AWM) Teamwork Agreement 2011-14.
2. Commencement date 28 November 2011, and nominal expiry date is 30 June 2014.
3. The AWM formally commenced enterprise bargaining on 7 May 2014 (through release of the Notice of Employee Representational Rights). To date two Enterprise Bargaining Team meetings have taken place - on 23 May and 12 June 2014.

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Question 348

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Staff

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator Ludwig asked:

How many people does your department employ?

Answer

As at 30 June 2014 the AWM employs 357 staff.

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Question 349

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What is the number of staff employed in each state and Territory as at 30 June 2013, and what is their age, gender and classification level?
2. What is the number of staff currently employed in each state and territory, and what is their age, gender and classification level?

Answer

1. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 317.
2. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 316.

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Question 350

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What functions have been transferred between transferred from one state or territory to another since the federal election in 2013?
2. Can you please provide details by function of the, number of staff employed, the age, gender and classification of staff employed in the function that was transferred, where it was based prior to the transfer and where it was transferred to?
3. How many of these people are employed in Canberra?

Answer

1. Nil – no Memorial functions have been transferred from one state or territory to another since the federal election in 2013.
2. N/A
3. N/A

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Question 351

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Transfers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many people did your department employ in Canberra immediately prior to the 2013 federal election?
2. How many employees have been transferred out of Canberra since the 2013 federal election?
3. How many of your employees have been transferred to Canberra since the 2013 federal election?
4. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide their age.
5. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide their wage. Please provide the figure for before their transfer and after their transfer.
6. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide their gender.
7. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide the area of the department they worked in. Please provide this detail for before their transfer and after their transfer.
8. For all employees transferred to or from Canberra since the 2013 federal election, please provide a description of their position. Please provide this detail for before their transfer and after their transfer.
9. For every transferred employee please provide an explanation for their transfer?
10. For every transferred employee please provide any other cost incurred by the department because of that transfer?
11. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. 364
2. and 3. Nil.
3. to 11. N/A

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Question 352

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many positions have been made redundant in your department since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these positions were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these positions were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these positions were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 321.

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Question 353

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many of the employees filling these redundant positions were redeployed since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 322.

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Question 354

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many of these employees were offered voluntary redundancies since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 323.

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Question 355

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many accepted voluntary redundancies since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 324.

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Question 356

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many employees were offered the choice between a voluntary redundancy and redeployment since the 2013 federal election?
 - a. How many of these employees were ongoing?
 - b. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
 - c. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 325.

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Question 357

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. For all employees who accepted voluntary redundancies since the 2013 federal election please:
2. Provide a dollar figure of their pay out, their age, gender and a description of their position including APS level, contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing), responsibilities and where they were located.
3. Please specify what component of that figure was paid out entitlements (annual leave etc).
4. Please specify any other costs incurred by the department because of this redundancy.
5. Please provide the reason a voluntary redundancy was offered for their position.
6. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 326.

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Question 358

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For all employees who were redeployed please provide:

1. Their age, gender and a description of their position prior to and after redeployment, including the wages of these positions, the APS level of these positions, the contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing) and where they were located.
2. Please specify any other costs incurred by the department because of this redeployment.
3. Please provide the reason for that redeployment.
4. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. to 4. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 327.

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Question 359

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since the 2013 federal election, how many employees in your department have been made forcibly redundant?

1. How many of these employees were ongoing?
2. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
3. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. to 3. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 328.

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Question 360

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many of these employees were offered voluntary redundancies or redeployments prior to being made forcibly redundant?

1. How many of these employees were ongoing?
2. How many of these employees were non-ongoing?
3. How many of these employees were situated in the Australian Capital Territory?

Answer

1. to 3. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 329.

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Question 361

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Redundancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For employees who were made forcibly redundant since the 2013 federal election please provide:

1. Their age, gender, the dollar figure of their pay out and a description of their position including APS level, contract type (non-ongoing versus ongoing) responsibilities and where they were located.
2. Please specify what component of that figure was paid out entitlements (annual leave etc).
3. Please specify any other costs incurred by the department because of this redundancy.
4. Please provide the reason for that redundancy.
5. Please provide all relevant dates.

Answer

1. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 330.

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Question 362

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many people are employed in your department on non-ongoing contracts?
2. How many people are employed in your department on ongoing contracts?
3. How many non-ongoing contracts has your department extended since the 2013 federal election?

Answer

1. and 2. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 316.
3. Refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 331.

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Question 363

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many non-ongoing contract extensions did your department submit the Public Service Commission for approval?
2. How many of these extensions were approved by the Public Service Commission?
3. For every approved extension please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, their length of continuous employment by the APS, the length of approved extension, the reasons why the extensions was submitted and the reasons why the extension was approved by the Public Service Commission, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

1. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 332.
2. and 3. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 333.

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Question 364

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many of these extensions were rejected by the Public Service Commission?
2. For every rejected extension please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, their length of continuous employment by the APS, the length of extension sought by the department, the reasons why the extensions was submitted and the reasons why the extension was rejected by the Public Service Commission, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

1. and 2. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 334.

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Question 365

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many non-ongoing contracts have been extended by your department without the Public Service Commission's approval?
2. For every unapproved extension please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, their length of continuous employment by the APS, the length of the unapproved extension, the reasons why the extension was granted, whether the extension was submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval, and the reasons why the extension was granted without the approval of the Public Service Commission, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

1. and 2. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 335.

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Question 366

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many non-ongoing contracts have expired without extension since the 2013 federal election?
2. For every expired non-ongoing contract please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, their length of continuous employment by the APS, the reason why an extension was not sought, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

1. and 2. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 336.

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Question 367

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many new employees have been engaged by your department on non-ongoing contracts since the 2013 federal election?

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 337.

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Question 368

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many new non-ongoing engagements were submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval since the 2014 federal election?
2. How many of these new non-ongoing engagements were approved by the Public Service Commission?
3. For every approved new engagement of a non-ongoing employee please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, the length of their non-ongoing contract, whether this position was advertised externally, the reason for engaging this new employee and the reason given by the Public Service Commission for approving this engagement, as well as all relevant dates relating to this application.

Answer

1. 2. and 3. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 338.

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Question 369

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many of these new non-ongoing employee applications were rejected by the Public Service Commission?
2. For every new non-ongoing engagement rejected by the Public Service Commission please provide the following details: APS level, a description of their job, the length of their non-ongoing contract, the reason for engaging the new employee and the reason given by the Public Service Commission for rejecting this engagement, as well as all relevant dates relating to this application.

Answer

1. and 2. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 339.

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Question 370

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many new employees have been engaged on non-ongoing contracts without the approval of the Public Service Commission?
2. For every non-ongoing employee engaged without the Public Service Commission's approval please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, the length of their non-ongoing contract, whether this position was advertised externally, the reason for engaging this new employee and the reason for engaging this employee without the Public Service Commission's approval, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

1. and 2. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 340.

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Question 371

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

How many new employees have been engaged by your department on ongoing contracts since the 2013 federal election?

Answer

Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 341.

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Question 372

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many new ongoing engagements were submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval since the 2013 federal election?
2. How many of these new ongoing engagements were approved by the Public Service Commission?
3. For every approved new engagement of a ongoing employee please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, the length of their ongoing contract, whether this position was advertised externally, the reason for engaging this new employee and the reason given by the Public Service Commission for approving this engagement, as well as all relevant dates relating to this application.

Answer

1. 2. and 3. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 342.

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Question 373

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many of these new ongoing employee applications were rejected by the Public Service Commission?
2. For every new ongoing engagement rejected by the Public Service Commission please provide the following details: APS level, a description of their job, the length of their ongoing contract, the reason for engaging the new employee and the reason given by the Public Service Commission for rejecting this engagement, as well as all relevant dates relating to this application.

Answer

1. and 2. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 343.

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Question 374

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hiring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many new employees have been engaged on ongoing contracts without the approval of the Public Service Commission?
2. For every ongoing employee engaged without the Public Service Commission's approval please provide the following details: the employee's age, gender, wage, APS level, a description of their job, the length of their ongoing contract, whether this position was advertised externally, the reason for engaging this new employee and the reason for engaging this employee without the Public Service Commission's approval, as well as all relevant dates.

Answer

1. and 2 Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 344.

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Question 375

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Existing Resources Program

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since 7 September how many major projects, work, programs or other tasks has the department started as a consequence of government policies or priorities that are required to be funded 'within existing resources'?
 - a. List each project or piece of work
 - b. List the staffing assigned to each task
 - c. What is the nominal total salary cost of the officers assigned to the project?
 - d. What resources or equipment has been assigned to the project?

Answer

1. Nil.
 - a. to d. N/A

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Question 376

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since 7 September 2013;

1. Do any contracts managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy?
 - a. If so, please name each contract.
 - b. When was it formed or created?
2. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?

Answer

1. No. The Memorial's standard contract terms and conditions do not contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy.
 - a. to b. N/A
2. N/A

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Question 377

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since 7 September 2013;

1. Do any agreements managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy?
 - a. If so, please name each contact.
 - b. When was it formed or created?
2. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?

Answer

1. No.

a. to b. N/A

2. N/A

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Question 378

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each of the contracts and agreements, are there any particular reasons, such as genuine commercial in confidence information, for this restriction?

Answer

N/A

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Question 379

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Have any changes to financial or resource support to services which advocate on behalf of groups or individuals in Australian society been made?
 - a. If so, which groups?
 - b. What was the change?
2. Has any consultation occurred between the Department/Agency and any individuals and/or community groups about these changes?
 - a. If so, what consultation process was used?
 - b. Was it public?
 - c. If not, why not?
 - d. Are public submissions available on a website?
 - e. If no consultation has occurred, why not?
3. Did the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary meet with any stakeholders about changes to advocacy in their contracts and/or agreements?
 - a. If so, when?
 - b. Who did he/she meet with?

Answer

1. No
 - a. and b. N/A
2. a to e. N/A
3. a. and b. N/A

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Question 380

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Reviews

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
 - a. the date they were ordered
 - b. the date they commenced
 - c. the minister responsible
 - d. the department responsible
 - e. the nature of the review
 - f. their terms of reference
 - g. the scope of the review
 - h. Whom is conducting the review
 - i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
 - j. the expected report date
 - k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs
 - l. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public

Answer

1. Not applicable as the Memorial has not commenced any reviews.

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Question 381

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Reviews

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. For any review commenced or ordered since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
2. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
3. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
4. If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
5. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
6. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
7. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
8. If yes, for each, who selected them
9. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
 - a. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
 - b. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
 - c. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
 - d. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
 - e. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

Answer

1. N/A - The Memorial has not commenced or ordered any reviews.

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Question 382

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Reviews

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, what reviews are on-going? Please list them.
 - a. What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?
2. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
3. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.
4. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
5. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?

Answer

1. N/A - The Memorial does not have any reviews ongoing.

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Question 383

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Reviews

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What reviews are planned?
 - a. When will each planned review be commenced?
 - b. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
 - c. When will government respond to each review?
 - d. Will the government release each review?
 - e. If so, when? If not, why not?

Answer

1. Nil - The Memorial does not have any reviews planned.

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Question 384

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Computers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. List the current inventory of computers owned, leased, stored, or able to be accessed by the Ministers office as provided by the department, listing the equipment cost and location and employment classification of the staff member that is allocated the equipment, or if the equipment is currently not being used
2. List the current inventory of computers owned, leased, stored, or able to be accessed by the department, listing the equipment cost and location
3. Please detail the operating systems used by the departments computers, the contractual arrangements for operating software and the on-going costs

Answer

1. The Memorial does not lease, purchase or store computers for the Minister's Office.
2. The Memorial leases approximately 450 computers which are made available to staff at all levels from APS2 to SESB3 throughout 10 buildings across the two sites at Campbell and Mitchell ACT. Some computers are used for public access throughout the galleries. All of the equipment is used on a regular basis. The annual lease cost is less than \$200,000 pa. Resources do not permit to collation of a more detail beak down of this information.
3. Almost all desktop and laptop computers utilise the Microsoft Windows 7 operating system the licenses for which are provided as part of the overall lease cost for the equipment. There are no additional ongoing costs apart from the staff effort to maintain configuration of the Standard Operating Environment based on this operating system. All server operating systems are Microsoft. Licences for these are purchased as required under a very cost effective agreement and incur no ongoing cost apart from staff management and eventual version upgrade.

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Question 385

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Briefings for other parties

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Non-Government parties other than the Australian Labor Party? If yes, please include:
 - a. How are briefings requests commissioned?
 - b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
 - c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
 - d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.
 - e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
 - f. Which Non-Government Parties or Independents, excluding the Australian Labor Party have requested briefings and/or information?

