

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Committee
 Questions on Notice - Supplementary Estimates - 20-21 October 2010

QoN No	Outcome/Agency	Senator	Broad topic	Question	Hansard date
EW0403_11	Agency - Comcare	Abetz	Comcare - HSR training	"Is there anything in the model OHS Act about how HSR training is conducted? Is there anything in the model OHS Regulations about how HSR training is conducted? Do the model OHS Regulations specify how the 35 hours is to be used? Is HSR training compulsory? Will HSR training remain compulsory under the model Act? What is the likelihood that these Guidelines represent the best and only model of learning that suits everyone?"	Written
EW0404_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Assessments for disadvantaged job seekers	"On the 11th May 2010, the then DPM announced in a media release that they would reform the assessments for disadvantaged job seekers. What are these proposed reforms, and how will they speed up the process for linking people with disabilities to financial support and what research supports this decision? The media release also states that DSP applicants will need to prove they have been unable to gain employment through an employment services provider, or through vocational rehabilitation services. Will this be in addition to them undertaking a Job Capacity Assessment and will Job Capacity Assessments continue to be undertaken?"	Written
EW0405_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	DES job seeker	What is the average duration of support prior to a DES job seeker gaining employment?	Written
EW0406_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	DEN and VRS	How big a difference from numbers serviced under DEN and VRS previously?	Written
EW0407_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	concerns re: current DES contract	"Have any providers raised concerns about the funding model under the current DES contract? Can the Department provide a breakdown of percentages for each primary disability type of DES participants? How many Job in Jeopardy job seekers are on the DES caseload?"	Written
EW0408_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	moderate disability	"From 1st July 2010 an additional 70% loading was made available for the service/outcome fees for job seekers with a moderate disability. What prompted the decision to add 70% loading to the service fees for people with a moderate intellectual disability and what research supports this decision? How is the Department defining moderate disability?"	Written
EW0409_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Disability Employment Network	How many of the job seekers who transitioned from the Disability Employment Network, were referred to new providers under the new Disability Employment Services model?	Written
EW0410_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Disability Management Services	"How many providers are offering Disability Management Services? How many people are currently on the Disability Employment Services caseload and how many of those are in the Disability Management Service?"	Written
EW0411_11	Agency - Fair Work Australia	Abetz	FWA - conflict of interest	1) Are Fair Work Australia members obliged to declare a conflict of interest in hearing a matter where a union of which they are a member is a party? 2) Are members obliged to register memberships that could give rise to potential conflicts of interest? 3) Are Fair Work Australia members given instruction about conflict of interest when or shortly after being appointed? 4) Have there been cases of challenge or requests to excuse the presiding member of a hearing on these grounds? 5) If so (relating to question 4) how many and what was the outcome?	Written
EW0412_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	Fair Work Ombudsman Shared Industry Assistance Programme (SIAP)	What criteria were used to assess the applications for this programme?	Written
EW0413_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	Fair Work Ombudsman Shared Industry Assistance Programme (SIAP)	Please provide a list of organisations that applied for funding under this programme.	Written
EW0414_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Job Capacity Account	"During the Federal Election campaign, a media release (14th August) was released by the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Minister for Finance, announcing that a re-elected Gillard Government would remove the Job Capacity Account. How are you predicting savings of \$79.5 million by removing the Job Capacity Account? Surely this would then be an additional spend on the part of Job Services Australia providers, from the Employment Pathways Fund? What mechanism will Centrelink have to provide the services or support previously supplied from the Job Capacity Account?"	Written
EW0415_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	Fair Work Ombudsman Shared Industry Assistance Programme (SIAP)	Did the FWO issue a media release on 26 May 2010 indicating that 'cafes, restaurants and clubs' would be a sector targeted for assistance in this programme?	Written

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EW0416_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Job Capacity Account and the Employment Pathways Fund	Can you explain the duplication between the Job Capacity Account and the Employment Pathways Fund?	Written
EW0417_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	Fair Work Ombudsman Shared Industry Assistance Programme (SIAP)	Did Restaurant and Catering Australia make application for funding under this programme in relation to the Fast Food Award and the Hospitality Award?	Written
EW0418_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	JSA contractors	Is the Department aware of any instance where the lead contractor has not met their obligations under the contract- for example, not paying a sub-contractor adequately?	Written
EW0419_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	JSA financial viability and contractors	Have any providers contacted the Department about concerns surrounding financial viability under the JSA contract?	Written
EW0420_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	round 3 of the Innovation Fund	"When does the DEEWR plan to announce successful tenderers for round 3 of the Innovation Fund? How have the projects from rounds one and two been measured for success?"	Written
EW0421_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Green Corps	Can the Department provide a breakdown of the Green Corps activities on offer currently by each state/territory?	Written
EW0422_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	National Green Jobs Corps	"How many job seekers have to date commenced in the National Green Jobs Corps? How many have completed the 26 weeks in programme? How many have withdrawn and for what reasons?"	Written
EW0423_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Local Employment Coordinator	I understand these Local Employment Coordinator contracts were for two years. Does the Department plan on extending any of these contracts?	Written
EW0424_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Local Employment Coordinators	"How many of the Local Employment Coordinators are ex-DEEWR staff? Were ex-DEEWR and current DEEWR staff required to apply through Hudsons Recruitment as well? Can you provide the KPI's against which each Local Employment Coordinator is being measured?"	Written
EW0425_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	JSA contracts	Have any providers handed back their contracts since the commencement of the Job Services Australia contract on the 1st July 2009? If so, when did this occur and what reasons were given for them handing back their contracts?	Written
EW0426_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	One Stop Shops Pilot	In the last Budget Estimates, the topic of the pilot project for 'One Stop Shops' was discussed. Can you please advise where these One Stop Shops have been located? How is their success being measured? What is the cost of this pilot program? Why was the decision made to extend the pilot? How is it being administered, given the overlap with other agencies such as Centrelink?	Written
EW0427_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Disability Support Pension and JSA	How many people who are in receipt of a Disability Support Pension are receiving servicing from Job Services Australia?	Written
EW0428_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Newstart payment and job search requirements	What percentage of the caseload, who are in receipt of a Newstart payment, has an exemption from job search requirements?	Written
EW0429_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	JSA suspension rate	What proportion of the JSA caseload is currently on suspension (has an exemption on looking for work and how does this compare with the level of suspensions under the former Job Network model)?	Written
EW0430_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Job Seekers	Providers have indicated that there is a tendency for job seekers to be 'parked'. What is the Department doing to ensure that job seekers are not being serviced?	Written
EW0431_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Stream Services	Regarding Stream Services, can the Department please provide the numbers of job seekers in each Stream? What percentage of each Stream has achieved a 13 week employment outcome? What percentage of each Stream has achieved a 26 week employment outcome? What percentage of each Stream has transferred Streams? For Stream 1 job seekers, what is the average duration of unemployment? How many Stream 1 job seekers have been unemployed for 12 months or more? How does this compare with the average duration of unemployment by Stream 2 job seekers?	Written
EW0432_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Job Seeker hotline	How many calls have been received by the Job Seeker hotline in the last 6 months? How many of these have been complaints about the service they have received? How many of these have been from Stream 1 job seekers?	Written
EW0433_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Job seeker transfers	How many job seekers have transferred providers due to relocation? How many job seekers have transferred providers due to wanting a new provider?	Written
EW0434_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	JSA and work experience	What percentage of the total Job Services Australia caseload is required to undertake a Work Experience Activity?	Written
EW0435_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Job seeker work experience exemptions	How many job seekers in each stream have an exemption from a work experience activity? How frequently are these exemptions reviewed?	Written

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EW0436_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Abetz	Work Experience Activity	Can the Department provide a breakdown of the numbers in each type of acceptable work experience activity by Stream? Of those job seekers who are undertaking training as their Work Experience Activity, How many are enrolled in the Productivity Places Programme?	Written
EW0437_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Abetz	Productivity Places Program and job seekers	How is the Department measuring the employment rate of job seekers who have undertaken a PPP course? How many job seekers have gained a job, after completing a PPP qualification? Can we have a breakdown of the jobs that job seekers who have completed a Productivity Places Programme course have then entered?	Written
EW0438_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Abetz	Productivity Places Program and job seekers	Has the Department received any complaints from providers about the funding available?	Written
EW0439_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Employment Pathway Fund	Regarding the Employment Pathway Fund can the Department provide the average spend per job seeker in each stream? How many claims has the Department knocked back?	Written
EW0440_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Employment Pathway Plans within 3 months	What percentage of streams 2-4 job seekers are entering into an Employment Pathway Plan in the first three months of servicing?	Written
EW0441_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Employment Pathway Plans	Has the Department had any concerns with the content of Employment Pathways Plans? Is the Department monitoring these via desktop monitoring, or on site visits?	Written
EW0442_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Connection Failures	What has been the Department's most recent advice to providers on connection failures? How many connection failures have been applied to job seekers in the last 6 months? Can the Department provide a breakdown by failure type? How many financial penalties have been imposed in this period?	Written
EW0443_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Job seekers income support	How many job seekers have had their income support suspended?	Written
EW0444_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	relocation of job seekers	In the last Estimates hearing it was claimed that the relocation of job seekers from the eastern states to the west had not been a success last time it was trialled by the Department. Did the Department give this advice to your Minister prior to the recent election?	Written
EW0445_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Job seekers	In the last Estimates it was stated that the previous scheme was not a cost-effective way to fill jobs. Given that this scheme provides considerably more funding per person is this scheme also not cost effective?	Written
EW0446_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Relocation Program	In the last Estimates we heard that after 12 months, approximately 77% of those who had relocated under the previous relocation pilot were still in employment. What targets are you setting for this relocation program?	Written
EW0447_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Employment Pathways Fund	How many job seekers have expressed an interest in taking advantage of this scheme? Have any relocated to date? Is the funding being administered from the Employment Pathways Fund? If so, will the Employment Pathways Fund be topped up to ensure providers do not have to 'short change' other job seekers in order to fund \$6000 for some to relocate?	Written
EW0448_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	JSA provider rating	How many providers have had a JSA 5 star rating over the past two ratings periods?	Written
EW0449_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	JSA stream rating	What action is the Department taking for the 646 sites that only had a '1' star rating for stream '1' job seekers? Why does the Department believe that so many providers performed poorly in their servicing of this cohort? What percentage of the Stream 1 caseload is currently 'suspended'? Does the Department acknowledge that providers believe the funding model does not adequately reward them for placing these job seekers? How much is paid for a stream 1 job seeker who has been unemployed for just under a year, if they are placed in a job.	Written
EW0450_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Labour Market Adjustment Package	How many job seekers have been supported by the Textiles, clothing and footwear industry Labour Market Adjustment Package to date? What has been the total expenditure on this Labour Market Adjustment Package to date?	Written
EW0451_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Automotive Industry Labour Market Adjustment Package	How many job seekers have been supported by the Automotive Industry Labour Market Adjustment Package to date? What has been the total expenditure on this Labour Market Adjustment Package to date?	Written
EW0452_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	JSA GFC funding	Of the \$298.5 million made available to JSA to service people made redundant during the GFC, was all this money utilised?	Written
EW0453_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Abetz	Structural Adjustment Places	Of the Structural Adjustment Places offered for insulation workers who lost their jobs after the bungled insulation debacle, how many were taken up?	Written
EW0454_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Abetz	National Youth Participation	How is the National Youth Participation being monitored? What is the penalty or outcome when a young person fails to engage?	Written

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EW0455_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Job Capacity Assessments to Centrelink	"Why was the decision made to bring responsibility for Job Capacity Assessments across to Centrelink? Was the Department dissatisfied with the job done by private providers? Can the Department explain the predicted savings as a result of transferring the contract to Centrelink? What is the current cost per assessment? What is the forecast cost per assessment, once all JCA's are undertaken by Centrelink? How will JCA's change under the shift to Centrelink? (Will the structure remain the same?)"	Written
EW0456_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	Fair Work Ombudsman Shared Industry Assistance Programme (SIAP)	Was Restaurant and Catering Australia successful in receiving funding under the SIAP? If not, why not? Please provide a list of criteria and the extent to which Restaurant and Catering Australia met or did not meet these criteria.	Written
EW0457_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Jobless Families Pilot team	How many DEEWR staff are working in the Jobless Families Pilot team?	Written
EW0458_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	Fair Work Ombudsman Shared Industry Assistance Programme (SIAP)	Which organisation(s) were successful in receiving funding to provide education about the Fast Food Award and Hospitality Award under SIAP? How did these organisations meet the relevant criteria more appropriately than Restaurant and Catering Australia?	Written
EW0459_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	Fair Work Ombudsman Shared Industry Assistance Programme (SIAP)	Was the Australian Medical Association successful in receiving funding?	Written
EW0460_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Family Centred Employment Project	"Regarding the Family Centred Employment Project, how successful have these projects been in engaging at least one family member from a jobless family into paid employment? How many applications were received? Did the DEEWR seek additional applications from IF panel members? Who is undertaking these two projects? How is their success being measured? How many families have been assisted to date?"	Written
EW0461_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	Fair Work Ombudsman Shared Industry Assistance Programme (SIAP)	What levels of industrial and award non-compliance exist in sectors covered by the AMA? How does this compare to the level of industrial and award non-compliance for the sector covered by Restaurant and Catering Australia?	Written
EW0462_11	Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission	Abetz	Persons empowered to conduct an s52 hearing	In the absence of a Deputy Commissioner is the ABC Commissioner the only person empowered to conduct an s52 hearing?	Written
EW0463_11	Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission	Abetz	Secondment arrangement between the ABCC and FWO	When did the secondment arrangement between the ABCC and FWO commence? Is it still in operation? How many staff undertook secondments?	Written
EW0464_11	Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission	Abetz	Commissioner video to staff via the intranet at the time of taking up his appointment	Did the new Commissioner present a video to staff via the intranet at the time of taking up his appointment? Was the video produced with the assistance of external production companies? If so, what was the cost of the video?	Written
EW0465_11	Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission	Abetz	ABC Commissioner consultation in the preparation of the ABCC litigation policy	The ABC Commissioner has emphasised transparency. Who has been consulted in the preparation of the ABCC litigation policy?	Written
EW0466_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	Fair Work Ombudsman ABCC	Given the strong public interest in Ministerial appointments to the ABCC will the Minister consider adopting the approach that applies to Fair Work Australia appointments and consult the Opposition spokesperson during the appointment process?	Written
EW0467_11	Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission	Abetz	Deputy Commissioner Dalglish	On what date did Deputy Commissioner Dalglish determine that he would attend to matters in Perth instead of attending estimates? Did Deputy Commissioner Dalglish ask new Commissioner Johns to attend estimates? Did Commissioner Johns in any way, directly or indirectly, advise Deputy Commissioner Dalglish that he was not required to attend estimates? Did Deputy Commissioner Dalglish make arrangements to attend Perth before or after any conversation with Commissioner Johns? Did Commissioner Johns advise Deputy Commissioner Dalglish that only he and the chief Financial Officer would be attending estimates? Did Commissioner Johns in any way direct, require, indicate, or give the impression to Deputy Commissioner Dalglish that he would not be required to attend estimates?	Written

