

Index to Questions on Notice Supplementary Estimates 2008-09

QoN No.	Agency/ Outcome	Senator	Party	Hansard/ Ref	QUESTION
EW750_09	Cross Portfolio	Boswell	NATS	Written	What if any steps have been taken to estimate the costs of the government's response to climate change including the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme for every department, agency and program within this portfolio? What are the costs and estimated costs identified (reported separately)? Have any costs been included in forward estimates and if so where?
EW751_09	7	Cash	LP	Written	For every person under the current system who has undertaken a Work for the Dole activity, what has been the average duration of unemployment?
EW752_09	7	Cash	LP	Written	Under the current Employment Services contract how do the participation requirements of the Defence Force Reserves compare with the minimum requirements for Work for the Dole or Work Experience?
EW753_09	7	Cash	LP	Written	Why has the decision been made that highly disadvantaged job seekers who have been unemployed between 12-24 months will have to incur up to a 6 month wait before transitioning from their Job Network to their new Universal Services Provider.
EW754_09	7	Cash	LP	Written	What is the current success rate for NEIS businesses, established during the current contract?
EW755_09	7	Cash	LP	Written	Of the current NEIS participants, what percentage is classified as highly disadvantaged?
EW756_09	7	Cash	LP	Written	Of the current NEIS participants, what percentage is indigenous?
EW757_09	7	Cash	LP	Written	Of the current NEIS participants, what percentage has been out of work for more than a year?
EW758_09	7	Cash	LP	Written	Will the Department undertake a Net Impact study to ascertain the benefits of Job Placement Licence Organisations? If so, when?
EW759_09	3	Cash	LP	Written	(i) Given recent concern about the international financial crisis, is there any evidence of a down-turn in international, full fee paying student enrolments in Australian universities? (ii) If there is evidence of a downturn: a. how is the downturn expected to impact upon university budgets? Has any modelling been done? If so, please provide a copy of the modelling; b. What strategies or policies if any, are being put in place, or are being considered, to help universities cover the shortfall in funding from the down-turn in international full fee paying student enrolments? c. Is the Government considering reinstating domestic full-fee paying student places as a university revenue stream, given the international financial crisis and its negative impact upon the vitally important international full-fee paying revenue stream? d. If not, why not? (iii) If there is no evidence of a down-turn in international, full fee paying student enrolments in Australian universities is that because enrolments are not monitored in an on-going way?
EW760_09	3	Cash	LP	Written	When are enrolment statistics available to the Department? Please provide a copy of the statistics as soon as they are available?

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EW761_09	3	Cash	LP	Written	Please provide a copy of the international student enrolment statistics since January 2006, by university and by course to October 2008.
EW762_09	3	Cash	LP	Written	If there is no evidence yet of a down-turn in international, full fee paying student enrolments in Australian universities, is there any expectation that there will be a down-turn in international full fee paying student enrolments?
EW763_09	3	Cash	LP	Written	Is there any evidence or expectation that students currently enrolled are withdrawing from courses and returning home as a result of the global financial crisis?
EW764_09	3	Cash	LP	Written	Is there any informal dialogue between the Department and universities about the current rate of enrolments compared to this time last year?
EW765_09	3	Cash	LP	Written	What dialogue has the Department had with universities or representatives of the sector about their expectations with regard to enrolment levels as a result of the global financial crisis? If there has been no such dialogue, does that mean that it is the Government's view that the global financial crisis will have no effect on enrolments?
EW766_09	3	Cash	LP	Written	When must international enrolments be finalised for the next academic year?
EW767_09	ABCC	Collins	ALP	Written	What is the final or current status of all matters referred to various agencies including the Taskforce/ABCC by the Cole Royal Commission?
EW768_09	9	Hanson-Young	AG	Written	Has there been any consideration as to whether funding for the Working Women's Centres in SA and NT will be extended beyond the current 12 month contract?
EW769_09	9	Hanson-Young	AG	Written	Will the Government consider funding arrangements for the Working Women's Centre in Queensland? If not, why not?
EW770_09	5	Hanson-Young	AG	Written	What is the Government planning to do to ensure all is being done in implementing health and education/training programs for young Australians?
EW771_09	5	Hanson-Young	AG	Written	I note that a State of Australia's Young People report is due to be prepared in the next 12 months - when will the consultation process for this begin? And in what form?
EW772_09	5	Hanson-Young	AG	Written	I note that on the Office for Youth's website it states in relation to body image: "The Office for Youth will contact the Departments of Health and Ageing and Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy as part of scoping how the Government is addressing this issue." a. I understand that this is a fairly recent venture, with the launch of the Office of Youth only occurring this month, I'm wondering if there is an update on where the consultation process is for addressing body image? b. What role will the Office for Youth have in this process? c. Is the Department considering an education campaign surrounding this issue?

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EW773_09	3	Hanson-Young	AG	Written	(i) What does the Government plan to do about the negative impact voluntary student unionism has had on Australian Universities, following its consultations with the higher education sector, and the subsequent release of the summary report "Impact of Voluntary Student Unionism on Services, Amenities and Representation for Australian university Students", which outlines the devastating impact VSU has had on the quality of student support services on campuses across the country? (ii) I note that the Government has outlined that they will not be rushed on their decision on this, but I'm wondering whether we can have a timeframe on when we can expect to see the final report with its recommendations?
EW774_09	3	Hanson-Young	AG	Written	The National Union of Students and a number of universities have put forward alternative solutions to the current system of VSU, including proposals based on a combination of shared funding arrangements between students, universities and government. When can students expect to see long-term sustainable solutions, to address the impact VSU has had on campus culture?
EW775_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	(i) How many permanent staff recruited since the budget estimates? (ii) At what levels are these staff? (iii) How many temporary positions exist or have been created since budget estimates? (iv) Since budget estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?
EW776_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts? If so, where and at what level?
EW777_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	How many programs were underspent in the 07-08 financial year? What requests have been made to roll-over underspends to 2008-09? Were these requests successful?
EW778_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	How much has been spent on media monitoring to date this year?
EW779_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	For each Minister/Parl Secretary in the portfolio: a. How many staff are based in the electorate office? b. MOPS classification of each staff member based in electorate office? c. Duty statement of each staff member in electorate office? d. In relation to personal staff based in the electorate office, please list supporting Department for each.
EW780_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	Government Advertising. What communications programs has the Department/Agency undertaken, or are planning to undertake? For each program, what is the total spend?
EW781_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	What is the Department's hospitality spend YTD? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
EW782_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	For each Minister/Par Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend YTD. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

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EW783_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	Has the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas on official business since Budget Estimates? If so, where was the travel and what was the duration? What was the total cost of: a) travel b) accommodation, and c) any other expenses?
EW784_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary? For these staff/family what was the cost of: a) travel b) accommodation, and c) any other expenses?
EW785_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	How many officers from the Department accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary? In relation to these Departmental officers, what was the total cost of: a) travel b) accommodation, and c) any other expenses?
EW786_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	How many Departmental Liaison Officers are currently allocated to each Minister/Parliamentary Secretary? Can you rule out that they provide policy advice?
EW787_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	(i) What was the cost of Ministers' travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates? (ii) How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting? (iii) What was the total cost of this travel?
EW788_09	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	LP	Written	(i) How many Reviews are currently being undertaken in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency? (ii) When will each of these reviews be concluded? (iii) Which Reviews have been completed since Budget Estimates? (iv) When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
EW789_09	2	Mason	LP	Written	When was the decision taken that the Commonwealth would undertake a review (that was commenced on 2 July 2008) into the ongoing costs of the 'computers in schools' program? What person or body made that decision?
EW790_09	2	Mason	LP	Written	In addition to Dr. Paul Grimes from the Department of Finance and Administration what was the membership of the review panel?
EW791_09	2	Mason	LP	Written	What State and Commonwealth instrumentalities, private sector organisations, professional associations and other organisation or individuals were consulted in the process of preparing and conducting the review?