Answer

1. Nil - The Memorial has not provided any briefings for other parties.

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Question 386

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Office recreation facilities

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 has the department/agency purchased or leased or constructed any office recreation facilities, activities or games (including but not limited to pool tables, table tennis tables or others)?
 - a. If so, list these
 - b. If so, list the total cost for these items
 - c. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure
 - d. If so, where were these purchased
 - e. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased
 - f. If so, what is the current location for these items?
 - g. If so, what is the current usage for each of these items?

Answer

1. Nil - the Memorial has not purchased, leased or constructed any office recreation facilities, activities or games.

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Question 387

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Stationery requirements

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers / Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - a. Detail the items provided to the minister's office
2. How much was spent on departmental stationary requirements from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date.

Answer

1. Nil - the Memorial does not provide stationery requirements for the Minister for Veterans' Affairs.
 - a. N/A
2. Total stationery spend between 20 November 2013 - 30 April 2014 was \$33,350.

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Question 388

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Electronic Equipment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Other than phones, ipads or computers – please list the electronic equipment provided to the Minister's office since Additional Estimates in February, 2014.
 - a. List the items
 - b. List the items location or normal location
 - c. List if the item is in the possession of the office or an individual staff member of minister, if with an individual list their employment classification level
 - d. List the total cost of the items
 - e. List an itemised cost breakdown of these items
 - f. List the date they were provided to the office
 - g. Note if the items were requested by the office or proactively provided by the department

Answer

1. Nil - the Memorial does not provide electronic equipment to the Minister's office.

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Question 389

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Media Subscriptions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.
 - b. What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c. What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d. What is the cost for this from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

Answer

1. The Memorial has a Foxtel subscription.
 - a. We subscribe to the Business value package, which was selected because of its news services.
 - b. \$435.00
 - c. The Memorial does not provide pay TV subscriptions for the Minister or his office.
 - d. N/A

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Question 390

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Media Subscriptions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a) Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b) What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d) What is the cost for this from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

Answer

1.
 - a. The newspaper subscriptions of the Australian War Memorial are *The Canberra Times*, *The Australian*, and the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Weekend Telegraph*. All papers are selected for informing senior management of current events, media monitoring and advertising purposes at a local and national level.
 - b. \$696
 - c. Nil – the Memorial does not provide newspaper subscriptions to the Minister or his office.
 - d. N/A

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Question 391

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Media Subscriptions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?
 - a) Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b) What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d) What is the cost for this from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

Answer

- a) See table below for a list of journal subscriptions, all of which were provided for staff knowledge, training and development.
- b) \$2,925.30
- c) Nil – the Memorial does not provide magazine subscriptions to the Minister or his office.
- d) N/A

Title
JOURNAL OF MATERIAL CULTURE - Online Only - Sage Code: L732-EFF01
JOURNAL OF VISUAL CULTURE - Online Only L803-EFF01
MEMORY STUDIES - Online Only L960-EFF01
AMERICAN ARCHIVIST premium subscription - Print and online combined
AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC & ARTISTIC WORKS - Base Membership (Includes: AIC NEWS, JOURNAL and ANNUAL DIRECTORY)
ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES & RECORDS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND - Includes ARCHIFACTS
ARCHIVES AND RECORDS: THE JOURNAL OF THE ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ASSOCIATION previously JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF ARCHIVISTS
ART MONTHLY AUSTRALIA (AMA)
ARTAND Australia previously ART AND AUSTRALIA
ARTLINK
ARTS LAW: NEWSLETTER OF THE ARTS LAW CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA - subscription rate for Arts/Not for Profit/Law Firms/Commercial/Government(Budgets>1M)
AUDIOTECHNOLOGY
AUSTRALASIAN REGISTRARS COMMITTEE (ARC) INSTITUTION MEMBERSHIP Includes AUSTRALASIAN REGISTRARS COMMITTEE JOURNAL
AUSTRALASIAN SOUND RECORDINGS ASSOCIATION - Membership (Includes AUSTRALASIAN SOUND ARCHIVE and OCCASIONAL PAPER)

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Title
AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MAP SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP Includes THE GLOBE and NEWSLETTER which is now free online at: australianmapcircle.org.au/newsletter/
AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF ART (ANZJA) & NEWSLETTER (Newsletter Online Only) - Print & Online
AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF ART -Print & Online
AUSTRALIAN ART COLLECTOR
AUSTRALIAN COPYRIGHT COUNCIL - PRACTICAL GUIDES & DISCUSSION PAPERS
AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM STUDIES ASSOCIATION Membership - Inc CURRICULUM PERSPECTIVES JOURNAL and (CURRICULUM PERSPECTIVES NEWSLETTER E format Only)
AUSTRALIAN DIGITAL ALLIANCE - Membership
AUSTRALIAN DIRECTORY OF PHILANTHROPY - Online Only
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL MATERIAL (AICCM)Institutional Membership Includes AICCM BULLETIN & NATIONAL NEWSLETTER
AUSTRALIAN PERSONAL COMPUTER (APC)
AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ARCHIVISTS - Full Institutional Membership (Category A)
BRITISH JOURNAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY
CAPTURE
CLASSIC MILITARY VEHICLE
CLASSIC WINGS
COMPUTER MUSIC
CORROSION - Online Only
CX MAGAZINE Previously CONNECTIONS -Print only
DIRECTORY OF AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATIONS Print only
FUNDRAISING & PHILANTHROPY AUSTRALASIA
HISTORICAL JOURNAL OF FILM, RADIO AND TELEVISION
HISTORY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW Institutional Membership - Includes TEACHING HISTORY, NEWSLETTER
HISTORY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA Institutional Membership - Includes AGORA & NEWSLETTERS - Online only
HISTORY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF WA Membership - Includes HISTORY BULLETIN & HINDSIGHT
IASA Membership (including IASA JOURNAL and Information Bulletin) - Information Bulletin is now an eBulletin only available online
INSTITUTE OF CONSERVATION FULL Organisation Membership - Includes ICON NEWS, CONSERVATOR, PAPER CONSERVATOR and MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEDIA & HISTORY - Institutional membership Includes HISTORICAL JOURNAL OF FILM, RADIO & TELEVISION
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC AND ARTISTIC WORKS Membership - Includes STUDIES IN CONSERVATION and NEWS IN

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Title
CONSERVATION
IQ THE RIM PROFESSIONALS AUSTRALASIA QUARTERLY (IQ)
JOURNAL OF FILM PRESERVATION
JOURNAL OF MUSEUM EDUCATION -For Museum Organizations Print & Online
LITERARY & LINGUISTIC COMPUTING (LLC) - Online Only
MEDAL NEWS
MILITARY MACHINES INTERNATIONAL
MULTIMEDIA INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY - Online only
MUSEUM
MUSEUM MANAGEMENT AND CURATORSHIP
ORAL HISTORY
ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA - Membership -Includes JOURNAL and VOICEPRINT (E-Newsletter)
ORAL HISTORY REVIEW - Print & Online
PICTURE RESTORER
PRINT COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA - Membership Includes IMPRINT
QUEENSLAND HISTORY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION Inst Membership Includes HISTORY TEACHER - Online Only
RESTAURATOR
SILICON CHIP Print only
SOCIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION Membership - Includes SOCIAL EDUCATOR
SOCIAL EDUCATION VICTORIA Secondary School/other Organisation Membership (Includes ETHOS)
TRADE-A-PLANE SERVICE
UNIFORMS
VICTORIA BARRACKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Includes Mentioned in Despatches
WIRED
WORLD OF ANTIQUES AND ART

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Question 392

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Media Subscriptions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What publications does your department/agency purchase?
 - a) Please provide a list of publications purchased by the department and the reason for each.
 - b) What is the cost from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c) What is provided to the Minister or their office?
 - d) What is the cost for this from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

Answer

1.
 - a) The Memorial purchased the following publications from February 2014 to 30 April 2014. They were provided for staff knowledge, training and development.

Title	Author
<i>Photojournalists on War: The Untold Stories from Iraq</i>	Michael Kamber
<i>The Camera as Historian: Amateur Photographers and Historical Imagination, 1885-1918</i>	Elizabeth Edwards
10 copies of <i>Australian Military Abbreviations, Acronyms & Codes</i>	Michael K. Cecil

- b) \$640.09
- c) N/A
- d) N/A

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Question 393

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Media Monitoring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
 - b. What has been spent providing these services from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c. Itemise these expenses.

Answer

1. Nil - The Memorial does not provide media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, for the Minister's office.
 - a. to c. N/A

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Question 394

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Media Monitoring

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - a) Which agency or agencies provided these services?
 - b) What has been spent providing these services from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - c) Itemise these expenses

Answer

1. \$52,684.34
 - a. iSentia, AAP
 - b. \$52,684.34
 - c. \$1028.00 for AAP's Media people contact list.
\$20,431 - daily media monitoring service
\$16,428.30 fees
\$687.90 clip orders
\$2432.01 Online monitoring
\$11,500.77 News and digital media monitoring
\$176.36 media portal

Expenditure from 7 September 2013 to February 2014 was \$15,198. The increase is accounted for by a change in the services purchased under the contract with iSentia. A daily monitoring report has been instigated (\$20,431) and social media monitoring (\$11,500) has been added to the monitoring services provide by iSentia.

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Question 395

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Media Training

Written Question on Notice

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date:
 - a. Total spending on these services
 - b. an itemised cost breakdown of these services
 - c. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
 - d. The number of employees who have utilised these services and their employment classification
 - e. The names of all service providers engaged
 - f. the location that this training was provided
2. For each service purchased from a provider listed under (1), please provide:
 - a. The name and nature of the service purchased
 - b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
 - c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - e. The total amount spent on the service
 - f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

Answer

1.
 - a. \$5,800 plus \$580 GST totalling \$6,380
 - b. Two half day sessions at \$2900 each, plus GST investment \$5,800 plus \$580 GST totalling \$6,380
 - c. and d. 17

Classification	No
EL2	1
EL1	2
APS 6	4
APS3	1
APS 2	1
BB3	8
TOTAL	17

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- d. Talkforce Media
- e. On site

2.

- a. *Name of the service purchased:* Media training.
Nature of the service provided: tools and techniques in how to prepare for a media interview. This provided staff with the knowledge, skills and confidence to have a successful media interview. Practice sessions were provided in the workshop for each participant.
- b. Group based
- c. 17

Classification	No
EL2	1
EL1	2
APS 6	4
APS3	1
APS 2	1
BB3	8
TOTAL	17

d.

Classification	No	Total Hours
EL2	1	3.5
EL1	2	7
APS 6	4	14
APS3	1	3.5
APS 2	1	3.5
BB3	8	28
TOTAL	17	59.5

- e. \$5800 plus \$580 GST totalling \$6380
- f. Complete package

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Question 396

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Media Training

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:
 - a) The location used
 - b) The number of employees who took part on each occasion
 - c) The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d) Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer

1. N/A

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Question 397

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Provision of equipment - Ministerial

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs?
 - a. Itemise equipment and cost broken down by staff or minister classification

Answer

1. Nil - the Memorial does not provide mobile phones to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs or his office.
 - a. N/A

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Question 398

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Provision of equipment - Ministerial

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive, video cameras) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide a list of what is provided across the department of agency, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives each item.

Answer

1. Nil - the Memorial does not provide electronic equipment for the Minister's office.

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Question 399

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Commissioned reports

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, how many Reports (including paid external advice) have been commissioned by the Minister, department or agency? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost?
 - a. How many departmental or external staff were involved in each report and at what level?
3. What is the current status of each report?
 - a. When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer

1. Nil - the Memorial has not commissioned any reports
2. N/A
 - a. N/A
3. N/A
 - a. N/A

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Question 400

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Ministerial website

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much has been spent on the Minister's website since Additional Estimates in February, 2014?
 - a. List each item of expenditure and cost
 - b. Who is responsible for uploading information to the Minister's website?
 - c. Are any departmental staff required to work outside regular hours to maintain the Minister's website?

Answer

1. Nil - the Memorial is not responsible for the Minister's website.

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Question 401

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Report printing

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Have any reports, budget papers, statements, white papers or report-like documents printed for or by the department been pulped, put in storage, shredded or disposed of?
 - a. If so please give details; name of report, number of copies, cost of printing, who order the disposal, reason for disposal

Answer

1. No reports, budget papers, statements, white papers or report-like documents printed for or by the Memorial been pulped, put in storage, shredded or disposed of.
 - a. N/A

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Question 402

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: FOI Requests

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since September 7, 2013:

1. How many requests for documents under the FOI Act have been received?
 - a. Of these, how many documents have been determined to be deliberative documents?
 - b. Of those assessed as deliberative documents:
 - i. For how many has access to the document been refused on the basis that it would be contrary to the public interest?
 - ii. For how many has a redacted document been provided?