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EW0468_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Innovation Fund panel members	"Was the Department satisfied with the performance of Innovation Fund panel members? How many employment outcomes were achieved?"	Written
EW0469_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	JSA sub-contracting arrangements	Approximately how many providers currently have a sub-contracting arrangement in place with another provider to provide elements of the Job Services Australia program?	Written
EW0470_11	Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission	Abetz	ABC Commissioner proposal to access ABCC accumulated surpluses from past years	Has the ABC Commissioner approached the department of Finance about the proposal to access ABCC accumulated surpluses from past years? Has the ABC Commissioner consulted the Department about this proposal? Has the ABC Commissioner obtained the agreement of the Minister to pursue this funding strategy?	Written
EW0471_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Back	Commonwealth sponsored places	Government funding of commonwealth sponsored university places differ based on the type of university course in recognition of the cost of delivering different courses. Provide detail on each of the following: a) The formula used to calculate the differing costs of university fees. b) Using the following courses as examples detail how formula is applied to commonwealth sponsored places: i) Arts ii) Arts / Law iii) Veterinary Medicine iv) Medicine v) Agriculture vi) Agribusiness	Written
EW0472_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Back	Additional Education Provider funding for rural and regional Campuses	Additional per capita funding is allocated for students attending rural and regional university campuses. Provide detail on the following: a) Eligibility criteria for the per capita funding? b) Formula used to calculate the additional per capita funding including distances and rates. c) Breakdown of all institutions / campuses and the rates that apply to each one d) What is the process or mechanism for rural/regional university campuses to apply for funding to take account of the additional cost of maintaining campuses in these environments? - Information to be broken down into individual steps e) How much is allocated in the current budget for campuses in each state/territory?	Written
EW0473_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Boyce	DEN	Are you able to provide disaggregated statistics on the open employment of people with disability?	Written
EW0474_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Cash	Humanitarian Settlement Services	What is the fulltime employment rate after 3, 4 and 5 years of Humanitarian Settlement Services persons?	Written
EW0475_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Cash	Humanitarian entrants to Australia	In terms of humanitarian entrants to Australia, what is the full time employment rate by nationality?	Written
EW0476_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Cash	English language program	"Is there any correlation between the completion rates of the English language program and participation in full time employment?"	Written
EW0477_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Cash	Humanitarian entrants - Workplace Participation	What are the barriers for humanitarian entrants having full workplace participation?	Written
EW0478_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Cash	Humanitarian entrants - English language skills program	How many humanitarian entrants are going into workplaces not having completed the English language skills program?	Written
EW0479_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Cash	Humanitarian entrants - Workplace Participation	"Does the employer receive additional funding to assists these people complete English language courses while on the job."	Written
EW0480_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Cash	Pacific Islander Seasonal Workers	How many Pacific Islander Seasonal Workers are currently working in Australia? How much has it cost to enact this program? Where are these workers located by state? What is the process when the visa expires?	Written
EW0481_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Colbeck	TAS Jobs and Skills Expo	Why was a Jobs and Skills Expo held in Devonport on July 30, 2010? What plans are in place for further Jobs and Skills Expo events to be held in Tasmania? What locations and dates are confirmed?	Written
EW0482_11	Cross Portfolio	Fielding	Post-election brief for a returned Labor Government	"Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a returned Labor Government (the so-called 'Red Book')? Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief? Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions? If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief? If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?"	Written
EW0483_11	Cross Portfolio	Fielding	Post-election brief for a newly elected Coalition Government	"Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a newly elected Coalition Government (the 'Blue Book')? Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief? If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief? If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department? Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?"	Written

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EW0484_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Fifield	Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) - ACEPT and Tuition Assurance Scheme	Are ACPET, in relation to the Tuition Assurance Scheme, requiring aviation schools to pay a percentage of their up front fees for the theoretical total of students they can enrol?	Written
EW0485_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Fifield	Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) - closure of aviation school	Is it the case that the recent closure of an aviation school caused the Commonwealth to refund monies owed to students via the ESOS assurance fund?	Written
EW0486_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Fifield	Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) - refunds to students of aviation schools	How much money has been refunded to students from the ESOS assurance fund to students of aviation schools?	Written
EW0487_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Fifield	Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) - ACEPT requirements	Is the ACPET requirement for a payment equivalent to a percentage of up front fees for the theoretical total of enrolled students a response to the recent closure case mentioned above?	Written
EW0488_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Fifield	Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) - flight schools	Does the Government consider it reasonable that flight schools are required to pay an up front amount based on theoretical student numbers yet are not entitled to a refund should this amount exceed what is payable on actual student numbers? Will the Government take action to rectify this situation so that flight schools are only required to pay monies to ACPET based on actual enrolments?	Written
EW0489_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Fifield	BER funding for schools for children with disability (special schools)	Is it correct that the main criterion for the allocation of BER funds to schools was based on student numbers? i.e. the more enrolled students, the more funding the school received?	Written
EW0490_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Fifield	BER funding for schools for children with disability (special schools)	Did the Department or the Minister consider how this approach disadvantages special schools for children with a disability? These schools generally have much higher funding requirements per head of student population – was this taken into account at all when allocating BER funding?	Written
EW0491_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Fifield	BER funding for schools for children with disability (special schools)	Will the Minister consider building into your funding criteria consideration of the additional and higher needs of schools that cater for children with disabilities?	Written
EW0492_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Fifield	Digital Education Revolution - Laptops and students with disabilities	I understand that the laptops that are available to schools under the Digital Education Revolution program are not accessible for students with a disability. Are you aware of this issue?	Written
EW0493_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Fifield	Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy - Disability Support Pension Employment Incentive Pilot	I understand that the pilot scheme was to provide job opportunities for 1,000 Australians who receive the DSP. Can the Department advise how many people on the DSP have been employed as a result of this scheme? How many of those were employed for the full 26 weeks, i.e., how many employers received the full \$3,000 subsidy? Does the Department have data on how many pilot scheme participants who received full time work as a result of this scheme and who have continued in their employment beyond the 26 week threshold for employer subsidy? i.e. how many have gained permanent full time employment through the scheme?	Written
EW0494_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Fifield	CRICOS and PRISMS	It is planned to suspend all registration to the Commonwealth Register of Institutions & Courses for Overseas Students CRICOS from the 31st December 2010; What is the rationale for this? What consultation took place prior to this decision? Which Minister took this decision? What provisions have been made if a CRICOS Provider's re-registration application has not been processed prior to the 31st December 2010? What measures have been taken educate the providers on how to use the PRISMS internet reporting system? Has training been offered / provided? Will training be offered on an ongoing basis?	Written
EW0495_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Fifield	Insight schools for the blind and vision impaired - funding for Victoria	Has the Department been asked to prepare any advice for the Government in relation to the funding of Insight School for the Blind and Vision Impaired in Victoria?	Written
EW0496_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Fifield	Insight schools for the blind and vision impaired Victoria briefings	Has the Department provided any briefings to Government ministers, parliamentary secretaries or their offices in relation to the funding of Insight School for the Blind and Vision Impaired in Victoria? Please give details.	Written
EW0497_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Fifield	Insight schools for the blind and vision impaired - capital funding	Will the Government provide capital funding for Insight School for the Blind & Vision Impaired?	Written

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EW0498_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Fifield	Computers in schools - funding for students with disabilities	Will the Government commit to funding schools for children with disability so that where they are entitled to a certain number of laptops under the computers in schools program, they are fully funded to purchase an equivalent number of accessible computers including the cost of all associated equipment?	Written
EW0499_11	Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority	Fifield	NAPLAN Testing for students with disability	Does the Government have any plans to implement NAPLAN testing at schools that cater for children with disability?	Written
EW0500_11	Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority	Fifield	NAPLAN Testing and students with disability	Is the Government aware of cases where students with disability at mainstream schools have been sent home on NAPLAN test days?	Written
EW0501_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Fifield	Computers in schools. Students with disabilities	I understand from particular schools that cater for children with disabilities that they have received some funding under the program to purchase computers that meet the needs of children with a disability. However, the funding is not adequate to meet the full purchase price of the accessible equipment, including keyboard and screen. Why has inadequate funding been provided for computers in schools for children with disability?	Written
EW0502_11	Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority	Fifield	NAPLAN Testing and students with disability	What measures has the Government taken to ensure that children with disability are not discriminated against when it comes to NAPLAN tests?	Written
EW0503_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Hanson-Young	TEQSA Performance Funding	No further information has been made available to universities since an initial discussion paper on performance indicators was released in December 2009. The responses to the discussion paper have not yet been made public. i. When will the indicators being used to allocate performance funding monies in 2011 advised to universities? ii. Will there be further consultation on this program?	Written
EW0504_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Hanson-Young	TEQSA purpose	What is the purpose of TEQSA? What particular problem is TEQSA designed to solve?	Written
EW0505_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Hanson-Young	TEQSA powers	Will TEQSA set, monitor and ensure compliance with standards? Is there not a case for separating the standards-setting power from monitoring and compliance?	Written
EW0506_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Hanson-Young	TEQSA definitions	What is meant by 'national consistency'? What is meant by 'comparable benchmarks'?	Written
EW0507_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Hanson-Young	TEQSA - Registration & Re-registration	The Bradley report envisaged TEQSA as "a national regulator with stronger powers for registration and re-registration of all higher education providers". i. Have all the States agreed to refer their powers to the Commonwealth with respect to provider accreditation? ii. What are the implications of TEQSA's power for the State Acts establishing universities? iii. Is re-registration is to be based on (a) a comprehensive review of a provider's operations; or (b) periodic thematic reviews of all providers whether by function (e.g. assessment) or field (e.g. law); or (c) specific investigations of signals of operational deficiency or complaints by students and others? iv. Is the re-registration bar to be at a whole-of-institution level, or at program (qualification) level or at some other level (e.g. disciplinary units of study), or some combination of each?	Written
EW0508_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Hanson-Young	TEQSA risk	Earlier this year, then Education Minister Julia Gillard said "TEQSA's approach to regulation is based on risk, leaving high-quality providers to flourish without unnecessary regulation." (Gillard 2010) i. What constitutes risk? What risk indicators are to be used? ii. Will there be risk gradients (e.g. high, medium, low)? iii. What would constitute a light-touch audit as distinct from a moderate or intensive audit? iv. What will be the consequences for institutions found to be deficient? v. Will they be deregistered? vi. Will they be ineligible for public funding? vii. Will decisions about registration and funding be matters for TEQSA or for governments? viii. How much time would an institution have to rectify deficiencies?	Written
EW0509_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Hanson-Young	TEQSA - audit function	"Revision of the process for accreditation and audit" In what ways will the audit functions of the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) be changed?	Written
EW0510_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Hanson-Young	TEQSA standards-based arrangements	The review of Australian Higher education argued that because "the standards required in universities underpin quality across the rest of the higher education system, it is imperative that the Australian community has confidence in the standards of its universities and that there is a transparent, national system in place to assure the same (sic) standards are required of all providers of higher education" (Bradley et al., 2008). i. How are standards to be defined? ii. To what extent are the standards to be the same across all providers? iii. Is it to be understood that a Bachelor's degree in a given field is to be the same for all students in all higher education institutions? iv. How appropriate and meaningful is it to compare diverse institutions having different populations and purposes against the same standards?	Written

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EW0511_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Hanson-Young	TEQSA outcomes	The adoption of outcomes and standards-based arrangements" The Bradley Report referred to "the adoption of outcomes and standards-based arrangements". i. What is the meaning of 'outcomes'? ii. Do outcomes include the employment and income benefits for graduates? iii. What is meant by 'standards-based arrangements'?	Written
EW0512_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Hanson-Young	TEQSA - outcomes and standards-based arrangements	"better information relating to outcomes and standards-based arrangements" i. Is it to be the role for TEQSA to insist on compliance of all higher education providers with the same standards? ii. Does the Government intend to adopt standardised tests for addressing the learning outcomes of higher education students or graduates? iii. Does the Government intend to have a common curriculum in higher education as is happening in primary and secondary schooling?	Written
EW0513_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Hanson-Young	TEQSA - process of consultation	"Unfortunately, Gillard has chosen to develop these detailed proposals in private. She has not published a proposals paper, the public has not been invited to submit comments and participants' detailed criticisms and alternative proposals have not been published. So a member of the public can't judge the merits of the competing claims" (Moodie, 2010). i. What has been the extent of consultation to date with higher education institutions? ii. What will be the process of consultation prior to the TEQSA legislation being introduced in to the Parliament? iii. Is there any special urgency that would drive the Government to rush legislation in this complex area ahead of an open process of consultation?	Written
EW0514_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Nash	Experience Plus training grants	i. How Many Experience Plus training grants for workers over 55 have been taken up by employers so far? ii. How are Experience Plus training grants being advertised? iii. What is the advertising budget for the Experience Plus program iv. How many workers are expected to take up Experience Plus training? v. Under the Experience Plus program, what is deemed a "suitable course"?	Written
EW0515_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Nash	Skills and Training Information Centres	How many Skills and Training Information Centres are currently in operation? Where are they located? What is the annual budget for these centres?	Written
EW0516_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Nash	Productivity Places Program	How many retrenched workers benefited from the structural adjustment element of the Productivity Places Program? This program has now seen cuts of \$80 million over 5 years. Is it then fair to say that the uptake fell well short of target? Where will this funding be redirected? What was the completion rate for Productivity Places courses undertaken through the Structural Adjustment component of the PPP?	Written
EW0517_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Nash	Productivity Places Program in States & Territories	How is the Department monitoring the number of Productivity Places being offered by each State or Territory? Are all States offering Productivity Places? How many were undertaken in each of the States and Territories in the last financial year? (Please provide a breakdown- happy for this to be taken on notice). What were the top 10 courses by commencement? What were the top 10 courses by completion? What percentage of students completed a PPP course?	Written
EW0518_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Nash	Productivity Places Program - Work experience	How many people who commenced a PPP did this as their Work Experience Activity as part of their Job Services Australia programme?	Written
EW0519_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Nash	PPP- Language, Literacy and Numeracy	How many providers offered Language, Literacy and Numeracy under the previous contract? Has the Department been made aware of concerns of providers surrounding the tender for the Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program?	Written
EW0520_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Nash	Trade Training Centres	Of the 2,650 planned Trades Training Centres, how many have been built and are in operation? Does this figure include centres incorporated into third party sites, such as TAFE's? How many of these are in clusters? How many of these centres are in non-government schools? In June, there were 22 centres, how many of these centres are offering new qualifications? How many students have commenced a course in a Trade Training Centre? Have any funds been set aside for the further construction of centres? How many Trade Training Centres does the department expect to be built this year? What is the average cost to date for each centre?	Written
EW0521_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Nash	Trade Training Centres - Round 3	How much money has been budgeted for round 3 applications? Have applications for this round opened? How many applications have been received in Round 3?	Written
EW0522_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Nash	500 Pre-Apprenticeship Places	Of the 500 Pre-Apprenticeship Places announced for disadvantaged South Australians on 15th July 2010, how many have been taken up? What is the time frame for these places to be commenced? How is the Department advertising these places?	Written