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EW792_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2</p> <p>(i) Regarding an additional 56,000 places which were announced on the 14th October, 2008, how will these additional places be allocated?</p> <p>(ii) Will the allocations be undertaken on a pro rata basis?</p> <p>(iii) Will the Department allocate a certain number of places to each state?</p> <p>(iv) Will the current system of allocating each state's quota at the beginning of the month continue?</p>
EW793_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2</p> <p>Will the allocation of Structural Adjustment places occur separately, based on where redundancies have occurred, or will it just be on a pro rata basis, based on a state's population?</p>
EW794_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2</p> <p>What will happen with the allocations once responsibility for the programme passes to the states on the 1st January, 2009?</p>
EW795_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2</p> <p>What percentage of the 56,000 additional places will be for Phase 2 training places?</p>
EW796_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2</p> <p>Will the places only be available to people referred through an Employment Services Provider, or will people be able to directly register with the Registered Training Organisation?</p>
EW797_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2</p> <p>The website indicates that Phase 2 is due to conclude on the 31st December, 2008. When will providers be able to apply to offer training for the period from the 1st January, 2009?</p>
EW798_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2</p> <p>Will the application process for Phase 3 of the Programme be administered by each state?</p>
EW799_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2</p> <p>How will the Department ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of these programmes by each state?</p>
EW800_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2</p> <p>Will there continue to be a central website to provide advice on the programme?</p>

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EW801_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2 Regarding the commencement day, 1st July 2008, and the Department's failure to advise providers when 80% of the initial quota for job seeker places (22,000) had been met, which has resulted in providers advising job seekers that training places were available, only to subsequently have to re-advise them that these places are no longer open:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What system did the Department have in place to check the utilisation, and advise providers? • Why did they not advise providers? • At what stage did they become aware that the system was over-subscribed? • What was the rationale behind the Department allocating 20,000 places for job seekers in the first 3 months of the program, then only 22,000 places for the remaining 6 months, when the Department itself went to great lengths to explain the slow uptake in the initial months of a program last time around?
EW802_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2 Regarding the delay in getting the states to sign up to their proposed funding model for training for existing workers and the subsequent cost to the Federal Government to get the states to sign up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this decision to shift responsibility for the administration of these federal funds an indication that the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations will be downsized? • What is the nature of the agreement between the states and Commonwealth? • Will there be a separate administration fee paid to the state governments? • What are the expected savings for the Commonwealth?
EW803_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2 What % of the total Certificate II quota has been used?</p>
EW804_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2 Of the qualifications on offer, how many require pre-requisite qualifications?</p>
EW805_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Productivity Places Phase 2 Due to all the problems and inability for providers to accurately plan their courses and any other reasons, how many providers have handed back their contracts?</p>
EW806_09	2	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Trade Training Centres in Schools (i) How many school based apprenticeships will the 34 TTCs in Round 1 deliver? (ii) How many of these 34 TTCs will be delivering school based apprenticeships in areas of skills shortage? (iii) What is list of schools the national assessment panel recommended to the Minister? (iv) Under what circumstances would the Minister not accept the national assessment panel recommendations?</p>

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EW807_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	ATC (i) How many people were enrolled at the ATC for the first three years of the program, and at what cost? (ii) What were the reasons for the increase in the cost of the programme over the same period? (iii) What are the enrolment targets for 2008 and 2009? (iv) What is the current enrolment figure?
EW808_09	4	Mason	LP	Written	Skills Australia Board (i) Could the work of Skills Australia be conducted through a stronger National Industry Skills Committee? (ii) How many times has the Skills Australia board met? (iii) What was discussed? (iv) What has the Skills Australia board produced since April? (v) What is Skills Australia currently working on?
EW809_09	Cross Portfolio	Siewert	AG	Written	How much funding has been provided by the department or any of its agencies to the following organisations for the financial years 2005/6, 2006/7 and 2007/8? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation Pty Ltd; • Cape York Land Council; • Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership; • Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships; • Cape York Partnerships Pty Ltd; • Cape York Corporation Pty Ltd; • Cape York Financial Management Services Pty Ltd; • Cape York Indigenous Environment Foundation; • Cape York Aboriginal Charitable Trust
EW810_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	Can you provide the committee with the terms of reference, and any other associated or relevant material, prepared by the ABCC and provided to Econtech for the Economic Analysis of Building and Construction Industry Productivity Reports of 16 July 2007 and 30 July 2008?
EW811_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	Can ABCC provide the committee with the studies of individual projects undertaken as part of Econtech's report that resulted in the conclusions reached in the report on page iii?
EW812_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	The 2008 Econtech report prepared for the ABCC quotes "A study by Ken Phillips (2006) found a \$295 million" advantage to EastLink by operating under the post WorkChoices/ABCC environments" representing 11.8% of the total construction cost"
EW813_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	Did the ABCC or Econtech submit the Ken Phillips "study" to any robust analysis prior to including it in the report?
EW814_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	Did Econtech include the \$295 million figure in its analysis of the cost differences in the 2008 the report?
EW815_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	Did the ABCC advised Econtech of the existence of the Ken Phillips "study?"
EW816_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	What professional qualifications does Ken Phillips hold in the area of economics or econometric modelling that would justify including his analysis in the Econtech report?

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EW817_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	Did the ABCC or Econtech undertake any analysis of Ken Phillips "study" and apply any professional rigour to the assumptions and conclusions of the "study"?
EW818_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	Does the ABCC consider the Ken Phillips "study" a professional and robust analysis and does the ABCC stand by the "methodology" assumptions and conclusions of this study?
EW819_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	The ABCC conceded that there were errors in the 2007 study. Will you provide details of the errors and the implications of these errors for the findings in this study?
EW820_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	The ABCC conceded that their involvement in the industry did not account for all of the productivity improvements and cost reductions in the industry. Will you provide details of how much of the productivity improvement in cost reductions in the industry that the ABCC claims responsibility for?
EW821_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	As part of your studies of the industry have you undertaken any analysis of the major factors that improve productivity and reduce costs in the building and construction industry? If analysis has been undertaken will you provide details of this analysis to the committee?
EW822_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	Does the ABCC continue to operate under a policy of "zero tolerance?" If the answer is yes how does this policy relate to other ABCC goals and functions?
EW823_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	Written	Has the ABCC developed management systems and processes that are applied to the exercise of the commissioner's use of coercive powers? If not why not?
EW824_09	2	Milne	AG	Written	Regarding regional loading under the Commonwealth Grant Scheme Guidelines: a. What is the additional cost to Western Australian institutions of providing tertiary education to regional students? b. How has this figure been calculated? c. How often, and how, does the government review the adequacy of the regional loading process? d. When is the next review?
EW825_09	2	Milne	AG	Written	Regarding student income support, will the government: a. Reduce the age of independence from 25 to 18? b. Increase the parental income threshold? c. Align payments to above the poverty line? d. Exempt scholarships from the income test? e. Increase, and index on an annual basis, the income free area?

