

| 2012-13 Supplementary Hearing - Employment, Education & Workplace Relations | | | | | |
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| QoN No | Senator | Hansard Date | Outcome | Subject | Question Text |
| EW0433_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | DEEWR Grant Programs | <p>2. For 2012-13 please list each grant program your department administers, and the total funding of each program.</p> <p>3. Please list each grant program that has not been paused as part of the Government wide grants pause.</p> <p>4. Please provide the total cash value of each program that has not been paused?</p> <p>5. Please list each grant program that has currently been ""paused"" as part of the Government wide grants pause.</p> <p>6. Please provide the total cash value of each program that has been paused, and the total value of all grants paused?</p> <p>7. On what date did your department receive advice from the government to pause certain grants programs?</p> <p>a. How was the instruction received, and from whom was it received?</p> <p>8. Please list the dates the Minister for Finance met with senior department officials to discuss the grants pause and the Minister overseeing your department met with senior department officials</p> <p>9. From what date was your department told to implement the grants pause?</p> <p>a. When did it do so?</p> <p>10. Has your department been provided with information regarding when the grants pause would end?</p> <p>a. If so, what was the date?</p> <p>b. Was your department advised if it could communicate when the grants pause would end to grant applicants?</p> <p>11. Please provide the advice your department gave to Department of Finance regarding which programs should be included in the grants pause.</p> <p>12. Did your department receive advice/instruction from the Department of Finance regarding how best to communicate the grants pause to grant applicants, the media and other external stakeholders?</p> <p>13. What information has been provided to grant applicants regarding the grants pause? Please provide scripts if these have been given to call centres, or any other information sheets which have been used internally for discussing the grants pause with applicants.</p> <p>14. Has your department been advised by the Department of Finance of further grants pauses in the future? If so</p> <p>a. When did you receive notification of future grants pauses?</p> <p>b. What is the date of future grants to be paused</p> <p>c. Which grants programs will be paused?</p> <p>d. What is total value of pauses in future grants programs?</p> <p>e. When will notification of these future grants pauses be made public?</p> <p>15. How many staff are employed to administer grant programs within the department?</p> <p>16. During the Grants Pause what activities are these staff involved with?</p> <p>a. Have staff been moved to other divisions during the grants pause?</p> <p>17. During the Grants Pause are decisions on grants being made, but applicants not being alerted?</p> |
| EW0434_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | staffing | <p>How many ongoing staff recruited this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?</p> <p>How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?</p> <p>This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?</p> |
| EW0435_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Staff leaving the department | <p>How many ongoing staff left the department/agency in the year 2011-12? What classification were these staff?</p> <p>How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency in the year 2011-12? What classification were these staff?</p> <p>How many contract staff left department/agency in the year 2011-12? What classification were these staff?</p> |
| EW0436_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Staffing recruitment | <p>How many ongoing staff were recruited in the year 2011-12? What classification were these staff?</p> <p>How many non-ongoing staff were recruited in the year 2011-12? What classification were these staff?</p> <p>How many contract staff left were recruited in the year 2011-12? What classification were these staff? What is the average length of their employment period?</p> |
| EW0437_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | staff reduction | <p>Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.</p> <p>If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.</p> |
| EW0438_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Efficiency | <p>Please detail how the department/agency will achieve savings over the forward estimates through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State of 25 September 2012 http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html).</p> <p>In addition, please provide the following detail:</p> <p>How will reductions in air travel spending be achieved? What is the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?</p> <p>What restrictions will be implemented for business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?</p> <p>How will the use of external consultants and contractors be reduced? How will this impact on the Department/agency? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?</p> <p>How will the department/agency manage moving recruitment advertising online? Will all future recruitment advertisement be online only? If not, explain why. What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?</p> <p>How will printing costs be reduced? Explain if and how the department/agency will reduce its printing costs by five per cent, or if it will not, why not? How will it be determined what documents will no longer be printed?</p> <p>What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?</p> |
| EW0439_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Recruitment costs | <p>"How much was spent on recruitment advertising in 2011-12? How much of this was spent online and how much of this was spent on print advertising?"</p> <p>Please list where recruitment advertising was listed online and in print media.</p> <p>How much has been spent on recruitment advertising this financial year to date? How much of this was spent online and how much of this was spent on print advertising?</p> <p>Please list where recruitment advertising was listed online and in print media."</p> |
| EW0440_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Printing costs | <p>How much was spent on printing 2011-12? Of this amount, how much was for printing documents?</p> <p>How many documents (include the amount of copies) were printed in 2011-12? How many of these printed documents were also published online?</p> <p>Of the documents that were printed in 2011-12, where were they delivered and what was the cost?</p> <p>How much has been spent on printing this financial year to date? Of this amount, how much was for printing documents?</p> <p>How many documents (include the amount of copies) have been printed this financial year to date? How many of these printed documents were also published online?</p> |
| EW0441_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Graduate recruitment | <p>"How much has been spent on 2013 Graduate Recruitment? Please itemise and detail costs."</p> |
| EW0442_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Graduate training | <p>How much is estimated to be spent on 2013 Graduate Training? Provide details of what training is to be provided, why and the estimated cost for each.</p> |
| EW0443_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Advertising - financial year to date | <p>What was the total cost of all advertising for the financial year to date?</p> <p>Is the advertising campaign or non-campaign advertising? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.</p> <p>Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.</p> <p>Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.</p> <p>Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item.</p> <p>Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.</p> <p>What advertising " Campaign and Non-Campaign " and other communications programs is the Department/Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake?</p> |

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| EW0444_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Advertising - 2011-12 | <p>"What was the total cost of all advertising for 2011-12? Is the advertising campaign or non-campaign advertising? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services. Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item. Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item. Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services that was undertaken in 2011-12."</p> |
| EW0445_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Hospitality and entertainment - financial year to date | <p>"What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimated savings over each year of the forward estimates?"</p> |
| EW0446_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Hospitality and entertainment - 2011-12 | <p>What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for 2011-12? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for 2011-12. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for 2011-12? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for 2011-12. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.</p> |
| EW0447_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Board appointment | <p>List all of the boards within this portfolio, including: board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio? Please detail any board appointments for this financial year to date.</p> |
| EW0448_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Board appointments 2011-12 | <p>List all of the boards within this portfolio, including: board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members for 2011-12. What was the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio for 2011-12?</p> |
| EW0449_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Freedom of Information | <p>"Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests? What is the total cost to the department/agency to process FOI requests for 2011-12? How many FOI requests did the department/agency receive in 2011-12? How many requests were denied and how many were granted? Did the department fail to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date? How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?"</p> |
| EW0450_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Community Cabinet Meetings - financial year to date | <p>How many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended this financial year to date? List date and location. How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date?</p> |
| EW0451_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Community Cabinet Meetings 2011-12 | <p>How many Community Cabinet meetings did the Minister attend in 2011-12? List date and location. How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for 2011-12? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet meetings did the Departmental Officers attend? List date and location. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for 2011-12?</p> |
| EW0452_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Reviews - financial year to date | <p>"For this financial year to date: â€ How many Reviews are being undertaken? â€ What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded? â€ Which of these reviews has been provided to Government? â€ When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed? â€ Has the Government responded to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not? â€ What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews? â€ What reviews are planned? â€ When will each of these reviews be concluded?"</p> |
| EW0453_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Reviews 2011-12 | <p>"For 2011-12: â€ How many Reviews were undertaken? â€ Where all reviews have, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded? â€ Which of these reviews has been provided to Government? â€ Did the Government respond to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not? â€ What was the estimated cost of each of these Reviews? â€ For any ongoing reviews, when will each of these reviews be concluded?"</p> |
| EW0454_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Consultancies - financial year to date | <p>"How many consultancies have been undertaken this financial year to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known."</p> |
| EW0455_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Consultancies 2011-12 | <p>How many consultancies were undertaken in 2011-12? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.</p> |
| EW0456_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Media monitoring - financial year to date | <p>What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for this financial year to date? â€ Which agency or agencies provided these services? â€ What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2012-13? â€ What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date? What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for this financial year to date? â€ Which agency or agencies provided these services? â€ What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2012-13? â€ What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?"</p> |