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EW0523_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Nash	Trade Training Centres - Cadetships	What work has been done to institute Trades Training Cadetships? What does the department estimate the cost of the program will be? Given the governments previous statements about expenditure requiring offsets, what programs will be cut to fund the program? How do trade Training Cadetships differ from school based Apprenticeships? Will school based apprenticeships continue to be offered?	Written
EW0524_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	Youth Allowance Indexation	Please provide the rationale to explain why payments for young people are indexed just once a year? What would it cost to index payments (Youth Allowance, Abstudy and Austudy) twice a year, along with Newstart Allowance? Youth Allowance has not been increased, apart from annual CPI increases, since 1987. If YA had been indexed twice annually, like Newstart Allowance, what would the rates paid be currently?	Written
EW0525_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	Youth Allowance	What is the evidence that young people have lower costs of living than other groups in the community?	Written
EW0526_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	ISP - superannuation	Can you provide an explanation as to why young people on income support payments (Youth Allowance, Abstudy and Austudy) are not able to access the early release of superannuation under the existing hardship provisions? Is it correct that the current rules deny access to super for young people with terminal illness? If so, why is this so and what is being done about this anomaly?	Written
EW0527_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	Advisory Group for Young People	Has Centrelink been encouraged to establish an Advisory Group for Young People to inform it about service delivery issues for this group?	Written
EW0528_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	SEAM	How many schools are now taking part in the program? Has school attendance improved in the schools taking part in the program? If so, by how much?	Written
EW0529_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	SEAM	How much has been spent on this program to date?	Written
EW0530_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	Henry Tax Review	What would be the annual cost (for 2009-10 and 2010-11) of implementing Recommendation 83 of the Henry Report to raise single rates of Allowance payments to a higher proportion of the married couple rate of each allowance (assume for these purposes the same proportion, 66.33%, as applies to pensions), disaggregated by each allowance payment? How many recipients of each allowance would gain income and what would be the average gain? What would be the remaining gap between each of those payments and the single pension rate?	Written
EW0531_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	Historic Payment Rate Data	Can you provide data on annual values of the following over the past two decades: i. single pension rates ii. single Newstart Allowance rates iii. single Youth Allowance (away from home) rates iv. couples pension rates v. couples Newstart Allowance rates vi. couples Youth Allowance (away from home) rates vii. single parents pension rates viii. single parents Newstart Allowance rates ix. single parents Youth Allowance (away from home) rates x. cut out points' for all the above payments, xi. MTAW, AWOTE for fulltime adults, xii. Median fulltime ordinary time earnings xiii. Median fulltime total earnings xiv. minimum wages xv. CPI	Written
EW0532_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	Job Seeker Assistance data	Please provide the following data regarding jobseekers assisted by JSA providers during the last quarter for which these data are available: i. The number of jobseekers (disaggregated by duration of unemployment, broad age categories, sex, disability status and Indigenous status) in each Stream ii. The number of jobseekers (disaggregated in the same way) within each Stream in the work experience phase iii. Average full and part time employment outcomes (disaggregated in the same way) three months after completion of participation in each Stream (where 'completion' refers to exits from JSA, upgrading to a different stream, or completion of the first 12 months of activity within a Stream) or if this is not available, full and part time employment outcomes six months after commencing in a Stream iv. Average full and part time employment outcomes (disaggregated in the same way) six months after commencement of the work experience phase of assistance (for those who have commenced over 6 months ago) v. The overall proportion of jobseekers in each Stream, both prior to and during the work experience phase, attracting pathway outcome fee payments and full outcome fee payments respectively vi. Average expenditures from the employment pathway fund for	Written
EW0533_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	JSA data in the Labour Market Assistance Outcomes	When will JSA data be available in the Labour Market Assistance Outcomes publication, and what information will be published?	Written
EW0534_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	Income support payments	Please provide a breakdown of the latest available estimates for the number of recipients of the following income support payments: DSP, PPS, PP, CP, NSA, YA (student), and YA (other) – both total numbers and disaggregated by: i. State/territory ii. Age iii. Sex iv. Indigenous status v. For principal carers of children on activity tested payments, whether the youngest child is 6 years or over vi. Partial capacity to work.	Written
EW0535_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	SEAM	Please provide the number of people that have had their income support suspended as a result this program.	Written

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EW0536_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	Youth Allowance data	Please provide the following data on Youth Allowance (Other) recipients: i. Overall number of YA(O) recipients, by sex and age group (under 18, 18-20, 21 years and over) and Indigenous and disability status ii. Number of recipients (disaggregated as above) who are early school leavers iii. Distribution of Employment Pathway Plan activities of early school leavers on YA(O) (e.g. vocational training, participation in Stream 4) iv. The proportion of early school leavers on YA(O) that, six months after a point in time when they received this payment, transitioned to (a) employment and off income support (b) full time education or training and off YA(O) (c) other income support payments (d) other destinations v. A breakdown of types and durations of education and training courses undertaken by early school leavers on YA(O), including those who transferred to YA(student) and the proportion that successfully completed each type of course	Written
EW0537_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	Costs of JSA and work experience	What is the average unit cost of assistance in each of the Streams of JSA, and specifically in the work experience phase of each stream?	Written
EW0538_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Siewert	HECS modelling	a) Has the Department done any modelling on the benefits of introducing a HECS rebate for new graduates for every 12 months of work completed in rural/remote private or public dental positions similar to the arrangement for doctors? b) If so, does it indicate any benefits?	Written
EW0539_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	Social Security rules	1. Are the changes to the Liquid Assets Waiting Period to become a permanent feature of the Social Security rules? 2. Will the changes continue beyond March 2011, the date they were initially scheduled to cease?	Written
EW0540_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Xenophon	South Australia provider	Earlier this year, I wrote to the Department and made them aware of concerns regarding the practices of a particular provider in South Australia. What measures did the Department take in investigating these concerns?	Written
EW0541_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Xenophon	SPs - Customer Service	What standards of customer service does the Department expect from providers? i. How are these standards monitored? ii. Given reports that providers are double-booking appointments and forcing consultants to deal with two clients at once, does the Department feel that these standards are being met?	Written
EW0542_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Xenophon	SPs - Complaints	How does the Department deal with complaints made against providers?	Written
EW0543_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Xenophon	SPs - restrictions	Are there any restrictions on the organisations that providers can place job seekers with? i. For example, are the organisations expected to meet minimum standards of health and safety? If so, how is this monitored? If not, why not? ii. How does the Department respond to claims that providers have been placing job seekers in organisations currently under investigation for breaches of workplace safety?	Written
EW0544_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Xenophon	BER- state governments administering BER	According to the responses I received from the Department to the questions I placed on notice last Estimates, the Department relies on State Government departments to administer the BER. i. Can the Department outline what checks and balances are in place at a Federal level to ensure the grants are spent appropriately? ii. How does the Department ensure that schools (and consequently taxpayers) are getting value for money on buildings, and that quotes are not inflated or that unnecessary structures are being built?	Written
EW0545_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Xenophon	BER funding	Given the specific example of water tanks I raised last Estimates, does the Department not have concerns that Federal money is being used to meet DECS (State) requirements – requirements that DECS would otherwise have to fund in addition to the BER? i. Where does the Department draw the line in relation to BER funding being used to pay for State Government-based infrastructure?	Written
EW0546_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Xenophon	Job Services Australia provider contracts	Can the Department outline what checks and balances are in place to ensure providers contracted by Job Services Australia are complying with the terms of their contracts?	Written
EW0547_11	Agency - Comcare	Humphries	interstate claiming	Senator HUMPHRIES—Is it common practice for a team or officer from a different location to make an assessment about a claim from an officer of Comcare itself? For example, if a claim were coming from a person in Canberra, would it usually be made by a person from another state office? Mr O'Connor—That is the customary practice. It was not the situation with regard to Ms Ryan's claim. Senator HUMPHRIES—Why not? Mr O'Connor—I am not aware of the detailed background, but I will take it on notice to get you an explanation why normal practice was not followed. However, irrespective of that, we believe that the fact that the claim was determined by somebody who did not know Ms Ryan, who was not connected with her or her work—	20/10/2010

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EW0548_11	Agency - Comcare	Humphries	Comcare staff- Mr Richards	<p>Senator HUMPHRIES—Ms Janean Richards is, or at least was at this time, an officer of Comcare. Is that correct? Mr O'Connor—Correct. Senator HUMPHRIES—I understand her husband, David Richards, has appeared on a number of occasions as counsel for Comcare. Is that correct? Mr O'Connor—I believe so. I can take on notice the number of occasions. Senator HUMPHRIES—I would appreciate knowing in how many Comcare cases Mr Richards was retained, what percentage of cases in which Mr Richards was retained went to full hearing in the AAT and what percentage of matters that Mr Richards was handling were settled before the cases were actually heard in the court or the AAT with Comcare paying legal costs to the claimants. I understand that Ms Richards has now left Comcare. Is that the case? Mr O'Connor—Correct. Senator HUMPHRIES—Is Mr Richards still being retained as counsel for Comcare? Mr O'Connor—I am not aware, but I will be able to take that on notice.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0549_11	Agency - Comcare	Bilyk	Comcare Administration Appeals Tribunal	<p>Mr O'Connor—I understand the context that the Senator is explaining with regard to her constituent. My recollection, if I do have the right matter in mind, is that the AAT— Senator BILYK—It is a fairly ongoing one. Mr O'Connor—provided a very comprehensive consideration in its 'reasons for decision' about the competing evidence. I would have to take it on notice to look again at that particular element—whether or not treating practitioners or medico-legal experts who were retained by the federal worker in this case did not have the opportunity to have that material before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Senator BILYK—I would appreciate it if you could do that.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0550_11	Agency - Comcare	Marshall	comcare - people seeking to return to work due to five per cent penalty.	<p>CHAIR—We know one of the policy rationales for applying the notional five per cent superannuation penalty to permanently injured workers is that it might encourage a return to work. In the May estimates you told me you were not aware of any miraculous recoveries of permanently injured people because of that five per cent penalty applied to them. Since then have there been any miraculous recoveries as a result of applying the five per cent penalty to anyone? Mr O'Connor—For the sake of continuity, I will ask my colleague Mr Kibble to continue his discussion with you on that matter. Mr Kibble—We provided some evidence through questions on notice in relation to nine employees who could have an ability to earn or return to work out of 391 people receiving incapacity payments under that particular provision. Nothing has particularly changed in the circumstances of those people, but I can confirm that for you on notice. CHAIR—So you believe that those people who are seeking to return to work because of the five per cent penalty that is being applied to their payments? Mr Kibble—They return to work for a range of reasons because that is what we are aiming at and what they are aiming at as well, of course. I will confirm if there has been any change. I do not suspect</p>	20/10/2010
EW0551_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Ryan	FWO- appointing Fair Work inspectors	<p>Senator RYAN—Are most contracts with those states publicly available? Mr Wilson—They are public documents. There is an element of commercial in confidence with them. I am not sure I would want to have them completely released, put it that way. Senator RYAN—You say they are public documents. Are they public at the moment? Mr Wilson—No, they are not public at the moment. They are public in the sense that they are a document between two public service agencies— Senator RYAN—How is that commercial in confidence? am not sure I would want every state to know exactly the terms on which other states agreed to provide services. Senator Chris Evans—Senator, are you after the commercial aspects of that or are you after something else? Senator RYAN—I would appreciate having a look at the contracts, but if the numbers are the sensitive part, as opposed to the terms of the service delivery and various processes, I would be happy for you to delete those. Senator Chris Evans—Let us take it on notice, knowing that that is what you are after. If we can exclude the commercially sensitive bits and we can release it, we will. We will take it on notice formally.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0552_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Ryan	FWO- information re: Fair work inspectors.	<p>Senator RYAN—Are the nominees of the state agencies that have been appointed inspectors, as we discussed earlier, publicly available? Mr Wilson—They are not. There is no reason why they cannot be. Senator RYAN—Can you take that on notice—the names of the people who have been appointed as Fair Work Inspectors. As I understand it, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia nominate people to undertake these visits and to be Fair Work Inspectors. You consider those suggestions—they are not nominations—and then you appoint them. I would be interested in knowing who they are. CHAIR—It is not actually usual for names of public servants at that level to be provided to the committee. There is not necessarily any rule about it, but I know that information has been sought over the years I have been involved with this committee, and there has been a reluctance to provide it. Senator RYAN—I will be honest and explain the reason—I want to know the background of the people who have been appointed as Fair Work Inspectors. CHAIR—That information has been sought about other appointments without necessarily providing the names. Senator RYAN—I am happy with that; that is why I said what I said. Senator Chris Evans—I think we will be able to help with that.</p>	20/10/2010

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EW0553_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Ryan	FWO - educational visits	Senator RYAN—With these 19,478 educational visits, have any prosecutions or otherwise action for breaches flowed from them? Mr Scully—I do not believe so. I am not aware of any. In fact, the information I have is that during these visits some non-compliances have been identified which the employer has volunteered to rectify at that time, and no further action has been taken apart from paying the correct entitlements to the employee. Senator RYAN—Sure, which presumably is the aim of the visit in the first place. Mr Scully—Indeed. Senator RYAN—How many of these visits have been the result of the request of employers versus the direction of the state government agencies or yourselves? Mr Scully—I do not have accurate information on that, Senator; I can take that on notice.	20/10/2010
EW0554_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Ryan	FWO - businesses that have received multiple visits	Senator RYAN—And this is one of the reasons I was interested at looking at the contracts, to look at this information that can be disclosed. I will move on quickly as I appreciate others have questions. Do you know of any businesses that have received multiple visits out of those 19,478? Have they all been single visits? Have some areas or businesses been subjected to, shall we say, more gracious attention from some of our state government agencies? Mr Scully—I believe there has been no doubling up, but I do not have a list here of the 20,000 that have been undertaken, so I will check that. Senator RYAN—If you are aware of doubling up, I would appreciate it if you let me know. Mr Scully—I am not aware of it, but I will check.	20/10/2010
EW0555_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	FWO internet and PayCheck	Senator ABETZ—I have been told, for example, that if you use the pay calculator or PayCheck for the wine industry award, it does not show the transitional wage rate to be paid but the rate as it will be on 1 July 2014 at the end of the transitional period. Has that been drawn to your attention? Mr Wilson—I do not have direct knowledge of it and neither does Mr Bongio who is here this morning. It is possible. Senator ABETZ—In that case if you can take it on notice. I would invite you to not only check the wine industry award pay check but the others as well. I have not looked at this personally but the information I have received is that is what has occurred. Of course, this has led to considerable ill-feeling between workers and employers when an employer says, 'No, I only have to pay you so much.' Then the worker says, 'No, have a look at this PayCheck on the Fair Work Ombudsman site,' they go through it and a completely different figure comes up. Then the employer worked back and, I am told, realised that it was that final figure as of 1 July 2014 and was not going through the transitional steps. I cannot vouch for that fact, but that is as it has been explained to me. If you could please take that on notice and let us know first whether that is the case and, second, what you are going to do to rectify it—or, if	20/10/2010
EW0556_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	FWO - Pay Calculator	Senator ABETZ—Let us not debate what we mean by the term 'glitch'. Has any concern been expressed that the pay calculator may not be as accurate as it ought to be? Mr Wilson—As I said in response to the earlier question, we have had industrial parties come to us and query the information. In a few instances that has been as a result of incorrect data; in other instances there has been an interpretation issue. Senator ABETZ—So in short, without verballing you, the answer is yes, you are aware and the Fair Work Ombudsman has acknowledged that, at least in some, the error has been on the part of information that has been inputted by your staff. Is that correct? Mr Wilson—Yes. Senator ABETZ—That is fine. It is a new system and these things are bound to happen, so I am not overly critical of the system that you are seeking to implement. We are agreed it has happened in some circumstances. Are you able to tell us how many such complaints or indications that there may be an error have been provided to you which has required an adjustment to the information? Mr Wilson—No, I am not. We would have to take that on notice.	20/10/2010
EW0557_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	FWO Website	Senator ABETZ—Do you think it might be wise to have some sort of statement on the website that just because you have a valid complaint it does not mean that the Fair Work Ombudsman can necessarily assist in every case? Mr Wilson—I would be absolutely certain that that is there now. Senator ABETZ—If somebody could confirm that for us and point out where on the website it could be found, that would be helpful.	20/10/2010
EW0558_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	Overtime of horticulture Industry Award.	Senator ABETZ—I am sure you will be just as obliging to small businesses that make errors and have difficulty in responding and coming to a position in relation to their requirements under the Fair Work Act. As I understand it, legal opinion in relation to this matter of overtime under the Horticulture Industry Award was obtained. Mr Wilson—I cannot recall specifically whether it was, but it would not be unusual for it to be obtained. Senator ABETZ—It could well have been obtained and I believe that that information could have just sat somewhere without being forwarded to the federation and neither was it reflected on your website. So you received some legal advice which led to your reconsideration of the entitlement to overtime of casual workers. How long did it take from receipt to the website being changed and the National Farmers Federation being told about that legal opinion? Mr Wilson—That one we need to consider for taking on notice. I am uncomfortable responding to the question because it invites a waiver of privilege, ultimately. I am apprehensive about that. Senator ABETZ—I am not asking for the legal advice. What I am asking is: when did you receive the legal advice, which I understand was the precipitator for changing the information on your website?	20/10/2010