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EW826_09	2	Milne	AG	Written	<p>For the year 2007 and 2008 to the extent there is data available, please provide the following in respect of Tintern Anglican Gils' Grammar School in Ringwood East, Victoria and the associated Southwood Boys' Grammar School</p> <p>(a) the number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) female primary enrolments; (ii) female secondary enrolments; (iii) male primary enrolments; and (iv) male secondary enrolments <p>(b) per capita funding in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) female primary enrolments; (ii) female secondary enrolments; (iii) male primary enrolments; and (iv) male secondary enrolments <p>(c) the number of students who were below the national benchmark for literacy or numeracy for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) female primary enrolments; (ii) female secondary enrolments; (iii) male primary enrolments; (iv) male secondary enrolments <p>(d) Does the commonwealth apply any checks on the enrolment figures submitted by schools for funding purposes?</p> <p>(e) Is it possible for a school to receive funding for students that are not enrolled in the school?</p> <p>(f) Are full fee paying overseas students counted for purposes of commonwealth funding per student</p> <p>(g) What are the current statutory reporting requirements for non-government schools receiving commonwealth funding?</p> <p>(h) Does the Commonwealth ensure schools have complied with these requirements?</p> <p>(i) What are the consequences for a school that does not meet these requirements?</p>
EW827_09	2	Milne	AG	Written	<p>DEEWR's Investing in Our Schools website shows Federal grants were made to the following Meadowbank Education Trust (MET) schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wollongong campus in 2006 for \$50,000 for "furniture, equipment, library books & resources, shelving and physical education equipment. Air- conditioning classrooms • Katoomba campus in 2007 for \$68,100 for "new demountable for science classroom/laboratory" <p>These schools are not on the NSW Board of Studies list of approved schools at July 2008. If these schools are no longer operational what has happened to the resources funded by the Commonwealth?</p>
EW828_09	2	Mason	LP	Written	<p>1) In relation to the Music. Count Us In program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) How was Music. Count Us In funded this year? b) Is Music. Count Us In to be refunded for 2009? <p>2) What progress has been made to implement the programme recommendations from the National School Music Workshop?</p>

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EW829_09	2	Mason	LP	Written	<p>A central recommendation of the National Workshop on School Music Education (to which all of the States were delegates), was the formulation of a school music curriculum portal, available for use by all teachers nationally.</p> <p>a) Why has this project not been commenced or completed?</p> <p>b) What has happened to the funding allocation for this important project?</p> <p>c) Does the Government intend to proceed with the project?</p> <p>d) If the Government does not intend to proceed with the project, what are its reasons for cancelling the project?</p>
EW830_09	2	Mason	LP	Written	<p>Labor's Election Platform promised that "Labor will also review the issue of the provision of music education through the entire education system, working with State and Territory authorities, teacher employers and with universities to create a comprehensive music education in our schools and educational institutions."</p> <p>a) What progress has been made to deliver on the Government's election policy promise to "create a comprehensive music education in our schools and educational institutions"</p> <p>b) Has the Government commenced, completed, or failed to deliver on its promised "Review"</p> <p>c) Who undertook, or is undertaking the review?</p> <p>d) If this promised "Review" has occurred, what were the findings?</p> <p>e) If the Government has not commenced its election promise of a Review, when will it occur?</p>
EW831_09	2	Mason	LP	Written	<p>I note that the Cultural Minister's Council Communique dated 29th February 2008, stated:</p> <p>"Ministers noted the Australian Government's commitment to working collaboratively with the states and territories, and the arts and education sectors, to achieve a commitment to enhanced delivery of arts education, with music as an initial focus. Ministers agreed to the establishment of a Joint Implementation Group to develop an arts education workplan for consideration at the next CMC meeting in October 2008.</p> <p>Ministers provided in-principle agreement for the development of an arts education workplan. Building on existing initiatives, the workplan will include action in response to the National Education and the Arts Statement, National Review of School Music Education and National Review of Visual Education and the development of cooperative programs to meet areas of need in schools and universities. Ministers recommend the inclusion of the arts as a key learning area in the national curriculum which is being developed.</p> <p>Ministers agreed to initiate action to increase access to school music education, with an initial focus on primary schools.</p>
EW832_09	2	Mason	LP	Written	<p>What is the Government's position in respect of requiring school music outcomes as part of the Quadrennial school funding negotiations with the States?</p>
EW833_09	8	Boyce	LP	Written	<p>National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy</p> <p>Community Consultations and public submissions for the NMH&DES closed in June 08.</p> <p>a. How many submissions have been received?</p> <p>b. When will the final report on this Strategy be published?</p> <p>c. Will the final report have implementation timelines for the Strategy?</p>

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EW834_09	4	Fierravanti-Wells	LP	Written	What is the current status of the Australian Technical College in Wollongong?
EW835_09	4	Fierravanti-Wells	LP	Written	Are there any expressions of interest or proposals in underwriting the ATC beyond 2009? If so, please provide full details regarding the same, including any copies of documents pertaining to such expressions of interest.
EW836_09	4	Fierravanti-Wells	LP	Written	Is the Minister or Department aware of any expressions of interest which have been provided to or otherwise made available to the ATC Wollongong, including the ATC Board.
EW837_09	4	Fierravanti-Wells	LP	Written	What approaches, discussions or other contact has been had between the Minister or the Department with the ATC Board, including with any of its directors, since 24 November 2007. If so, please provide details including the date of such contact, details of the contact, persons who participated in any discussions, the outcome and nature of such discussions.
EW838_09	4	Fierravanti-Wells	LP	Written	In relation to any expressions of interest or proposals, please outline the criteria for consideration and evaluation of the same, including: a. The results of considerations; b. Any formal findings c. The date and the person considering the same
EW839_09	4	Fierravanti-Wells	LP	Written	If an expression of interest was provided to the ATC that would underwrite it financially, would the Department allow time for this option to be explored?
EW840_09	4	Fierravanti-Wells	LP	Written	What assistance, if any, did the Department provide to the ATC Wollongong in formulating a proposal?
EW841_09	4	Fierravanti-Wells	LP	Written	What discussions has the Department undertaken with TAFE NSW, including TAFE Illawarra and DET Schools in the Illawarra. Please provide details including the date and nature of any such discussions.
EW842_09	4	Fierravanti-Wells	LP	Written	How many college members does the ATC currently have? What is the maximum number that the ATC is permitted to have in accordance with its constitution?
EW843_09	4	Fierravanti-Wells	LP	Written	Did the Department provide any advice to the ATC Wollongong Board in relation to college memberships, including any advice to restrict college memberships? If so, please advise when such advice was provided and who provided the same.
EW844_09	4	Boyce	LP	Written	Eating Disorders Is a voluntary code of conduct for the media and fashion industries re eating disorders, expected to effective?
EW845_09	2	Mason	LP	6 (Wed 22 Oct)	Computers in Schools Review Senator MASON—When you say the Secretary of Prime Minister and Cabinet commissioned the review on 2 July Dr Arthur—I said that was when it commenced. I do not have the date when the decision was taken to commission the review in front of me. Senator MASON—That was what I was going to ask next. Can you find that out? Dr Arthur—I can certainly take on notice exactly when it was done. We should be able to get that back to you before estimates conclude but if we cannot we will take it on notice.