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| EW0457_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Media monitoring - 2011-12 | <p>"What was the actual total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for 2011-12? â€¢ Which agency or agencies provided these services? â€¢ What was the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2011-12? What was the actual total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for 2011-12? â€¢ Which agency or agencies provided these services? â€¢ What was the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2011-12?"</p> |
| EW0458_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Social media | <p>"Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and useage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since May 2012 Budget Estimates? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue. Does the department/agency monitor usage of social media? â€¢ If yes, provide details of the usage (for example details could include average hours per employee, hours when usage peaks) â€¢ If no, will the department/agency monitor usage in the future? Does social media impact on employee productivity? Provide details (details could include increased internet usage in general or increased internet usage in standard business hours)"</p> |
| EW0459_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Internet | Has the Department experienced any internet problems, such as but not limited to slow internet, or internet blackouts? If yes, what was the reason for this? Did it impact the Minister's office? |
| EW0460_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Staff amenities | What amenities are provided to staff? Provide a list. |
| EW0461_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Briefings to Australian Greens or Independents - 2011-12 | <p>Were any briefings been provided to the Australian Greens in 2011-12? If yes, please include: â€¢ How are briefings requests commissioned? â€¢ What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing. â€¢ Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the briefings were and why it could not proceed. â€¢ How long is spent undertaken briefings for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification. Were any briefings been provided to Independents in 2011-12? If yes, please include: â€¢ How are briefings requests commissioned? â€¢ What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing. â€¢ Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the briefings were and why it could not proceed. â€¢ How long is spent undertaken briefings for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.</p> |
| EW0462_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Coffee machines | <p>Has the department/agency purchased coffee machines for staff usage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased. Why were coffee machines purchased? Where did the funding for the coffee machines come from? Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in 2011-12 and how much this financial year to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken Where does the funding for maintenance come from?</p> |
| EW0463_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Briefings to Australian Greens or Independents | <p>Have any briefings been provided to the Australian Greens? If yes, please include: â€¢ How are briefings requests commissioned? â€¢ What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing. â€¢ Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the briefings were and why it could not proceed. â€¢ How long is spent undertaken briefings for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification. Have any briefings been provided to Independents? If yes, please include: â€¢ How are briefings requests commissioned? â€¢ What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing. â€¢ Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the briefings were and why it could not proceed. â€¢ How long is spent undertaken briefings for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.</p> |
| EW0464_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Electricity costs | <p>Provide details of any update of the department/agency electricity purchasing agreement if there has been a change since Budget Estimates 2011-12 (May 2012). What are the department/agency electricity costs for 2011-12? What are the department/agency electricity costs for this financial year to date?</p> |
| EW0465_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Provision of equipment to Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary - 2011-12 | <p>For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided, the cost and what were the ongoing costs for 2011-12. For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of electronic equipment was provided, the cost and what were the ongoing costs for 2011-12. Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) was provided to department/agency staff for 2011 12, provide details of what was provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.</p> |
| EW0466_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Provision of equipment to Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary - since Budget Estimates | <p>For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs. For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs for this financial year to date? What were the running costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11? Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it. Please update if there have been any changes since Budget Estimates 2011-12 (May 2012): Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to whom it is provided.</p> |
| EW0467_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Contractors - financial year to date | <p>For this financial year to date: â€¢ Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€¢ Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€¢ Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€¢ Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€¢ Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€¢ Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€¢ Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€¢ Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€¢ Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details. â€¢ What contractors have been employed by the department/agency? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</p> |
| EW0468_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Credit cards - 2011-12 | For 2011-12 how many instances of corporate credit card misuse were there? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken |

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| | | | | | <p>"For 2011-12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> â€ Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€ Has the department/agency ever employed Shannonâ€™s Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannonâ€™s Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€ Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€ Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€ Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€ Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€ Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€ Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost). â€ Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details. â€ What contractors have been employed by the department/agency? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost)." |
| EW0469_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Contractors - 2011-12 | |
| EW0470_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Grants - financial year to date | <p>Could the department/agency provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for this financial year to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.</p> <p>Have all grant agreement details been published on its website within the required timeframe? If not, provide details.</p> |
| EW0471_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Grants - 2011-12 | <p>Could the department/agency provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for 2011-12? Please provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.</p> <p>Were all grant agreement details published on its website within the required timeframe? If not, provide details.</p> |
| EW0472_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Commissioned reports - 2011-12 | <p>"How many Reports were commissioned by the Government in your department/agency in 2011-12? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> â€ How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level? â€ What is the current status of each report? Did the Government report within the required timeframe? If not, when is the Government intending to respond to these reports?" |
| EW0473_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Commissioned reports - financial year to date | <p>How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your department/agency this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> â€ How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level? â€ What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports? |
| EW0474_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | On time payment of accounts - financial year to date | <p>For this financial year to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e.within 30 days)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> â€ If not, why not? Provide details, including what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached) â€ For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year? â€ Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined? |
| EW0475_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | On time payment of accounts - 2011-12 | <p>For 2011-12, did the department/agency pay its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e.within 30 days)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> â€ If not, why not? Provide details, including what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached) â€ For accounts not paid within 30 days, is/was interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year? â€ Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined? â€ Have all accounts from 2011-12 been paid? If no, why not? |
| EW0476_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Stationery costs - financial year to date | <p>How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) this financial year to date?</p> <p>What are the department/agencyâ€™s stationery costs for the financial year to date?</p> |
| EW0477_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Stationery costs - 2011-12 | <p>How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) in 2011-12?</p> <p>What were the department/agencyâ€™s stationery costs for 2011-12?</p> |
| EW0478_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Media subscriptions | <p>Has there been any change to your pay TV subscription since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates (May 2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> â€ If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels. â€ What is the cost for this financial year to date? <p>Has there been any change to your newspaper subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates (May 2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> â€ If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers. â€ What is the cost for this financial year to date? <p>Has there been any change to your magazine subscriptions since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates (May 2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> â€ If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines. â€ What is the cost for this financial year to date? <p>What was the 2011-12 cost for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> â€ TV subscriptions â€ Newspaper subscriptions â€ Magazine subscriptions <p>Does the department/agency provide any media subscriptions to its Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries? If yes, provide details of what is provided and the cost this financial year to date and for 2011-12.</p> |

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| | | | | | <p>"For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).</p> <p>For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).</p> <p>Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed? How is the department/agency following the advice? How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.</p> <p>Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.</p> <p>When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel."</p> |
| EW0479_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Travel costs - financial year to date | |
| EW0480_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Travel costs - 2011-12 | <p>For 2011-12, please detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).</p> <p>For 2011-12, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).</p> |
| EW0481_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Cost of Legal Services 2011/12 | <p>What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for 2011-12? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> <p>What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for 2011-12 from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> <p>What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for 2011-12? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> <p>What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for 2011-12 from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> |
| EW0482_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Cost of Legal Services 2012/13 FYTD | <p>What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> <p>What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> <p>What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> <p>What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> |
| EW0483_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Education expenses - financial year to date | <p>"Has there been a change to the department/agency's guidelines on study since the 2012-13 Budget Estimates (May 2012)? If yes, please provide details.</p> <p>For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification). Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for the department/agency."</p> |
| EW0484_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Credit cards - changes since Budget Estimates | <p>Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.</p> <p>Please update if there have been any changes since Budget Estimates 2012-13 (May 2012):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused? • How is corporate credit card use monitored? • What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered? • Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken. • What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse? |
| EW0485_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Taxi costs - 2011-12 | <p>How much did each department/agency spend on taxis in 2011-12? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.</p> <p>What are the reasons for taxi costs?</p> |
| EW0486_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Education expenses - 2011-12 | <p>For 2011-12, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification). Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for the department/agency.</p> |
| EW0487_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Taxi costs - financial year to date | <p>How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.</p> <p>What are the reasons for taxi costs?</p> |
| EW0488_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Executive Coaching and Leadership Training - financial year to date | <p>In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total spending on these services 2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification 3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) 4. The names of all service providers engaged <p>For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The name and nature of the service purchased ii. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based iii. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) iv. The total amount spent on the service v. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package) <p>Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The location used 6. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) 7. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) ii. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location |
| EW0489_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Corporate cars - 2011-12 | <p>For 2011-12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How cars are owned by each department/agency? • Where is the car/s located? • What is the car/s used for? • What was the cost of each car? • How far did each car travel? |
| EW0490_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Corporate cars - since Budget Estimates | <p>Please update if there have been any changes since Budget Estimates 2012-13 (May 2012):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How cars are owned by each department/agency? • Where is the car/s located? • What is the car/s used for? • What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date? • How far did each car travel this financial year to date? |

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| EW0491_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Executive Coaching and Leadership Training - 2011-12 | <p>In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for 2011-12:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total spending on these services 2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification 3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) 4. The names of all service providers engaged <p>For each service purchased form a provider listed under (4), please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The name and nature of the service purchased b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification d) The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) e) The total amount spent on the service f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package) <p>Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The location used ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location |
| EW0492_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary - 2011-12 | <p>For 2011-12, how much has been spent on training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.</p> <p>For 2011-12, how much has been spent on training for staff of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.</p> <p>For 2011-12, how much has been spent on training for designed to better suit the needs of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for, and how many employees attended and their classification.</p> |
| EW0493_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary - financial year to date | <p>For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.</p> <p>For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for staff of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for.</p> <p>For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for designed to better suit the needs of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for, and how many employees attended and their classification.</p> |
| EW0494_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Media training - financial year to date | <p>In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total spending on these services 2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification 3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) 4. The names of all service providers engaged <p>For each service purchased form a provider listed under (4), please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The name and nature of the service purchased b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) d) The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) e) The total amount spent on the service f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package) <p>Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The location used ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location |
| EW0495_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Paid Parental Leave - 2011-12 | <p>For 2011-12 to date which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments.</p> |
| EW0496_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Paid Parental Leave - financial year to date | <p>Please list how many staff in each portfolio department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?</p> <p>For this financial year to date list which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments.</p> |
| EW0497_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Media training - 2011-12 | <p>"In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for 2011-12:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total spending on these services 2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification 3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) 4. The names of all service providers engaged <p>For each service purchased form a provider listed under (4), please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The name and nature of the service purchased b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) d) The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) e) The total amount spent on the service f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package) <p>Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The location used ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location |
| EW0498_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Shredders | <p>Did the department/agencies purchase any shredders in 2011-12? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.</p> <p>Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders since Budget Estimates 2011-12 (May 2012)? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.</p> |