Answer

1. Five requests for documents under the FOI Act have been received
 - a. Nil.
 - b. N/A
 - i. N/A
 - ii. N/A

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Question 403

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Ministerial motor vehicle

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Has the minister been provided with a motor vehicle since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so:
 - a. What is the make and model?
 - b. How much did it cost?
 - c. When was it provided?
 - d. Was the entire cost met by the department? If not, how was the cost met?
 - e. What, if any, have been the ongoing costs associated with this motor vehicle? Please include costs such as maintenance and fuel.
 - f. Are these costs met by the department? If not, how are these costs met?
2. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine if a minister is entitled to a motor vehicle.
 - a. Have these guidelines changed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so, please detail.
3. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine how a minister is to use a motor vehicle they have been provided with. Please include details such as whether the motor vehicle can be used for personal uses.
 - a. Have these guidelines changed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so, please detail.

Answer

1. Nil - the Memorial does not provide a motor vehicle for the Minister.

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Question 404

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Ministerial staff vehicles

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Outside of MoPS Act entitlements, have any of the Minister's staff been provided with a motor vehicle since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so:
 - a. What is the make and model?
 - b. How much did it cost?
 - c. When was it provided?
 - d. Was the entire cost met by the department? If not, how was the cost met?
 - e. What, if any, have been the ongoing costs associated with this motor vehicle?
Please include costs such as maintenance and fuel.
 - f. Are these costs met by the department? If not, how are these costs met?
2. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine this entitlement to a motor vehicle.
 - a. Have these guidelines changed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so, please detail.
3. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine how a motor vehicle is to be used that they have been provided with. Please include details such as whether the motor vehicle can be used for personal uses.
 - a. Have these guidelines changed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so, please detail.

Answer

1. 2 and 3. Nil - the Memorial does not provide motor vehicles for Ministerial staff.

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Question 405

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Ministerial staff vehicles

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Have any of the Minister's staff been provided with a motor vehicle under the MoPS Act entitlements since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so:
 - a. What is the make and model?
 - b. How much did it cost?
 - c. When was it provided?
 - d. Was the entire cost met by the department? If not, how was the cost met?
 - e. What, if any, have been the ongoing costs associated with this motor vehicle? Please include costs such as maintenance and fuel.
 - f. Are these costs met by the department? If not, how are these costs met?
2. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine this entitlement to a motor vehicle.
 - a. Have these guidelines changed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so, please detail.
3. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine how a motor vehicle is to be used that they have been provided with. Please include details such as whether the motor vehicle can be used for personal uses.
 - a. Have these guidelines changed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so, please detail.

Answer

1. The Special Minister of State will respond to Questions on Notice regarding ministerial entitlements on behalf of all departments and agencies.

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Question 406

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Building Lease costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What has been the total cost of building leases for the agency / department since Additional Estimates in February, 2014?
2. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is currently leased. Please detail by:
 - a. Date the lease agreement is active from.
 - b. Date the lease agreement ends.
 - c. Is the lease expected to be renewed? If not, why not?
 - d. Location of the building (City and state).
 - e. Cost of the lease.
 - f. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.

Answer

1. Four months rental (March to June inclusive) at \$14,637.60 per month, so a total of \$58,550.40
2. Only one building is currently leased: Treloar E at Mitchell
 - a. Lease active from: 1 July 2011
 - b. Lease agreement ends: 30 June 2016
 - c. No, the building will be purchased by the Memorial
 - d. Canberra ACT
 - e. \$175,651.20 per annum (ex GST)
 - f. Required to house the items from the National Collection which are not on permanent display in the main building

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Question 407

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Building Lease costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Please provide a detailed list of each building that had a lease that was not renewed since Additional Estimates in February, 2014. Please detail by:
 - a. Date from which the lease agreement was active.
 - b. Date the lease agreement ended.
 - c. Why was the lease not renewed?
 - d. Location of the building (City and state).
 - e. Cost of the lease.
 - f. Why the building was necessary for the operations of the agency / department.

Answer

1. Nil
 - a. to f. N/A

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Question 408

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Building Lease costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is expected to be leased in the next 12 months. Please detail by:
 - a. Date the lease agreement is expected to become active.
 - b. Date the lease agreement is expected to end.
 - c. Expected location of the building (City and state).
 - d. Expected cost of the lease.
 - e. Has this cost been allocated into the budget?
 - f. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.

Answer

1. Nil
 - a. to f. N/A

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Question 409

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Building Lease costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. For each building owned or leased by the department:
 - a. What is the current occupancy rate for the building?
 - b. If the rate is less than 100%, detail what the remaining being used for.

Answer

Building leased/owned	Occupancy rate
Main Building	100%
Anzac Hall	100%
Admin Building	100%
CEW Bean Building	100%
Treloar A	100%
Treloar B	100%
Treloar C	100%
Treloar D	100%
Treloar E	Memorial leases 70% of the building; the remaining 30% is occupied by a private company. The 70% leased by the Memorial is 100% occupied by the Memorial.
The Terrace Café and underground car park	100%

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Question 410

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Legal Costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since Additional Estimates in February, 2014

- a. List the total cost for these items, broken down by source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice and the level of counsel used in preparing the advice, whether the advice was internal or external
- b. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spend briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)
- c. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

Answer

- a. The Memorial does not generally disclose the content of legal advice received. It is important for the Memorial to be able to make fully informed decisions based on comprehensive and confidential legal advice. As such, the total for legal services expenditure by the Memorial between 26 February - 30 April 2014 is \$44,168. The Memorial does not have internal legal services and as such all expenditure is for external legal services.
- b. Information is not available to this level of detail as it would have been too resource intensive to provide.
- c. All legal services are procured under the Legal Services Multi-Use List.

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Question 411

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Workplace Assessments

Written Question on Notice

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much has been spent on workplace ergonomic assessments since 7 September 2013?
2. List each item of expenditure and cost
3. Have any assessments, not related to an existing disability, resulted in changes to workplace equipment or set up?
4. If so, list each item of expenditure and cost related to those changes

Answer

1. 10 Workstation Assessments were conducted at a total cost of \$5,174 since 7 September 2013. These assessments resulted in purchasing of a range of ergonomic equipment based on the occupational therapist recommendations. A list of the equipment purchased is outlined in part 2.

2. The workstation assessments resulted in purchasing of the following equipment:

8 Ergonomic Chairs	\$3,034.00
1 Sit stand workstation	\$2,150.00
3 Sit stand workstations	\$5,800.00
5 Footrests	\$663.00
2 Small keyboards	\$460.00
3 Evoluent Mouse	\$420.00
2 Wireless Mouse	\$80.00
1 Document holder	\$20.00
Total	\$12,627.00

3. Yes

- 4.

42 Ergonomic chair replacement	\$19,343.00
1 Footrest	\$121.00
3 Evoluent Mouse	\$366.00
1 Wireless Mouse	\$40.00
1 Small Keyboard and Numeric keyboard	\$230.00
6 Document Holders	\$120.00
5 Gel wrist pads	\$100.00
Total	\$20,320.00

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Question 412

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Vending Machines

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 has the department/agency purchased or leased or taken under contract any vending machine facilities?
2. If so, list these
3. If so, list the total cost for these items
4. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure
5. If so, where were these purchased
6. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased
7. If so, what is the current location for these items?
8. If so, what is the current usage for each of these items?

Answer

1. Nil - the Memorial has not purchased or leased or taken under contract any vending machine facilities.

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Question 413

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Ministerial staff turnovers

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. List the current staffing allocation for each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary
 - a. For each Minister or Parliamentary Secretary list the number of staff recruited, broken down by their staffing classification
 - b. For each Minister or Parliamentary Secretary list the number of staff that have resigned, broken down by their staffing classification
 - c. For each Minister or Parliamentary Secretary list the number of staff that have been terminated, broken down by their staffing classification
 - d. For each Ministerial staff position, please provide a table of how many individual people have been engaged against each position since the swearing in of the Abbott Government, broken down by employing member and the dates of their employment

Answer

1. The Special Minister of State will respond to Questions on Notice regarding ministerial entitlements on behalf of all departments and agencies.

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Question 414

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Multiple Tenders

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. List any tenders that were re-issued or issued multiple times since Additional Estimates in February, 2014:
2. Why were they re-issued or issued multiple times?
3. Were any applicants received for the tenders before they were re-issued or repeatedly issued?
4. Were those applicants asked to resubmit their tender proposal?

Answer

1. Nil
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. N/A

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Question 415

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Market Research

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

List any market research conducted by the department/agency since Additional Estimates in February, 2014:

1. List the total cost of this research
2. List each item of expenditure and cost, broken down by division and program
3. Who conducted the research?
4. How were they identified?
5. Where was the research conducted?
6. In what way was the research conducted?
7. Were focus groups, round tables or other forms of research tools used?
8. How were participants for these focus groups et al selected?

Answer

General Visitor Survey 2013-2014, Anzac Voices Temporary exhibition, Afghanistan permanent gallery.

1. \$39,510.00
- 2.

Project	Cost
Performance assessment - General Visitor Survey 2013-2014	\$25,978.
Anzac Voices temporary exhibition exit survey	\$6,782.
Afghanistan permanent gallery exit survey	\$6,750.
TOTAL	\$39,510.00

3. Internal project management (Evaluation and Visitor Research Manager) utilising contracted casual staff and outsourced data entry (Hoban Recruitment and McNair Ingenuity Research or Interactivate).
4. Interview staff employed through contracted supplier of casual staff (Hoban Recruitment). McNair Ingenuity Research or Interactivate contracted through competitive processes to perform data entry. The final report is produced internally.
5. Onsite at the Australian War Memorial in the exhibition areas or main entrance to the building.
6. Exit surveys.
7. No.
8. Random sampling methodology applied as members of the general public audience exited the exhibition or Memorial.

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Question 416

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Departmental Upgrades

Written Question on Notice

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 has the department/agency engaged in any new refurbishments, upgrades or changes to their building or facilities?

1. If so, list these
2. If so, list the total cost for these changes
3. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure
4. If so, who conducted the works?
5. If so, list the process for identifying who would conduct these works
6. If so, when are the works expected to be completed?

Answer

Yes the Memorial has completed 3 upgrades in the nominated period:

Upgrades	Total Cost	Itemised cost				Who conducted the work?	Procurement method	When completed
Treloar C Mezzanine Office Refurbishment	\$72,998.00 excl GST	Pod of 4 workstations	2	\$4,300.00	\$8,600.00	Affinity Construction Management Zenith Interiors Schiavello	Contractors were chosen following a request for quote process based on value for money.	Works were completed in the second half of the 2014 financial year
		Pod of 6 workstations	1	\$6,220.00	\$6,220.00			
		Executive desk	1	\$900.00	\$900.00			
		Mobile pedestal	15	\$400.00	\$6,000.00			
		Large meeting table	1	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00			
		Small meeting table	2	\$680.00	\$1,360.00			
		Storage unit - Medium open bookshelf	5	\$450.00	\$2,250.00			
		Storage unit - Tall double-sided bookshelf	2	\$1,600.00	\$3,200.00			
		Limerick meeting chairs	20	\$250.00	\$5,000.00			
		Affinity Construction Management	1	\$36,268.00	\$36,268.00			

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Upgrades	Total Cost	Itemised cost				Who conducted the work?	Procurement method	When completed
Commemorati on and Visitor Engagement Office Refurbishment	\$32,160.00 excl GST	Pod of 4 workstations	3	\$4,300.00	\$12,900.00	Zenith Interiors Schiavello	Contractors were chosen following a request for quote process based on value for money.	Works were completed in the second half of the 2014 financial year
		Mobile pedestal	14	\$400.00	\$5,600.00			
		Storage unit - Medium open bookshelf	3	\$450.00	\$1,350.00			
		Storage unit - Low open bookshelf	2	\$330.00	\$660.00			
		Storage unit - Cupboard with 8 bays of shelving	1	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00			
		Meeting chairs	10	\$230.00	\$2,300.00			
		Meeting table	1	\$1,550.00	\$1,550.00			
		Executive desks	2	\$850.00	\$1,700.00			
		Spotless Facilities Management (Electrical)	1	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00			
Administration Building Break-out area	\$229,216.44 excl GST	Skope Fridge	2	\$4,574.00	\$9,148.00	SMI Group PTY Limited	Contractors were chosen following a request for quote process based on value for money.	Works were completed in the second half of the 2014 financial year
		Alto Rectilinear table	1	\$4,964.00	\$4,964.00			
		Zip Unit	2	\$3,185.72	\$6,371.44			
		Lounges	4	\$4,185.00	\$16,740.00			
		Chairs	16	\$210.00	\$3,360.00			
		Bench stools	6	\$610.00	\$3,660.00			
		Joinery Bench	1	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00			
		Small coffee table	2	\$1,320.00	\$2,640.00			
		Large coffee table	1	\$4,964.00	\$4,964.00			
		Arm chairs	2	\$550.00	\$1,100.00			
		Large round tables	1	\$800.00	\$800.00			
		Small round tables	1	\$560.00	\$560.00			
		Chairs	1	\$210.00	\$210.00			
		SMI Pty Ltd (Construction)	1	\$166,699.00	\$166,699.00			

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Question 417

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Wine coolers and fridges

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 has the department/agency purchased or leased any new wine coolers, or wine fridges or other devices for the purpose of housing alcohol beverages, including Eskies?
 - a. If so, list these
 - b. If so, list the total cost for these items
 - c. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure
 - d. If so, where were these purchased
 - e. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased
 - f. If so, what is the current location for these items?
 - g. If so, what is the current stocking level for each of these items?