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EW0559_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	FWO - superannuation threshold	<p>Senator ABETZ—Has the Fair Work Ombudsman had any concerns expressed to it about the confusion in relation to the superannuation threshold? As I understand it, under the tax act or whatever it is called, under taxation law in this country, the threshold is at \$450 per month that super has to be paid for an employee if they earn more than that, whereas I understand that some awards have in fact reduced that to \$350—for example, the restaurant award. Has that confusion been expressed to your office as to which one prevails, what do they need to do? Mr Wilson—I am not aware of that issue. That does not mean that in a call to our contact centre someone has not said, 'What on earth is this and what does it mean?' But I am certainly not aware of it from a policy point of view. Senator ABETZ—I understand that you might not be, but would the hotline or something like that be able to find that out for us without too much work? Mr Wilson—We could not do that without too much work. Senator ABETZ—All right, in that case I will not to pursue it. Mr Wilson—What I am trying to say is if it were a substantive issue that had been put to us formally, we would be aware of it. Senator ABETZ—It has been put to me by some people—that is, which one prevails and why. If the threshold is \$450 per</p>	20/10/2010
EW0560_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	Good faith cannot be prosecuted or fined	<p>Senator ABETZ—So you are aware of that sentiment, that is all I was asking. Moving on. You might not be able to answer this question, so I will flick this one to the minister, about looking at the possibility of providing binding advice from the Fair Work Ombudsman so that if advice is sought and obtained by an employer that is later found by—best endeavours used, and I accept that that is what the Fair Work Ombudsman does—Fair Work Australia or a court of law to be wrong that the employer who follows that in good faith cannot be prosecuted or fined. Has the government turned its mind to instituting such a procedure? Senator Chris Evans—The issue was raised with me in passing, but I have not given it any detailed consideration. I am happy to give you a response when the department is here, if you like, if you want to raise it again, because it is not something I have been provided with any detailed advice on. I am sure the department will be able to give you a response. So maybe we will come back to it when the department is back here this arvo. Senator ABETZ—For the purposes of this, in case I forget, can we take it on notice here and now for the department—so that is on the Hansard—but I accept what you are saying, Minister.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0561_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	FWO - Database	<p>Senator ABETZ—And have you—and when I say 'you' I mean the ombudsman's office—asked for databases from employer groups? Mr Wilson—I am not aware of a database—are you? Senator ABETZ—I have been told that, yes, you have. When I say 'you' I mean— Mr Wilson—You know which association? That might help us to look. Senator ABETZ—Yes I do, because I have the diary note right in front of me from when I visited them, but I will, if need be, get back with a question on notice because I am not necessarily prepared to divulge the association's name. Senator Chris Evans—I think Mr Wilson's general answer, Senator, is that he does not think so. But we will certainly take it on notice, and I think the office can check. Clearly if you have a particular association or business that you can alert us to, then that would obviously be helpful. But I understand that you may not want to.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0562_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	FWO - TAS	<p>Senator ABETZ—All right. Thank you. A quick Tasmanian matter: is the Fair Work Ombudsman currently investigating Ta Ann? Mr Wilson—We would have to take that on notice; we do not know.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0563_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Cameron	FWO- updated report	<p>Senator CAMERON—Is there an updated report from the report you gave in the questions on notice? Mr Campbell—I am sure I can get you that information, if you bear with me for one second. Senator CAMERON—I am happy for you to take that on notice. Mr Campbell—I am happy to do that.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0564_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Cameron	conditions of employment'	<p>Mr Wilson—We would, and it is foreseeable that there may well be some cleaners who are quite legitimately in a contracting arrangement and others who are not. Before you go, I have just been advised that in relation to our website we do have sham contracting arrangements set out on the website. They might be hard to find, and I will take that point but, for the record, I am told that they can be accessed through the tabs. First of all it says 'employment' then, secondly, 'contractors' and then there is a page relating to sham contracts. Senator CAMERON—There is no tab called 'employment'. There is 'conditions of employment'—is that the one? Mr Wilson—I think it is 'conditions of employment'. Senator CAMERON—So you have 'conditions of employment'? Then what is it? Mr Wilson—I am sorry—I thought we had that clarified. We will have to get back to you. Senator CAMERON—I still cannot find it there. Mr Wilson—We will still come back. I am sorry. Senator CAMERON—I think that just demonstrates the difficulty. If someone is worried about their employment, or if it is an employer who is worried about an Odco arrangement, there is no real up-front help on this site that I can see. So can you take it on notice? Mr Wilson—Sure.</p>	20/10/2010

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EW0565_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Cameron	FWO - licensed Odco agencies	Senator CAMERON—I can tell you that from the website, you cannot. I am wondering what audits you propose to take with Odco to deal with the concerns you have with this approach. Are you going to analyse these licensed Odco agencies? Who are they? What are they doing? Why have we ended up with a situation where three children were put in a position they should never have been put in? What are you doing about that? Ms Webster—We have taken on notice that you will be returning to the topic again. We have taken action when matters of this nature have come to us. I would reference the case that was filed just this week. We will continue to take those actions and we will address the questions that you have put to us today at the next Senate estimates.	20/10/2010
EW0566_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Cameron	FWO Odco Agencies	Mr Wilson—I understand that point. I think that is something we will have to take on notice. The inadequate answer I can give you is that the people we look at at the moment are the people in the workplace. On that basis, we look at those people and then move up to who else might be involved in any offence we may allege. The invitation that you are putting to us is that we take a more sophisticated examination of it. I understand that point. But to date we have not been operating in that manner. Senator CAMERON—I accept you have that approach. Let me tell you that it is on my radar now and it will be on my radar at estimates for the Fair Work Ombudsman. In relation to the successful prosecution of Land Choice Pty Ltd, did the Fair Work Ombudsman contact the Real Estate Employers Federation in relation to their role in this matter? Mr Wilson—We will have to take that on notice. We would need to speak to the investigator and litigator involved in that. I think that was a 2009 case.	20/10/2010
EW0567_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Cameron	FWO - inquiries	Senator FISHER—Has the ombudsman had inquiries made of it by workers in the insulation industry. If so, can you give us some details? Mr Ronson—The Fair Work Ombudsman received a number of inquiries and complaints earlier in the year particularly around the February period. We also received one particular representation from the National Secretary of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union regarding the employment practices of some installers. Senator FISHER—Okay, can you provide further details of each. Can you provide further details in February: the number of calls, the nature of calls, whether they translated into claims, from where the work alleged to be done—you know, by the worker—was done, states, duration of employment et cetera. Mr Ronson—To give you a precise response I will have to take that question on notice.	20/10/2010
EW0568_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Cameron	FWO Hotline	Senator FISHER—Could you please, and in respect of the earlier information that you volunteered, if we can translate the question that you will take on notice about the number of inquiries; the number of complaints; the number of investigations in respect of which states the work was done; over what period of time was the relevant employment, not necessarily disclosing the identity of the employers but any information about the employers themselves that the ombudsman has. If you could put all of that sort of detail in your answer to the question on notice. And in terms of period of time, let us say, can you provide that information for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. Tell me if this will be too onerous as you have had a transition in between. If that is too onerous, when you hear my next question you may be able to suggest how you can do it better because I know the organisation has transitioned in that period, apart from everything else. Do you discern a trend in the volume of inquiries and/or claims from workers in the insulation industry over that period of time?	20/10/2010
EW0569_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Fisher	Insulation industry	Senator FISHER—That is in respect of call data, what about in respect of investigation and claims data? Mr Ronson—That data is far more easily obtainable. Senator FISHER—Can I ask for all of that the same and then some, if you understand what I mean, on notice? Mr Ronson—You mean going back to 2007-08? Senator FISHER—Yes. Mr Ronson—Certainly.	20/10/2010
EW0570_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Fisher	Insulation installers contacted by FWO	Senator FISHER—Are you able to provide this committee on notice with the list that you got at that time firstly? What did you find out about the names on that list? Mr Ronson—With respect to the first question we would probably need to consider whether there are any impediments to production of that information. With respect to the second question, I can tell you that we attempted to contact 7,396 enterprises on 15 April 2010—	20/10/2010

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EW0571_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Fisher	Insulation installers	<p>Senator FISHER—So you contacted 7,400 installers on 15 April saying, ‘We are going to audit.’ What was the hit rate, if I can use that term, in terms of success in contacting those approximately 7,400 employers? Mr Ronson—I am just seeing whether I have that information in front of me. I may have to take that on notice. I believe we have that information.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—What is your gut feel, Mr Ronson? Did you find that most of them existed or were some of them non-contactable—number no longer connected, not at these premises, scarpered overnight with taxpayers’ money rebated by the government? Mr Ronson—Because I do not have that information in front of me I will not attempt to give you my feel, but the report is due soon and that information will be covered in the report.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0572_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Fisher	Potential gap in modern awards	<p>Senator FISHER—What would you say today, for example, to an employer who is currently covered by what under the old terminology used to be an enterprise award, which was, in layperson’s speak, about to be terminated and in theory replaced by a modern award? If an employer in that scenario rings you today, who’re they gonna call? They’re gonna call you. What’ cha gonna tell ‘em? Mr Wilson—I have just checked with the officer here. I have checked with Mr Bongji. If any of us did have that answer right now, he would be the one who did. We do not have those scrips with us. We would need to take that on notice.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0573_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	Transitional arrangements	<p>Senator ABETZ—.....Then is it agreed that the launch of the education fees, which include directing employers to the dedicated retail website, was delayed? Are we agreed with that? Mr Wilson—We will take that on notice. You are putting a proposition to us. I have not seen the email and I do not know what was in the mind of that particular officer when they communicated in that way. I think, with respect, from what I have heard of the email that you have read out that that probably provides the answer which I would give, which is that the agency felt, for reasons that I do not have with me right now, that it was more beneficial to delay it because of other priorities. We will provide you with an answer as to what may have got in the way, but it presumably will not satisfy beyond the answer that we have already given. Senator ABETZ—But what could be a greater priority than to tell employers about their responsibilities that start as of 1 July and say, ‘Oh, no, we’ve got other priorities and we’ll tell you a fortnight later and then you can try and backdate whatever you might have to do’? I would have thought your priority ought to be to get this up and out there so employers would be aware of their responsibilities on or before 1 July— Mr Wilson—We can take that on notice.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0574_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	Phone call made to Terang	<p>Senator ABETZ—All right. Can we be told what time this inspector, as the person has been described, was first contacted and requested to make that phone call of 2.14 pm and who instructed this inspector to make that phone call? Mr Campbell—I do not have that information available now. Senator ABETZ—Of course not, but take it on notice. You must be able to provide that—with the inspector being so meticulous.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0575_11	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	Abetz	Regarding EW0276_11	<p>Senator ABETZ—In DEEWR question on notice No. EW0276, we were told that your knowledge bank contained 1,794 articles as at 24 June 2010. Prior to that, we had 1,687, so we now have an extra 107 deposits in the knowledge bank—if I can describe it as such. Have there been any more since? Mr Wilson—I am sure there have been but we will need to take that on notice because we do not have the information with us.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0576_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	State jurisdictions	<p>Senator ABETZ—....I will just put a question on notice to Mr Giudice. I have been advised that the New South Wales Industrial Relations Commission does require members to resign from any political party of which they are a member. Could you take that on notice for me and ascertain whether that is correct and whether that practice is followed, to your knowledge, by any other industrial relations commission tribunal in Australia. It was just an email that was sent to me by somebody listening in, and I have got no idea if that is correct or not. Senator Chris Evans—Senator, can I just make a point. I think it is fair to ask the judge questions within his control but you have asked him to undertake a research project which is not part of his brief. So I think it would probably be best for you to ask the library. You can certainly ask him in terms of his responsibilities but it would be impossible for him to answer questions with any surety about other jurisdictions. Senator ABETZ—I do not want to embarrass Mr Giudice but he did give, I think in his evidence, that it was not a requirement of other jurisdictions— Mr Giudice—I am sorry if I gave that impression. I was not talking about any jurisdiction other than— perhaps my memory is faulty on that—I do not want to— Senator ABETZ—I do not want to, in</p>	20/10/2010

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EW0577_11	Agency - Fair Work Australia	Humphries	FWA - average approval time between lodgement and certification of agreement	<p>Senator HUMPHRIES—Do you break those figures up at all by states and territories or by whether the agreements have a union as party or whether they do not have a union as a party? Mr Nassios—No. Senator HUMPHRIES—So you cannot tell me whether agreements to which a union is a party are more or less likely to be approved quickly than an agreement without a union as a party? Mr Nassios—I do not believe we can. Cont. page 63 Senator HUMPHRIES—Is it possible to back cast the lodgements to obtain that information? Would that be difficult to do? Mr Nassios—I am certain it would be difficult to do. Whether it is possible, I would have to see how we collect the data and what we have in terms of the application is made. The application is made under the same section. Whether there is a union that is somehow a signatory to the agreement or not, to the extent that there may be a union that has sought to be covered by the agreement, which is a different process, there may be a capacity to somehow match that and then try to work out a differential of time if such a differential exists. But I have to say that at this stage I am thinking of a possibility, but whether that is practical—I would have to take that on notice.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0578_11	Agency - Fair Work Australia	Abetz	FWA - No. of days each commissioner sat	<p>Senator ABETZ—Mr Giudice, last estimates, and unfortunately I do not have a copy of the Hansard with me, there was a discussion as to whether or not we could have a list of the number of the cases or matters that each commissioner dealt with. You considered that that might be inappropriate and might interfere with the judicial process. I will not pursue that further today, other than to draw your attention to the annual view of 2009 of the District Court of New South Wales where on page 28 it actually lists the acting judges and their sitting days. Sure, it does not deal with the number of cases or matters that they may have dealt with. So I am wondering whether we could refine the request to the number of days that each commissioner sat. Could you take that on notice and consider it. I do not expect an answer now, and given your concerns I would expect that you might want to consider that in detail. Mr Giudice—Thank you, Senator.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0579_11	Agency - Fair Work Australia	Abetz	FWA - Regarding EW0286_11	<p>Senator ABETZ—Can I take you to question on notice—0286. In that question I asked, 'Is it accepted by Fair Work Australia that due to an error in registration the supported employment services award had the transition schedule deleted?' We are told that it did not contain a transitional schedule and that the award was varied on 15 March to include the transitional provisions as the result of an application to vary the award. It was accepted that the transitional schedule was not contained in it. I am wondering whether it is accepted that the fact the transitional schedule was not contained was due to an error in registration. That was the import of the question, and that has not been answered. Mr Hower—The award, when it was issued in December 2009, did not include a transitional schedule. Senator ABETZ—We know that. Was it an error that occurred within Fair Work Australia—as in an administrative error? Mr Hower—I am not sure of the proceedings before the tribunal that led to the making of the award. Senator ABETZ—I accept that you are not, and I accepted last time around that people at the table might not be aware of that. That is why the question was put on notice. The question related to whether it was due to an error in registration. With respect, I was hoping that a body</p>	20/10/2010
EW0580_11	Agency - Fair Work Australia	Abetz	FWA - Lodgements	<p>Senator ABETZ—Do you know how many have been lodged since then? Is this lodgements or actual certified or ratified agreements? Mr Nassios—They are lodgements. For the last financial year I do not think I will be able to give you a break-up of how many of those were approved, but I can indicate to you that 304 were finalised. Senator ABETZ—Can you take on notice how many were approved, please, since Fair Work Australia started. That would be helpful. Mr Nassios—Yes.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0581_11	Agency - Fair Work Australia	Abetz	FWA - Regarding EW0280_11	<p>Senator ABETZ—That is fine. I will take you to question on notice EW0280_11, where I asked about the number that were lodged before 1 January and how many are still awaiting their assessment et cetera. I was told: Of the 3,825 single enterprise applications lodged before 1 January 2010, 3,528 were finalised as at 30 June 2010. The median time taken from lodgment to finalisation was 48 days. I am just wondering how we are going with that. Are we getting them done quicker? I think we had a bit of a performance indicator suggested by the former minister—or two ministers ago now—Ms Gillard, that they were looking at, I think, seven days. So how are we going with the median time taken from lodgement? Mr Nassios—It has shortened since the time that question was answered. Senator ABETZ—Yes, from 48 to 20. Mr Nassios—As to what it may have been in the last three months, just bear with me. Senator ABETZ—If you do not have it to hand, take it on notice. Mr Nassios—I will take it on notice. Thank you.</p>	20/10/2010