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| EW0499_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Protective security policy framework | Provide an update for your department/agency, including what is your current compliance level, what are you doing to manage risk, what is being done to comply with the mandatory requirements and details of any department/agency specific policies and procedures. |
| | | | | | 1. Please provide a list of all office locations for all departments and agencies within the portfolio by: a. Department/Agency; b. Location; c. Leased or Owned; d. Size; e. Number of Staff at each location and classification; f. If rented, the amount and breakdown of rent per square metre; g. If owned, the value of the building; h. Depreciation of buildings that are owned; i. Type of functions and work undertaken |
| EW0500_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Office locations | |
| | | | | | 1. For all departments and agencies, please provide "in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff" the following: a. By Department or agency: i. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location. ii. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location iii. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location |
| EW0501_13 | Back, Chris | Written | Cross Portfolio | Public relations, communications and media staff | |
| | | | | | Provide details for each of the following departments and divisions: 1. Comcare premiums for financial years, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13. 2. Each department's Comcare premiums as a % of payroll annually for 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13. 3. Each department's Comcare penalty or bonus for 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13. The abovementioned departments/divisions: Administrative Appeals Tribunal; Airservices Australia; Attorney-General's Department; Australian Broadcasting Corporation; Australian Bureau of Statistics; Australian Communications and Media Authority; Australian Competition and Consumer Commission; Australian Crime Commission; Australian Customs Service; Australian Electoral Commission; Australian Federal Police; Australian Film Television and Radio School; Australian Fisheries Management Authority; Australian Government Solicitor; Australian Hearing; Australian Industrial Registry; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; Australian Institute of Marine Science; Australian Maritime Safety Authority; Australian National Audit Office; Australian National University; Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation; Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority; Australian Prudential Regulation Authority; Australian Public Service Commission; Australian Securities and Investment Commission; Australian Sports Commission; Australian Taxation Office; Australian Trade Commission; Australian War Memorial; Bureau of Meteorology; Centrelink; Civil Aviation Authority; Comcare; Commonwealth Ombudsman; Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation; Commonwealth Superannuation Administration; Defence Housing Australia; Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy; Department of Climate Change; Department of Defence; Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Department of Finance and Deregulation; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Health and Aging; Department of Human Services; Department of Immigration and Citizenship; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research; Department of Parliamentary Services; Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism; Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts; Department of the House of Representatives; Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Department of the Senate; Department of the Treasury; Department of Veterans Affairs; Family Court of Australia; Federal Court of Australia; Federal Magistrates Court of Australia; Food Standards Australia New Zealand; Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; Health Services Australia Ltd; Indigenous Business Australia; Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia; Medibank Private Ltd; Medicare Australia; National Archives of Australia; National Gallery of Australia; National Health and Medical Research Council; National Library of Australia; National Museum of Australia; National Native Title Tribunal; Northern Land Council; Note Printing Australia; Office of National Assessments; Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions; Productivity Commission; Snowy Hydro Ltd; The Australia Council of for the Arts; Tourism Australia. |
| EW0502_13 | Colbeck, Richard | Written | Agency - Comcare | Comcare - Comcare premiums, penalties and bonus | |
| EW0503_13 | Fifield, Mitch | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Number of Youth Allowance recipients | How many Youth Allowance (other) recipients were there, by month, in 2011-2012? |
| EW0504_13 | Fifield, Mitch | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Youth Allowance recipients participating in study | How many Youth Allowance (other) recipients in 2011-2012 were a) participating in education or training full time b) participating in part-time study or training while working to attain their Year 12 or equivalent qualification? |
| EW0505_13 | Fifield, Mitch | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Migrant Youth Allowance recipients | How many Youth Allowance (other) recipients in 2011-2012 were newly arrived migrants? |
| EW0506_13 | Fifield, Mitch | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Receipt of Youth Allowance while out of Australia | How many persons received Youth Allowance (other) in 2011-2012 while on a temporary absence from Australia not exceeding 13 weeks? |
| EW0507_13 | Fifield, Mitch | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Additional supplements for Youth Allowance recipients | How many Youth Allowance (other) recipients, by month, also received the additional supplement of \$20.80 per fortnight as a result of their participation in: a) Work for the Dole? b) Green Corps? c) Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program? d) Community Development Employment Project? |
| EW0508_13 | Humphries, Gary | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Agricultural Youth Think Tank | DAFF recently held an Agricultural Youth Think Tank at Parliament House. Did DAFF consult with the Office for Youth in relation to this event? Did the Office for Youth use the existing Australian Youth Forum or the youth.gov.au website to promote this event? |
| EW0509_13 | Humphries, Gary | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | youth-related events | How does the Office for Youth coordinate with other departments about youth-related events? |
| EW0510_13 | Humphries, Gary | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Positive Body Image Awards | What were the judging criteria for the Positive Body Image Awards? Please provide a copy of the full criteria or guidelines for determining the recipients of the Awards. Who sat on the Positive Body Image Awards Assessment and Advisory Panel? How were the panel members selected, and by whom? What was the total cost of the presentation event for the Positive Body Image Awards? |
| EW0511_13 | Humphries, Gary | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Office for Youth | What is the FTE staffing level in the Office for Youth? What is the total staffing budget for the Office for Youth? What classifications are the staff in the Office for Youth? |
| EW0512_13 | Humphries, Gary | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | grants in the Youth portfolio | Have any grants in the Youth portfolio been frozen or delayed as a result of recently taken budget decisions? |
| EW0513_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Program 2.3 Schools Support (Australian Baccalaureate) | According to the original election commitment in 2010, the cost to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority of developing the Australian Baccalaureate was to be \$2.5 million in the year 2013/14. Following this year's Budget, it's now been pushed back until 2015/16 at a cost of \$2.7 million to develop. a. What is the cause of this delay? b. How has the development of the new Australian Baccalaureate been costed, i.e what will the \$2.7 million be spent on? |

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| EW0514_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Australian Baccalaureate | The ALP's fact sheet on the Australian Baccalaureate "claims this certificate is needed for high performing students who want an internationally recognised qualification that measures a variety of achievements" a. Was a research report, feasibility study, or any other type of report commissioned before this announcement was made showing that a new certificate for high-performing students was needed? b. Will the Australian Baccalaureate be competing with the same cohort of students that currently undertake the International Baccalaureate? |
| EW0515_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Australian Baccalaureate | Under the Australian Baccalaureate, high performing students would be electing to be certified for the award, similar to the way students can currently elect to undertake the International Baccalaureate a. Has there been any contact between the Government and International Baccalaureate's head office in Geneva to obtain details on how students elect to undertake the International Baccalaureate? b. Have any potential patent issues been addressed if the Australian Baccalaureate is to emulate the International Baccalaureate in this respect, or any other respect? |
| EW0516_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Australian Certificate of Education/ Australian Baccalaureate | "In 2006 a detailed research report "Australian Certificate of Education (ACE): Exploring a way forward" the ACER found that it is unlikely that an Australian Certificate of Education would ever become an "international certificate" in the sense of an International Baccalaureate diploma program. a. How is the Australian Baccalaureate proposed to be internationally recognised? Formally or informally? With what countries?" |
| EW0517_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Grants and Awards | Please provide a full list of the grants and awards funded under this programme, and how much funding is involved in administering each grant or award. a. If applicable, please advise how much is provided in prize money. |
| EW0518_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Quality Outcomes | What programmes or projects are funded from the administered funding going to quality outcomes? a. Please provide a breakdown of the funding over the forward estimates by project and provide a description. |
| EW0519_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Framework for Open Learning | What is the framework for open learning? a. Which organisation has developed the framework? b. How does it benefit students? |
| EW0520_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Student Resilience and Well Being | The Government suggested that it would achieve savings of \$10.3 million over the forward estimates by consolidating the National School Drug strategy, and values education programme into one single programme. The Government has also suggested that these savings will be used to increase funding to ACARA to develop a health and physical education curriculum. (Budget paper no.2, page 125) a. How was the \$10.3 million saving calculated precisely, and what kinds of "administrative and financial efficiencies" were identified that yields the savings? |
| EW0521_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Student Resilience and Well Being | What programmes are now being funded under this initiative and what organisations have been engaged to deliver them? |
| EW0522_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority | ACARA - MySchool website | What is the total cost to collect, analyse, collate and present the information on the My School website? Please include all costs including the cost of employing staff for data analysis, IT maintenance, and help desk staff. |
| EW0523_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority | ACARA - MySchool website | What does the My School website cost to operate per month? |
| EW0524_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority | ACARA - MySchool website | How many unique users have accessed each version of the My School website? Please provide the numbers of unique users accessing the website each month. a. Please provide the total number of unique users visiting each of the following sections on the school website " School profile, school finances NAPLAN, VET in schools, local schools |
| EW0525_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Evaluation of the More Support for Students with Disabilities Initiative | In addition to the question taken on notice by the Department during Estimates on 18/10/12 regarding on whether the evaluation under "More Support for Students with Disability" will be made public: What is the cost of conducting the evaluation? a. Who will be conducting the evaluation, the Department or an external consultant? |
| EW0526_13 | Mason, Brett | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Non-Government Schools National Support | Budget Paper No 3, page 57, 2012/2013 provides estimates for the National Schools Specific Purpose Payment for non-government schools. Budget Paper No. 3 advises that the growth factor is determined in accordance with the Schools Assistance Act 2008. a. Provide the value of growth across the forward estimates (supplementation) that is a product of growth in average non-government schools recurrent cost. Please provide this information based on the 2012/13 Budget estimates, excluding growth based on enrolment growth for each year. |
| EW0527_13 | McKenzie, Bridget | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Empowering Local Schools initiative | Under the Empowering Local Schools initiative, schools will be funded from \$40,000 to \$50,000 as star-up grants to assist them to manage their increased decision-making responsibilities effectively. Given there is an additional \$3.2mn set aside to support training for Principals and school communities, what types of activities or infrastructure is the Department expecting schools to spend this money on? Are there any examples from schools already participating? |
| EW0528_13 | McKenzie, Bridget | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Local Learning and Employment Networks | In response to a question I asked at the May estimates in relation to Local Learning and Employment Networks, the Department responded that The Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs) is a Victorian State Government initiative. The expenditure, breakdown, outcomes and means of measuring outcomes of projects in regional Victoria is a matter for the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Yet LLENs act as School Business Community Partnership Brokers in Victoria and are presumably funded a substantial amount of the \$13.9mn over four years for this program to do so. What are the "enhancements" to existing LLEN services funded by the Federal government through the School Business Community Partnership Brokers program in Victoria? In what ways is the Department working with the Victorian LLENs? How will the Department be evaluating the success of the LLENs in delivering the program? |
| EW0529_13 | McKenzie, Bridget | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Parliament and Civics Education Rebate | The number of students receiving the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate is forecast in the budget to drop after this year. Why? Does this reflect a decreasing emphasis on the importance of civics education in our schools? How have the PACER payments to schools changed in recent years to reflect growing costs? |
| EW0530_13 | McKenzie, Bridget | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Teach Next | According to the budget papers, Teach Next is a new employment-based pathway into teaching " but it is scheduled to wind up in 2015. Why? Has there been an evaluation of the program? Please provide details. |
| EW0531_13 | McKenzie, Bridget | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Victorian BER projects | According to the Age, the Baillieu government has been forced to bail out building projects when federal funding dried up, leaving schools without furniture, joinery and landscaping. What communication has the Department had with the Victorian government about this issue? How many Victorian BER projects were under-funded and remained incomplete after the funding for them ran out? Did the Department assist the Victorian Government in working through issues for local schools were projects remained incomplete? REF: State education in red ink after building bailouts (The Age October 10 2012) |