Answer

1. Nil - the Memorial has not purchased or leased any new wine coolers or wine fridges or other devices for the purpose of housing alcohol beverages including eskies.

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Question 418

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Office plants

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 has the department/agency purchased or leased any new office plants?
2. If so, list these
3. If so, list the total cost for these items
4. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure
5. If so, where were these purchased
6. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased
7. If so, what is the current location for these items?

Answer

1. Nil - the Memorial has not purchased or leased any new office plants.

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Question 419

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Provision of equipment departmental

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Other than desktop computers, list all electronic equipment provided to department/agency staff since Additional Estimates in February, 2014.
 - a. List the items
 - b. List the purchase cost
 - c. List the ongoing cost
 - d. List the staff and staff classification that receive the equipment.

Answer

1. Nil - the Memorial has not provided any electronic equipment to staff except for desktop computers.

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Question 420

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Government Advertising

Written Question on Notice

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much has been spent on government advertising (including job ads) since Additional Estimates in February, 2014?
 - a. List each item of expenditure and cost
 - b. List the approving officer for each item
 - c. Detail the outlets that were paid for the advertising
2. What government advertising is planned for the rest of the financial year?
 - a. List the total expected cost
 - b. List each item of expenditure and cost
 - c. List the approving officer for each item
 - d. Detail the outlets that have been or will be paid for the advertising

Answer

1. Refer to table below for summary information* regarding advertising expenditure.

Advertising Expenditure Feb-April 2014	2013-14
Recruitment	\$4,928.00
Other (general promotion and marketing of AWM)	\$30,839.45
TOTAL	\$35,767.45

2. Refer to table below for summary information* regarding planned advertising expenditure.

Planned Advertising Expenditure May-June 2014	2013-14
Total Recruitment Planned	-
Total General Advertising Planned	\$259,975.83
TOTAL	\$259,975.83

* Providing a response to level of detail requested would result in an unreasonable diversion of resources from critical tasks.

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Question 421

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Boards

Written Question on Notice

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since September Additional Estimates in February, 2014;

- a. how often has each board met, break down by board name;
- b. what travel expenses are provided;
- c. what is the average attendance at board meetings;
- d. how does the board deal with conflict of interest;
- e. what conflicts of interest have been registered;
- f. what remuneration is provided to board members;
- g. how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
- h. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members since Additional Estimates in February, 2014?
- i. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings
- j. what have catering costs been for the board meetings held this year; is alcohol served;

Answer

- a. The Council of the Australian War Memorial and the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee (FACC) have each met once since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 on the 3-4 March 2014.
- b. Travel expenses are provided to interstate Council members in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2013/16 - Official Travel by Office Holders <http://remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2013/compilations/travel-allowance-compilations/2013-16-determination-official-travel-by-office-holders/2013-16-Determination-26.9.2013.pdf> - refer to Part 3 - Travel Expenses on page 4
- c. 100% attendance at the one FACC meeting and 77% attendance at the one Council meeting.
- d. As part of the preparation of the Memorial's financial statements, members are required to sign an annual declaration of material interest form in relation to companies with whom the Memorial has contracts. During the course of Council meetings, as per Section 16 of the *Australian War Memorial Act 1980*, members should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter being considered by Council, and as a result not take part in the deliberation.
- e. Nil
- f. Council members are remunerated in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/03: Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office. See <http://www.remtribunal.gov.au/media/documents/2015/2014->

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[determinations/2014-03-principal-determination-remuneration-and-allowances-for-holders-of-part-time-public-office/2014-03-PTOH-Principal-Determination-1.03.2014.pdf](#) - refer to page 6

- g. In accordance with Section 14(2)(b) of the *Australian War Memorial Act 1980*.
- h. No
- i. N/A - Since February Estimates there has only been one Council meeting on the 4-5 March 2014
- j. The cost for catering for Council of the Australian War Memorial meetings for the period between 26 February and 30 April 2014 is \$1,318.18; yes, alcohol was offered at the lunch and consisted of 2 x bottles of wine (1 x Red, 1 x White)

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Question 422

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Senate Estimate briefing

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many officers were responsible for preparing the department, agency, Minister or representing Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of senate estimates?
2. How many officer hours were spent on preparing that information?
 - a. Please break down the hours by officer APS classification
3. Were drafts shown to the Minister or their office before senate estimates?
 - a. If so, when did this occur?
 - b. How many versions of this information were shown to the minister or their office?
4. Did the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?
 - a. If so, when did this occur?
 - b. What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.
 - c. When were the changes made?
5. Provide each of the contents page of the Department/Minister/representing Minister's Senate Estimates folder prepared by the department for the Additional Estimates hearings in February 2014.

Answer

1. The Memorial develops a departmental briefing pack, a copy of which is provided to the Minister. All business areas of the Memorial contribute to its development. There were 13 key contributors.
2. It would be too resource intensive to respond to this question and to 2.a.
3. No - drafts were not provided to the Minister. A final copy was provided a few days prior to the hearing.
 - a. N/A
 - b. N/A
4. No the Minister did not make any contributions, edits or suggestions for Memorial changes to this information.
 - a. N/A
 - b. N/A
 - c. N/A
5. Information on briefings provided to Ministers is not made publicly available in order to maintain the Memorial's ability to properly and effectively brief Ministers.

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Question 423

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Communications staff

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:
 - a. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location.
 - b. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location
 - c. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location
 - d. How many are graphic designers?
 - e. How many are media managers?
 - f. How many organise events?

Answer

- a. EL2 x 1 - Head of Communication and Marketing Section
EL1 x 2 - Marketing Manager and Web Manager
APS6 x 1 - Publications Officer
APS5 x 2 - *Friends of the Memorial* Co-ordinator and Web/Social Media Officer
APS3 x 1 – Media Officer
All staff are located in Canberra at the Memorial.
- b. APS5 - Historical documentary co-ordinator
APS5 - Friends co-ordinator
APS6 x 4 - Centenary communications officer, social media content officer, Media Liaison officers
All staff are located in Canberra at the Memorial.
- c. Nil
- d. Nil
- e. One
- f. Nil

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Question 424

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Freedom of Information consultations with other Departments, Agencies and the Minister

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The following questions relate to requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (the Act):

1. Other than for the purpose of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, does the Department consult or inform other Departments or Agencies when it receives Freedom of Information requests?
2. If so, for each instance provide a table setting out the following information:
 - a. The Department or Agency which was consulted;
 - b. The document;
 - c. The purpose of the consultation;
 - d. Whether an extension of time was sought from the applicant to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension;
 - e. Whether an extension of time was sought from the Information Commissioner to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension

Answer

1. Not as a general rule - if third party consultation with other departments is required then it is undertaken. If the matter is sensitive or complex then advice from Australian Government Solicitors (AGS) is sought.
2.
 - a. AGS
 - b. There were too many documents provided to the AGS to be listed here – AGS were requested to manage the request on the Memorial's behalf and were consequently, consulted on every document for the matter.
 - c. To request AGS to handle the complex and sensitive matter on behalf of the Memorial.
 - d. No extension was sought
 - e. No extension was sought

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Question 425

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Freedom of Information consultations with other Departments, Agencies and the Minister

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Other than for the purposes of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, has the Department consulted or informed the Minister's office about Freedom of Information requests it has received?

If yes, provide a table setting out the following information:

- a. The requests with respect to which the Minister or Ministerial office was consulted;
- b. The Minister or Ministerial office which was consulted;
- c. The purpose of the consultation;
- d. Whether an extension of time was sought from the applicant to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension;
- e. Whether an extension of time was sought from the Information Commissioner to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension
- f. Whether any briefings (including formal briefs, email briefings and verbal briefings) were provided to the Minister's office

Answer

1. Yes - the Minister for Veterans' Affairs was informed of one request under the FOI Act.
 - a. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs was informed of a request for information under the FOI Act. The Minister was not consulted on the request.
 - b. Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, Minister for Veterans' Affairs.
 - c. An information brief was provided - consultation was not undertaken.
 - d. No extension of time was sought.
 - e. No extension of time was sought.
 - f. A formal briefing was provided noting the receipt of the request under the FOI Act and background to the Memorial's relationship with applicant.

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Question 426

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Freedom of Information staffing

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The following questions relate to the period from 18 September 2013:

1. For the period of time from 18 September 2013, what was the average FTE is allocated to processing FOI requests?

Answer

1. Estimate 0.09 of 1 FTE plus assistance from AGS to manage 1 large, complex and sensitive matter

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Question 427

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Freedom of Information disclosure log

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The following questions relate to the period from 18 September 2013:

1. For the purposes of meeting its obligations under 11C of the Act, does the Department or Agency:
 - a. Maintain a webpage allowing download of documents released under section 11A (direct download)?
 - b. Require individuals to contact the Department or Agency to ask for the provision of those documents (request for provision)?
 - c. Facilitate [access] to those documents in a different manner (if so, specify).

Answer

1.
 - a. No – the Memorial does not maintain a webpage to allow the downloading of documents released under section 11A.
 - b. Yes – the Memorial requires a request for provision.
 - c. N/A

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Question 428

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Freedom of Information disclosure log

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The following questions relate to the period from 18 September 2013:

1. If the Department or Agency has moved from a system of meetings its 11C obligations by direct download, to a system of meeting those obligations by request for provision, provide the following information:
 - a. The dates for which documents were made available for direct download, and the dates for which documents were made available through request for provision;
 - b. The total number of direct downloads of documents released under 11A the Departmental or Agency website;
 - c. The total number of requests for provision to documents that had been directly received, and how many had been processed by [date]?
 - d. What was the average FTE allocated to monitoring incoming email, collating and forwarding documents providing under a request for provision?
 - e. What was the approximate cost for salaries for the FTE staff allocated to this task?

Answer

1. The Memorial has not changed its system for accessing documents in the FOI Disclosure Log.
 - a. to e. N/A.

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Question 429

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Freedom of Information disclosure log

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The following questions relate to the period from 18 September 2013:

1. Has the Department or Agency charged any for access to a document under section 11C(4)?
2. If so, please provide the following information in a table:
 - a. On how many occasions charges have been imposed;
 - b. The amount charged for each document
 - c. The total amount charged;
 - d. What is the highest charge that has been imposed.

Answer

1. No
2. N/A
 - a. to d. N/A

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Question 430

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Freedom of Information Requests

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The following questions relate to the period from 18 September 2013:

1. How many documents were assessed (at internal review or - if internal review was not requested - by the original decision maker) as conditionally exempt?
2. Of those, how many were:
 - a. Released in full
 - b. Released in part
 - c. Refused access on the grounds that release of the document would be contrary to the public interest
 - d. Other (please specify)

Answer

1. Two
2. Of these,
 - a. Nil.
 - b. Two.
 - c. Nil.
 - d. N/A

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Question 431

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Functions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Provide a list of all formal functions or forms of hospitality conducted for the Minister since Additional Estimates in February, 2014. Include:
 - a. The guest list of each function
 - b. The party or individual who initiated the request for the function
 - c. The menu, program or list of proceedings of the function
 - d. A list of drinks consumed at the function
2. Provide a list of the current wine, beer or other alcoholic beverages in stock or on order in the Minister's office

Answer

1. Nil - the Memorial has not conducted any formal functions or forms of hospitality for the Minister.

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Question 432

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Red tape reduction

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
 - a. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target
 - b. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
 - c. How have they been recruited?
 - d. What process was used for their appointment?
 - e. What is the total cost of this unit?
 - f. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.
 - g. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
 - h. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.
 - i. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer

1. The Memorial's Assistant Director Corporate Services is the Memorial's contact for this initiative. There is no formal structure or officials assigned.
 - a. Nil at this stage
 - b. No staff have been specifically assigned to this initiative
 - c. to i. N/A

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Question 433

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Official Residences

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

- 1) Provide a list of all formal functions conducted at any of the Official Residences, or for the Prime Minister's office or Prime Minister's Dining Room where it has been used in place of the official residences since Additional Estimates in February, 2014. Include:
 - a. The guest list of each function, including if any ministerial staff attended
 - b. The party or individual who initiated the request for the function
 - c. The menu, program or list of proceedings of the function
 - d. A list of drinks consumed at the function
- 2) Provide a list of the current wine, beer or other alcoholic beverages in stock or on order at any of the official residences, or venues or offices acting as official residences.