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EW846_09	2	Mason	LP	21 (Wed 22 Oct)	<p>Senator MASON - Good. A copy of those reports has gone on the Prime Minister, the minister - Ms Gillard - and also the Treasurer. Is that right?</p> <p>Dr Arthur - And the Minister for Finance and Deregulation.</p> <p>Senator MASON - I asked you if you could table that, and clearly you see why the opposition would like that information, and you said it is advice to government.</p> <p>Dr Arthur - It is in the nature of advice to government.</p> <p>Senator MASON - Right. Mr Chairman, I have advice from the Deputy Clerk of the Senate and I want to refer to it, if I can. 'There are no restrictions on committees asking about advice to ministers, the preparation of which is a major function of the Australian Public Service and a large number of statutory authorities. Senators are empowered in legislative and general purpose standing committees to require the giving of evidence and the production of documents.' Then I have an attachment to this document that provides grounds for public interest immunity claims. They include things like commercial interests, legal proceedings and national security interests. One of the unacceptable grounds, No. 3 listed under 'The following grounds have not been accepted by</p> <p>Dr Arthur - It is not my position to comment on Senate rulings.</p> <p>Senator Carr - We will take your request on notice.</p>
EW847_09	2	Mason	LP	29 (Wed 22 Oct)	<p>Senator MASON - So it is by 31 December. Minister, when will those reports be available for the Commonwealth parliament to look at? They are due on 31 December. I look forward to seeing them.</p> <p>Senator Carr - We will take that on notice.</p>
EW848_09	2	Mason	LP	31 (Wed 22 Oct)	<p>Computers in Schools</p> <p>Dr Arthur, when did the states first make you aware of their estimates of costs?</p> <p>Dr Arthur—I would need to take that on notice. It is a matter of detail; I do not have that date in front of me.</p> <p>Senator MASON—Let me give you a little hint.</p> <p>CHAIR—No, the question has been taken on notice.</p>
EW849_09	2	Humphries	AG	41 (Wed 22 Oct)	<p>Senator HUMPHRIES - So is the \$1.2 million of which the then Minister spoke still earmarked in the budget?</p> <p>Ms Lucas - I may have to get back to you with an accurate answer to that question.</p> <p>Senator HUMPHRIES - Okay. If the money is still there, could we also have information about what it is proposed to spend that money on in 2008-09, please - divided between whatever programs there are that it is going to be spent on.</p> <p>Ms Lucas - Certainly.</p>
EW850_09	2	Milne	AG	52 (Wed 22 Oct)	<p>Senator MILNE—Just to go back, you say that there was an improvement in the students because of these diagnostic tests. The tests were undertaken by the person doing the tutoring. It was one-to-one tutoring. What was the percentage of students who did not improve their reading out of 13½ thousand students?</p> <p>Ms Hanlon—I do not have that information on me. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I would be very interested, because I will bet it is zero.</p> <p>Ms Hanlon—I do not have that information on me, I am sorry.</p>

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EW851_09	2	Mason	LP	56 (Wed 22 Oct)	<p>Senator MASON - You mentioned the legislative authority under which you collect that information Ms Nicoll - If I could add to that. We do collect information about other private income and it is coded according to a number of aspects which we ask non-government schools to report. We can certainly provide you with a list of what 'other private income' comprises.</p> <p>Senator MASON - Thank you. That would be very useful. Will that change under the bill.</p>
EW852_09	2	Mason	LP	59 (Wed 22 Oct)	<p>Non-government schools establishment grants.</p> <p>Senator MASON—Can you get me the figures for each year since then, disaggregated, in effect, for each year from 2001?</p> <p>Ms Rollings—Yes.</p> <p>Senator MASON—Not now, but on notice is fine. Is that all right?</p> <p>Ms Rollings—Yes.</p> <p>Senator MASON—Could you also find this for me: how many schools have accessed these grants in each of the years since the grants were introduced—since 2001?</p> <p>Ms Rollings—Yes.</p>
EW853_09	2	Mason	LP	60 (Wed 22 Oct)	<p>Establishment Grant</p> <p>Ms Nicoll—Just to clarify, do you mean how many students benefited from the first two years of that establishment grant, when it was available, or do you want some comparison in terms of the size of the school now? The latter would be quite difficult for us to ascertain, given—</p> <p>Senator MASON—Would it be too hard—</p> <p>Ms Nicoll—We can certainly provide you with data. Because the grant operates on a per capita basis and each new school is entitled to it for two years, we can provide you with data about the numbers of students that benefited from that. To do a comparison would be quite challenging.</p> <p>Senator MASON—That would be great. Take that on notice. Could you also provide the committee with the increase in the amount of students since they took up the grant until today?</p> <p>Ms Nicoll—That is what I think would be quite difficult for us to ascertain. It would be quite a lot of data to go through to ascertain the school numbers now. It could take quite a lot of time. We will look at that and do what we can but I am just not sure how much work it would involve.</p>
EW854_09	2	Mason	LP	63 (Wed 22 Oct)	<p>School Clusters</p> <p>Senator MASON—Anyway, the bottom line is that some of those students will be required to make that trip to use the facilities, won't they?</p> <p>Mr Burmester—I do not know the basis of how they intend to deploy the facilities, so we would have to take that on notice and give you an explanation of how students from the further distant places that you have mentioned can access the thing. We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MASON—The access is going to be 75 kilometres south.</p> <p>Senator Carr—It is not uncommon for students to travel, Senator. Even in your day you would have found that.</p>

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EW855_09	Cross Portfolio	Fisher	LP	83 (Wed 22 Oct)	Senator FISHER—I think Mr Kriz just told me that DEEWR has an obligation to make sure that DEEWR is in compliance with the procurement guidelines. Have you not? Mr Burmester—The standard procedures in the department would require Allen, if they were successful in winning any contract, to sign a declaration that there is no conflict of interest in the execution of the functions that we contract to them—and we will confirm that absolutely.
EW856_09	1	Fisher	LP	84 (Wed 22 Oct)	Did DEEWR or any of the members of the tender panel consult or communicate with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in the process of awarding this contract to Allen.
EW857_09	1	Humphries	LP	84 & 85 (Wed 22 Oct)	Can you also take on notice whether there was any communication by the panel members with the office of the Deputy Prime Minister?
EW858_09	1	Fisher	LP	85 (Wed 22 Oct)	Did DEEWR have any contact at all with any staff in the office of the parliamentary secretary. [Mr Burmester—We will take it on notice and confirm with the members of the panel that that was in fact the case.]
EW859_09	1	Humphries	LP	87 (Wed 22 Oct)	Is it possible for you to take on notice the question of whether advice has been provided to the department of any interest other than prior employment by Ms Forrester in Allens? [I want to know whether, up until this point, she has advised the department or an officer in the department, orally or in writing, of some other interest that she may have had in Allens. I presume you would have either a written record of that or a file note to that effect, presumably, given that this issue was raised at the meeting on the first day of her employment.]
EW860_09	1	Fisher	LP	90 (Wed 22 Oct)	Senator FISHER—When you provide the committee with that information [Ms Forrester is no longer associated with Allens], Mr Burmester, can you indicate who told you that; in what form they told you that and whether it was verbally or in writing; if it was in writing then whether we are able to have a copy of the documentation; if it is not evident from the documentation then when you were given that information; and, to the best of your recollection, if it was verbal then the detail as to what you were told—if it is in writing, exactly what you were told will be self evident. Mr Burmester—Yes.
EW861_09	1	Fisher	LP	92 (Wed 22 Oct)	Ms Mercer—The tender panel then met. They went through the normal processes of rating against the criteria they developed. Their recommendation was that the Allen Consulting Group was the only quote that met all our criteria to the standard required for this contract. Senator FISHER—Are you able to say what they are? Ms Mercer—We would be able to provide the criteria that we used, if that would be helpful. Senator FISHER—On notice? Ms Mercer—Yes.