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EW0582_11	Agency - Fair Work Australia	Abetz	FWA - EW0285_11	Senator ABETZ—You kindly provided a list, in answer to question EW0285, of applications for award variations. The Clerks—Private Sector Award had 13 variation applications and the General Retail Industry Award had 27. Are you able to give us a brief snapshot as to why those two awards have had so many applications for variation? Is it that there were matters in the modern award that might not have been as well expressed as otherwise or that the industry has moved and new times require changes to the modern award? Are we able to provide any detail as to that or not? Mr Nassios—I will have to rely on Mr Hower for any information he may be able to provide. Mr Hower—I will take that on notice.	20/10/2010
EW0583_11	Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission	Cameron	ABCC staff in WA - former officers of WA police service	Senator CAMERON—Are any of the ABCC staff in Western Australia former officers of the Western Australian police service? Mr Johns—I would have to take that on notice. Certainly there are members of our staff who are ex-police officers. I do not have a state-by-state break-up of that. Senator CAMERON—Could you advise me whether the ABCC officer who received the statement from Sergeant Lee after the meeting was a former Western Australian police officer? Mr Johns—I would have to take that on notice—sorry: I can tell you that as at 18 October 2010 in Western Australia, out of the 19 inspectors we have, seven of them have a police background and 12 do not. I will have to take on notice whether the inspector in this matter has a police background. Senator CAMERON—That is what I am interested in.	20/10/2010
EW0584_11	Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission	Cameron	Approach by ABCC office to the police	Senator CAMERON—So, at every meeting that takes place, you in the ordinary course of business would seek advice from the New South Wales police, Western Australia Police. 'Did you have an officer there who can provide us with advice'—is that how you operate? Mr Johns—I would expect my inspectors to make inquiries about who was at the meeting to find out who might be able to give information that is relevant to the investigation. I would expect my inspectors to treat a member of the police force who might be able to give that information no differently to a bystander who might otherwise also have been at the public meeting. Senator CAMERON—Who did your officer contact in the Western Australia Police? Mr Johns—Bear with me—I might have to take that on notice; I do.	20/10/2010
EW0585_11	Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission	Cameron	Bombing of CFMEU office in Lidcombe	Senator CAMERON—..... I turn now to the bombing of the CFMEU offices in Lidcombe. The former ABCC commissioner took about two weeks to write to the CFMEU to seek any advance on that issue. Mr Johns—There was a letter on 31 May. The bombing occurred on 13 May. Senator CAMERON—Yes, there was a couple of weeks delay. What contacts did you make with the New South Wales Police on this issue? Mr Johns—I will have to take that on notice. Senator CAMERON—Did you write to the police then to see if they had any information about any link back to any industrial matters arising from their investigation into this bombing? Mr Johns—I will take that on notice.	20/10/2010
EW0586_11	Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission	Cameron	CFMEU Bombings	Senator CAMERON—Have the police finished their investigation into the bombing of the CFMEU office? Mr Johns—I would have to take that on notice. I would not know. Senator CAMERON—Have you made any inquiries as to whether the police have finished their investigation. Mr Johns—I will take that on notice.	20/10/2010
EW0587_11	Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission	Cameron	ABCC's approach	Senator CAMERON—I would like to know what the ABCC's method is to get that wider, more effective approach and what you would see as required to deal with this effectively. Would you take that on notice? Mr Johns—Yes, I will.	20/10/2010
EW0588_11	Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission	Cameron	Newspaper reports about a Korean tiler employed in the building and construction industry	Senator CAMERON—Are you aware of newspaper reports about a Korean tiler who was employed in the building and construction industry but died because he was what was termed an 'illegal immigrant' and was afraid to seek hospital treatment for a workplace injury? Mr Johns—Was this the matter in Sydney? Senator CAMERON—Yes. Mr Johns—Yes, I have some awareness of it. Senator CAMERON—Have you taken any steps to investigate that matter? Mr Johns—I will have to take that on notice, I am sorry. Senator CAMERON—Is it a matter that you think should be investigated? Mr Johns—If the allegations are that there was sham contracting, yes, it ought to be investigated. Senator CAMERON—When you reply on notice, would you tell me when the ABCC started to look at that incident? Mr Johns—I would be pleased to.	20/10/2010

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EW0589_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	Eight week non-payment periods and No Show No Pay penalties	Senator SIEWERT—I have a range of questions that I will put on notice on both outcome 4.1 and 4.4. However, there is a specific issue I want to raise and get on the record. In answer to a question I asked about the eight-week non-payment periods and the no-show penalties, I specifically asked for some breakdown of figures, as I frequently do, on the numbers around mental health and people with mental illness and also homelessness and those at risk of homelessness. The answer I got, I have got to say, was not satisfactory in terms of information being made available with a breakdown of a whole range of areas. Also, there was a response around some regional breakdown that I asked for as well. You basically did not provide that information. I asked specifically for that information because I am concerned about the impacts of these measures on those who are homeless and those at risk of homelessness and those who are impacted by some mental condition. I was interested in the impacts on those two sections of the community. Given the government's social inclusion agenda, I would have thought the government and the department would have been interested in that information. I am wondering if you have it. If you do, can you go back and get it for me, please? Ms Paul—I am absolutely	20/10/2010
EW0590_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Siewert	Data on long term recipients of various social security payments	Ms Paul... Senator, the reference is probably EW0139-11 where you mentioned mental health, homeless people and so on. You also asked us, in EW0137-11, for information postcode based, electorate based or whatever we could get. We said it was an unreasonable diversion of resource. I will have another look at that for you. Senator SIEWERT—Okay. I am aware that certain types of information—not exactly that information— has been provided to other senators. If it has been provided to other senators, I do not see why I cannot have it. Ms Paul—Quite so	20/10/2010
EW0591_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	ABC Commissioner appointment	Senator ABETZ—If I may interrupt, it will not excuse somebody from refusing to appear before the commission under the section 52 equivalent powers? Mr Kovacic—That is my understanding. Senator ABETZ—Yes, that is your understanding. That was my understanding and hopefully there will be a third understanding. Mr Kovacic—There is a third understanding. Mr Willing—Yes, that is the case. Senator ABETZ—Minister, are you able to explain to us why Mr Crean on 30 July 2010 told us that Ark Tribe, a worker who faces a six-month gaol term for refusing to appear before the commission, would not be facing his charges if the bill had been passed? Senator Chris Evans—No, I am not. I am not aware of those remarks—have you got a copy of them? Senator ABETZ—Yes I do—30 July 2010, page 7 of the Australian newspaper. It is a bit sad when a former president of the ACTU and a minister would make such a statement, but we can let that ride. Why did we announce the new ABCC commissioner on the day of the opening of parliament? Mr Kovacic—I think it is purely coincidental. Senator ABETZ—Purely coincidental. Ms Paul—I think it is where the process took us. Senator ABETZ—It is fortuitous how that happened. When did the department put the recommendation to the government? Mr Kovacic—In terms of the precise date, it would have been—I have not got a precise date, but I can get	20/10/2010
EW0592_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	Mr Lloyd evidence Senator ABETZ—Can you check up on that? Mr Kovacic, what about yourself? Did anybody draw to your attention the conflict in the evidence that you gave and what Mr Lloyd gave? Mr Kovacic—Not that I can recall, but I am happy to take it on notice.	20/10/2010
EW0593_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	[Add a title]	Senator ABETZ—I will move on to the minister's letter on 29 September 2010 to the President of Fair Work Australia. Is this or is this not a formal submission to Fair Work Australia? The minister could not tell us, so hopefully the department can. ...Senator ABETZ—The question was, 'Is this a formal submission to Fair Work Australia?' ...Senator ABETZ—I am not interested in why he wrote the letter and all the detail because that is set out in the correspondence. Senator Chris Evans—Okay, we will take the question on notice.	20/10/2010
EW0594_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	WR business provisions	Mr Kovacic—That is the article that refers to transfer of business provisions? ...Senator ABETZ—Could you take on notice whether the government is prepared to look at that is and see if they have any plans to deal with the issues raised in that article? Senator Chris Evans—Could you be a bit more specific? As I recall, there were a number of issues in the article. What was this in relation to? Senator ABETZ—It was in relation to the severe complications to shifting employees between subsidiaries is the issue of the article. I wonder whether or not the government has exercised its mind in relation to those expressed concerns and what its reaction is.	20/10/2010
EW0595_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	Australian Industry Group letter to the Minister	Senator ABETZ—We in the coalition identified in the committee report on the Fair Work Bill some of these things that are now being considered, but I fully accept that this is a policy issue for the government to consider. Ms Paul, have you seen a copy of the letter that Australian Industry Group wrote to the minister in recent times with an attachment of about four or five pages of policy concerns or workplace relations issues? Ms Paul—I do not believe I have. Senator ABETZ—What about you, Mr Kovacic? Mr Kovacic—I saw it only yesterday. Senator ABETZ—Could you possibly take it on notice? Ms Paul—I think we will need to, because I have not seen it at all yet. Senator ABETZ—Please include any response you might have for the concerns expressed there—are those concerns valid or not? Ms Paul—We are happy to do so	20/10/2010

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EW0596_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	Fair Work Act - unfair dismissal case	wonder if you are aware of the sex offender who won an unfair dismissal case. It was reported on Wednesday, 7 July 2010 in the news. Senator Chris Evans—I am not. Senator ABETZ—It said: A VICTORIAN man convicted of possessing child pornography and allegedly sexually harassing his co-workers has won an unfair dismissal case against food giant Nestle. I wonder if the government thinks that this is exactly how they expected the Fair Work Act to operate. Senator Chris Evans—Clearly I have not seen the article and do not know anything about the case, so I would not comment. Senator ABETZ—Could you take that on notice? Ms Paul—I think we will need to take it on notice.	20/10/2010
EW0597_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	new enterprise agreements	Senator ABETZ—Is there an echo in here? I want to ask about new enterprise agreements lodged under Labor's Fair Work system. We were told, courtesy of the parliamentary secretary, that two-thirds of them include flexibility provisions that vary minimum conditions. Are you able to make any comment on that as to the full breakdown of that and the raw data from which it was obtained? I understand Fair Work Australia provides to the department every agreement, and it is from that that this analysis was undertaken, which Senator Collins then provided to the public. Of course, when it is done via a ministerial office, I suppose one wonders how sanitised the material might be, whether it tells us the absolute full picture. Minister, can the full analysis, undoctored by the department, be made available to the committee?..... Senator ABETZ—We know how you got the statistics. What I want to know is whether that which was put into the public domain by Senator Collins represented the totality of the statistics that the department put together from that information provided by Fair Work Australia. Senator Chris Evans—I will take that on notice. I suspect it is not because it is rare that you give all the statistics in a speech.	20/10/2010
EW0598_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Fisher	minister's letter to FWA	Mr Kovacic—It is against that background that the advice was provided suggesting that the minister write to Fair Work Australia. Senator FISHER—As I said before, the minister's letter talks about probably a small number of employees losing minimum entitlements. How small is small? Mr Kovacic—We cannot be precise in terms of the potential number of employees in this sort of— Senator FISHER—What sort of entitlements? Mr Kovacic—We could not really even speculate, to be honest. Senator FISHER—What are examples of minimum entitlements? Mr Kovacic—Again, in terms of the details I am not sure that I can speculate. We could take it on notice to see whether we could provide some further details. Senator FISHER—Thank you.	20/10/2010
EW0599_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Fisher	enterprise awards containing enterprise-specific and locked-in pay increases	Senator FISHER—Many enterprise awards contain enterprise-specific and locked-in pay increases. So are there workers covered by enterprise awards that could move to a modernised instrument that has lower wages or lesser conditions? Mr Kovacic—I am not aware of any concerns to that effect but I am happy to take that question on notice Senator FISHER—This is the second bit of the same question. What about workers covered by enterprise awards, who might otherwise be award-free, so therefore not end up being covered at all by a modernised award?	20/10/2010
EW0600_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Fisher	mod awards - leave loading]	Senator FISHER—All right. Does moving to modernised awards in terms of the leave-loading type conditions prescribe that workers will get the higher level of their normal pay, which might include penalties and loadings, or the 17½ per cent holiday bonus? What are the typical provisions in terms of leave loading in modernised awards? Mr Kovacic—I really have to take that on notice because I do not know that I could generalise. There are 122 modern awards, and I could not give you a sensible answer—	20/10/2010
EW0601_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	148 expressions of interest for Fair Work Australia	Senator ABETZ—I take you to question on notice 0221 from the last estimates. I was kindly provided with the list of the 148 expressions of interest for Fair Work Australia. Before turning to that, how were applications or expressions of interest responded to? Mr Kovacic—I will have to take that on notice given the effluxion of time since the process occurred. Senator ABETZ—I assume an acknowledgement would have been sent out. Mr Kovacic—I would assume so. Senator ABETZ—Were those that were unsuccessful notified? Mr Kovacic—I will take that on notice; I cannot recall precisely. Senator ABETZ—I have been told by some that they found out they had been unsuccessful at the time of the public announcement of the six. Ms Paul—We will look into that. Senator ABETZ—Thank you. Were they at any stage advised as to when the announcement of the six commissioners would be made? Take that on notice too.	20/10/2010