Answer

1. and 2. Nil - the Memorial has not conducted any formal functions at any of the Official Residences or for the Prime Minister's office or Prime Minister's Dining Room.

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Question 434

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Travel costs - Departments

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
2. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
3. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer

1. The Question relates to the period of 26 February 2014 to 30 April 2014 (per DVA guidelines). No travel with Ministers occurred during this time. (Note: the Director travelled to meet with the Australian Prime Minister in Canada, departing Sydney on 6 June 2014. This has been included in planned travel costs under part (d).
2. Refer to Table 1
3. Refer to Table 2

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2. Table 1 **Travel Costs - Department**

Period reported: 26 February to 30 April 2014

Note - report only includes Memorial staff. Travel for non-staff (including people on contracts) has been excluded.

Destination	Purpose	Accomm	Taxi	Car Hire	Flights	Flight Class	T/A	Other (includes parking, motor vehicle allowance and train/bus fares)	Trip Total
Adelaide	Present speech at Engineers Australia event; "Sir Eric Neal".	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$118.00	\$27.50	\$145.50
Melbourne	Assess the loan of collection material for display in redeveloped First World War galleries.	\$0.00	\$109.60	\$0.00	\$325.79	Economy	\$0.00	\$19.00	\$454.39
Perth	Floor talks at Nurses exhibition in Perth.	\$465.50	\$112.50	\$190.48	\$672.25	Economy	\$313.45	\$0.00	\$1,754.18
Sydney	Install Reality in Flames Exhibition.	\$368.00	\$126.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$265.70	\$0.00	\$760.55
Sydney	Install Reality in Flames Exhibition.	\$368.00	\$101.45	\$0.00	\$263.09	Economy	\$313.45	\$0.00	\$1,045.99
Sydney	Install Reality in Flames Exhibition.	\$368.00	\$30.80	\$0.00	\$263.09	Economy	\$313.45	\$0.00	\$975.34
Sydney	Install and launch Reality in Flames exhibition.	\$1,315.45	\$76.70	\$0.00	\$102.78	Economy	\$741.10	\$0.00	\$2,236.03
Sydney	Install and launch Reality in Flames exhibition.	\$463.50	\$108.00	\$0.00	\$263.09	Economy	\$237.70	\$0.00	\$1,072.29
Sydney	Attend Reality in Flames exhibition launch.	\$363.37	\$64.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$237.70	\$206.00	\$871.87
Sydney	Install and launch Reality in Flames exhibition.	\$460.91	\$74.90	\$0.00	\$141.56	Economy	\$263.15	\$0.00	\$940.52
Sydney	Attend Reality in Flames exhibition launch.	\$215.50	\$16.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$118.85	\$0.00	\$350.55

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Destination	Purpose	Accomm	Taxi	Car Hire	Flights	Flight Class	T/A	Other (includes parking, motor vehicle allowance and train/bus fares)	Trip Total
Sydney	Attend Reality in Flames exhibition launch.	\$0.00	\$173.90	\$0.00	\$255.81	Economy	\$375.00	\$33.70	\$838.41
Sydney	Attend Reality in Flames exhibition launch.	\$276.50	\$21.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$146.85	\$0.00	\$445.15
Sydney	Attend Reality in Flames exhibition launch and a new acquisition meeting.	\$109.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$146.85	\$41.00	\$296.85
Sydney	Meetings with Grumpy Sailor and Google.	\$0.00	\$160.62	\$0.00	\$263.09	Economy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$423.71
Sydney	Install Reality in Flames Exhibition.	\$0.00	\$101.20	\$300.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$401.97
Sydney	Attend Reality in Flames exhibition launch.	\$201.75	\$115.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$146.85	\$45.00	\$509.10
Sydney	Attend Reality in Flames exhibition launch.	\$181.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90.85	\$0.00	\$272.54
Sydney	Attend Reality in Flames exhibition launch.	\$201.75	\$27.45	\$227.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$146.85	\$0.00	\$603.70
Sydney	Speaking engagement at Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) NSW Division.	\$0.00	\$90.60	\$455.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22.00	\$568.40
Sydney	Attend training- Train the Trainer program for Mental Health First Aid.	\$964.25	\$65.00	\$0.00	\$255.81	Economy	\$502.00	\$0.00	\$1,787.06
Melbourne	Attend 2014 Australian Toy, Hobby and Nursery Fair.	\$240.50	\$114.40	\$0.00	\$285.87	Economy	\$121.95	\$38.00	\$800.72

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Destination	Purpose	Accomm	Taxi	Car Hire	Flights	Flight Class	T/A	Other (includes parking, motor vehicle allowance and train/bus fares)	Trip Total
Sydney	Meetings with Sandy Holloway, NSW Premier and Cabinet and Imagination Australia.	\$0.00	\$106.84	\$0.00	\$255.81	Economy	\$0.00	\$16.40	\$379.05
Brisbane	Preparation for launch tour venue of Remember Me exhibition.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$495.79	Economy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$495.79
Brisbane	Collect loan material of significant value for display in Hall of Valour.	\$0.00	\$130.60	\$0.00	\$579.90	Economy to Business Class return	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$710.50
Brisbane	Preparation for launch tour venue of Remember Me exhibition.	\$0.00	\$162.10	\$0.00	\$495.79	Economy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$657.89
Sydney	Meeting with Kerry Stokes.	\$0.00	\$205.25	\$275.59	\$339.62	Economy	\$0.00	\$34.10	\$854.56
Sydney	Deliver public programs for Reality in Flames exhibition at SH Ervin Gallery.	\$72.00	\$142.30	\$0.00	\$263.09	Economy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$477.39
Brisbane	Progress meeting with artist of Ben Roberts-Smith VC portrait commission.	\$0.00	\$172.48	\$0.00	\$436.96	Economy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$609.44
Germany	Assess potential of indoor positioning systems supplied by Fraunhofer Institute for Memorial.	\$1,480.72	\$79.70		\$10,416.50	Business	\$792.50	\$768.91	\$13,538.33
Sydney	Meeting with Michael Cant from Commonwealth Bank.	\$0.00	\$127.80	\$0.00	\$667.58	Economy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$795.38
Sydney	Meetings with Imagination	\$0.00	\$146.34	\$0.00	\$255.81	Economy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$402.15

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	Australia for Anzac Centenary Travelling Exhibition.								
Sydney	Meetings with Imagination Australia for Anzac Centenary Travelling Exhibition.	\$0.00	\$66.60	\$0.00	\$360.91	Economy	\$0.00	\$27.50	\$455.01
Dubbo	Demount Ben Quilty: After Afghanistan exhibition.	\$425.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$219.60	\$169.00	\$814.00
Brisbane	Speaking engagement at Heritage Leaders Workshop at State Library of Queensland.	\$0.00	\$74.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$439.15	\$0.00	\$513.90
Brisbane	Install and launch Remember Me exhibition.	\$711.50	\$82.85	\$0.00	\$434.08	Economy	\$503.40	\$0.00	\$1,731.83
Brisbane	Install Remember Me exhibition.	\$353.50	\$162.65	\$0.00	\$357.70	Economy	\$313.45	\$0.00	\$1,187.30
Sydney	Meetings with Imagination Australia for Anzac Centenary Travelling Exhibition.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$255.81	Economy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$255.81
Brisbane	Install AV components of Remember Me exhibition.	\$193.50	\$165.70	\$0.00	\$357.70	Economy	\$118.85	\$0.00	\$835.75
Melbourne	Meeting at Shrine of Remembrance regarding installation of Devanha Boat.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$342.33	Economy	\$0.00	\$27.50	\$369.83
Melbourne	Meeting at Shrine of Remembrance regarding installation of Devanha Boat.	\$0.00	\$127.30	\$0.00	\$342.33	Economy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$469.63

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Adelaide	Install Shaun Gladwell: Afghanistan exhibition.	\$130.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$376.65	Economy	\$171.75	\$0.00	\$678.90
Brisbane and Sydney	Attend launch of Remember Me exhibition, Knox veterans filming in Sydney and speaker engagement at services dinner.	\$0.00	\$159.50	\$0.00	\$336.81	Economy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$496.31
Sale	Portrait Commission interviews in Sale.	\$224.50	\$128.60	\$234.00	\$557.49	Economy	\$109.80	\$45.68	\$1,300.07
Sydney	Attend Museums Australia workshop at Powerhouse Museum Sydney.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$354.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$354.15
Sydney	Reality in Flames curatorial talk at SH Ervin Gallery.	\$0.00	\$160.50	\$219.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$379.66
Wodonga	Meeting with Australian Defence Force representatives to research and develop National Collection.	\$156.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$135.25	\$0.00	\$292.10
Wodonga	Meeting with Australian Defence Force representatives to research and develop National Collection.	\$156.85	\$240.00	\$290.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$135.25	\$0.00	\$822.16
Melbourne	Deliver public talk at Shrine of Remembrance.	\$0.00	\$137.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27.50	\$164.90
Brisbane	Install Ben Quilty: After Afghanistan exhibition, and deliver public	\$1,061.10	\$179.85	\$0.00	\$474.39	Economy	\$551.15	\$0.00	\$2,266.49

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Destination	Purpose	Accomm	Taxi	Car Hire	Flights	Flight Class	T/A	Other (includes parking, motor vehicle allowance and train/bus fares)	Trip Total
	programs.								
Blacktown, Sydney	Meeting with artist of Winged Victory sculpture.	\$0.00	\$65.85	\$0.00	\$141.56	Economy	\$0.00	\$19.40	\$226.81
Gold Coast	Guest speaker at McPherson electorate- 'Karen Andrews - dinner with Dr Brendan Nelson'.	\$0.00	\$54.30	\$0.00	\$629.21	Economy	\$295.00	\$27.50	\$1,006.01
Adelaide	Launch Shaun Gladwell exhibition.	\$189.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$520.84	Economy	\$146.85	\$55.00	\$912.19
London, UK	Attend military history conference	\$2,160.67			\$2,542.71	Economy	\$1,209.25		\$5,912.63
Sydney	Service dinner with guest speaker General Sir Peter Cosgrove.	\$0.00	\$18.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$266.40	\$284.90
Sydney	Demount Reality in Flames exhibition.	\$171.75	\$80.75	\$0.00	\$255.81	Economy	\$146.85	\$0.00	\$655.16
Sydney	Meetings with Red Cross, Imagination, DVA and Minister's Advisor relating to Anzac Centenary Travelling Exhibition.	\$0.00	\$245.85	\$0.00	\$484.88	Economy	\$146.85	\$0.00	\$877.58
Armidale	Install Reality in Flames Exhibition.	\$585.50	\$78.65	\$0.00	\$727.71	Economy	\$439.20	\$0.00	\$1,831.06
Mittagong	Attend 'Soldier On' dinner event.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$129.50	\$129.50
Armidale	Install Reality in Flames Exhibition.	\$305.50	\$52.30	\$0.00	\$798.16	Economy	\$267.35	\$0.00	\$1,423.31
Inverell	Deliver public talk at Inverell District Family History Group seminar	\$242.00	\$123.50	\$191.72	\$897.55	Economy	\$245.05	\$0.00	\$1,699.82

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Destination	Purpose	Accomm	Taxi	Car Hire	Flights	Flight Class	T/A	Other (includes parking, motor vehicle allowance and train/bus fares)	Trip Total
	regarding researching family military history.								
Perth	Demount Nurses exhibition.	\$390.00	\$48.65	\$154.44	\$885.29	Economy	\$313.45	\$0.00	\$1,791.83
Hervey Bay	Collect high value asset for National Collection.	\$125.00	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$830.42	Economy	\$146.85	\$0.00	\$1,342.27
Hervey Bay	Collect high value asset for National Collection.	\$285.00	\$240.00	\$84.68	\$765.42	Economy	\$146.85	\$55.00	\$1,576.95
Hervey Bay	Collect high value asset for National Collection.	\$125.00	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$753.96	Economy	\$146.85	\$0.00	\$1,265.81
Adelaide	Guest speaker at Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce Business luncheon.	\$0.00	\$80.10	\$0.00	\$446.23	Economy	\$0.00	\$27.50	\$553.83
Sydney	Attend selection panel for sculpture to replace 'Winged Victory' at Marrickville Council.	\$0.00	\$130.66	\$0.00	\$255.81	Economy	\$0.00	\$20.20	\$406.67

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3. Table 2. Planned Travel - Department