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EW862_09	1	Hanson-Young	AG	93 & 94 (Wed 22 Oct)	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG—You may need to take this on notice, but would you be able to give me a bit of an update on where the overall framework is going? If you are going into a review and a process of looking into this stuff, do you have a terms of reference, a time frame and things like that which I could take away with me?</p> <p>Ms Rundle—I would need to think about what would be most useful for you. There is no doubt that we would be able to supply you with information. For example, we went out to public consultation in August and September, and you may have seen that there was a discussion paper that was available in hard copy but also on the website. That gives a really good overview of the components of the new quality system that is being proposed, ranging from standards. The governments wish to have a rating system. An eight-way rating system was the original election commitment; there would be a more streamlined regulatory system across the states and territories and the Commonwealth; and a new early years learning framework is proposed. So there are a number of components to the new quality framework. I could provide you with a copy of that, and I could provide you with a copy of that.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG—I actually have a copy of that. What I would like more detail about is the type of direction.</p>
EW863_09	1	Hanson-Young	AG	94 (Wed 22 Oct)	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG—I guess that leads me to my next question. Given the news reports in relation to the ABC Learning Centre and all the trouble it is in at the moment, it would seem to make sense for us to be able to access what centres are community based and not for profit and which centres are run purely or lining the pockets of shareholders. If you do not have that information, I guess that is a comment more than anything. Can you confirm reports that the government has been asked by ABC Learning for an emergency injection of funds or that it has been approached in any way for a buy-out of the company?</p> <p>Mr Manthorpe—I cannot confirm that report. That goes to the deliberations of government. I am not able to divulge that.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG—Senator Ludwig, are you able to answer that question on behalf of the minister?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—It does seem to be a matter for government. I can take it on notice to see what the minister may be able to bring back and advise you of. I suspect it will be very little other than that the government continues to monitor the developments regarding ABC Learning Centres closely.</p>
EW864_09	1	Hanson-Young	AG	95 (Wed 22 Oct)	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG—The pay difference between trained childcare workers who work in childcare centres as opposed to early childhood educators who are in schools.</p> <p>Ms Mercer—Do you mean teachers who work in long day care as against teachers who work in the preschool sector?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG—Yes.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—And do you mean in respect of government or non-government schools?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG—If you want to take it on notice and give me both categories that would be great.</p>

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EW865_09	1	Fisher	LP	97 (Wed 22 Oct)	Senator FISHER—You may wish to take this on notice, but this is my final question in respect of the earlier issue that we spent quite some time on. According to evidence given by Senator Faulkner before another committee yesterday, the newly constituted Government Staffing Committee—made up of Senator Faulkner, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Prime Minister's chief of staff—convened a meeting last Friday in connection with Ms Forrester's potential compliance or otherwise with the ministerial staff code of conduct implemented by the Rudd government. Senator Faulkner indicated that that committee had not contacted the department in respect of their investigation. My question, either to be answered now or on notice, is to confirm, is could you indicate whether or not the department was in fact contacted by the Government Staffing Committee or anyone on behalf of the committee in respect of this investigation in relation to Ms Forrester? If so, who contacted the department and when and what were the nature of the discussions to the extent that you are able to indicate that?
EW866_09	1	Payne	LP	99 (Wed 22 Oct)	Senator Payne - Okay. Ms Shugg, could you provide the committee with a list of those other 31 locations and the electorates in which they were based. Ms Shugg - Yes. Senator Payne - Can I then ask you - Ms Shugg - Sorry, Senator. I will just say that in response to a question on notice in the last hearing we provided all of that information to the committee. Senator Payne - In both those categories - the locations and the electorates? Ms Shugg - The location, the electorate and the state in which they are located. Senator Payne - Okay, thankyou. I will refer back to that
EW867_09	1	Payne	LP	101 (Wed 22 Oct)	Senator PAYNE—Can I ask you on notice if you would provide a copy of that [the funding agreement in relation to Craigieburn] when it is finalised to the Committee? Ms Shugg—I am not sure whether that is commercial in confidence. We will need to take some advice on that.
EW868_09	1	Payne	LP	101 (Wed 22 Oct)	Senator PAYNE—28 November. That should give you lots of time, Ms Shugg, to provide an answer on notice as to the locations and sites of those which are that close to agreement. Ms Shugg—I will provide you with a list of all the ones that have been signed off, where they are, et cetera. That will be fine.
EW869_09	1	Payne	LP	102 (Wed 22 Oct)	Senator PAYNE—Can you tell me what the funding amount is that is agreed by the Commonwealth? We know what the NT government is providing. Which bits of the funding agreement remain to be finalised? Ms Shugg—Just the terms of the funding agreement itself—the milestones, the timing, that sort of thing. Senator PAYNE—In concert with the previous question I asked about the Craigieburn funding agreement, could you also take on notice if that agreement can be made available to the committee? I understand the parameters that Ms Rundle raised, but if that could be taken on notice as well, that would be helpful.
EW870_09	1	Payne	LP	104 (Wed 22 Oct)	Clarify the public consultation process and the nature of the stakeholders (were they individual providers or peak bodies) and how it is put together by the department, both in terms of focus groups and public consultations.

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EW871_09	1	Payne	LP	104 (Wed 22 Oct)	Dr Mercer—There have been two phases in this. In the last financial year the government provided \$10 million which went to some pilot programs across states and territories to begin the process of implementing universal access. We can provide details of those projects, if you wish. Senator PAYNE—Yes, please.
EW872_09	1	Payne	LP	104 (Wed 22 Oct)	Senator PAYNE—And those bilateral agreements will be public, available to the committee to peruse? Dr Mercer—I believe they would be under the COAG process. I could confirm that, but the COAG processes— Senator PAYNE—Could you confirm that, please? Dr Mercer—Yes. We would expect them to come into place early in 2009.
EW873_09	1	Payne	LP	105 (Wed 22 Oct)	Senator PAYNE—Speaking of perusing, in my perusing of the department's website in this area, I know there is a video—an advertisement, I suppose—which features the parliamentary secretary and a childcare centre and so on, relating the government's policies in this regard. What are the production costs of that particular video on the website? Can you assist me with that? Senator PAYNE—Also on notice, can you indicate for us which funding pool that comes from. Senator PAYNE—Having had a look at the video piece, is it to be used anywhere other than the internet? Is it intended to be placed on television or any other medium? Dr Mercer—I understood it was just
EW874_09	1	Payne	LP	105 (Wed 22 Oct)	Senator PAYNE—That you very much. While you are doing that, can you let us know then the total advertising budget for the early childhood initiatives that we have been discussing and then the broader program, please. If you can do that now, that would be helpful, but if you cannot I understand. Dr Mercer—No, we would have to take that on notice.
EW875_09	1	Payne	LP	105 (Wed 22 Oct)	Senator PAYNE—Where is the development of the guidelines and the healthy kids check process up to? Senator PAYNE—So you do not have a commencement date envisaged for that? Senator PAYNE—And I assume that will include the Healthy Habits for Life Guide that is proposed to be issued to families, I gather—or parents, at least. Then I think there was also included in that policy an information session for parents to be delivered at the start of the school year, I assume, or on the enrolment of their child. Ms Rundle—Again, I think that is a level of detail that I will need to take on notice, but we will endeavour to get all of those things for you.
EW876_09	1	Payne	LP	106 (Wed 22 Oct)	How much of the \$32.5 million over five years for the Home Interaction Program will be expended in the first year?
EW877_09	5	Payne	LP	106 (Wed 22 Oct)	Can you give us some idea of the costs of the travel, accommodation and attendance at the forum for the steering committee members?
EW878_09	5	Payne	LP	107 (Wed 22 Oct)	Can you also provide the committee with a breakdown of the costs of other events and functions at the forum? I assume there were events associated with the forum itself?