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EW0602_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	FWA Applicant Assessment	<p>Senator ABETZ—This person is a Mr Nelson. I will not give him a Christian name for the purposes of this, but it will be very easy for you to find—and he is happy for his name to be used tonight. With that sort of wealth of experience and having spoken to a few others who are similarly concerned, let me say that the assertions that have been made about the applicants—and having read the CV—does not, with respect, match that which we had put to us. Senator BILYK—Did you read all the other applicants' CVs? Senator ABETZ—Yes. ... Senator Chris Evans—If you like, we will take on notice the query regarding Mr Nelson, although I am a little reluctant to have us give you an answer which will then be public about him in particular. So you might want to think, maybe before you put in the question on notice, how you would like to frame that. Senator ABETZ—Can you tell, at least, whether he was on the short list. Ms Paul—Given that we do not know Mr Nelson—right here—to protect him, can we take on notice that we will tell you as much as we can— Senator ABETZ—Or you can advise me privately.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0603_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	union right of entry	<p>Senator ABETZ—... Minister, can you indicate to us whether the government has received representations from the CFMEU suggesting changes to the union right of entry conditions and union involvement in negotiations of agreements? Senator Chris Evans—Recently? Senator ABETZ—Yes. Senator Chris Evans—I have not had that approach. I will have to take it on notice. Senator ABETZ—You can take it on notice through the department. Is the department aware of any? Mr Kovacic—I am certainly not aware of any such representations. Senator Chris Evans—But we will take it on notice as to whether the previous minister was or whether there is correspondence, but I am not aware of it</p>	20/10/2010
EW0604_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	department has copies of standard documents handed out by providers	<p>Senator ABETZ—Maybe, maybe. Can I go to question on notice 11? We were told about certain activities and the providers. UEF seems to have been the provider of the most activities. What does UEF stand for? Ms Paul—What are the number of report levels— Senator ABETZ—Number 11. Mr Kovacic—It is the Union Education Foundation. Senator ABETZ—I thought it might be, thank you. They got the biggest number of activities. We were told that the department has copies of standard documents handed out by providers, and you tell us that it would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide copies of this information to the committee. Chances are, given all the activities that you have outlined, that is quite a reasonable thing to say. I wonder, given that you do have all the materials, is it available in some location where it can be inspected and which would not require the cost and whatever of copying it? Mr Kovacic—Can I take that on notice? I presume it would be available in departmental premises here? Senator ABETZ—Yes. Mr Kovacic—I think, to what extent— Senator ABETZ—It would need the minister's approval whether or not somebody from my office could then— Ms Paul—View those documents? Senator ABETZ—Yes. Ms Paul—Sure. Senator ABETZ—Just to view those</p>	20/10/2010
EW0605_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	union campaign	<p>Senator ABETZ—Has the government given any consideration to, as I understand it, a union campaign where: Employers would be forced by the courts to move bullies away from their victims under an aggressive industrial strategy to be rolled out across Victoria and then Australia by a large blue-collar union. Are you aware of that, and do you have any views on that? Ms Paul—No. Senator Chris Evans—I think you need to be more specific. It does not ring any bells with me. Senator ABETZ—It was in the Age on 16 September, and it was interesting that it was the CFMEU, of all unions, albeit— Senator Chris Evans—Is this supposed to be a Commonwealth program? Senator ABETZ—No. They are saying, if they got their way, that employers would be forced. So I wonder if the CFMEU has made submissions or representations to the government for that to become part of the workplace— Ms Paul—Not that I am aware of, but it is a tough reference to pin down. Perhaps we will take it on notice and go to that article.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0606_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	non union stakeholders	<p>Senator ABETZ—... I refer now to question EWO205_11 from the last estimates. On that occasion I used the term 'legal loophole' in reference to an issue raised by unions regarding the General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme and the answer I was given was, in essence, that there is no legal loophole. Is that correct? Mr Kovacic—That is what the answer indicates. The operational arrangements for eligibility are that the employer needs to have entered into liquidation for employees to be eligible for assistance under the scheme. Senator ABETZ—That is correct. Have there been representations from unions and other stakeholders about this issue in a formal sense? We read about it in the media. Mr Kovacic—Over a period of time I think there probably have been representations. I certainly recall a period about six to 12 months ago when there were representations about GEERS more broadly. I am not aware of any specific representations more recently. Senator ABETZ—Are you aware of any non-union stakeholders that may have made representations in this area? Take it on notice rather than have a memory test. Mr Kovacic—I would be surprised if there were. Senator ABETZ—In response to question 203, you say that unions and other stakeholders have made representations in relation to</p>	20/10/2010

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EW0607_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	Representations to include superannuation under GEERS	Senator ABETZ—In response to question 203, you say that unions and other stakeholders have made representations in relation to the inclusion of superannuation. Can you provide on notice a list of those stakeholders and the nature of their representation? Mr Kovacic—I will do that for you.	20/10/2010
EW0608_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	Pro Print	Senator ABETZ—How are we going with Pro Print; is there a claim being made on GEERS? Mr Kovacic—Can we take that on notice. Senator ABETZ—Yes, because there was an article on 27 September where some workers were concerned they would not be getting their entitlement, but if you can take that on notice that would be helpful. Mr Kovacic—Certainly.	20/10/2010
EW0609_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Williams	GEERS - Allco Finance Group	Senator WILLIAMS—Thank you for that. You would not be familiar with a company called Allco Finance Group? To give you a broad outline, this company fell over. It had 50 staff. The company is in liquidation. Ferrier Hodgson are the liquidators. Those 50 staff have not received any entitlements because the liquidators, Ferrier Hodgson, have gone to the court to say that they were employed by a sub-company, an offspring of Allco Finance Group. It is quite frustrating because, I think, there is a total of \$4.2 million to 5 million owing. My concern is that that \$5 million will be nearly taken up in legal fees by the time this dispute is settled. Can there be a situation where these 50 employees can receive their GEERS if Ferrier Hodgson does not win the case to say that they were not employed by the company? If the judge rules that they were employed by Allco Finance Group, could they then repay the GEERS at a later date? I know many of them are very desperate and now it has all been pulled up in the court. That is the situation. It is on ice. They cannot get any entitlements from the company because the liquidator has gone to the court, saying these people are actually employed by another offshoot of Allco. They are in a situation where they are not getting any of their entitlements—long service	20/10/2010
EW0610_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	relocation of job seekers	Senator ABETZ—..... In the last estimates, Ms Paul, without verballing you, I understand you claimed that the relocation of job seekers from the eastern states to the west had not been a success last time it was trialled by the department. Is that correct? Ms Paul—Yes. It was quite a long discussion, as I remember, and I think I said that there were many issues with the previous scheme which we would seek to change with any future scheme. Senator ABETZ—Our evaluation found that it was not a cost efficient or successful way of trying to support mobility. Ms Paul—That is right. Senator ABETZ—It is on page 48 from Monday, 31 May. Can I ask whether any advice was sought or provided prior to the calling of the election for the government about relocation of job seeker funds for such mobility? Ms Paul—I will probably take on notice whether we provided advice prior to the election. I know that in the past we would have provided advice arising from evaluation, but whether we provided advice before the election campaign I will need to take on notice.	20/10/2010
EW0611_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	relocation of job seekers, difference in schemes	Senator ABETZ—I recall Mr Abbott making a suggestion which was at the time criticised. Ms Paul, are you aware that the government committed to offering up to \$6,000 per job seeker to relocate or \$3,000 for those relocating to cities? Ms Paul—Yes. Senator ABETZ—How does that proposal differ from previous schemes? Ms Paul—I may need to take some of the precise differences on notice. Senator ABETZ—How does that proposal differ from previous schemes?	20/10/2010
EW0612_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Success rate of relocation scheme	Senator ABETZ—What is the success rate—if I can call it that—of the previous scheme? Is understood it, about three quarters stuck with a job for 12 months? Ms Paul—I cannot recall. I will have to take it on notice. Senator ABETZ—It was relatively high, wasn't it—the previous scheme? Ms Paul—I will have to take that on notice. I do not have it here. Senator ABETZ—if you could. It depends on how you determine success, but, if one were to say that a person had remained in the job for 12 months, that would be— Ms Paul—That is a success. Senator ABETZ—Yes—a success. We can agree on that. So, roughly—you can take this on notice—if 75 per cent of remained in a— Senator Chris Evans—Senator, I would not argue, but that sounds a bit high, from my recollection. I could well be proved wrong, too. It just seems that that would be a pretty successful scheme if you had 75 per cent staying for 12 months. Senator ABETZ—Tell us then: what benchmark would you have for this new scheme so that it would be described as successful? Ms Paul—To the extent that the previous scheme had good, long-term outcomes like that, there were still some elements of it which we thought needed to be redesigned. I would need to take that on notice and get that out for you.	20/10/2010

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EW0613_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Star ratings - JSA providers	<p>Senator ABETZ—Undoubtedly you will require officials in relation to the no show, no pay and how that is working. Ms Paul—How it is working at the minute? Senator ABETZ—Yes. Ms Paul—I do not have any of the figures with me but I am more than happy to take it on notice. Senator ABETZ—I appreciate that. Ms Paul—I presume you want just the statistics. Senator ABETZ—Yes. Can you tell us anything about star ratings? Ms Paul—It depends what you want to know. In the broad, I might be able to tell you. Try me. Senator ABETZ—I understand that there were 646 sites that only had a one-star rating for stream 1 job seekers. Ms Paul—I will have to take that on notice. Senator ABETZ—I understand that. Ms Paul—Basically with the star ratings there was a pretty clear bell curve in terms of ratings from 1 to 5. I cannot recall the proportion of one-star ratings but it was either five or 10 per cent, a pretty small proportion, and the same at the high end too. It was basically what you would expect. Senator ABETZ—You have got a figure there? Ms Paul—The information I have just been given here says about 72 per cent of sites or 78 per cent of contracts were at three stars or above. Senator ABETZ—On additional redundancy support, I understand \$298.5 million was made available to JSA— Ms Paul—Job</p>	20/10/2010
EW0614_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Abetz	structural adjustment places offered for insulation workers	<p>Senator ABETZ—Of the structural adjustment places offered for insulation workers, how many were taken up? Ms Paul—We have had pretty good take-up on the insulation places. I might have that with me, otherwise I will take it on notice. The last report I had was that they had been taken up to quite a high extent. I have got information here on the scheme but not on take-up, so I will need to take that on notice. Senator ABETZ—All right. With the jobs compact, I understand the New South Wales and Queensland state governments need to provide what their activities are involving the compact with young Australians. Ms Paul—Not that I am aware of. I will need to check that out. I am not quite sure what the question is. Senator ABETZ—The suggestion is that there was a compact with young Australians, and New South Wales and Queensland are allegedly dragging the chain. Ms Paul—Not that I am aware of. We seem to have had good cooperation across the board, but let me check that out for you. They all came on board under the auspices of a COAG agreement, actually. The only thing I can think of there is that each state is required to guarantee a place for young people of a certain age in education, whether that be to finish school or in a TAFE setting. But every state signed up to</p>	20/10/2010
EW0615_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	local employment coordinator -KPIs	<p>Senator ABETZ—I daresay you cannot tell us the KPIs against which each local employment coordinator is being measured so we will put those on notice. Ms Paul—They are getting really good results, actually, but of course the results are unique to every area. But they are doing very well. We receive regular reports on all the areas and what the local employment coordinators are doing by way of matching job seekers or retrenched workers to employers, and it seems to be going well.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0616_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Abetz	Green Corps	<p>Senator ABETZ—If you could take on notice how many of the 50,000 places have been taken up, that would be appreciated. Ms Paul—Sure. Senator ABETZ—And how many green jobs have actually resulted, and then what the total cost of the program is. Ms Paul—I know it will be quite hard to count the green jobs but we will give it our best shot.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0617_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Nat Green Corps	<p>Senator ABETZ—.... I turn now to the National Green Jobs Corps. How is that going and have we got many jobseekers who commenced? Ms Paul—I think it is going well. I will see whether I have something on that. I may have to take that on notice. As far as I know it is going really well. Senator ABETZ—Does that mean that all the available positions have been taken up or are being taken up? Ms Paul—I will need to take that on notice.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0618_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	Innovation fund	<p>Senator ABETZ—I turn now to the innovation fund. When are we going to be announcing the successful tenderers for round 3? Ms Paul—I will take that on notice. I think it is close but I really do need to take that on notice.</p>	20/10/2010
EW0619_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Abetz	assessments forDSP	<p>Ms Paul—Not entirely. I am not sure whether it is us or whether there is a crossover. DSP is not ours, although you say it was the Deputy Prime Minister then saying it. But DSP is in Minister Macklin's portfolio. There certainly have been a range of changes to tighten up the gateway into Mr Deputy Speaker, and that could be part of that, but I would probably need to read the media release to remind myself. Senator ABETZ—There is something coming your way that might— Ms Paul—I have the announcement here. This was an announcement with Minister Macklin and Bill Shorten, and it mainly goes to the assessments for DSP. Senator ABETZ—So how will they speed up the process for linking people with disabilities to financial support? That was the question, if that is readily apparent from the statement? I think the reason the question is asked was that it was not readily apparent from the media statement. Ms Paul—It is not so much speed; it is that appropriate employment services and income support are provided. It is the nature of the assessment, if you like. There has been a sense that, to some extent—they talk about the impairment tables. The impairment tables and so on have been insufficient to link with the correct type of support—it is not so much the timing of support, but that you</p>	20/10/2010

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EW0620_11	Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations	Abetz	Disability Service Providers	Senator ABETZ—Moving right along. This is to both the minister and the secretary. A number of disability service providers—Senator Fifield has provided me with a letter from one in Victoria, I know in my home state of Tasmania as well that the introduction of the modern award system is imposing significant financial problems on these organisations. Are you aware of that? Ms Paul—I am not aware of that, but I am happy to take it on notice. If you want to provide any representations on Senator Fifield's behalf or whatever, I am happy to look at the particulars. Senator Chris Evans—What sort of problems? Senator ABETZ—That the wage increases, the salary levels under the new award, are significantly higher than those under, in this case, the Victorian disability services award. In fact in Tasmania the local industrial commission had created one award for all the services. Now they are split between two modern awards. Also, with wage increases, which represent an increase in this particular organisation, it is the case of an extra 15 per cent in their annual staff costs. Similar circumstances in Tasmania, and if you know these organisations, everything is run to a very, very tight budget, and a 15 per cent increase and yet they will not be able to necessarily pass on through costs. Let us say they bottle mineral	20/10/2010
EW0621_11	Cross Portfolio	Mason	list of all statutory and non-statutory appointments to portfolio agencies & bodies	Senator MASON—.... Could the department provide a list of all statutory and non-statutory appointments to portfolio agencies or any other bodies for which the minister has sole or joint responsibility? Ms Paul—Sure. Senator MASON—Please include the appointment and expiration dates, appointments by the minister or his delegate, whether or not each appointment was approved by cabinet and if so, when. Ms Paul—Yes. Senator Chris Evans—You want all ministers in the portfolio? Senator MASON—Oh yes, that is right—there were three or four. Yes, thank you, Minister.	21/10/2010
EW0622_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Mason	Appointment of Dr Lomax Smith to head committee	Senator MASON—..... I understand that Dr Lomax-Smith, who recently lost her state seat of Adelaide, is now employed by the department. How did she come to be employed in the department? Was she headhunted? What was the process? Ms Paul—She is not employed by the department. Senator MASON—Is she any relation to the department at all? Ms Paul—The former minister appointed her to head some sort of inquiry. She is certainly not connected to the department. I will take that on notice for you. Senator Chris Evans—I think she would be formally appointed by the full committee but not formally announced. That is with me now and will be answered in the next couple of days. She will be doing a role for us chairing a committee. She is not employed by the department but she will be on a committee. That appointment was made by the former minister but it was not announced. Senator MASON—By Ms Gillard? Ms Paul—No, Mr Crean. Senator Chris Evans—No, Mr Crean, I think. I will take it on notice. I think it was Mr Crean. Then the election and the caretaker period occurred. It has come to me. I have sent the brief back to the department on other matters, but it will be announced in the next little while. Ms Paul—Certainly she is not employed by us. Senator Chris Evans—She is not	21/10/2010
EW0623_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Mason	Satisfaction survey (CN319897)	Ms Paul—So this was not the survey itself; this was the evaluation of the survey instrument. Senator MASON—Okay, but can the parliament have access to the survey itself? Mr McDonald—I would need to take that on notice. Ms Paul—I cannot see why not. We have a bit here on the 2008 national survey results. Overall employer satisfaction was 90.5 per cent. Overall apprentice satisfaction was 93.2 per cent. Both results are higher than the key performance indicator benchmark of 85 per cent. Senator MASON—Can you make that public? Can you give it to parliament? Ms Paul—I will take it on notice.	21/10/2010
EW0624_11	Cross Portfolio	Mason	Cost of conference (CN337816)	Senator MASON—That was the entire sum the Commonwealth put forward. Mr McDonald—For this contract, but I want to be clear that there would have been speakers also, and I do not have their costs here with me. Senator MASON—The Commonwealth would have footed the bill for those speakers? Mr McDonald—Yes. I can take that on notice and get that.	21/10/2010
EW0625_11	Cross Portfolio	Mason	Speech writing costs	Senator MASON—What did he [Dr Glover] charge per hour? Ms Willoughby—I do not have that information at the moment. Senator MASON—Can you find that out and tell me what it is? Ms Willoughby—I can take that on notice. Mr McDonald—Just to add some context to that, we do have an internal speechwriting team. We might have discussed this in the past. On occasions we will use the panel arrangements. In this case, since the panel has been in place Dr Glover has written 20-odd speeches out of about 530 that we have done. Ms Paul—I think we have put on the record before the cost of some speeches. We will certainly take on notice hourly costs.	21/10/2010