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| EW0532_13 | McKenzie, Bridget | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | National Standards Accreditation | I refer to QON EW0131_13 from last Estimates where only one part of the question was answered. In relation to school teacher bonuses: What feedback has the department received from representative bodies, including unions, on the affordability of the accreditation process? How has it acted on this feedback? Why did the department choose to take this approach? How much has the department allocated Victoria for the National Standards Accreditation Program? Is the Department continuing to work with the Victorian Government on implementing the program? |
| EW0533_13 | McKenzie, Bridget | Written | Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority | ACARA - National literacy and numeracy tests discrimination | The Australian this week said that research shows "national literacy and numeracy tests discriminate against indigenous children in remote communities". The tests apparently "use reading materials about unfamiliar situations and require a level of grammatical knowledge often lacking in students for whom English is a second language". Examples highlighted included culturally unfamiliar questions around "a movie poster including the name of the director, the rating and session times, and a paperboy delivering newspapers to letterboxes, which are foreign concepts to children in remote communities". Rob Randall is quoted in response as saying "some of the points raised were worth considering ""but there is nothing that would support saying no to NAPLAN""". Can you elaborate? What is ACARA's position on the recently released research? When was ACARA first made aware of this issue? Is ACARA intending to take any action as a result of this research? REF: Naplan questions unfair to remote kids (Australian October 16 2012) http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/education/naplan-questions-unfair-to-remote-kids/story-fn59nlz9-1226496623433 |
| EW0534_13 | McKenzie, Bridget | Written | Cross Portfolio | Electricity costs | ALL " Dept and Agencies For the financial year 2011-2012, how many kilowatt hour of electricity did the department consume? What was the total cost? What does this cost work out to per employee? What increases in electricity costs has the Department experienced since the introduction of the carbon tax? How has this changed the Department's spending pattern? What programs or services have been cut to meet the increased costs? What measures is the Department taking to reduce its electricity expenditure? When did these commence? What impact have they had? |
| EW0535_13 | McKenzie, Bridget | Written | Cross Portfolio | Regional Education, Skills and Jobs plans | Have the plans been updated to reflect the impact of the carbon tax, especially for impacted areas such as Gippsland? DEEWR's website also says that "The Plans are living and responsive documents that will be revisited throughout their implementation to ensure they respond to emergent issues and opportunities or changing community or government priorities in regional Australia." Please provide some Victorian examples of how the plans have been updated to reflect changing circumstance since being first drafted. Please outline how achievements against the plans are measured and list some of the achievements resulting from work undertaken to implement the plans in Victoria. Please include specific examples relevant to Loddon-Mallee. What funding do RESJ coordinators have to implement projects to attain RESJ goals? Please outline the RESJ Coordinators consultation with the community in developing the Loddon-Mallee RESJ Plan. The Loddon-Mallee RESJ references "further work" to assist communities to prepare for the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. How exactly do the Victorian RESJ Coordinators work with the Regional Employment Coordinators? Please provide an example including Loddon-Mallee and Bendigo-Ballarat. |
| EW0536_13 | Nash, Fiona | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Jobs Guides provided to Year 10 students | 1 Can the Department outline why it is they decided to cut the ratio of the program for the provision of Jobs Guides to year 10 students in particular? 2 What does the department expect to save from a reduction of the ratio? 3 How is the ratio determined? 4 What will the average book/student ratio now approximately be? 5 Did the department consider the impact such changes might have of rural and regional students who have limited access to other resources that might be supplied via the internet or other metropolitan- based career services, relying on having access to these individual guides to make future career decisions? 6 Has the department considered making special arrangements for those rural and remote schools that rely on this resource for career discussion and career path planning more than their regional and metropolitan counterparts? 7 What have been the responses from Public, Private and Independent Schools, and their advocates, been to the announcement of the new ratio)? |
| EW0537_13 | Nash, Fiona | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Budget of Schools branch | 1 Can the department confirm that the Youth and Transitions branch of DEEWR spent approximately \$1 million dollars on consultants? 2 In that time, can the Department outline whether any new initiatives have been implemented from what has obviously been a very thorough consultation and policy development process? 3 Can the department provide information regarding the costs that have been incurred by the taxpayer for this year's consultancy fees leading up to the presentation of the long-awaited Green Paper in June of this year? 4 Are there any programs in the pipeline as outlined in the Green paper to temporarily fill the gap left by those budget cuts made to the National Career Development Element of the National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment, Lighthouse School Funding, Defence gap Year Program national Career Development week or the Careers advisors Industry placements Scholarships? 5 Has the department/Minister received any communication from stakeholders regarding access to careers services and information has suffered since the reductions/cutting of these programs? |
| EW0538_13 | Nash, Fiona | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | School funding model - Regional and Remote Schools | 1. Is the modelling which was leaked in August this year correct? Will the regional and remote schools listed in the leaked modelling lose funding under the new reforms? 2. Is there now alternate modelling available to finally advise regional and remote schools of the affect of funding changes on their schools? Or is there still "no results" to offer? 3. Can you advise when the modelling will be released? Given legislation is said to be introduced this year surely the modelling will be released shortly? |
| EW0539_13 | Nash, Fiona | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Funding Model Details - Regional, rural and remote schools | 1. Has the base-funding amount been set yet? What will it be for primary and secondary? 2. In the Prime Minister's address at the National Press Club the PM spoke of loadings for small schools and remote schools but did not mention regional and rural. Regional and rural are however also listed as areas eligible for needs loading on the Better Schools Website. Can the department please confirm what the categories for eligibility for needs loading will be? 3. How will regional, rural and remote schools be classified? Will the ASGC-RA classification system be used? What does "rural" mean? 4. Does "regional" for the purpose of new funding arrangements include outer and inner regional (as under the ASGC-RA classifications)? 5. Will Non-Government schools, which are currently eligible for remoteness loadings be guaranteed eligibility under the new criteria? 6. How will the level of loading for regional rural and small schools be determined? Is it to be a set percentage of the base funding? 7. Will the differing categories eligible for loadings (eg disability, remote, small schools, indigenous students) be set at different levels or the same? |
| EW0540_13 | Payne, Marise | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | JSA providers | Can you please outline the process of supporting and sanctioning audited JSA providers found to "over-claimed" Provider Brokered outcomes? How many providers have been sanctioned or been labelled as "providers of concern"? |
| EW0541_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Young Mothers Program | Young mothers program, 1 January 2012 How many young parents reside in each of the 10 locations that are part of the Building Australia's Future Workforce initiative that started on 1 January 2012? What have been the outcomes for parents' participation in all of these locations? How many parents have had their payment suspended under these arrangements? |
| EW0542_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | DEEWR Court Decision | Are you notifying affected persons of the decision of Tsangaris v Secretary, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations [2012] FCA 721 (6 July 2012)? |
| EW0543_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Parenting payments "impacts of legislation change" | Will the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations be monitoring the impacts of the legislation change? If yes, what will be monitored and how will it be reported? Will the following be assessed? "Housing and homelessness? "Impact on support services? "Workforce participation? "Access to healthcare card? |

