

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Budget Senate Estimates 2016
Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio
Questions on Notice

	Department/ Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Responsible Division/ Agency	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
1.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Wong	Business Council of Australia Secondment Program	Corporate Division	<p>Mr Neal: Ms Cross is on a secondment under the Business Council of Australia secondment program, administered by the Australian Public Service Commission. The arrangement is that between the two organisations there is an MOU which has confidentiality clauses and things like that in it.</p> <p>Senator WONG: How long has that program been running?</p> <p>Mr Neal: I would have to double-check that, but I believe it has been about six months.</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 100		
2.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Wong	Budget 2016	Executive	<p>Senator WONG: Sure. When was Dr Parkinson aware that the budget would be brought forward?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I cannot answer that question, but I am happy to take it on notice.</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 103		
3.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Wong	Media coverage – classified document	Executive	<p>Senator WONG: Dr Parkinson has been on the public record about the importance of not politicising Treasury, Finance et cetera. He is the head of the public service. I would like to know: is he not concerned in any way given his past statements at the provision of a document headed 'protected sensitive cabinet' to a journalist? I presume you would want to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I will.</p> <p>Senator WONG: And I would like to know how consistent with his past practice as a secretary to not initiate some form of inquiry about such a leak being used for political purposes. I mean, this is a document produced 'protected cabinet sensitive' which has been made public—and I do not think that is disputed—for political purposes. It politicises the public sector and it politicises Treasury and Finance—</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 106		

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4.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Wong	Inquiries into leaks	Cabinet Division	<p>Senator WONG: Mr Fox, are you able to tell me how many leak inquiries are currently underway?</p> <p>Mr Fox: I would have to take that on notice. I am aware of two, but I would not want to tell you categorically that is the answer.</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 109		
5.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Wong	Relocation of Commonwealth Agencies to Tasmania	Industry Infrastructure and Environment Division	<p>Senator WONG:</p> <p>... Have any Commonwealth agencies been relocated to Tasmania in the term of the government?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: So can you tell me if forestry has gone to Tassie?</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 110		
6.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	McAllister	Establishment of the Australian Cyber Security Centre in the ASIO Building	Cyber Policy and Intelligence Division	<p>Senator McALLISTER: What did it cost to establish the centre when it first opened in the ASIO building?</p> <p>Ms Ragg: That is a question I will have to take on notice.</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, pages 111 & 112		
7.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Wong	Relocation of the Australian Cyber Security Centre	Cyber Policy and Intelligence Division	<p>Senator WONG: Hopefully, there will be a change of government, so this advice will not be something I will have to worry about as much, but I would have thought that being able to describe a measure that is in your own portfolio and the costings in the PBS would be a useful thing to be able to do at estimates.</p> <p>Mr McKinnon: As I have said, the costings in relation to the movement, for example, looked at costings of IT relocation, people relocation—we can get you more detail, but it is a fairly standard building movement and people movement costing.</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 114		
8.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Wong	National Cities Agenda – MOU	Cities	<p>Senator WONG: Right. The MOU to which you referred earlier—was that only in relation to staff or was it also in relation to liaison, communication and those sorts of things?</p> <p>Ms Cvijanovic: It was in relation to staff and also access to broader services. But I would need to take the detail on notice.</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 115		

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9.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Wong	Refinancing of the Ayres Rock Resort	Indigenous Employment and Recognition Division	<p>Senator WONG: I would like to know, on notice, what you did in response to the three or four documents that have been referenced in response to Senate estimates questions on notice.</p> <p>Senator Scullion: I will just say that letters were sent in response to those letters that came to me. We will see if we can provide those letters, which lay out our response and the discussions that would have been had by officials in that regard.</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 130		
10.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Wong	Refinancing of the Ayres Rock Resort – NPP	Indigenous Employment and Recognition Division	<p>Senator WONG: When did you prepare the NPP for this, Mr Eccles?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: I would need to take that on notice. We would have prepared the NPP in the usual pre-budget round. But we were certainly gathering the information and we were talking to ILC in quite some detail to understand technical elements of their loan arrangements. I will need to check, but we were absolutely talking to them in, I would say, November and December. But we had been dealing with them throughout, I would suggest, most of 2015 to get a better handle on the impact that it was having on them doing their core business.</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 131		
11.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Peris	IAS – Community-led Proposals	Programme, Integrity and Engagement Division	<p>Ms Black: We currently have 35 community-led proposals in the department being assessed and seven tailored assistance employment applications being assessed as well. But I will take that on notice and just check that I have not missed any other applications that have come in.</p> <p>Senator PERIS: Those two are with the department. Do you know how many are with the ministers?</p> <p>Ms Black: I would have to take on notice how many are sitting with the minister.</p> <p>Senator PERIS: Of those that you have just mentioned, how many applications are ready to be sent to the minister's office for approval?</p> <p>Ms Black: They are being assessed now. I would have to check where they are up to in the assessment process.</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 134		