Destination	Reason
Melbourne	Meeting with Lindsay Fox regarding Anzac Centenary Touring Exhibition sponsorship
Sydney	Meetings with Imagination relating to the Anzac Centenary Travelling Exhibition
Melbourne	Installation of Devanha boat at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne
Melbourne	Installation of Devanha boat at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne
Melbourne	Installation of Devanha boat at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne
Melbourne	Installation of Devanha boat at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne
Sydney	Guest speaker at League of Ancient Mariners - Sydney 2000
Melbourne	Installation of Devanha boat at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne
Bathurst and Sydney	ACTE meetings in Bathurst and Sydney
Melbourne	Attend Devanha Boat Installation event
Sydney	To undertake meetings regarding Anzac Centenary Travelling Exhibition with: Imagination, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Department of Veterans Affairs and Minister's Advisor
Sydney	Guest speaker at RSL + Service Clubs events.
Sydney	Inspection of large technology object (tank parts) acquisition in quarantine following overseas importation required urgently for First World War redeveloped galleries
Sydney	Guest speaker at Young Liberals, John Howard Debating Cup and attend AWM Centenary event
Cairns	Represent Memorial at Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE) 2014 in Cairns
Melbourne	Meet Helen Bracks regarding donation of artwork by John Bracks
Sydney	Meet with audio-visual producer to discuss changes required to two audio-visual presentations for First World War galleries.
Sydney	Meet with audio-visual producer to discuss changes required to two audio-visual presentations for the First World War galleries
Sydney	Meet with audio-visual producer to discuss changes required to two audio-visual presentations for the First World War galleries.
Melbourne	Centenary merchandising meetings with Australia Post, Intandem and ESP.
Melbourne	Meeting with Museum Board of Victoria
Adelaide	Site visit to SLSA (State Library South Australia) - host venue for Remember Me exhibition and Flinders University - host venue for Quilty exhibition
Adelaide	Site visit to SLSA (State Library South Australia) - host venue for Remember Me exhibition and Flinders University - host venue for Quilty exhibition
Sydney	Photography of 'Winged Victory' statue before its removal from the Marrackville council chambers for inclusion in the FWW Gallery
Brisbane	Fix AV equipment at Remember Me exhibition.
Sydney	Attend National Engineering Training and Trade Show
Launceston	Attend Museums Australia Conference
Launceston	Attend Museums Australia Conference

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Destination	Reason
Bathurst and Sydney	Meetings in Bathurst and with Imagination.
Launceston	Attend Museums Australia Conference
Launceston	Attend Museums Australia Conference
Bathurst and Sydney	ACTE meetings in Bathurst and Sydney
Launceston	Representing AWM by presenting paper at Museums Australia Conference 2014 in Launceston
Sydney	To meet with International Conservation Services, CMD, RPA & TTW (Project Engineer) to discuss the methodology for displaying the Winged Victory sculpture.
Sydney	To meet with International Conservation Services, CMD, RPA & TTW (Project Engineer) to discuss the methodology for displaying the Winged Victory sculpture.
Launceston	To attend and deliver a paper at the MA Conference, Launceston, 16-20 May 2014. Includes private tour of MONA Hobart.
Sydney	Meet with International Conservations Services, CMD, RPA & TTW (Project Engineer) to discuss the methodology for conserving and displaying the Winged Victory sculpture.
Brisbane	Attend training course regarding workplace bargaining.
Wodonga	Accessioning National Collection relics from Afghanistan
Melbourne	Attend SAP HR and Payroll conference in Melbourne
Brisbane	Attend QAG/GOMA annual fundraiser to support purchase of Ben Quilty's official war painting. Flights are provided by gallery so only accommodation and transfers required.
Guangzhou, China	Meeting with Dr Chau Chak Wing regarding sponsorship of the Memorial.
Sydney	To brief Imagination on agreed procurement strategy.
Sydney	Brief Imagination on agreed procurement strategy
Brisbane	To travel to Brisbane to brief a potential ACTE sponsor with DVA
Adelaide	Meeting with State Library of South Aust. regarding Remember Me exhibition design and install.
Sydney	Director's attendance at Novus Foundation Dinner on 31 May 2014
Sydney	Viewing potential new acquisition of Will Mahoney cartoons in his granddaughters' collection and attend symposium at Mosman Art Gallery
Melbourne	Final proof check for Anzac Treasures publication before printing.
Melbourne	Progress meeting with Diorama artist, Arlo Mountford, to view his progress.
Melbourne	Progress meeting with Diorama artist, Arlo Mountford, to view his progress.
Brisbane	Ben Quilt exhibition demount and condition reporting at Griffith University Art Gallery Brisbane QLD
Ottawa, Canada	Accompany Prime Minister to Ottawa, Canada.
Warren	Travel to Warren to view and possibly collect items for National Collection
Warren	Travel to Warren to view and possibly collect items for National Collection
Melbourne	Follow up work on Devanha Boat installation at Shrine of Remembrance.
Melbourne	Attend workshop 'Australia heritage abroad: managing Australia's extraterritorial war heritage' at Deakin university and conduct research in Melbourne.

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Destination	Reason
Melbourne	Attend workshop 'Australian heritage abroad: managing Australia's extraterritorial war heritage' at Deakin University and conduct research in Melbourne.
Melbourne	Attend merchandising meetings in Melbourne
Sydney	Attend software training in Sydney
Sydney	Progress meeting for art commission with artist Khadim Ali.
Sydney	Progress meeting for commission with Khadim Ali
Perth	To install an artwork in the office of the Premier of Western Australia
Perth	Discussions with SASR regarding exhibition and collection development.
Sydney	Travelling to Sydney with Laura Kennedy to brief Imagination.
Sydney	Travelling to Sydney with Brian Dawson to brief Imagination
Adelaide	Meeting with State Library of South Australia regarding Remember Me exhibition.
Sydney	Looking at audit guides for ACTE
Sydney	Merchandising meetings in Sydney
Sydney	Discussions with 2 Commando Regiment regarding collection and exhibition development.
Melbourne	Installation of AWM Ambulance Wagon loan at Melbourne Museum.
Melbourne	Installation of AWM Ambulance Wagon loan at Melbourne Museum.
Roma	Install Nurses exhibition at Roma on Bungil gallery
Melbourne	Meet with sculptors for EDD sculpture commission.
Adelaide	Keynote speaker at Defence Health Triumvirate
Sydney	Meetings with Telstra, CBA, DVA
Sydney	Travel to training course in Sydney
Sydney	Attend training course in Sydney
Sydney	NAIDOC speaking appointments in Katoomba and Sydney
Brisbane	Present at Australian Historical Association conference
Brisbane	Present paper at Australian Historical Association conference at University of Queensland
Melbourne	To escort a collection item (S00104) of high heritage value to a copying facility in Melbourne, and witness and document the copying of the item to a more viable format.
Armidale	Demount Reality in Flames exhibition at New England Regional Art Gallery in Armidale
Brisbane	Demount Remember Me exhibition at Queensland Museum South Bank
Adelaide	For the demount of Shaun Gladwell: Afghanistan exhibition demount at Anne & Gordon Samstag Art Museum -Adelaide
Hobart	Attend training course - 'Best Practice in Managing Heritage Places'. Training provided by ANU.
Hobart	Attend training course - 'Best Practice in Managing Heritage Places'. Training provided by ANU.
Hobart	Attend training course - 'Best Practice in Managing Heritage Places'. Training provided by ANU.
Sydney	Present family military history talk at Merrylands Central Library

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Question 435

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Ministerial staff code

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

- 1) Have there been any identified breaches of the Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct by the Minister, their office or the department?
 - a. If so, list the breaches identified, broken by staffing classification level
 - b. If so, what remedy was put in place to manage the breach?
 - c. If no remedy has been put in place, why not?
 - d. If so, when was the breach identified?
 - e. By whom?
 - f. When was the Minister made aware?
- 2) Can the Minister confirm that all ministerial and electorate officers in their office comply fully with the ministerial staff code of conduct?
 - a. If not, how many staff don't comply, broken down by classification level?
 - b. How long have they worked for the Minister?
- 3) Can you confirm they all complied with the code on the date of their employment?
 - a. If not, on what date did they comply?
- 4) Can you confirm that all disclosures as required by the code were made to the government staffing committee?
 - a. If so, on what date were those disclosure made?
- 5) By position title list the date each staff member was approved by government staff committee
- 6) Can you confirm all staff have divested themselves of any and all relevant shares as of the date of their appointment
- 7) Can you list by number if any staff have been granted exception by the SMOS to remain a director of a company as allowed by the Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct, break down by position level

Answer

1. to 7. The Special Minister of State will respond to Questions on Notice regarding ministerial staff code of conduct on behalf of all departments and agencies.

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Question 436

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Credit Cards

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.
2. Please update details of the following?
 - a) What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
 - b) How is corporate credit card use monitored?
 - c) What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
 - d) Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
 - e) What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer

1. Four staff in the Memorial are issued a corporate credit card:
 - a. Director (Principal Executive Officer)
 - b. Assistant Director, Branch Head, Corporate Services (SES 1) *
 - c. Chief Finance Officer (CFO) (EL2)
 - d. Travel Officer (APS4)

* Note: this card is held by the CFO and only made available for transactions approved by the Director.

2.
 - a. In accordance with the Memorial's Fraud Control Plan, the Fraud Control Officer (Assistant Director, Corporate Services) is responsible for the investigation of all alleged instances of fraud. They shall determine whether internal or external resources should be used in such investigations and that those resources are qualified to the standards identified in the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines, 2002. Investigations undertaken will meet the requirements of the Australian Government Investigations Standards released by the Australian Federal Police and complex fraud incidents will be reported to them for investigation.
 - b. The Memorial has several monitoring procedures in place to ensure the appropriate use of corporate credit cards. They include:
 - i. Requirement for card holders to sign an acknowledgement of conditions of use of credit card prior to card issue
 - ii. Full reconciliation of monthly credit card statements by officers other than card holders
 - iii. Extensive verification of all credit card purchases
 - iv. Regular scrutiny of expenditure against budget by relevant delegate
 - v. Monthly review of financial results to identify unusual expenditure

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- vi. A full review of Memorial credit card controls and use is conducted by internal audit every 2 – 3 years.
- c. If an apparent misuse of a corporate credit card is identified it is reported immediately to the CFO. The CFO will subsequently investigate and determine if the matter is to be referred to the Assistant Director, Corporate Services in accordance with the Memorial's Fraud Control Plan and Director's Instruction (Financial) 8 Fraud Control.
- d. Nil instances of credit card misuse.
- e. The Memorial has several controls in place to ensure that the misuse of corporate credit cards is low. They include:
 - i. A low number of corporate credit cards are issued
 - ii. Proposed general credit card purchases must be approved by the CFO in addition to the expenditure delegate
 - iii. Corporate credit cards are not used for transactions where alternative payment methods are available
 - iv. There is no facility to withdraw cash on corporate credit cards
 - v. Corporate credit card expenditure is monitored and managed within credit limits
 - vi. The Memorial's ongoing commitment to fraud prevention awareness-training programmes for all staff;
 - vii. Credit cards cannot be used for any non-official expenses

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Question 437

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Shared resources following MOG changes

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Following the Machinery of Government changes does the department share any goods/services/accommodation with other departments?
2. What resources/services does the department share with other departments; are there plans to cease sharing the sharing of these resources/services?
3. What were the costs to the department prior to the Machinery of Government changes for these shared resources? What are the estimated costs after the ceasing of shared resource arrangements?

Answer

1. No, the Memorial does not share any goods/services/accommodation with other departments.
2. N/A
3. N/A

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Question 438

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Departmental rebranding

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Has the department/Agency undergone a name change or any other form of rebranding since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? If so:
 - a. Please detail why this name change / rebrand were considered necessary and a justified use of departmental funds?
 - b. Please provide a copy of any reports that were commissioned to study the benefits and costs associated with the rebranding.
 - c. Please provide the total cost associated with this rebrand and then break down by amount spent replacing:
 - i. Signage.
 - ii. Stationery (please include details of existing stationery and how it was disposed of).
 - iii. Logos
 - iv. Consultancy
 - v. Any relevant IT changes.
 - vi. Office reconfiguration.
 - d. How was the decision reached to rename and/or rebrand the department?
 - e. Who was involved in reaching this decision?
 - f. Please provide a copy of any communication (including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, notes etc) from within the department, or between the department and the government regarding the rename/rebranding.

Answer

1. No, the Memorial has not undergone a name change or any other form of rebranding since Additional Estimates in February 2014.

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Question 439

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Contracts under \$10,000

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Please provide a detailed list of all contracts entered into worth between \$4,000 and \$10,000 since September 7th, 2013.