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EW879_09	5	Payne	LP	108 (Wed 22 Oct)	Given the number of staff [35] that you have identified there, Ms Dacey, I am interested to know what their specific functions are.
EW880_09	5	Payne	LP	108 (Wed 22 Oct)	What was the cost for preparing the video of the Minister for the website?
EW881_09	5	Payne	LP	108 & 109 (Wed 22 Oct)	Senator PAYNE—Okay. The Youth Mentoring Network? Ms Dacey—That is a part of Mentor Marketplace. Yes, no change. Senator PAYNE—And what is the amount? Ms Dacey—I will have to look that up for you, Senator. Senator PAYNE—Would you, please? Ms Dacey—Yes.
EW882_09	Cross Portfolio	Mason	LP	109 (Wed 22 Oct)	Senator MASON—What is the total number of staff in the education section of the department? Mr Burmester—Using the broad definition of ‘education’, does the senator mean the higher education— Senator MASON—No. The next question is: of these, how many staff are dedicated to higher education? I think he wants to contrast the education section with the higher education section. Mr Burmester—We will have to take it on notice.
EW883_09	3	Mason	LP	109 (Wed 22 Oct)	Mr Manns—We do not control the universities’ allocation of funds down to individual faculties. It is part of their overall funding envelope that we give them. Senator MASON—Can you tell the committee the amount of funding that was effected? Mr Manns—I would have to take that on notice. Senator MASON—You can take it on notice.
EW884_09	9	Abetz	LP	5 (Thurs 23 Oct)	Senator ABETZ—I just need some advice as to whether the ILO acknowledges the ACTU as the peak body representing workers in Australia. Mr Kovacic—In a formal sense I think it does but in terms of whether there is a piece of paper that confirms that, I am not sure. I would have to take that second bit on notice. Senator ABETZ—That would be interesting as to how that is actually formalised. I personally have no criticism of the fact that the ILO does that. I would have thought it would be fairly obvious that the ACTU should be so recognised, but I wanted that confirmed. Although you have confirmed it you are not sure how that is formalised, so that would be interesting if you could advise me of that.
EW885_09	9	Cameron	ALP	7 (Thurs 23 Oct)	Senator CAMERON—Could you provide details of all funding for ACCI? Mr Kovacic—Yes, certainly. I think in terms of the funding that is provided in the context of the ACCI we can actually do that now. As to the funding that would have been provided to them under the Employer Adviser Program, that is an issue that you may care to take up with the Workplace Authority later today, one of the department’s portfolio agencies, and I will take on notice whether there is any additional funding outside of those areas that might also be provided to ACCI.

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EW886_09	9	Fisher	LP	11 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator FISHER—In that case, has the government sought advice from this department or indeed any other agency as to the impact of the global financial crisis in respect of the implementation of the government's Forward with Fairness workplace changes.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—Again, I think it falls into that basket of advices that we would not provide to Senate committee estimates.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—I have not asked for a copy of it, I have asked whether you sought that advice.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—I am not in a position to confirm or deny it. The easiest way is for me to take it on notice to check with the relevant minister.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Does that mean you do not know?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—I represent in this portfolio, so it is far better for me in that respect to take advice from the relevant minister. You are asking in respect of whether this portfolio has asked—</p> <p>Senator FISHER—I am?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—I am not the portfolio minister; I represent the portfolio minister. On that basis I can take it on notice and check. That would be the usual course.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—I understand that. You are taking advice as to whether there has been advice sought from this</p>
EW887_09	9	Fisher	LP	13 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Mr Maynard—There are over 40 organisations that have been consulted with. I can read out the names. Alternatively, I could provide it on notice. It includes industry and associations including: COSBOA, the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia; ACT and Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Commerce Queensland; the National Retail Association; the Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Do you want me to read the full list?</p> <p>Senator FISHER—No. If you could provide the list that would suffice, but perhaps if you can characterise a break-up?</p>
EW888_09	9	Abetz	LP	21 & 22 & 42 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>(pg 21) Senator ABETZ—Exactly. Did you discuss with your state or territory colleagues any precise amendments or any vote of the Senate on those precise amendments prior to the minister making her statement that they would all be rejected?</p> <p>(pg 22) Senator Ludwig—Having agreed on that, as I have indicated, if Ms Gillard wants to provide additional information about the decision she made in respect of the question you have asked I will take it on notice and I will see if I can find an answer for you.</p> <p>(pg 22) Senator Ludwig—Thank you, because I think the evidence right back then was that you could not make that statement because of course the department officials do not know what is in the mind of Ms Gillard, quite frankly, and nor do you, I suspect. I said right back at the beginning of this discourse that I would take the original question on notice, which is that I would see if Ms Gillard wanted to provide any additional information as to the reasons for not accepting the amendments.</p> <p>(pg 42) Senator Ludwig—I had the opportunity during the lunchbreak to contact the Deputy Prime Minister's office and I spoke with an adviser there who advised me that the ministerial consultation with the various states a</p>

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EW889_09	9	Abetz	LP	25 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator ABETZ—We know that, but who initiated this particular change in the discussions?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic—I have nothing to add.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Can you take that on notice and see whether you are able to tell me. If it is internal workings of government I will have to accept that, but I will also have to accept that this new era of openness and transparency that we were promised might not actually be occurring. Take that on notice. I will not labour that point any further.</p>
EW890_09	Agency	Abetz	LP	26 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Mr Kovacic—The Office of Workplace Services is a predecessor of the Workplace Ombudsman, so both of those issues should be directed to the Ombudsman on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I will do that, because it is a bit embarrassing that the Office of Workplace Services has a full-page advertisement—thank you for reminding me of that—and the Workplace Ombudsman also has a full-page ad. We might like to find out whether the government or the taxpayer paid for both of those advertisements in the one and the same directory. Thank you for alerting me to that.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—What about the publications under your administration?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—That is what Senate estimates is all about and that is quite open to you, Senator Cameron. The most hurtful thing in this directory—and let me be quite open about this—</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—It misspelt your name, did it?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—No, it is worse than that. They did not leave me out; they had me as Special Minister of State, a position I have not held for some two years. That is how up-to-date Unions Tasmania is.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—That must reflect your profile in Tasmania.</p>
EW891_09	Cross Portfolio	Cameron	ALP	29 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator CAMERON—Could the department provide figures on government advertising from June to November 2007?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—Could you advise whether any of the previous government's advertising was contractually committed until after the election?</p>
EW892_09	9	Fisher	LP	33 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator FISHER—No, because I am going to turn it into an actual question. In the scenario where a union had the right to represent a worker in wage negotiations and where the employer had the obligation to negotiate with that union in respect of that employee, unless the worker writes to the union saying, 'Desist. I don't want you there', would legislative change be necessary to stop a union being the default agent?</p> <p>CHAIR—No. He has indicated that the department will endeavour to answer that. 'Endeavouring' stresses the fact that they will need to take a closer look at it than what they can do immediately here before you now.</p>
EW893_09	9	Fisher	LP	34 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator FISHER—You said the COIL process involved extensive consultations. A number of groups are represented on COIL? You listed a lot of them. You have indicated that it has been expanded. Can you number the groups that were represented on COIL?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic—We could do that. I will take that on notice just to make sure I have got it all right. For instance, ACCI had three representatives, including Australian Mines and Metals, as well as an ACCI official, and a representative from Australian Business Limited. That was the ACCI representation. The other employer organisations generally had one participant. In terms of the ACTU there were six participants, with states and territories fluctuating according to the jurisdiction. They ranged from one up to a maximum three or possibly four in one case.</p>