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EW0626_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Mason	Indigenous Employment Program contract (CN326183)	Senator MASON—Mr McDonald, I draw your attention to CN326183—community and social services, Joblink Plus. Mr McDonald—Mr Griew will respond. Mr Griew—This is an Indigenous Employment Program contract let by the regional manager of the Orange regional office. Joblink Plus is an Indigenous Employment Program panel member. It submitted an application, which is one of the normal ways which IEP contracts are let, for a project that involved placing participants in the childcare industry and taking them through from having no formal qualifications or experience within industry to be trained at the certificate III level. The contract maximum funding amount is \$33,000 and the decision was made earlier this year. The project is still being developed. Senator MASON—What is the success of the program? Is there any evaluation thus far? Mr Griew—Not at this stage, no. It is too early for that. Senator MASON—Will there be? Mr Griew—it would be normal for there to be evaluations of projects like this, but I would have to take on notice any particular arrangements in relation to this project. Senator MASON—Would you let the committee know what evaluation— Mr Griew—Is planned or when it is done? Senator MASON—The arrangements that are anticipated. Mr Griew—Okay, sure.	21/10/2010
EW0627_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Mason	Aboriginal Connections (CN325939)	Senator MASON—How feasible is the creation of a New South Wales Aboriginal builders association? What was the outcome? Mr Griew—The project is not yet complete and the department is still waiting for a final report, which presumably will answer that question. I would be happy to take on notice the outcome. Senator MASON—Is that all right? Mr Griew—Yes. I understand there have been some organisational challenges in the organisation which may have delayed it slightly, but we will take on notice the final outcome.	21/10/2010
EW0628_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Mason	Indigenous employment project contract (CN325937)	Senator MASON—So it is a fairly common sort of contract for service? This is quite common? Mr Griew—The contracts in that general area are certainly not unprecedented. I know of others. But I do not know the details of this contract. I would have to take that on notice.	21/10/2010
EW0629_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Mason	LLNP	Senator MASON—They are. This is the last question, if I can Mr McDonald—just one more. I see in 327 that is over \$25 million. What is that for? Mr McDonald—This was an open tender under our Language, Literacy and Numeracy program. It is a contract for ACL and Mission Australia—they are a consortium—that would deliver language, literacy and numeracy provision to clients in four areas of western Sydney. They would provide for clients up to about 800 hours support. It was an open tender provision. That is the background to it. It is one of our existing programs. Senator MASON—How many people have they assisted? Mr McDonald—I do not have that detail with me but we would be able to provide that to you later today in outcome 3. I am aware that, as I said, it is up to 800 hours for each client. Senator MASON—Each client? Ms Paul—There are tens of thousands of clients. This is one of our major programs. We can cover it in outcome 3. It is like Job Services Australia. It is a three-year major tender that we do. This is one of the providers, just in the same way that Job Services Australia providers would be on AusTender. This is one of them for this program. Senator MASON—Up to 800 hours for each client. Could you let me know how many clients there are, Mr McDonald? Mr McDonald—Yes. Senator	21/10/2010
EW0630_11	Cross Portfolio	Humphries	IT Contractors	Senator HUMPHRIES—What length were these contracts, on average? Mr McDonald—I cannot recall. I think it was either three months or two months. It depended on the type of work. Some were testers, some were development people and some were project managers. It depended on the type of work, so it varied. Senator HUMPHRIES—Could I ask you to take on notice what the length of contracts are for these people—the ones who have been retained. Mr McDonald—Yes, sure.	21/10/2010
EW0631_11	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood	Nash	Provide the numbers of children in family day care over the last five years	Senator NASH—Thanks. Do you have—and I am very happy for you to take this on notice—the relative figures for family day care over the last five years, just to get an idea of the trend in family day care over that time? Mr Manthorpe—Certainly.	21/10/2010
EW0632_11	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood	Nash	How many children are enrolled in the six autism specific Early Learning and Care Centres? Is there a standard number for each centre?	Senator NASH—How many children are enrolled—specifically in the six autism centres to start with. Is there a standard number for each centre? Mr Johnson—Broadly, when the expression of interest called for components to construct and operate the centre, the objective was to create centres for about 50 children. Each of the centres has variations to reflect the actual nature of the particular service. I can run through each of these specific six centres, if you are interested in the particulars. Senator NASH—Actually if you could provide that on notice it would save the committee some time...	21/10/2010
EW0633_11	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood	Nash	How many children are enrolled in the Early Learning and Care Centres in Karratha, Yamanto and Killara?	Senator NASH—Actually if you could provide that on notice it would save the committee some time. It would be useful to have. How many children are enrolled in each of the other three centres and whereabouts are they? Mr Manthorpe—They are in Karratha, Yamanto and Killara in New South Wales, but we might have to take on notice the number of children enrolled. But we can get that for you.	21/10/2010

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EW0634_11	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood	Mason	How many Child and Family Centres will begin delivering services from interim premises?	Senator MASON—In terms of access, I think I am right. So we have 12 centres to be opened by 1 July next year. At the moment, we have just one where there has been a commencement of building; no others. And we have to have, in a sense, 11 more built from scratch in the next 11 months—that is right? Senator MASON—How many of those are there? Ms Hosking—How many? Senator MASON—Yes—how many are forecast to be servicing Aboriginal people from interim centres? Ms Hosking—Of the 12? Senator MASON—Yes. Ms Hosking—I think I might need to take that one on notice.	21/10/2010
EW0635_11	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood	Nash	How many children are enrolled in the early childhood service in Wadeye?	Senator NASH—I understand that there are applications happening for providing child care in Wadeye and other places in the Territory? Ms Hosking—Yes. In Wadeye specifically there has been constructed a children's services centre that is intended to be an integrated children's service. It is actually not part of the national partnership but it is similar in scope to the children and family centres that are being constructed through the national partnership. That has now been constructed. There has been a tender process to provide a provider for that, and that has been completed. Senator NASH—Is it operational yet? Ms Hosking—The early childhood service that was formerly in a separate location has now moved over into the new integrated service, and the role of the integration manager that is coming with the new provider is to now seek out other services to operate from that service. Senator NASH—How many children will be in that centre? Ms Hosking—I do not have that information— Senator NASH—You can take it on notice. Ms Hosking—but it is a fairly large service for a remote community. We can provide the specific number. Senator NASH—That would be great. I am not sure whether Senator Mason asked about the Indigenous centres across the board. How many students are in those	21/10/2010
EW0636_11	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood	Nash	How many children are assisted through Inclusion Support Subsidy funding? How many of these children are refugees and how many have a disability?	Senator NASH—How many children has that inclusion support subsidy assisted in the last financial year? Ms Shannon—The inclusion support subsidy assists childcare services to enhance their capacity to include children with high ongoing support needs. The two primary target groups for the program are children with a disability and children from a humanitarian refugee background. Senator NASH—How many children in the centres would be assisted by that funding? Mr Johnson—We would have to take that on notice. It is a national program which provides approved children's services. Ms Shannon—I should clarify that because the support is provided to the service, more than one child in the service may be assisted. So we have figures at the service level. Senator NASH—Do you have a breakdown between the disability and refugee children. Can you break them down—not now, but if you could give them to me on notice, if you have that information, with the other figures. Ms Shannon—Yes.	21/10/2010
EW0637_11	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood	Nash	Provide a state-by-state breakdown of the difference in remuneration between people who work within the school system and those who work within the long day care system	Senator NASH—And with those qualifications, once they have got their early childhood teaching, is there any difference in the remuneration for those teachers being in a childcare centre compared to, say, being in a kindie or an infants' school? Ms Hosking—I do not have the exact figures. It is true, although it varies state by state and territory by territory, that there often is a difference in remuneration between people who work within the school system and those who work within the long day care system, for example. Senator NASH—Could you take on notice for me a state-by-state breakdown of the average difference across those areas. One of the things that strikes me is that, if these people have to go through all these qualifications and training and they come out the other end and they have got a kindergarten over here that is going to pay them more than a childcare centre is, why wouldn't they go to the kindergarten? Isn't that potentially going to create a difficulty in retaining staff if they are getting paid less than somebody who has got the same qualifications? Mr Manthorpe—That is a live issue. We are happy to take on notice the data that you have asked for.	21/10/2010
EW0638_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	Quadrennial review - extend existing funding	Senator MASON—I understand the Prime Minister during the election campaign gave a commitment to extend the existing funding arrangement to 2013 and the capital funding to 2014. Is that correct? Dr Bruniges—That is correct. Senator MASON—Was the inquiry informed by the Prime Minister of that before she made that announcement? Ms Paul—Wasn't that during the campaign? Senator MASON—Yes, it was. Ms Paul—Then we would not know—it was during caretaker. Senator MASON—The inquiry was not told in advance of the Prime Minister's commitment? Ms Paul—No, I am saying I cannot answer that because it was during caretaker, so I would not know if there had been any contact. Senator MASON—Can you find out, Ms Paul? Ms Paul—Sure; happy to do that. Senator MASON—All right, take it on notice. Do we know what process was undertaken before it was decided to extend the funding agreement to schools, or was simply an announcement made during— Ms Paul—it was an announcement made the election campaign. Senator MASON—Is the government intending releasing new terms of reference to the review that reflect the Prime Minister's election commitment? Ms Paul—I am not sure whether it needs to be reflected in the terms of reference, but we do need to have a look at that and see if we need to. I do not know if Dr Bruniges wants to comment. Dr Bruniges—We will look at the	21/10/2010

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EW0639_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	Chaplaincy program	Senator MASON—It will tender further advice as to how it should be run and so forth, the shape of it. How much did the process cost? Do we know that? Ms Wall—The consultation process? Senator MASON—Yes, the consultation process. Do we know that? Ms Wall—I do not think I have that with me. Senator MASON—Could you take that on notice? Ms Wall—Certainly. Senator MASON—When this is finished and the minister has seen the discussion paper could this parliamentary committee have a copy of it? Is that possible, Ms Wall. Ms Wall—We will take it on notice.	21/10/2010
EW0640_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	Australian Indigenous Education Foundation scholarships	Ms Wall—No money has been taken from this program. All the funding committed for this program will be paid to this program, but my understanding is that last year there was an underspend elsewhere and that funding was directed to payments under this program, which freed some money that was then directed to the— Ms Paul—Would you like us to take it on notice and give you the trail of that? Senator MASON—It is all too much for me, Ms Wall. Ms Paul—The short story is: there is no diminution of effort on this program. Senator MASON—Right. That is the key to it, Ms Paul. So for this particular program, the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation scholarships, there is no, to use your word, 'diminution' of money? Ms Wall—Absolutely not. Senator MASON—Could you take on notice to give me the flow or—what was your word, Ms Paul? Ms Paul—The trail. Senator MASON—The 'trail', Ms Wall. Senator BOYCE—The money trail. Ms Wall—Sure.	21/10/2010
EW0641_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	Indigenous Education	Senator MASON—I would like to move to Indigenous education. In the lead-up to the 2007 federal election the government promised us the '200 teachers for the Territory' program. What is the retention rate for the 200 teachers hired for the Northern Territory as a result of that program? Ms Bruniges—I think we will have to take the retention issue on notice.	21/10/2010
EW0642_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	exit survey for teachers	Senator MASON—Are you conducting any sort of exit survey on why teachers might be leaving and what particular problems they might be suffering from? Dr Bruniges—Not to my knowledge. Again, I am happy to check that because sometimes in terms of departments or jurisdictions—for example, in the Northern Territory—they may have something within their human resources system that always captures exit data. So some systems have it; some systems do not. Again, I would have to clarify with the Northern Territory department, but from a Commonwealth perspective there is nothing that we have done and we would rely on the Territory if they have that system in place to track that. Senator MASON—Thank you. I would be interested in that because it is a difficult issue recruiting and retaining teachers. There are cultural issues, issues of distance and so forth; we can all agree on that. I would be interested if you could let the committee know what is being done to monitor exit patterns and strategies to retain teachers in the Northern Territory.	21/10/2010
EW0643_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Siewert	Funding for schools	Senator SIEWERT—I have one more question about the additional money that has gone to the schools. There was an increase in funding. Is the increase they got proportional, or a percentage shared amongst the schools, of the money that would have been given to the unit on top of other additional funding? As you would be aware, many of the schools need a considerable amount of funding to run because of the issues involved— isolation et cetera. So is it a double top-up or one top-up? Dr Bruniges—I cannot answer that question at the moment. I am happy to take it on notice.	21/10/2010
EW0644_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	school attendance under Indigenous education	Senator SIEWERT—I want to touch on an issue around school attendance under Indigenous education, and that is the issue of hearing. I want to get an understanding of what approaches you are taking, audits of classrooms for sound fields, whether all children—I am obviously focusing on northern Australia, in particular—should be screened as they start school. I am looking at this as a barrier to education. Mr Goodwin—The first observation we would make on that is that the responsibility for that sort of screening rests very clearly with the education providers—with the states and the Catholics and independents. I can tell you that the Commonwealth funded a very effective project up in the Kimberley which you maybe aware of—the sound field amplification project. I do not have figures with me but at best guess I think around 25 schools, or all of the schools in the Kimberley region, were involved in that project. It was very well received and deemed to be a very effective project. We are looking at the future for that sort of approach, and certainly will be disseminating the results to the relevant education providers to inform their decision making in the future. Senator SIEWERT—Are you able to provide those results? Ms Wall—We will go and gather the more national activities on this.	21/10/2010
EW0645_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	importance of hearing programs	"Dr Bruniges—There is the Stronger Smarter Learning Communities project. There is the Dare to Lead program in terms of principal leadership. But when you get down to the thing you say about the classroom and the learning and the importance of hearing, I think that can act as a significant barrier, there is no doubt, to someone's engagement with learning and hence their attendance. But I would have to go away a look at in each one of these programs. Maybe we could pick out for you some of those programs that do look at strategies underneath to deal with hearing and share with you as well on that. Senator SIEWERT—That would be appreciated. Thank you."	21/10/2010