Answer

Name	Year	No.	Contract Status	Description	Procurement Method	Start Date	Finish Date	Total Amount
Casey Eayres trading as Akaoni Interactive	2014	0067	Executed	Provision of enhancements to online shopping processes	Limited Tender	28/10/2013	1/11/2013	\$4,560.00
Definitive Group Pty Ltd	2014	0098	Executed	Provision of Graphic Production Services - SON2027681	Open Tender	2/01/2014	31/12/2017	\$6,600.00
Timothy Hodge	2014	0049	Executed	Provision of repairs to damaged stone flooring in the Second World War Galleries Gallery 1	Limited Tender	17/09/2013	17/11/2013	\$7,205.00
Minter Ellison	2014	0151	Executed	Provision of Legal advice	Pre-qualified Tender	18/03/2014	18/04/2014	\$5,500.00
HAYS Specialist Recruitment	2014	0125	Executed	Provision of Temporary Personnel Services	Limited Tender	5/02/2014	5/02/2015	\$5,255.80
Meyer Vandenberg Lawyers	2014	0142	Executed	Provision of legal services under the LSMUL in relation to developing a template licensing agreement	Pre-qualified Tender	13/02/2014	13/03/2014	\$8,800.00

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Question 440

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Contracts for Temporary Staff

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much did the department/agency spend on temporary or contract staff since September 7th 2013?
2. How many temporary or contract staff were employed since September 7th 2013?
3. How many temporary or contract staff are currently employed?
4. How much was paid for agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff?
5. How much is budgeted in the 2014/15 year for contract staff?
6. What policies/criteria govern the appointment of Contract staff?
7. How is the use of contract staff consistent with a professional, independent public service?

Answer

1. \$1,915,000
2. 55
3. 96
4. \$104,000
5. \$1,165,000
6. HR and Financial Delegations
7. Value for money option provided through contract arrangement

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Question 441

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Prequalified Multi Use Tenders

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Does the Department/Agency have existing Prequalified or Multi-use list panels for tenders?
2. Please list all Prequalified or Multi-use list panels, and the firms on them, compiled or used by the department/agency?
3. Do any of your EL or higher staff have interest- financial or otherwise - in any of the firms on your panels?
4. Do any Ministerial staff have directorships in any of the firms on your panels?
5. Do any Ministerial staff have interest- financial or otherwise- in any of the firms on your panel
6. Have the minister or ministerial staff made representations concerning the panels
7. Is Australian Public Affairs on any of your panels?

Answer

1. No.
2. to 7. N/A

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Question 442

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Unallocated Equipment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Please detail how much electrical equipment, phones and computers the department/agency has in storage or unallocated to staff
2. Please detail the purchase, storage and ongoing costs associated with equipment, phones and computers in storage or unallocated.

Answer

1. At any given time there would be less than 20 computers and 10 telephones unallocated or in storage to meet fluctuations in operational requirements. Eight of these computers are reserved for training purposes and are setup as required.
2. Computers are leased on four yearly terms. Telephones are purchased at pricing levels established through an open tender conducted in 2011. Computers in storage or unallocated have ongoing costs equivalent to the monthly rental rate (approximately \$19 per computer per month). Telephones, being owned only incur the lost opportunity cost for not being used. Given the small numbers involved and space required, neither computers nor phones incur measurable storage costs as they do not require dedicated storage space.

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Question 443

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Advertising

Written Question on Notice

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much has the Department/Agency spent on Advertising since Additional Estimates in February, 2014? Including through the use of agencies.
2. Please detail each advertising campaign including its cost, where the advertising appeared, production costs, who approved, ministerial or ministerial staff involvement in commissioning

Answer

1.

Summary - Advertising Feb-April 2014	2013-14
Recruitment	\$4,928
Other (general promotion and marketing of AWM)	\$30,839.45
TOTAL	\$35,767.45

2. Providing a response to the level of detail requested would result in an unreasonable diversion of resources from critical tasks.

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Question 444

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Land Costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much land (if any) does the Department or agencies or authorities or Government corporation within each portfolio own or lease?
2. Please list by each individual land holding, the size of the piece of land, the location of that piece of land and the latest valuation of that piece of land, where that land is owned or leased by the Department, or agency or authority or Government Corporation within that portfolio? (In regards to this question please ignore land upon which Australian Defence force bases are located. Non-Defence Force base land is to be included)
3. List the current assets, items or purse (buildings, facilities or other) on the land identified above.
 - a. What is the current occupancy level and occupant of the items identified in (3)?
 - b. What is the value of the items identified in (3)?
 - c. What contractual or other arrangements are in place for the items identified in (3)?
4. How many buildings (if any) does the Department or agencies or authorities or Government Corporation within each portfolio own or lease?
5. Please list by each building owned, its name, the size of the building in terms of square metres, the location of that of that building and the latest valuation of that building, where that building is owned by the Department, or agency or authority or Government corporation within that portfolio? (In regards to this question please ignore buildings that are situated on Australian Defence force bases. Non-Defence Force base buildings are to be included).
6. In regards to any building identified in Q4, please also detail, the occupancy rate as expressed as a percentage of the building size. If occupancy is identified as less than 100%, for what is the remaining space used?

Answer

1. The Memorial owns or leases approximately 701,786 m²
2. The Memorial has two land holdings:
 - a. The Campbell Precinct Blocks 1 and 2 Section 39 Campbell with an area of approximately 667,773 m².
 - b. The Mitchell Precinct Blocks 9, 16, and 17 Section 21 and Block 12 Section 20 Mitchell with an area of approximately 34,013 m².

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3.

Building	Description	Occupancy	Value of assets in Building	Contract Arrangements	
Campbell Precinct	Main building - heritage listed with national iconic status	100%	\$60,702,000		
	Anzac Hall	100%	\$10,362,000		
	Administration Building	100%	\$9,893,000		
	CEW Bean Building	100%	\$9,755,000		
	The Terrace Café	100%	\$15,941,000		
	Underground car-park	100%			
Mitchell Precinct	Treloar A - Office, laboratory, warehouse building with various mezzanine areas. Additional buildings include radiation store and hazardous chemicals building. Site improvements include concrete fencing and car parks.	100%	\$4,483,000	All other buildings have the usual contracts associated with utilities, grounds maintenance and facilities maintenance	
	Treloar B - Warehouse building with mezzanine areas with additional building of a hot works shed. Site improvements include car park areas and boundary fencing	100%	\$1,223,000		
	Treloar C - Large temperature controlled warehouse building with visitors' centre and workshop	100%	\$6,172,000		
	Treloar D - Warehouse/Workshop building with mezzanine offices and storage.	100%	\$920,000		
	Treloar E - Open compound with warehouse storage and mechanical workshop.	Treloar E Memorial leases 70% of the building which is 100% occupied by the Memorial, the remaining 30% is occupied by a private company			

4. 11

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5. See table below

Building Name	Address	Building Area/m²	Fair Value of Asset as of 31st December 2013
Main Building	Cnr Limestone & Fairbairn Avenues, Campbell, 2612	Area of some 17,660 m ²	\$60,702,000
Anzac Hall	Cnr Limestone & Fairbairn Avenues, Campbell, 2612	Area of some 3,500 m ²	\$10,362,000
CEW Bean Building	Cnr Limestone & Fairbairn Avenues, Campbell, 2612	Area of some 3,115 m ²	\$9,755,000
Administration Building	Cnr Limestone & Fairbairn Avenues, Campbell, 2612	Area of some 5,995m ²	\$9,893,000
The Terrace Café	Cnr Limestone & Fairbairn Avenues, Campbell, 2612	Area of some 473m ²	\$15,941,000
Underground Car Park	Cnr Limestone & Fairbairn Avenues, Campbell, 2612	Area of some 6,030m ²	
Treloar A Building	4 Callan Street, Mitchell, 2911	Area of some 1,860 m ²	\$4,483,000
Treloar B Building	8 Callan Street, Mitchell, 2911	Area of some 1,249 m ²	\$1,223,000
Treloar C Building	8 Callan Street, Mitchell, 2911	Area of some 2,505 m ²	\$6,172,000
Treloar D Building	11 Callan Street, Mitchell, 2911	Area of some 1,482 m ²	\$920,000

6. Main Building 100%

Anzac Hall 100%

Admin Building 100%

CEW Bean Building 100%

Treloar A 100%

Treloar B 100%

Treloar C 100%

Treloar D 100%

Treloar E Memorial leases 70% of the building which is 100% occupied by the Memorial, the remaining 30% is occupied by a private company

The Terrace Café 100%

Underground Carpark 100%

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Question 445

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Total hospitality expenditure for the period from Additional Budget Estimates to 30 Apr 2014 was \$51,692.

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Question 446

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Nil

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Question 447

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Total entertainment expenditure for the period from Additional Budget Estimates to 30 Apr 2014 was \$959.

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Question 448

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Nil

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Question 449

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Other than official hospitality/working lunches for the planned quarterly Council meeting in May 2014 (\$1,100), there were no significant events or launches from April - June 2014. As such, the level of official hospitality is expected to be minimal.

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Question 450

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Nil

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Question 451

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Expenditure to entertain official visitors or similar expenses that are not directly related to day-to-day AWM operations are categorised as entertainment expenses. There is no planned entertainment expenditure in the period April to June 2014.

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Question 452

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Nil

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Question 453

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer

The Memorial limits expenditure on official hospitality where appropriate, however the nature of some events require the provision of a modest level of catering for stakeholders, corporate sponsors, and official representatives.

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Question 454

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Travel costs - Ministerial

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. From Additional Estimates in February, 2014, detail all travel conducted by the Minister/parliamentary secretary
 - a. List each location, method of travel, itinerary and purpose of trip;
 - b. List the total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals), and;
 - c. List the number of staff that accompanied the Minister/parliamentary secretary, listing the total costs per staff member, the class of airplane travelled, the classification of staff accompanying the Minister/parliamentary secretary.
2. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer

1. Nil - The Memorial does not have information about travel costs by the Minister, as these arrangements are administered by the Department of Finance. The Special Minister of State will respond to Questions on Notice regarding ministerial entitlements on behalf of all departments and agencies.

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Question 455

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Grants

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date. Provide the recipients, amount, intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those locations.
2. Update the status of each grant that was approved prior to Additional Estimates in February, 2014, but did not have financial contracts in place at that time. Provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those grants.

Answer

1. Nil - The Memorial has not provided any grants.
2. N/A

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Question 456

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Payment of Government Accounts

Written Question on Notice

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. From Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date, what has been the average time period for the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors, consultants or others?
2. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in under 30 days?
3. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 30 and 60 days?
4. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 60 and 90 days?
5. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 90 and 120 days?
6. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days?
7. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency since Additional Estimates in February, 2014?
8. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer

1. The average time period to pay accounts to vendors from 26 February - 30 April was 10 days after due date.
2. – 6.

Within 30 days		30 – 60 days		60 – 90 days		90 – 120 days		Over 120 days	
1,427	92%	40	3%	28	2%	24	2%	28	2%

7. No interest payments were made on overdue amounts as per Finance Circular 2008/10, which only applies to FMA agencies.
8. N/A

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Question 457

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Question Time

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many officers are responsible for preparing the department, agency, Minister or representing Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of Question Time?
2. How many officer hours are spent each sitting day on preparing that information?
 - a. Please break down the hours by officer APS classification
3. Are drafts shown to the Minister or their office before Question Time?
 - a. If so, when does this occur?
 - b. How many versions of this information are shown to the minister or their office?
4. Does the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?
 - a. If so, when does this occur?
 - b. What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.
5. Provide each of the contents page of the Minister and representing Minister's Question Time folder prepared by the department for the week of 11 February 2014.

Answer

1. On average, between 1-4 Memorial staff facilitate and coordinate the compilation of Question Time Briefs.
2. Minimal.
 - a. In the time period from Additional Estimates in February to 30 April no question time briefs were requested.
3. Question Time Briefs are provided to the Department of Veterans' Affairs on the morning requested for their action as appropriate. The Memorial does not provide drafts to the Minister's office.
 - a. N/A
 - b. N/A
4. N/A
 - a. N/A
 - b. N/A
5. Nil

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Question 458

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Meeting Costs

Written Question on Notice

Senator LUDWIG asked:

What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
04-05 March 2014	Australian War Memorial - Canberra	Meetings of the Council of the Australian War Memorial and its Committees	\$9,598.13
			\$9,598.13

Note: The Memorial holds meetings with external stakeholders and contractors particularly regarding the status of key projects. Minimal catering (tea/coffee/plain biscuits) is provided however, details re location, purpose and specific costs are not readily available and compilation of the answer would be an unreasonable diversion of resources. It should be noted that as much as possible the Memorial avoids travel expenses by using technology such as conference calls and Skype for meetings with interstate contractors.