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EW894_09	9	Fisher	LP	34 (Thurs 23 Oct)	Are you able to provide on notice a list of the COIL participants, in terms of both people and organisations represented?
EW895_09	9	Fisher	LP	44 (Thurs 23 Oct)	Ms Anderson—The Homeworker Code of Practice Committee Ltd. Senator FISHER—Do you know the registered address of the bank account? Ms Anderson—I do not have that detail with me, but we can certainly find out.
EW896_09	9	Fisher	LP	44 (Thurs 23 Oct)	Can you provide on notice a copy of the position descriptions of the staff who are working in respect of the code of practice?
EW897_09	9	Fisher	LP	45 & 46 (Thurs 23 Oct)	Does the bill repeal the Workplace Relations Act in its entirety and replace it with a new act, or does the bill amend parts of it?
EW898_09	7	Cash	LP	56 (Thurs 23 Oct)	For every person under the current system who has undertaken a Work for the Dole activity, what has been the average duration of unemployment?
EW899_09	8	Cash	LP	63 (Thurs 23 Oct)	Senator CASH—Is it possible for you to provide the information in relation to where the \$279.8 million worth of savings in the employment services area has come from? Mr Carters—We will take that on notice and see what we can do, but, as I said, the models are very different, so it is not necessarily easy. Senator CASH—If you could take that on notice and provide the information, that would be great.
EW900_09	Cross Portfolio	Cash	LP	63 (Thurs 23 Oct)	Senator CASH—In terms of the department meeting its efficiency dividend, what actions are being taken? Ms Golightly—That normally would be a cross-portfolio question, so I am not sure if we have the right people here. Senator CASH—I am happy for that to be taken on notice. Ms Golightly—That might be easiest.
EW901_09	7	Cash	LP	72 (Thurs 23 Oct)	Ms Golightly— While I am on dates, I was told by my colleagues during the break that I might not have been as clear as I should have been on the Work for the Dole figures I gave you. Once and for all, I will be clear: they were 30 June 2008 figures. Senator CASH—Are you able to table that document? Ms Golightly—This is under some notes for me, but we can put a note to the committee.

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EW902_09	7	Cash	LP	72 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator CASH—I will read out the other three questions I have. You might want to take them on notice, if it is easier to do that. Of the current NEIS participants, what percentage is classified as highly disadvantaged?</p> <p>Ms Golightly—Yes, we can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CASH—Of the current NEIS participants, what percentage is Indigenous?</p> <p>Ms Golightly—Yes.</p> <p>Senator CASH—Of the current NEIS participants, what percentage has been out of work for more than one year?</p> <p>Ms Golightly—Yes, we will certainly take those questions on notice.</p>
EW903_09	7	Humphries	LP	74 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator HUMPHRIES—We are not talking here about migrants or permanent residents under other programs; we are talking about only humanitarian entrants. Can you tell me why this applies only to them and not to migrants in other categories?</p> <p>Ms Golightly—We might take that on notice, just to check the facts. My understanding is that, if they have come in on humanitarian grounds, we seek to help them to get on their feet, basically. If they have come in for other visa purposes—again, this is probably a better question for immigration—it would have something to do with their being on a working visa or for skilled migration, so accessing employment services should not be the paramount thing. I think the safest thing would be for us to take that on notice or to confirm whether the Department of Immigration and Citizenship would be better placed to answer that question for you.</p>
EW904_09	9	Humphries	LP	89 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator HUMPHRIES—That was delivered to the minister in August. Is there any expected time line as to when that is going to be made available as in having been published or will there be an announcement in due course? If so, when will that be as to what the government proposes to do about this?</p> <p>Mr Dolan—That is not a matter I am familiar with. I believe there was some discussion of it in the Workplace Relations Ministerial Council, from what I can discern from the report of that meeting. I believe there was to be some consultation subsequently with officials. I am afraid that is not really a matter I have much more information on. I can seek information from the department and get it back to you on notice.</p>
EW905_09	COMCARE	Humphries	LP	91 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator HUMPHRIES—Can you tell me whether the rate of claims per 1,000 full-time employees of the Commonwealth has been affected by the amendments that were made to the SRC Act last year affecting journey claims and recess claims?</p> <p>Mr Dolan—There has certainly been a substantial reduction over a number of years in the number of claims per 1,000 employees. We are trying hard to distinguish how much of that reduction is a result of effective prevention of injury by employers in our system and how much relates to the amendments that the parliament passed in March last year. Our assessment was that there would be approximately a 15 per cent reduction in the number of claims as a result of those changes. That seems to have been the pattern that we have seen so far. We can get you more detailed information if you wish on that.</p> <p>Senator HUMPHRIES—But when did those changes come into effect?</p> <p>Mr Dolan—They came into effect in April 2007.</p> <p>Senator HUMPHRIES—We have got a year's data at this stage, or something of that order.</p> <p>Mr Dolan—I am sorry I did not bring it with me, but I will make it available.</p>

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EW906_09	Workplace Authority	Fisher	LP	97 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator FISHER—I thank you for that clarification. Thank you, Ms Bull. I take you to your answer to question 493, which is about workplace agreements and statistics. Your answer was provided in respect of publishing details relating to the making of collective agreements on your website. Will the authority be publicly releasing statistics this year?</p> <p>Ms Bennett—Yes, Senator. I can give you an update on collective agreements, actually, in answering that question at that point in time. As at 15 October 2008, we had published 4,730 collective agreements.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Perhaps, Ms Bennett, if you could provide those figures on notice to the committee or in writing afterwards.</p> <p>Ms Bennett—On the publishing of collective agreements?</p> <p>Senator FISHER—As to what they are at a particular point in time. At the moment, I am not so concerned about what they are. I am more concerned to know that the details will be published so that they are capable of being looked at.</p> <p>Ms Bennett—Yes. We certainly can do that. At the point in time last estimates, we explained in the evidence that there had been a bit of delay because of other priorities. But we have certainly well caught up. As I said, there</p>
EW907_09	Workplace Authority	Collins	ALP	99 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>CHAIR—Do you have an additional handout that sets out all of those explanations? Perhaps I could ask you to take on notice those issues.</p> <p>Ms Bull—We can take that on notice. It is detailed in our policy guide on the no disadvantage test, but we can take that on notice and provide that explanation.</p>
EW908_09	Workplace Authority	Collins	ALP	104 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>CHAIR—In a sense, you would be responding to this without criticism of you. I am more interested in this article as being a criticism of the overall process. If these agreements had been sitting with the employer well before 19 August, then that is an issue with the overall process, not necessarily you.</p> <p>Ms Bull—We have advised the ASU of the agreements and the dates we received the agreements. I understand we have also advised, in relation to some where we do not have any record of having had the agreements lodged, that those issues to do with the requirements of the act on lodgement are about compliance and are a matter for the Workplace Ombudsman.</p> <p>CHAIR—But the question I am asking, which should not affect any privacy issues, is: what is the earliest date of the batch of agreements that arrived with you on the 19th?</p> <p>Ms Bennett—We will take that on notice. We can tell you that of the agreements—</p> <p>Ms Bull—I do not have that information in front of me. You are asking what—</p> <p>CHAIR—You can take it on notice.</p> <p>Ms Bull—Are you asking what date the agreements were made between the parties?</p> <p>CHAIR—The date the parties signed them</p>
EW909_09	Workplace Authority	Abetz	LP	105 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator ABETZ—Thank you very much. You told us that you select one out of 100 to test for robustness. Did you tell us what that sampling revealed? How many were found to be defective?</p> <p>Ms Bennett—Where we had made an error in the assessment?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Yes.</p> <p>Ms Bennett—I do not have that information with me, Senator. I can take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—If you would not mind.</p>