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| EW0544_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | SEAM | Is the NT Government supportive of the expansion of SEAM? Have they maintained the previous Government's funding commitment? How many schools has SEAM not been rolled out to in the NT? |
| EW0545_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | income support payments | Allowance Recipients Please update DEEWR Questions No.EW0534_11 and EW0708_12 by providing a breakdown of the latest available estimates for the number of recipients of the following income support payments: DSP, PPS, PPP, CP, NSA, AuStudy, YA(student), and YA (other) – both total numbers and disaggregated by: – State/territory – Age (in both groupings (<25, 25-49, 50+), and (<15, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+)) – Sex – Indigenous status – whether recipients also receive Carer Allowance – For principal carers of children on activity tested payments, whether the youngest child is 6 years or over – principal carers (including separate data for sole parents) status – partial work capacity status – whether recipients have current earnings – duration on payment (<1yr, 1-2, 2-5, 5yrs +) |
| EW0546_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | income support payments | Exemptions from activity test or participation requirements Please update DEEWR Question No. EW1042_12 by providing a breakdown of exemptions from activity test or participation requirements by Indigenous/non-Indigenous recipients and by gender. |
| EW0547_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | income support payments | Parenting Payment Changes/NSA Principal Carer impacts Of single parents affected by the changes starting on 1 January 2013: – How many reside in each state and territory, and in total? Please cross tabulate by number of recipients who are indigenous and non-indigenous. – How many with currently on PPS earnings will not qualify for Newstart Allowance (Principal Carer), even under the relaxed income tapers? – How many live in i) regional, ii) remote or iii) very remote locations? – How many dependent children in each family? (e.g. 1 child, 2 children, 3, etc)? – How many report being of Indigenous/non-Indigenous background? – How many receive Carer Allowance? How many receive CA for 1, 2, 3 children, etc. (Provide data for Carer Allowance Child and Adult, if possible). – How many have one (or more) vulnerability indicators? (Provide a breakdown by type of vulnerability). How many have 1, 2, 3, etc. vulnerability indicators? – How many live in i) public housing ii) social housing? How many of these parents reported any earnings in a recent payment cycle? – How many receive Rent Assistance? Of these, how many receive the maximum rate of Rent Assistance? – How many i) are home-owners, or ii) are paying off a mortgage? – How many report having a disability? – How many with a disability i) also receive Carer Allowance or ii) have a child with a disability? |
| EW0548_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Employment Barriers | Please update DEEWR Question No. EW1045_12; with respect to the 10 most common barriers identified in ESAT/JCA Reports for , please identify how many jobseekers experience that barrier, both as a total and as a percentage of all jobseekers in the Stream 4 case load. Please cross tabulate by whether the job-seeker is Indigenous or not. Of all job seekers in the stream 4 caseload, please indicate how many job seekers have 1, 2, 3, 4, or over 5 employment barriers, both as a total and as a percentage of all jobseekers in the Stream 4 case load. Please cross tabulate by whether the job-seeker is Indigenous or not. |
| EW0549_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Job Seeker Compliance Issues | Job Seeker Compliance Issues With reference to DEEWR Question EW1057_12, please provide an update to Tables 1 and 2 for the quarter ending June 2012, showing the number of all financial penalties imposed (eg. Eight week, serious, daily, etc) by Indigenous and non-Indigenous recipients, and by age. Provide an update to question EW1131_12 and EW1056_12 for the period Jan 1st to June 30th 2012 by providing details of the numbers of people under each of these provisions: – Breakdown of No Show No Pay penalties, indicating number of days served per event e.g. 1 day; 500 recipients; 2 days, 300 recipients, etc. – Number of job seekers accessing of "working off" provisions (including partial use) and numbers electing not to access them. – details of how many people sought to access the hardship provisions and how many met the criteria. – Numbers with access to payment pending review provisions. – the number and percentage of participation failures recommended by Job Services Australia on job seekers subject to current activity requirements, compared to those imposed by Centrelink. – eight week no payment periods and "no show no pay" penalties by the following parameters: age, gender, Indigenous status, and Centrelink area – Eight week penalties and no show no pay penalties applied to job seekers with Centrelink vulnerability indicators (by type of vulnerability) and by total; – Eight week penalties and no show no pay penalties by State and Centrelink Area, for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal clients; – Eight week penalties and no show no pay penalties segregated by the reason for the no payment period, such as those found to be wilfully and consistently non-compliant, refused a suitable job offer, voluntarily left employment, wilfully non-compliant, etc. – Appeals data, by ODM, ARO, SSAT, AAT, including outcome, for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal clients cross-tabulated by State – The number of Comprehensive Compliance Assessments for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal clients. (Detailing outcomes, review of activity requirements, referrals, eight week penalty, etc). – The percentage of appointments attended (by each month) – the number of job seekers who had their income support cut as a result of the July 2011 "missed appointment" changes and the number of job seekers with vulnerabilities who also had their payments reduced under these rules. – the numbers of job seekers who accessed the "working off" penalty provisions |
| EW0550_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Job seeker compliance changes | How many job seekers had a financial loss as a result of the 1 July 2011 job seeker compliance changes? Provide a breakdown by: – Indigenous/non-Indigenous job seekers – Job seekers with a vulnerability indicator – Indigenous/non-Indigenous job seekers with a vulnerability indicator – Indigenous/non-Indigenous job seekers with a vulnerability indicator by type of vulnerability indicator. |
| EW0551_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Employment Services | Please provide the number of jobseekers who participated in each Stream of JSA assistance, and separately for the Work Experience phase, during 2011-12, and the number currently in each stream and in the Work Experience phase, broken down by duration of unemployment. Please provide total costs for each Stream of JSA assistance during 2011-12 and for the Work Experience phase, broken down into three categories: service fees, EPF credits spent, and outcome payments. Please provide average expenditures from the Employment Pathway Fund for each Stream and for the Work Experience Phase during 2011-12, broken down by expenditure type, and the same breakdowns for the number of jobseekers assisted with funds drawn from the EPF. Please provide a breakdown of the number of jobseekers during 2011-12 attracting outcome payments, broken down by pathway and full outcome payments, and by 13 week and 26 week outcomes, for each Stream of JSA assistance and for the Work Experience phase Please provide details of any employment service evaluations that have been completed by the Department so far this year (including a copy of relevant reports), or are expected to be completed by the end of 2012. Please provide data on trends in the number of very long term unemployed people on Newstart and Youth Allowance (Other) through 2012 and the numbers of these people who have been referred to, and commenced, the wage subsidy scheme and the 11-month work for benefits scheme announced in the Building Australia's Future Workforce policy since the date of implementation of those two measures, and any information available on employment outcomes for those who commenced these programs. |

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| EW0552_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | DES Providers | Please outline the actions taken by the Department to address the findings of the Sharp Practices review of DES providers. |
| EW0553_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Older Workers | The Department recently published a report from the National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre titled, Barriers to Mature Age Employment: Final Report of the Consultative Forum on Mature Age Participation. Please provide a timeline for responding to and implementing the recommendations in this report and details of any recommendations that are currently being implemented, or that the Department has begun planning to implement. |
| EW0554_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Changing employment service providers | In 2011-12, how many and what percentage of job seekers are involved in exercising a choice in their employment service provider? In 2011-12 how many job seekers requested a change of provider due to an irreconcilable breakdown in the relationship? Of these requests, how many were granted? |
| EW0555_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Placed-based policies and data | Can the Department update the Demographic Data used to highlight key indicators for disadvantage that has been used for the selection of the place-based measures in the 10 locations, as reported previously in DEEWR Question No. EW0372_12. |
| EW0556_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Supplement payments | Please detail by payment type how many allowance and pension recipients receive additional support in the form of supplements as a total and as a percentage of all recipients, by supplement. |
| EW0557_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Cross Portfolio | Compliance | How many funding agreements were issued by your department in the FY 2011/12? What was the total value of the grants provided? How many of those funding agreements were provided to the same entity on more than occasion in that period? |
| EW0558_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Cross Portfolio | Risks associated with grants | What part does the assessment of risk play in the awarding of grants and or the compliance and reporting obligations placed on a recipient? What are the risks factors the Department uses to judge whether a grant should be awarded to a particular recipient? Does the Financial Management and Accountability Act, associated Regulations or other guidelines spell out any mandated factors which must be used in determining how best to manage risk? Where an entity has been regularly awarded grants by the Commonwealth, do they receive any dispensation in terms of reporting and compliance obligations? If so what, and if not why not? Does your Department have a risk assessment framework for assessing grants applications? Is that framework publicly available? The Auditor General Act now authorises the Auditor General to do performance audits of grant recipients, has this new oversight function been factored in to the Department's risk assessment framework? If so how and if not why not |
| EW0559_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Cross Portfolio | Contracts with NFPs | Of the total number of funding agreements with NFP entities - how many required the grants to be acquitted with an audited financial statement? What factor or factors are used to determine whether a particular grant requires a financial acquittal with an audited financial statement? In relation to these grants how much money is spent on audited financial statements? Does a grant that has been acquitted with an audited financial statement improve the quality of the outcomes sought from the grant? If so, how? Are grant recipients expected to bear the cost of compliance and reporting obligations or are these provided for in the grant? There are a range of compliance and reporting obligations stipulated in funding agreements used to monitor the delivery of outcomes from a grant. Has your department costed those obligations and if so what inputs are included in the calculation? Is there an Act or regulation that the Department could cite that states the requirement to acquit a government grant using an audited financial statement? |
| EW0560_13 | Siewert, Rachel | Written | Cross Portfolio | ACNC and link to red-tape reduction | The EM to the ACNC Bill (p4) states that the Bill establishes a new regulatory framework for the sector. It also states that the sector's new regulatory system will establish a "report-once, use-often" reporting framework. What work has been done in the Department to enable sharing of corporate/governance information between it and the ACNC? Given the Department's relationship to the sector via its grants process, what actions has the Department taken to introduce a "report-once, use-often" framework for information collected from NFP entities in relation to the application for, reporting on and acquittal of grants? |
| EW0561_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Stream One Job Seekers | What is the average cost per employment outcome for Stream One job seekers? What is their average duration of unemployment? |
| EW0562_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Stream Two Job Seekers | What is the average cost per employment outcome for Stream Two job seekers? What is their average duration of unemployment? |
| EW0563_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Stream Three Job Seekers | What is the average cost per employment outcome for Stream Three job seekers? What is their average duration of unemployment? |
| EW0564_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Stream Four Job Seekers | What is the average cost per employment outcome for Stream Four job seekers? What is their average duration of unemployment? |
| EW0565_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Job Seekers | Of the job seekers for whom an employment outcome is made, what is the average number of hours per week they are working at their 13 week outcome mark? |
| EW0566_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | JSA Job Seekers | Is it correct that the Department is now requiring all compliance statements to be physically signed by employers, to confirm the employment of a JSA job seeker? Is this also the case where the employer is located potentially hundreds of kilometres away? When did the Department decide that forms would have to be physically signed, instead of allowing the Job Services Provider to confirm employment of a job seeker over the phone? |
| EW0567_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Job Seekers Funded by the Employment Pathways Plan | Of the job seekers who have had training funded by the Employment Pathways Plan, is the Department able to advise how many have been placed in employment within 3 months of completing their training? |
| EW0568_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Job Seeker Training | Of the job seekers who have had funding for training, how many have not completed their training course? |
| EW0569_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Job Seeker Training | How many job seekers have had more than one training programme funded? |
| EW0570_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Employment Pathways Fund | What has been the total expenditure to date from the Employment Pathways Fund? Can the Department provide a breakdown on what the funding has gone on? |
| EW0571_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Evaluation Report of Disability Employment Services | What date is the evaluation report of Disability Employment Services due (we expect it in the 2012-13 financial year but would like a more exact idea)? |
| EW0572_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | Written | Outcome 3 - Employment | Job Capacity Assessments | How many Job Capacity Assessments have been undertaken in the last 12 months? a. What percentage of these was undertaken by Centrelink? b. What percentage was undertaken by CRS Australia? c. What percentage has been conducted over the phone? |
| EW0573_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | School funding | What is the total amount of funding currently in the budget for government and non-government schools (including SPP and National Partnership payments) in each of the following years: 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015? Please provide a breakdown for government and non-government schools and an estimate of the real increase or decrease in funding for each sector. |
| EW0574_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | National Partnership programs | What National Partnership programs for schools is the Commonwealth funding in the 2012/2013 financial year, and what is the total Commonwealth contribution for each program? What is the total amount for government and non-government schools? Please supply the same information for the 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 years. |
| EW0575_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | National Partnership funding | What Commonwealth funding is allocated for the low SES communities National Partnership in each of the following years: 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2015/2016? Please provide, broken down by federal electorate, a list of the schools receiving low SES NP funding in 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 and the total amounts for each school. |
| EW0576_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Trade Training Centre funding | What Commonwealth funding is allocated for the Trade Training Centre program in each of the following years: 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2015/2016? |
| EW0577_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Teach for Australia Funding | What is the total amount of Commonwealth funding for the teach for Australia (program) for the following years: 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012 and for forward estimates (if that information is available)? Over what time period has this money been committed? |