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EW0646_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	Indigenous boarding facilities	Senator MASON—You would see that there had been some activity? Mr Goodwin—There is a lot of activity there. Can I just add, because I know this is of great interest to you, that the site clearing works have generated substantial local Indigenous employment. Senator MASON—That is very good. Mr Goodwin—We are very pleased about that. Senator SCULLION—How many people do you have employed on the site? Mr Goodwin—I would have to come back to you with the exact number. Senator SCULLION—Would you be able to do that perhaps this afternoon? Mr Goodwin—Sure.	21/10/2010
EW0647_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Scullion	Number of students enrolled in secondary college in Garrthalala	Senator SCULLION—How many students are currently enrolled in secondary college at Garrthalala? Senator Jacinta Collins—Senator, if you could let the officer finish the first answer— Senator SCULLION—I thought she had. Ms Wall—I do not have that with me. I will need to get that for you. Senator SCULLION—Would it be above five? Ms Wall—I would say yes. Ms Paul—We will take that on notice.	21/10/2010
EW0648_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Scullion	Agreements or MOUs with the Territory	Ms Paul—No we have actually entered into a series of agreements or MOUs with the Territory. Senator SCULLION—Will you be able to table those agreements? Ms Paul—With this one, I imagine we will do similarly. Senator SCULLION—Will you be able to table—to give me some comfort—any of those agreements, letters of note— Ms Paul—I will take on notice what is current and let you know. We are not at that point yet with this one, but we are happy to keep you posted on it.	21/10/2010
EW0649_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Scullion	Scholarships in the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program	Senator SCULLION—I would like to see what percentage was successful. How does compare it with 2009, both secondary and tertiary? Is there any particular rationale, or is it non-subjective? Dr Bruniges—I do not have the 2009 date with me but I am happy to take the notice. Senator SCULLION—Okay. Have you done any comparative analysis on whether you need a bigger investment in secondary or tertiary? Is there some rationale behind the actual numbers? Is a weighting given one way or the other? That is the reason for my question. If you take it on notice you can take it in that context. Dr Bruniges—Certainly.	21/10/2010
EW0650_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Scullion	Sporting Chance academies	Senator SCULLION—How do you measure both the academic and social outcomes? Perhaps you can take that on notice.	21/10/2010
EW0651_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	NBN timeframe	Senator MASON—What sort of timetable is it? What sort of period are we talking about before the NBN gets through to schools and the election promise can finally be fulfilled? Dr Arthur—In terms of the time frame for the NBN, the timetable for the NBN, you would need to ask the communications department. Senator MASON—But you must have an idea, given you look after schools and are concerned about this, Dr Arthur. Surely you take a passing interest in it? Ms Paul—I would prefer to take the question of a timetable on notice because I would like to check with the department.	21/10/2010
EW0652_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	BER variation approvals	Senator MASON—How many have you approved across the whole lot? Mr Parsons—I did not bring that with me. Mr Manthorpe—We can take that on notice.	21/10/2010
EW0653_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	BER projects that have not made the deadline	Senator MASON—What action are you taking in relation to those projects that have not made the deadline? Mr Manthorpe—We are monitoring progress and we are encouraging the education authorities to continue with the construction work. We know, of course, that construction has started in the overwhelming majority of these cases. Once construction is underway there is only so much we can do to make it go faster but we are continuing to work with the education authorities to encourage them to continue in as timely a fashion as they reasonably can. Senator MASON—If you give me that information on notice I would be grateful.	21/10/2010
EW0654_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	BER - variations to extend time	Senator MASON—Can you give me that information for each of the three categories before 14 May. How many variations to extend time have been granted and not granted? Mr Parsons—Not today. Senator MASON—No, not today. I will then be able to compare them. There are 22 variations refused since 14 May across the whole lot.	21/10/2010
EW0655_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	BER - variations	Senator MASON—Could I also get on notice the variations by sector, that is, government versus nongovernment and catholic. Mr Manthorpe—If we can do that we certainly will. Senator MASON—That would be very useful. Senator TROOD—Could you give the variations across states so that we are aware of the differences that might apply across the country? Mr Manthorpe—If we can we will do it broken up by the 22 education authorities so that you get the states. Senator MASON—This is across all three programs.	21/10/2010
EW0656_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	Small school variations	Senator MASON—And what proportion of those 1,000 schools are in regional areas? Mr Manthorpe—I am not sure. I do not think— Ms Paul—We have attached the list of them—sorry, it is a different list. We might have to take that on notice. Mr Manthorpe—We can take that on notice.	21/10/2010

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EW0657_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	Breakdown on completion wages between all the education authorities—state, independent and Catholic	Senator MASON—Are you able to give me a breakdown on completion wages between all the education authorities—state, independent and Catholic? Mr Manthorpe—We will be able to, but can we take that on notice?	21/10/2010
EW0658_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	Non-performing BGAs or state governments	Senator MASON—Has any money been sought from non-performing BGAs or state governments? Ms Paul—There is the withholding of \$75 million from New South Wales. That is the only action of this sort of nature taken under the agreement so far. Senator MASON—So there has been no action to recover— Ms Paul—Not so far. Senator MASON—Right. Under clause 10— Ms Paul—Of the BGA? Senator MASON—The BGA, yes. Ms Paul—Actually, we may have to correct that— Mr Manthorpe—Can I just clarify that there may be one or two schools in the non-government sector where there have been issues of insolvency. I do not want to go into the detail of that. Senator MASON—No, all right. Mr Manthorpe—Where we have needed to get— Ms Paul—We might have to take that on notice. Mr Manthorpe—Could I take that on notice to clarify that?	21/10/2010
EW0659_11	Cross Portfolio	Mason	Greater powers for Commonwealth Auditor General	Senator MASON—Minister, I have a question about remedial action that is perhaps a bookend for the audit report and the BER itself. I wonder whether it would assist in future if the Commonwealth Auditor- General were to have greater powers to pursue the Commonwealth money trail through state instrumentalities. Mr McPhee raised at one stage, and it has been flagged elsewhere, that if he had those powers he could use them to better oversight Commonwealth expenditure, but that without them it is essentially left to the state auditors-general. I was just wondering whether the government has given any thought to that idea—not just for the BER, but across the board. Senator Chris Evans—I would want to take that on notice.	21/10/2010
EW0660_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Mason	Shortage of librarians	Senator MASON—According to the Australian Library and Information Association, there is a shortage of over 3,000 teacher librarians in Australia. Is the government aware of that shortage? Ms Paul—That would not be a question as to the BER. We could go there when we come back to schools. Senator Chris Evans—I do not know the answer, but I have heard reporting that they have had trouble attracting librarians and I know that at the school of one of sons they have had trouble finding suitable staff. So it is not counter-intuitive. Senator MASON—No, I raise it because the issue has been raised with me. I had some representations on this. What we want as a community is libraries to be staffed by qualified librarians. We have these facilities built—over 3,000 libraries at over \$3½ billion being built over the last couple of years. In a sense, to get the best out of them, you would want qualified librarians. I was just wondering if the government, along with the states, is doing anything to attract and to train further librarians. Was this issue even considered when the libraries were being built? Senator Chris Evans—I think it is a reasonable concern. The best thing is for us to take it on notice because obviously the state authorities or the other school systems are the employers.	21/10/2010
EW0661_11	Outcome 2 - Schools	Nash	Compact with young Australians	Senator NASH—Can I just have a general update on the Compact with Young Australians—where it is at and how the department is tracking the success of the program? Ms Paul—Sure. Organisationally speaking, the Compact with Young Australians would often have come up yesterday but I think we are right to cover it. Senator NASH—I am certain that there is not going to be anything detailed. If there is something you cannot answer now I am happy for you to take it on notice. I am really just after a background briefing of where it is at and how you are going to measure its success. Ms Paul—As far as I am aware, and I will take it on notice to give you a precise picture	21/10/2010
EW0662_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Nash	Requirement to 'earn or learn'	Senator NASH—In terms of the requirement now to 'earn or learn', do you know how many youth allowance or FTB payments have been cancelled or reduced as a result of the changes? Ms Paul—We might not know about FTB. Mr Griew—We have some figures here. Senator NASH—I am happy for you to take it on notice if you would prefer to give the committee the right figures. Mr Griew—We have the figures we have here and we can take more on notice. The people who are experts and responsible for administering this were here last night, under program 4. They make come back, otherwise we will give you what we can and take the rest on notice.	21/10/2010
EW0663_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Mason	Education Investment Fund	Senator MASON—Would it be possible to provide a complete update of the list of specific projects and grants allocated in each state under rounds 1, 2 and 3 indicating the project, the amount and the institutions involved, and any relevant information about milestones for funding? Is that possible? Ms Campbell—We can take that on notice.	21/10/2010

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EW0664_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Mason	Education Investment Fund - round 2	<p>Senator MASON—Philip Marcus Clark said that the board was aware that fast-tracking round 2 did not provide time for consultation with the sectors before the round. Has the department received any adverse feedback from applicants, including some unsuccessful applicants, from the second and third funding rounds including about the use of a single application stage process for round 2? Ms Campbell—I do not think we have that information here at the table. We could take that on notice for you. Senator MASON—Thank you. Since the inception of the board, has the board membership changed? Ms Paul—My recollection is that one or two members have been added, but I would not want to swear to that. Can we take it on notice? Senator MASON—Yes. Ms Paul—Why don't we give you the ons and offs with the dates, because some have gone and some have come? Senator MASON—Thank you.</p>	21/10/2010
EW0665_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Nash	Cost of Tertiary education - regarding EW0043_11	<p>Senator NASH—I was not quite sure where to place it, given that it is new. Can I start with one of the answers to questions on notice asked by Senator Back, EW0043_11. It was regarding the cost of tertiary education. The question was: Why is the cost for accessing a tertiary education higher for country students than metropolitan students? If a family does not have the means to pay for access to a tertiary education for their student, what assistance is available if it is farm assets? Ms Paul—Would you like us to take it on notice and try to give you some exposition of that? I am not sure we necessarily accept the proposition, but I am quite happy to have a go at— Senator Chris Evans—Can we just be clear, before we take it on notice and then end up having a similar discussion next time, that you want to identify what drivers make it more expensive for rural students to attend? Senator NASH—There is right. Ms Paul—Things like transport costs and that sort of thing. CHAIR—Let us leave it that the department takes it on notice again and, given the explanatory background to the purpose of the question, they can have another go at it.</p>	21/10/2010
EW0666_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Nash	Students accessing youth allowance	<p>Senator NASH—How many students are currently accessing youth allowance under the independent criteria at that date? Ms Milliken—I do not have the breakdown with me of those who are independent and in the higher education sector. I can take that on notice. Senator NASH—Can you take on notice for me that figure—so how many are accessing independent in higher ed—and the breakdown of how many of those are in their first year of tertiary education accessing independent youth allowance? Mr Griew—That would include both for age and for workforce participation. Senator NASH—If you could split them, do them separately, for me that would be great. Ms Milliken—Yes, we can. Senator NASH—I think you said these figures are as at August—is that right? Ms Milliken—Yes.</p>	21/10/2010
EW0667_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Nash	Independent youth allowance	<p>Senator NASH—Thank you. Do you do any forecasting—and I am talking specifically about independent youth allowance at the moment—at all of where you expect to be in another 12 months, comparative to the amount of students accessing it now? Ms Paul—We know that there is a significant increase in the number of students who are able to access youth allowance, because of the policy changes— Senator NASH—No, I am talking specifically about 'independent'. Mr Griew—Forecasting is a term which implies a whole lot of meanings. We have estimates, which are agreed between us and the department of finance, which are the basis of the forward estimates, and these are based on the modelling and calculations that we did on which the legislation was considered and then passed. Ms Paul—We will take that on notice and see what we can get for you, Senator.</p>	21/10/2010
EW0668_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Nash	Rural Tertiary Hardship fund	<p>Ms Paul—Indeed, if it looks like it has particulars for which we really need to go back to look at the rules and take it on notice, we will tell you that. Senator NASH—I think you are going to be pretty straightforward. Senator Chris Evans—So we will not table it. We will have a look at it. Senator NASH—That would be very useful. Thank you very much. In the meantime, then, we might move on to the Rural Tertiary Hardship Fund. This was part of the amended legislation for all of this, which went through in March. Can I ask how the figure of \$20 million was arrived at? Senator NASH—But how did the department arrive at the \$20 million figure as the appropriate amount for the fund? Ms Paul—I am not sure. I would have to check that. I will take it on notice. Senator NASH—It is a bucket of money? Ms Paul—I think it was part of the agreement, but I will take on notice the dates or whatever in which we might have provided advice.</p>	21/10/2010
EW0669_11	Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy	Nash	Rural and Regional Taskforce	<p>Senator NASH—I will rephrase the question. Is there any particular reason that, in the several months before it was not able to be done, the task force was not set up? Ms Paul—I do not know the answer to that, so we might have to take it on notice.</p>	21/10/2010

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EW0670_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Nash	Securing Australian Apprenticeships Through Registered Training Organisations initiative	Senator NASH—With regard to the Securing Australian Apprenticeships Through Registered Training Organisations initiative, how many apprentices were actually assisted through that? Mr Maynard—Senator, that program has now ceased. The runout of the final participants in it will be completed by 31 December 2010. We do not have that figure with us at present but we can take it on notice.	21/10/2010
EW0671_11	Outcome 3 - Higher Education	Nash	LLNP	Senator NASH—That is great. Do you have any regional breakdown of those figures or do you just have a total figure? I am happy if you want to take it on notice. I am just interested to know if you even do that. Ms Shugg—I would have to take that on notice. I do not have either a state breakdown or a regional breakdown. Senator NASH—If you could do a state breakdown and a regional breakdown for me that would be very useful. Ms Shugg—On the 2009-10 figures? Senator NASH—Yes. That would be great.	21/10/2010
EW0672_11	Agency - Comcare	Abetz	Comcare - Asylum seeker compensation	Senator ABETZ—Can Comcare shed any light on the asylum seeker compensation payouts? We canvassed that with the immigration people yesterday. Some asylum seekers have had payments made to them by way of compensation. Have any of those actually gone to trial? Mr O'Connor—I will have to take that on notice. This is Comcare compensation as opposed to civil compensation? Senator Chris Evans—Why would it be relevant to you, Senator? Senator ABETZ—A department of immigration spokesman said compensation payouts and disease breakouts were 'inevitable': It's the law of averages—some may well choose to litigate against us or, in some rare cases, we may be at fault and have to pay out under Comcare and Comcover. I was told yesterday to ask questions about this because you allegedly handle these cases on behalf of the department of immigration. Mr O'Connor—Certainly with regard to any federal workers who may have sustained injury in the course of their employment working with and supporting the asylum seekers we would certainly handle those matters, but I am not aware of claims that Comcare would be handling them with regard to— Senator ABETZ—Because that would be Comcover. Mr O'Connor—Correct. Senator ABETZ—So with Comcare, could you take on	20/10/2010