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12.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Peris	IAS – Community-led Proposals	Programme, Integrity and Engagement Division	<p>Senator PERIS: How many applications has the minister approved since the beginning of the year?</p> <p>Ms Black: Calendar year or financial year?</p> <p>Senator PERIS: Calendar year, so since 1 January this year.</p> <p>Ms Black: I do not have that with me. I am sorry.</p> <p>Senator PERIS: Do you have it for the financial year?</p> <p>Ms Black: I have it globally for you, which I have given. I do not have it broken down by financial year. We could do that quite quickly, though, for you.</p> <p>Senator PERIS: Okay. Maybe this is a question for the minister. What about in the last four weeks? How many applications have been approved?</p> <p>Senator Scullion: How many would I have approved?</p> <p>Senator PERIS: You said that you have approved a couple in the last couple of days.</p> <p>Senator Scullion: I do not have a recollection of how many the number would be. There is a regular flow amongst the briefs, though some are IASs and some are a whole range of other things. I can take that on notice, though.</p> <p>Senator PERIS: That would be great—thank you. What is the process for releasing funding under the IAS during the caretaker period? I think you have given us some documents.</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 135		
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13.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Lindgren and Moore	Office for Women – Staffing	Social Policy Division	<p>Senator LINDGREN: Can you give us the current staffing in the Office for Women? Ms McSorley: The staffing as at 29 April is 26.59 full-time equivalents. Senator MOORE: How many of those are on contract and how many are permanents? Ms McSorley: I might have to take that on notice. ... Senator MOORE: There are a couple of positions at that level in the department. I am not picking on your position alone, Ms McSorley, it is just as you are the director of the Office of Women I want to know the status in the process. Can we get the detail of the status of the other positions—whether they are permanently in the area— Ms Larkins: You are really wanting to know permanency versus contract staff within the Office of Women, including Ms McSorley's position?</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 141		
14.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Dodson	Indigenous Women's Incarceration	Community Safety and Policy Division	<p>Senator DODSON: This may not be the appropriate question for the Office of Women, but I just want to know if there are any programs that are targeted at reducing the escalating rates of Indigenous women's incarceration. Ms Larkins: I think it is probably a question we could take on notice and come back to you from our colleagues in PM&C. We do not have any visibility on that. ... Senator DODSON: This is to do with women, isn't it? Ms McSorley: Senator, you raise a really good question. I do not have any visibility of the programs but I am aware of the increasing rates of Indigenous women's incarceration. In terms of our role, as a policy area, that is certainly part of the thinking that we are doing where we are, if you like, at the centre of government and looking at policies and programs, and asking those questions. We would have to take the rest on notice in terms of detail.</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 142		

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15.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Moore	Office for Women - UN Status of Women conference	Social Policy Division	<p>McSorley: ...The Ambassador for Women and Girls represented the minister this year. They were very strict on timing this year, so the Ambassador for Women and Girls needed to shorten the statement that we had prepared as she was delivering it, so it took a little while for us to check the draft against what was delivered. We are just going through that process.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Is it possible to get a copy of the original proposed presentation? Just to see what was there.</p> <p>Ms McSorley: Absolutely.</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 138		
16.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Moore	Office for Women - Indigenous women's incarceration.	Social Policy Division	<p>Senator MOORE: I have a two-part question: one, can we check in the women's leadership grants in the last couple of years whether there have been any applications on this issue of Indigenous women's incarceration? That seems to be the pot that people who have particular issues apply to about doing any work. I am just interested whether there has been any application on the issue of Indigenous women's incarceration.</p>	FPA Thursday 5 May 2016, page 142		