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| EW0578_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Teach for Australia | Is the department collecting data on the number of participating individuals, schools since the program's creation to date, and any other information indicating the success or otherwise of the program? If yes, please provide a summary of this data. |
| EW0579_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBII criticism of CFMEU | In recent Canberra Times and Sydney Morning Herald articles the Office of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate (FWBII) criticised the CFMEU and its official Joe McDonald for not offering a defence to court proceedings and wasting union members' money: http://www.canberratimes.com.au/wa-news/union-boss-penalties-top-1m-after-bullying-fines-20121010-27czy.html http://www.smh.com.au/wa-news/union-boss-penalties-top-1m-after-bullying-fines-20121010-27czy.html (a) Do you accept that Mr. McDonald and any other party who is potentially exposed to a penalty through proceedings brought by your agency, are entitled to rely on the privilege against self-incrimination and are not required to file a defence where they choose to rely on that privilege? (b) Why do you consider it necessary for you to embark on a public political commentary on what represents the best approach for a union to take in relation to the management of its members funds? |
| EW0580_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBII - Diploma Constructions prosecution | In the recent Diploma Constructions prosecution (http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/FCA/2012/966.html) which involved Mr McDonald and which was settled prior to the hearing, why did you not make reference in your media comments to the findings of the Court in that matter to the effect that Mr McDonald gave unchallenged evidence that: (i) he had assumed the order in question, made in December 2009, was no longer operative in February and June 2011, (ii) the basis for that assumption, (iii) his concerns about sham contracting by the subcontractor involved in the dispute (who was prosecuted and penalised by your agency for breach of the sham contracting provisions of the FW Act) and (iv) the Court taking these matters into account as evidence that Mr McDonald's conduct was not egregious [para 11]? |
| EW0581_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBII - Diploma Constructions prosecution | In relation to the Diploma matter can you advise: (i) Which legal firm you instructed to run this case? (ii) Did you obtain details (or estimates) of the amounts that were to be charged by this firm and any counsel used in this matter at or about the time at which these legal service providers were retained? (iii) What is the total amount of legal costs to FWBII (and the taxpayer) for the conduct of this prosecution? (iv) When did you become aware of the amount of legal costs that FWBII had incurred in this matter? (v) Are you satisfied that all legal costs were properly incurred and necessary for the conduct of the matter and that Australian taxpayers have received value for money having regard to the amount of cost incurred by FWBII? Have you requested a detailed breakdown of how such costs were incurred? (vi) How do the costs incurred in this matter compare with those in similar matters brought by FWBII (or the ABCC)? |
| EW0582_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBII expenditure | Who within your agency has the authority to authorise expenditure on legal costs for each prosecution on an ongoing basis? Who had the authority to do so for the Diploma matter? |
| EW0583_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBII accounts | Do you require external legal firms that you use to render accounts to your agency at regular intervals to allow your agency to keep track of what costs are being incurred for each matter that you have before the courts? |
| EW0584_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBII reports on Legal costs | How often do you require reports from your various state offices about ongoing legal costs that are being incurred? |
| EW0585_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBII Legal costs | Please advise of the total amount of legal costs that are currently outstanding from FWBII to external legal service providers (law firms and legal counsel) as at today's date? [asked on 26 October] |
| EW0586_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBII legal expenditure | Do you or will you be making the details of legal expenditure available to members of the FWBII Advisory Board? |
| EW0587_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBII Hospitality policy | How does FWBII respond to employees and office holders within the Inspectorate receiving meals or other forms of hospitality or material benefit from law firms engaged by the Inspectorate? Are you aware of that having occurred anywhere within your organisation? If so, when, where and what was involved? |
| EW0588_13 | Wright, Penny | Written | Agency - Comcare | Comcare amendments to Comcare leg | Can Comcare confirm that the amendments to the Comcare legislation after Canute v Comcare mean that individuals who have received multiple injuries must have these assessed separately? Will individuals therefore be ineligible for compensation for a number of injuries with values less than 10% impairment, even if the sum of these injuries is significant? If so, does Comcare intend to alter the legislation, thus allowing individuals with separate injuries to be compensated if each individual injury is less than 10% but combined have a higher value? |
| EW0589_13 | Xenophon, Nick | Written | Agency - Comcare | Implementation of CDDA type scheme | Can Comcare or the department provide an update on the implementation of a CDDA-type scheme, as recommended by the Commonwealth Ombudsman over two years ago? When I asked questions in February, I was told the last meeting relating to this had been in November 2011. Have further meetings been held since then? When? Is there an estimated time by which such a scheme would be established? Has the Ombudsman been kept informed about the progress of implementing the recommendation? |
| EW0590_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - Anticipated costs of prosecuting Thomson matter | Senator ABETZ: Just extra cost to the taxpayer. Are you in a position to tell us what the anticipated costs are of prosecuting the Thomson matter? Ms O'Neill: I am not. I could take that on notice and attempt to do so. I have been given some estimates, but the way these things play out, Senator ABETZ: I accept that this is a bit like asking you how long a piece of string is. |
| EW0591_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - Advice provided by lawyers from Corrs | Senator ABETZ: The senior lawyer who signed off on it with a surname like mine I should be able to pronounce it, but I cannot was Mr Gostencnick? Was he involved in providing preliminary advice? Ms O'Neill: Yes, he was. Senator ABETZ: At what stage? Ms O'Neill: They provided me some advice, Senator ABETZ: No, not 'they'; this is a specific person. Ms O'Neill: I would need to go back and check my records. |
| EW0592_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - Public release of documents relating FWA investigation | Senator ABETZ: Which included its public release? Ms O'Neill: I do not recall that specifically, but I, Senator ABETZ: Can you take that on notice just so we can clear that up completely. I suspect that you would have taken a similar attitude to the annexures, which actually form part of the report, as well. Ms O'Neill: I think that is likely. Senator ABETZ: The committee and the Senate, for whatever reason, have determined not to release the annexures, which is a matter of concern, but you have indicated that you were of a mind that the report and the annexures may well be released publicly. But I will not air the dirty linen of the Senate committee and the Senate before this committee any further. CHAIR: There is no dirty linen. But, Ms O'Neill, you have agreed to take on notice the answer to that question? Ms O'Neill: Yes. |
| EW0593_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - disaggregation of HSU matters | Senator ABETZ: There is another allegation of Mr Thomson's which can go out the window. I will go back to where I started this morning, I should have asked this earlier and my apologies for backtracking. You gave us a figure of \$1.3 million in relation to the two HSU matters combined. Are we able to disaggregate the HSU No.1 matter and the Thomson matter? Ms O'Neill: I will take that on notice. I think the answer is no, or at least not without significant work to disaggregate individual invoices. But I will check that and get back to you. Senator ABETZ: Please do your best. |
| EW0594_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - Organisational structure | Senator ABETZ: Was this change publicly announced with a press release? Ms O'Neill: No. Senator ABETZ: No. It was too much like adopting coalition policy, I suppose, for the minister to have done that. Can you then take on notice to provide to us an updated organisational structure with how many staff in each branch, please. Ms O'Neill: Yes. |