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Question 459

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Meeting Costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Nil

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Question 460

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Meeting Costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

The Memorial does not compile budgets at the level of detail requested. However planned meeting spend from 1 May 2014 - 30 June 2014 includes:

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost
19-21 May 2014	Australian War Memorial - Canberra	Meetings of the Council of the Australian War Memorial and its Committees	\$9,015.24
			\$9,015.24

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Question 461

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Meeting Costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer

Nil

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Question 462

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Hire Cars

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator STEPHENS asked:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - a. Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
 - b. What are the reasons for hire car costs?

Answer

Car Hire 26 February to 30 April 2014

Branch	Total	Reason
National Collection	\$1,814.75	Associated with official travel – refer Question on Notice 434
Public Programs	\$ 760.67	Associated with official travel – refer Question on Notice 434
Corporate Services	\$ 411.04	Associated with official travel – refer Question on Notice 434
Centenary	\$ -	
Total	\$2,986.46	

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Question 463

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training

Written Question on Notice

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date:
 - a. Total spending on these services
 - b. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
 - c. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)

Answer

1. Nil – no service providers were engaged during the February – April 2014 period.

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Question 464

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training

Written Question on Notice

Senator LUDWIG asked:

The names of all service providers engaged

For each service purchased from a provider listed, please provide:

- a. The name and nature of the service purchased
- b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
- d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- e. The total amount spent on the service
- f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

Answer

- a. to f. Nil – no service providers were engaged during the February – April 2014 period.

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Question 465

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:
 - a. The location used
 - b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
 - d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

Answer

1. No services were provided off premises from 26 February 2014 to 30 April 2014.
 - a. to d. N/A

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Question 466

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

In relation to education/executive coaching and/or other leadership training services paid for by the department what agreements are made with employees in regards to continuing employment after training has been completed?

Answer

Nil

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Question 467

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Executive Coaching and Leadership Training

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

For graduate or post graduate study, please breakdown each approved study leave by staffing allocation and degree or program title.

Answer

Classification	Degree or Program Title
APS3	Diploma of Human Resources Management
BB3	Master of Information Studies
APS2	Masters of Cultural Materials Conservation
APS6	CPA Australia Professional Level
APS2	CSU-Describing Information Resources
APS5	Graduate Cert. Museum Education & Heritage Interpretation

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Question 468

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Staffing Profile

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. What is the current staffing profile of the department/agency?
2. Provide a list of staffing numbers, broken down by classification level, division, home base location (including town/city and state)

Answer

1. and 2. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice 316.

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Question 469

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Staffing Profile

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
2. What was the reason for these reductions?
3. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
4. Are there any plans for further staff reductions/voluntary redundancies? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.
5. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
6. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.
7. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?
8. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? What classification were these staff?
9. What are the voluntary redundancy packages offered? Please detail for each staff level and position
10. How do the packages differ from the default public service package?
11. How is the department/agency funding the packages?

Answer

1. The Memorial has reduced its staffing profile by six positions in 2014/15.
2. To address efficiency dividend requirements.
3. No.
4. The current efficiency dividend of 2.5% will result in an estimated 19 full time equivalent positions over the three year period 2014-15 to 2016-17. We anticipate achieving this target where possible through natural attrition.
5. The staff reductions are necessary due to the efficiency dividend over the three year period 2014-15 to 2016-17.
6. No.
7. Due to the small number of employees affected by redundancy within the AWM we are unable to provide this information. Providing this information could readily identify individuals and could breach their privacy.
8. Due to the small number of employees affected by redundancy within the AWM we are unable to provide this information. Providing this information could readily identify individuals and could breach their privacy.
9. The AWM packages reflect standard public service entitlements - 2 weeks pay per year of service to a maximum of 48 weeks.
10. N/A.
11. Any redundancy payments need to be funded from within the salary budget.

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Question 470

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Staffing Recruitment

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many ongoing staff were recruited from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - a. What classification are these staff?
2. How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - a. What classification are these staff?
3. From Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer

1. 16

a.

Classification	No
APS 2	5
APS 3	1
APS 4	1
APS 5	1
APS 6	1
EL1	3
AWMBB3	4
TOTAL	16

2. 3

a.

Classification	No
APS 5	1
APS 6	1
EL1	1
TOTAL	3

3. 7 employees with an average of 3.2 months employment

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Question 471

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Coffee Machines

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. Has the department/agency purchased coffee machines for staff usage since Additional Estimates in February, 2014?
 - a. If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased?
 - b. Why were coffee machines purchased?
 - c. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were purchased? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?
 - d. Where did the funding for the coffee machines come from?
 - e. Who has access?
 - f. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?
 - g. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?

Answer

1. Nil - The Memorial has not purchased any coffee machines for staff usage.

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Question 472

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Coffee Machines

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. 2. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, has the department/agency rented or leased any coffee machines for staff useage?
 - a) If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.
 - b) Why are coffee machines rented?
 - c) Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were rented? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?
 - d) Where does the funding for the coffee machines come from?
 - e) Who has access?
 - f) Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?
 - g) What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?

Answer

1. Nil - The Memorial has not rented or leased any coffee machines for staff usage.

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Question 473

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Printing

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many documents (include the amount of copies) have been printed from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? How many of these printed documents were also published online?
2. Did the Department/agency use external printing services for any print jobs since 7 September 2013?
 - a. If so, what companies were used?
 - b. How were they selected?
 - c. What was the total cost of this printing?

Answer

1. 16 documents were printed with a total of 86,335 copies. The content of 7 was made available on the website.
2. Yes
 - a. Union Offset, Paragon Printing, and Copyquik were used
 - b. They were selected by a competitive quoting process, except for 5 jobs for which the supplier was chosen because they already held the artwork.
 - c. The total cost was \$57,928.54

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Question 474

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Corporate cars

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

- 1) How many cars are owned by each department/agency?
 - a) Where is the car/s located?
 - b) What is the car/s used for?
 - c) What is the cost of each car from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - d) How far did each car travel from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
- 2) How many cars are leased by each department/agency?
 - a) Where are the cars located?
 - b) What are the cars used for?
 - c) What is the cost of each car from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?
 - d) How far did each car travel from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date?

Answer

1. Nil
 - a. to d. N/A
2. Nine
 - a. Six are located at Campbell ACT; three are located at Mitchell ACT
 - b. Staff travel between sites and to meetings; transportation of collection items
1 vehicle is the personal vehicle for Assistant Director, Branch Head Corporate Services (ADCS) under the Executive Vehicle Scheme
 - c. and d.

	Vehicle Type	Rego	TOTAL Cost (GST incl)	Estimated Dist Travelled (km) *
1	Pool vehicle - Pantech truck	ZYB 381	\$5,682.90	470
2	Pool vehicle - Small Van	YJI 95L	\$1,340.00	945
3	Pool vehicle - wagon	YJI 37S	\$2,143.17	194
4	Pool vehicle - wagon	YJI 06N	\$2,467.66	3,175
5	Executive vehicle (ADCS)	CEW 09A	\$2,432.39	4,532
6	Pool vehicle - ute	YJM 22L	\$2,134.96	1,409
7	Pool vehicle - sedan	CMX76A	\$3,135.19	3,522
8	Pool vehicle - sedan	YJP 52N	\$3,378.30	2,968
9	Pool vehicle - Big Van	ZYB 285	\$3,848.48	127

* Distance travelled estimated using annual FBT Odometer readings

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Question 475

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Taxi Costs

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
2. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer

1. and 2.

Branch	Total
National Collection	\$1,875.65
Public Programs	\$3,151.55
Corporate Services	\$1,629.15
Total	\$6,656.35

Details for reason for taxi costs associated with official travel are available at Question on Notice 343. To provide details of local trips would be too resource intensive.

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Question 476

Outcome 1: Program Australian War Memorial

Topic: Consultancies

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator LUDWIG asked:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken from Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
2. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.
3. Have any consultancies not gone out for tender?
 - a. If so, which ones and why?

Answer

1. Nil.
2. Nil.
3. No.
 - a. N/A

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Question 477

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.6

Topic: Indexation of pensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator WRIGHT asked:

Page 203 of Budget Paper 2 2014-15 outlines changes to indexation of pensions including 'Veterans' Affairs pensions'.

a. Which payments are included in the 'Veterans' Affairs pensions' mentioned (please list all relevant payments).

Answer

a. This measure will impact on the following pensions administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs:

- Service Pension under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA).
- Income Support Supplement under the VEA.
- War Widow(er)'s Pension under the VEA.
- Disability Pension under the VEA.
- Wholly Dependent Partner payment under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA).
- Special Rate Disability Pension under the MRCA.

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Question 478

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.6

Topic: Indexation of pensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator WRIGHT asked:

Page 203 of Budget Paper 2 2014-15 outlines changes to indexation of pensions including 'Veterans' Affairs pensions'.

- a. Has the Department, or any other department, done modelling to determine how the changes to indexation will effect payments to individuals on any or all of the Veterans' Affairs pensions?
- b. If so, please provide details of the results of this modelling.
- c. If not, please advise whether any modelling will be done, when it is due to commence and when results are expected to be available.

Answer

a. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has not modelled the effect of the changes to indexation on individual payments.

b. and c. For the purpose of the 2014-15 Budget, the Department has estimated the impact over the forward estimates ending 2017-18. Savings in the DVA portfolio are estimated to be \$65.1 million in 2017-18, based on the estimated number of recipients in 2017-18. No further modelling has been done and no further modelling is presently planned.

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Question 479

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.3

Topic: Indexation of pensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator WRIGHT asked:

Page 203 of Budget Paper 2 2014-15 outlines changes to indexation of pensions including 'Veterans' Affairs pensions'.

- Can the Department (or any other department) advise how the anticipated changes to the regular payments of individuals in receipt of the War Widow(er) Pension when changes come into affect on 1 September 2017? That is, after 1 September 2017 an individual in receipt of the War Widow(er) pension, can expect to receive how much more or less per fortnight, in dollar terms, compared to if the War Widow(er) pension had continued to be indexed per indexation arrangements which are currently used?

Answer

The effect of this measure on an individual's payment will depend on the indexation parameters prevailing in 2017.

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Question 480

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1

Topic: Indexation of pensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator WRIGHT asked:

Page 203 of Budget Paper 2 2014-15 outlines changes to indexation of pensions including 'Veterans' Affairs pensions'.

- Can the Department (or any other department) provide similar information for the Service Pension? That is, after 1 September 2017 an individual who had previously been in receipt of \$1008.00 per fortnight under the Service Pension, can expect to receive how much more or less per fortnight, in dollar terms, compared to if the Service Pension had continued to be indexed per indexation arrangements which are currently used?

Answer

The effect of this measure on an individual's payment will depend on the indexation parameters prevailing in 2017.

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Question 481

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.2 and 1.6

Topic: Indexation of pensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator WRIGHT asked:

Page 203 of Budget Paper 2 2014-15 outlines changes to indexation of pensions including 'Veterans' Affairs pensions'.

- Can the Department (or any other department) provide similar information for the Special Rate Disability Pension? That is, after 1 September 2017 an individual in receipt of the maximum amount under the Special Rate Disability Pension, can expect to receive how much more or less per fortnight, in dollar terms, compared to if the Special Rate Disability Pension had continued to be indexed per indexation arrangements which are currently used?

Answer

No modelling has been done on the impact on individual payment rates. As the indexation of the disability pension under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* and the Special Rate Disability Pension under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* is based on the higher of the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index, Male Total Average Weekly Earnings and Consumer Price Index, the difference on individual payment rates will depend on the indexation parameters prevailing in 2017. However, it is anticipated that the effect of the measure will be that indexation increases in the rate of the disability pension and the Special Rate Disability Pension will be lower over the long term than under current settings, hence the estimated \$65.1 million saving from this measure in the Department of Veterans' Affairs portfolio in 2017-18.

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Question 482

Outcome: 1 Program: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.6

Topic: Indexation of pensions

(Written Question on Notice)

Senator WRIGHT asked:

Page 203 of Budget Paper 2 2014-15 outlines changes to indexation of pensions including 'Veterans' Affairs pensions'.

a. Can the Department (or any other department) provide figures of how payments would be affected (in dollar terms per fortnight) if the changes to indexation arrangements were to come into affect today. That is, if the indexation method to be applied to pensions from 1 September 2017 was used today, how much more or less per fortnight would an individual receive for the following pensions, compared with indexation methods currently being used:

- The War Widow(er) Pension
- The Service Pension
- The Special Rate Disability Pension

Answer

a. If this measure had commenced with effect from the last indexation point of 20 March 2014, there would have been no difference in the rates of the war widow(er)'s pension, the service pension or the Special Rate Disability Pension as the Consumer Price Index was the relevant index used at this point, being greater than the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings for the preceding six months.