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EW910_09	Workplace Authority	Abetz	LP	105 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Ms Bennett—Regarding our quality assurance, Senator Collins asked a question on notice about the definitions attached to the chart. I have provided those. While it does at the top look as if it relates to table 2, we can provide the definitions for the first table, which is the fairness test. Those definitions—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—So the document attachment applies only to table 1?</p> <p>Ms Bennett—Table 2.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Only to table 2.</p> <p>CHAIR—Because it is the no disadvantage test rather than the fairness test.</p> <p>Ms Bennett—Where it is much clearer on the fairness test. But we will provide an explanation of those terms.</p>
EW911_09	ABCC	Abetz	LP	107 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Can we have a breakdown of staff member classifications and the divisions in which they are employed?</p>
EW912_09	9	Abetz	LP	108 & 109 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator ABETZ—How many agreements has the ABCC checked for code compliance between 1 December 2007 until 1 October 2008?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—Senator, that is a function of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. They assess the agreements for code compliance.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—So the answer is no?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—That is right, yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Thank you for steering me in the right direction. I would have been surprised if you had said none. That would have meant I would have asked a follow-up question and embarrassed myself even further. So thank you for saving me from that. Therefore, you cannot tell me how that compares with the previous 12 months. What I might do, Chair, having asked that question and that following question, is put that on notice for the benefit of the department.</p>
EW913_09	9	Abetz	LP	109 & 110 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator ABETZ—Are you able to assist me with the Code Monitoring Group?</p> <p>Mr Draffin—Yes. We are on the Code Monitoring Group.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—That was scheduled to meet in August. That occurred?</p> <p>Mr Draffin—No, Senator. The last meeting of the Code Monitoring Group was the 10th of this month.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Right. So we did have one in August and we had another one in—</p> <p>Mr Draffin—No. We did not have one in August. We had one in October.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—So for the August one I was asking about, I was on the money on that other than it was rescheduled for October and that has been held.</p> <p>Mr Draffin—Correct.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Are you able to share with us the outcomes of that meeting?</p> <p>Mr Draffin—The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is responsible for the secretariat provisions of the Code Monitoring Group. Whilst I was present during that meeting and certainly aware of what was said and resolved, I think it would be best that the secretariat perhaps answer that question.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—All right. I will ask that that be placed on notice for the department through the Hansard. I thank you for that guidance. Are you able to tell us when the next meeting is scheduled, or should I be asking the</p> <p>Mr Draffin—No. I do not know that answer. Senator.</p>

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EW914_09	ABCC	Abetz	LP	111 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator ABETZ—With all these various types of breaches, do you think that the officers of the ABCC are better placed to investigate these types of breaches than potentially other law enforcement agencies?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—Senator, I would not like to venture an opinion on that. We have a responsibility to discharge our functions under the act. We do it to the best of our ability. We spend quite a bit of time and training equipping our staff to do it. I would not want to say much more than that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Fair enough. How many notices under section 52 of the Building And Construction Industry Improvement Act to attend and answer questions in relation to breaches of the act have been issued since 1 January this year?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—I do not have that figure. I have current figures as the total number that we have issued.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—The total over the life of the—</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—Over the life of the ABCC. I do not have a figure from the date that you have requested.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—All right. Can we have the total figure, please?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—The total number of notices issued since 1 October 2005 is 142. That is notices to attend and answer questions.</p>
EW915_09	ABCC	Abetz	LP	111 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator ABETZ—Can I also inquire how many notices under section 52 to attend and answer questions— exactly the same—there have been between 1 January 2007 and the full calendar year of 2007, if that is possible?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—We will take that on notice.</p>
EW916_09	ABCC	Abetz	LP	111 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator ABETZ—How many notices have been issued under section 52(1)(d) with respect to examinations to be conducted or documents or information to be produced in relation to potential breaches?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—Since 1 October 2005, that number is four.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Any recently? Take it on notice. Given that it is just a handful, I was wondering if you might have a recollection whether one had been done recently. If you can let me know whether any have been issued in 2008, that would be helpful, and any in 2007. How many of these investigations have resulted in proceedings being taken in court based on evidence provided by witnesses at these examinations?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—Twenty-three examinations have resulted in proceedings being commenced.</p>
EW917_09	ABCC	Abetz	LP	112 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator ABETZ—I understand the need for that circumspection. How many education seminars did the ABCC conduct with employers, unions and employees in the building industry in the period 30 November 2007 until 1 October 2008?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—We do not have that. We can take it on notice.</p>

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EW918_09	ABCC	Abetz	LP	112 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Senator ABETZ—Thank you. On average, how many downloads from your website have there been per month? Take this on notice. Even if you do have the figures, it will take too much time to tell us, let us say. Allow me to start again. Are you able to provide us with a monthly download figure from the ABCC website?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—I do not have the exact figure but I know it is in the order of 250,000 a month.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—But are you able to do that on a monthly basis?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—Yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—If you could do it from, say, 1 January 2007 through to 1 November 2008 and give monthly figures.</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—Yes. We will do the best we can. We did change the software at one stage. We work off the platform of the portfolio of DEEWR. There have been some changes in the software analysis of our site, but we will do what we can.</p>
EW919_09	ABCC	Collins	ALP	112 & 113 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>CHAIR—When you say download, you are talking about just visitors?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—I suspect a better indication is page impressions.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—You can ask that question. I have asked mine.</p> <p>CHAIR—Senator Abetz, what I am interested in myself, perhaps as an additional question, is the difference between someone who enters the website and downloads information from it as opposed to someone who simply visits it.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—What have you been up to, Senator Cameron? Have you been downloading?</p> <p>CHAIR—Are you able to differentiate that?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—We do get data on different visits—downloads and impressions and other things. We take account of the fact that the model will give you what you want and there are limitations on what each one indicates. Important, I think, is to watch the trends, when you sit where I do. Taking account of all that, trends are very important—whether it is going up or down or whatever.</p> <p>CHAIR—But you can provide the broader picture?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—Yes. We will try. We will provide as much as we can, yes.</p> <p>CHAIR—Thank you.</p>
EW920_09	ABCC	Cameron	ALP	120 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Reviews of failed legal cases</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—Could you provide us copies of the reviews that you have undertaken internally?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—Of?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—Of failed legal cases.</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—Yes. We will take that on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR—Just before you move on, Senator Cameron. You mentioned a review that you conducted under principles suggested relevant to the use of coercive powers?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd—Yes.</p>

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EW921_09	ABCC	Collins	ALP	127 (Thurs 23 Oct)	<p>Legal Advice CHAIR—Senator Abetz, Senator Cameron, it is now 11 o'clock. The remainder of the questions to the ABCC will be placed on notice. I indicate that I will also place on notice, on behalf of the committee, the question not asked about the provision of legal advice that Senator Cameron asked and my question on that respect is to Mr Lloyd. Would you please furnish the committee with the reason why that legal advice cannot be made available. Any other questions will be placed on notice. Thank you. The committee stands adjourned.</p>
EW922_09*	Workplace Ombudsman	Abetz	LP	84 (Thurs 3 June)	<p>Senator ABETZ—The point of the question is 'misinformation', and I do not say 'deliberate misinformation', in a media release in relation to information that my constituent says was initially presented to the initial investigator. That initial investigator mucked up the calculations a number of times, was taken off the case, somebody else came in, and it would appear that the AWA that was signed—but never lodged, and that is not in dispute—was then, it would appear, never passed on to the person that was then put in charge of the investigation. As a result, the ombudsman may well have misdirected themselves in relation to that public statement. I am not saying that anything of this sort was done with malice Mr Wilson—there are a couple of points which the senator was asking us to look at, one of which is whether or not the media release might be wrong in any respect. We will certainly check that and if we need to correct that then we will. In respect of the process of our investigation and whether or not the inspector was moved or anything of that nature, we will also check that as well. *This question relates to June Budget Estimates 2008-09*</p>