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| EW0595_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - Provision of evidence to CDDP | Ms O'Neill: I have raised that issue with the government. I cannot off the top of my head recall the precise timing and sequence. Senator ABETZ: Yes, but a long time after the noncooperation with the police. Ms O'Neill: I cannot recall the timing. I will take that on notice, if you would like. Senator ABETZ: All right, take that on notice, please. |
| EW0596_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - provision of false or misleading evidence | Senator ABETZ: So the more offences you commit, according to Fair Work Australia, the more complicated it becomes and, therefore, the fewer the matters that are going to be prosecuted. I would have thought, if you have made this clear finding of the provision of false and misleading information, which is in direct contravention of section 337 of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act, that that was a matter that should be pursued. Has any legal advice being sought in relation to this? Ms O'Neill: I will take that on notice, because my attention has also just been drawn to the fact that that provision is in fact an offence; it is not a civil penalty provision. So I will take it on notice, but it appears that that would not be a matter for me to initiate proceedings on and prosecute as an offence. Senator ABETZ: But how are the prosecuting authorities going to find out that Mr Thomson provided you with false and misleading information unless you ask the relevant authority to prosecute it? This is another case, is it not, of Fair Work Australia not prosecuting these matters and not cooperating with the relevant authorities to get these matters brought before the court? Ms O'Neill: I do not think that is a correct characterisation, but I have said I will take that on notice. Senator ABETZ: This is now a matter you say you cannot personally pursue. Who would need to prosecute that? Ms O'Neill: I have said I would take it on notice, for the reason that, rather than speaking on the hop, if you like, I would prefer to give a considered response to it. |
| EW0597_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - knowledge of provision of false or misleading information | Senator ABETZ: For how long have Fair Work Australia known that Mr Thomson provided them with false and misleading information? Ms O'Neill: There have been no formal findings of such. That is the view that the delegate holds, but it, Senator ABETZ: But that is a finding, surely. It is not a view. It is a finding of the Fair Work Australia investigation that false and misleading information was provided. That is a finding. Ms O'Neill: It is a finding that has not been tested in the courts, Senator. Similarly, I will take that on notice, |
| EW0598_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - Source of phone number | Senator ABETZ: No. I am talking about the story that is in today's Australian saying that Fair Work is considering issuing a subpoena to find out who the person was on the other end of the phone. Ms Carruthers: Certainly I have not attempted to ring the number. Senator ABETZ: Has anybody, to your knowledge? Ms Carruthers: Not that I, Senator ABETZ: I would have thought that might have been the first step, to try to find out whether somebody actually answers the number, and Google it or ask Mr Thomson or whatever. Anyway, good luck with the subpoena on that. I would have thought there might have been other ways. Did you try to get the identity of the owner or holder of that number previously? Ms O'Neill: I do not know the answer to that. Senator ABETZ: Mr Nassios? Mr Nassios: I am not even aware of the article you are referring to. Senator ABETZ: All right. Please take it on notice and then let us know |
| EW0599_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - Report compliance | Senator ABETZ: What percentage of the reports that were filed complied with your requirements? Ms Carruthers: I will have to take that on notice. Senator ABETZ: It was only about half, wasn't it? Ms Carruthers: Are you referring to the statistic in the annual report? Senator ABETZ: I think so. Was it 54 per cent or something? Ms Carruthers: I would need to look at the statistic to see what that specific statistic related to, because there are some statistics that concern lodgement within the prescribed time frame, which is a different to, once the document has been lodged, then examining it to determine whether it complies with accounting standards. Senator ABETZ: That is a fair distinction to make. Are you able to split those two are up for me or not? Ms Carruthers: I cannot off the top of my head now, but I can certainly take it on notice. Senator ABETZ: Take that on notice. |
| EW0600_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - Longest time period of non compliance | Senator ABETZ: That is now; I am interested in what has happened in the past. What is the longest period of time a registered organisation was noncompliant, with just a time frame, for example? Ms Carruthers: I could not indicate that to you off the top of my head. I would need to take that on notice. |
| EW0601_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - Lodging by operational registered organisations | Senator ABETZ: That is the extreme, but have there been operational registered organisations that have not lodged for 12, 24 or 36 months? Ms Carruthers: Can I take that on notice? Senator ABETZ: Yes, please do. I have said 12, 24 and 36, but please tell us the most extreme cases. |
| EW0602_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - Amendments to financial reports | Ms Carruthers: Certainly it is not uncommon to require an organisation to re-prepare its financial report, Senator ABETZ: And if they do not? Ms Carruthers: to have it audited, recirculated to members and relodged with Fair Work Australia. Senator ABETZ: Can you advise us what organisations have been required to do that in the past three years, for example, if that is not too much work? Ms Carruthers: Certainly. |
| EW0603_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - Publication of departmental files | Ms O'Neill: Which departmental files are you referring to? Senator ABETZ: This is an email of 10 July from Ellen McGregor, the administrative assistant: 'Please be advised that a full list of FWA's departmental files has now been published on our website. The lists are accessible at,' et cetera. 'I trust this information is of assistance.' Was that as a result of our request of 27 June 2012? Take it on notice. We do not have to delay on that. |
| EW0604_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Australia | FWA - Missing money from AWU Workplace Reform Association | Senator ABETZ: We are out of time, aren't we, Chair? Just bear with me. I have a number of other questions that I think I will have to place on notice. No, I have one other. If somebody wanted to pursue the \$672,000 missing from the Australian Workers' Union Workplace Reform Association, would Fair Work Australia be able to assist them in that regard? Ms O'Neill: I do not know the answer to that off the top of my head. Perhaps we could take that on notice. Senator ABETZ: Yes, of course. Ms O'Neill: I am only vaguely aware of media reports. Senator ABETZ: It is a large lump of money that has gone missing and there are all sorts of theories and views and it would be very helpful if those who have been aggrieved might in fact have an avenue which does not necessarily rely on people that might have a vested interest in not having those moneys recovered. If you could take that on notice, I would be much obliged. |
| EW0605_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman | FWO - Reports of companies claiming to undertake work of FWO | Senator ABETZ: I want to know that you are the real McCoy and not some phoney workplace ombudsman that is appearing before us. More seriously, can you give us a brief on that which you have warned businesses about, to watch out for phoney fair work ombudsmen. I understand there has been an issue in recent times where companies have been portraying themselves as undertaking the work of the Fair Work Ombudsman and have been charging for services. That clearly is a matter for concern. Having known you for a while, I was much assured, Mr Wilson, that it was not a phoney Fair Work Ombudsman appearing before us today! But, that aside, more seriously, how serious is it? How many reports have there been? Can you give us a general brief, please? Mr Wilson: Certainly. Hopefully I am the real McCoy! Senator Jacinta Collins: I can assure you of that, Senator Abetz. Mr Wilson: We do not have anyone at the table who has direct knowledge of that matter. However, what I can say is that there were, to my knowledge, a couple of reports about a particular website which looked very similar to ours in terms of the font, the colour, the styling and so on. I believe there also might have been some other issues which caused us to put that notification out. I will take the issue on notice and find more details. |
| EW0606_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman | FWO - Management of call queue in call centre | Senator ABETZ: You have the same number of people in the call centre, the same wages bill, the same time waiting for calls to be answered, I would have thought you just farmed them out to whoever was not engaged. Are the people who take the employer calls trained differently or separately from those who take the employee calls? Mr Wilson: I do not believe so. Perhaps I will take the detail of that on notice. We do not have someone here from the call centre today, but I can give you some detail about how we manage calls within the queue. I am by no means an expert, but the endeavour of the infoline is to give information which is uniform whether or not you are an employer or an employee or a representative. |

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| EW0607_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman | FWO - Quality of calls answered by call centre | <p>Senator ABETZ: In not the last but the previous financial year, 2010-11, you got 91.3 per cent. Are you able to provide us some detail as to what the quality result means? What does quality in that context mean, how is it judged and how it is determined? The percentage is increasing, but on a raw reading of it it looks as though nearly 10 per cent might be deficient. I trust that is not the case, because that would be a fairly high percentage.</p> <p>Mr Wilson: We will get you an answer on that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, on notice.</p> |
| EW0608_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman | FWO - Pursual of matters once they have been settled civilly | <p>Senator ABETZ: That is what some people and organisations are starting to think,that they can report an illegality to the inspectorate, who can commence a prosecution and whatever else; and then, if the parties settle the matter, that is the end of the story. But the public interest might actually require that the matter be prosecuted. For example, if I go through a red light and collide with your car, Mr Wilson, and I pay for the damage to your car, that should not exempt me from being prosecuted by the police for going through a red light. And, if we do not allow that for a small traffic infringement, why on earth are we allowing this for major industrial activities? I do not expect you to comment on that; that is an issue of policy. But, continuing the analogy, if you were to report the matter to a different police force,instead of the inspectorate, to the Fair Work Ombudsman,I could potentially still be charged for going through that red traffic light. That is what I am trying to tease out with you: if people take their complaints to the Fair Work Ombudsman, as opposed to the inspectorate, for certain illegal industrial activity, then matters against the offending parties can be prosecuted right to the end, even if civil matters have settled.</p> <p>Mr Wilson: I have not had anyone directly come to us with a matter that they say we need to investigate in that area. But I,</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: But can they? And how would they be dealt with?</p> <p>Mr Wilson: What I was about to say is that I just do not know, because we have not had to turn our minds to whether or not that is the case.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: In that case, would you be so kind as to take that on notice, because I think there are elements within the community who would like to know whether they should be reporting matters to the Fair Work Ombudsman, which might have more teeth, more oomph, as opposed to the inspectorate, which some are now saying is in fact a waste of time. If you can come back to us on whether that would be a worthwhile activity for them, that would be much appreciated.</p> <p>Mr Wilson: Certainly.</p> |
| EW0609_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman | FWO - relates to EW0182_13 breakdown of allegations of sham contracting | <p>Senator ABETZ: Good, thank you. Can I move to answer No. 182. That was in relation to allegations of sham contracting. We had 195. I am just asking if we can have a breakdown of those at this stage, if we are able to, as to how many were dismissed and how many are on the road to prosecution.</p> <p>Mr O'Shea: We do not have the breakdown for the 195.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can you take that on notice? Thank you</p> |
| EW0610_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman | FWO - relates to EW0181_13 Enforceable undertakings in respect of sham contracting | <p>Senator ABETZ: Can I just confirm, for answer no. 181, that in 2010-11 no enforceable undertakings were entered into in respect of sham contracting.</p> <p>Mr Wilson: Yes, we can confirm that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Were there any prosecutions that year?</p> <p>Mr Wilson: In sham contracting?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Wilson: I believe so.</p> <p>Mr O'Shea: Which calendar year or financial year are you asking about?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: 2010-11, referring to answer No. 181. Just going through it, I am not sure that I properly covered that.</p> <p>Mr Wilson: I think we should take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Fair enough.</p> |
| EW0611_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman | FWO - Active litigations about sham contracting | <p>Senator ABETZ: I asked for enforceable undertakings. I am not sure whether I asked about actual prosecutions.</p> <p>Mr Wilson: We presently have nine active litigations about sham contracting, but we will take on notice,</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, some of them may straddle a number of years, I would assume.</p> |
| EW0612_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman | FWO - Matters which should not have been taken to court | <p>Senator ABETZ: In criminal matters as well; but can I make a brief observation from the dark days when I used to practice. I had somebody up on a criminal charge and the police got everybody there at the court with photograph taken, and, when they finally got to the criminal court and acknowledged that they did not have any feathers to fly with, no public statement was made, no alert was given to the media that the matter was going to be dropped and there was no publicity. Sure, the police probably thought it was a good case to prosecute at the beginning, but do you give equal publicity when you raise the white flag and say 'in fairness we should not have taken this matter to court'? Indeed, have you ever lost a case in court and then issued a media release with the same sort of vim and fervour as would have been issued at the time when you announced prosecution?</p> <p>Mr Wilson: Yes, I will take on notice which ones that has been. The vim and fervour of our media releases is not dissimilar whether it is before the litigation is run or after the court has made its pronouncement. The point I make to the committee is that we use the process that is used by all Commonwealth agencies which litigate in this area. If it is being put to me that we use a process which is not appropriate, then I think that should be put to all such other agencies. If it is accepted by the Commonwealth this is not to be done, then of course we will follow this practice; but, if it is a circumstance where other litigation agencies,civil and criminal,issue media releases as a matter of record, then that is what we are doing as well.</p> |
| EW0613_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman | FWO - copy of media release regarding settling of matter | <p>Senator ABETZ: Then, when the matter settled, did you issue a media release to say that the matter had been amicably settled between the parties?</p> <p>Mr Wilson: Absolutely. It drew attention to his withdrawing his commentary. It also drew attention to the history of other complaints that were taken into account in,</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can you please provide me with a copy of that release? I am more than happy to accept it, because that which I have been provided tells me that to date no press release has been issued by the ombudsman in relation to the settlement of the case against Drummond and Hennessy Lane Hair Design.</p> <p>Mr Wilson: All right.</p> |
| EW0614_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman | FWO - Number of matters settled before hearing or dismissed by court | <p>Senator ABETZ: It is clearly not resolved. The 51 matters you say were prosecuted,were all of those successful? I do not want to put words into your mouth. What did the 51 relate to again? Let's get that absolutely clear.</p> <p>Mr Ronson: There were 51 new matters commenced in court.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: In a particular year?</p> <p>Mr Ronson: I do not think we have any information here about how many we actually won and lost during the year. Most of the matters remain before the court. I would have to take it on notice to give you a breakdown of the matters which have been finalised.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could, and if it is not too much work, let us know how many matters have been settled before hearing or been dismissed by the court,and whether those matters had media releases issued at the commencement of the proceedings and then media releases issued at either the settlement or dismissal of those proceedings. I hope that is sufficiently clear.</p> |
| EW0615_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman | FWO - Review of unpaid internships in Australian workplaces | <p>Senator ABETZ: All the best with that. Lifting the tone from there, we go to universities. There was an article on 10 September 2012 in the Australian Financial Review saying that we have law professors investigating the use of unpaid internships in Australian workplaces. How is that going? I understand Professors Stewart and Owens are examining unpaid work arrangements.</p> <p>Mr O'Shea: That is correct. The project is ongoing.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: It is still ongoing?</p> <p>Mr O'Shea: It is. We are expecting a report from the professors to be with us at either the end of this month or early in November. That is the time frame.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: It is that which I was referring to. How long has this review been going on for?</p> <p>Mr O'Shea: I would need to take that on notice. My understanding is that it was begun probably around June this year.</p> |
| EW0616_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman | FWO - Timeline of case settlement | <p>Senator ABETZ: Is there any explanation as to why, if you agreed to it on 2 October, it took 13 days to be issued?</p> <p>Mr Wilson: I cannot recall the circumstances, but that is not out of the usual process.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can you tell us when the case was actually settled? I have some information but it may be wrong; this may have been published in anticipation of final settlement before all the documents had been signed, so that might be an explanation. I do not want to make any allegations, but if we can get a good timeline as to when the documentation that finally settled the matter was signed and then when the media release was put to you, that would be of assistance. If I might say, timeliness is important and, as to the 13 days after you signed off on it, I can tell you that if that happened in my office I think there would be one annoyed senator.</p> <p>Mr Wilson: We will get you the full timeline. I think what you might be referring to is some media commentary, and the high point of it is ill-informed; it is wrong. But we will get you the full timeline. Lane was saying to the media that it had been settled in mediation when it had not.</p> |

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| EW0617_13 | Edwards, Sean | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Safe Work Australia | SWA - Estimated cost of producing code of practice | <p>Mr Hoy: It well might be that that document ends up as guidance as distinct from the code. That needs to be determined and then it is up to the jurisdictions as to whether or not they adopt it as a code of practice.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: As best as you possibly can, Mr Hoy, would you be able to take notice what you would estimate the cost to be of producing this code of practice and then an overall figure for the 40 codes of practice which might be subject to the same kind of treatment, I would suspect?</p> <p>Mr Hoy: I will take it on notice but I foreshadow it will be very difficult to estimate that.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: That is all right. Come back in February.</p> |
| EW0618_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Safe Work Australia | SWA - Report on number of bullying claims | <p>Senator ABETZ: Are you able to give us a percentage?</p> <p>Ms Grey: I can give you the whole report if you like, which is from the CPM, which includes that data. I do not have it to hand, but I am happy to provide that to you.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could, via the secretariat, in due course.</p> <p>Ms Grey: Yes, absolutely.</p> <p>Mr Hoy: It is actually on our website.</p> <p>Ms Grey: But I am happy to provide it to you in hard copy now.</p> |
| EW0619_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Safe Work Australia | SWA - Bullying in workplace | <p>Senator ABETZ: Is it fair to say that the majority of bullying that occurs in the workplace is, in fact, between peers on a similar level?</p> <p>Ms Grey: I do not know if that is fair to say. I would have to have a closer look at the report and provide an answer to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could do that and give us your analysis of that that would be very helpful. Management bullying of employees, one would imagine, is an area over which management should and needs to have absolute control. But some of the subtle bullying that takes place, such as in the typing pool in the old days, or the occasion of some Commonwealth public servants having a brawl in Canberra about who was first in the coffee line, is ugly and should not occur et cetera. But how do you, as an employer, seek to control that? It is, I suppose, an issue that I personally would like to get a better grasp of. If you could supply the information that you indicated earlier, that would be very helpful.</p> |
| EW0620_13 | Bilyk, Catryna | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Comcare | Comcare - Update on claim | <p>Senator BILYK: If we can get some sort of update, maybe to me, because obviously I do not participate in the weekly updates, that would be really helpful. If you could take it on notice to do that, I would appreciate it.</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: I am happy to do so, Senator.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Thank you.</p> |
| EW0621_13 | Bilyk, Catryna | 17/10/2012 | Agency - Comcare | Comcare - Rehabilitation program | <p>Senator BILYK: I have just had some more information sent through. In regard to the rehab program, DHS and the rehab provider have been waiting over two months for some info. The GP is not involved in that rehab program at all and never has been. Are you able to chase that up for me?</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: Yes.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Thank you.</p> |
| EW0622_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBC - Briefing to Minister | <p>Senator ABETZ: The chain is that you alert the department and then it would be their duty to alert the minister, one would assume.</p> <p>Mr Johns: I would have to check. It might be that we have briefed the matter up to the minister as well.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: That you may have?</p> <p>Mr Johns: We may have, yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could take that on notice,</p> <p>Mr Johns: I will.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: and advise us as to when you alerted the department and, if you alerted the minister, the date of alerting the minister, please.</p> <p>Mr Johns: I will take it on notice, Senator.</p> |
| EW0623_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBC - Section 64 | <p>Senator ABETZ: I do not want to debate that particular issue with you. Suffice it to say that, if there is a particular provision in legislation, it stands to reason that it has been put there for a purpose. It now appears but it cannot be used. Can I ask whether it was an employer, a trade union or an individual who questioned the use of this power?</p> <p>Mr Johns: I am concerned about the operation of section 64 of the legislation which governs our investigations and the restrictions that that places on providing information in relation to your investigations. Can I take on notice the question, because I do not want to offend,</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I understand that, and that is fair enough. Taking it on notice is generous</p> |
| EW0624_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBC - Communication with complainant | <p>Senator ABETZ: You then have confirmed for the party making the objection that you cannot use that coercive power. Have you told the party making the original complaint that you have been somewhat stifled or frustrated by not being able to use the coercive power in the particular case on which they have made the complaint?</p> <p>Mr Johns: I will have to take notice what communication has been made to the original complainant.</p> |
| EW0625_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBC - Name of FWBC | <p>Senator ABETZ: Coming back to FWBC, why don't we call it the inspectorate? Why do we call it FWBC? Who made the decision that you would be referred to as FWBC?</p> <p>Mr Johns: I will have to confirm it, but I understand the process was that a request went up first through the minister's office and then it went up through the department and went up through I think PM&C in order for the agency to operate under the name Fair Work Building and Construction as opposed to its statutory name, which is the Office of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate.</p> |
| EW0626_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBC - commencement of website | <p>Senator ABETZ: That is what I would have hoped would have happened. If that has occurred, that is good. Can we go back to the last estimates when I was asking you about when announcements might be made et cetera. I think those estimates were held on 28 May and then, three days later, we have got the new website up and running, things are announced and it is all in order. When were you made aware, Mr Johns, that this would all be happening and starting on 1 June?</p> <p>Mr Johns: I will have to take that on notice.</p> |
| EW0627_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBC - active cases | <p>Senator ABETZ: So did the ABCC ever pursue civil penalties or have civil penalties awarded?</p> <p>Mr Johns: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Were they all paid?</p> <p>Mr Johns: The vast majority of the civil penalties that have been awarded in favour of the Commonwealth have been paid. There has been one instance, I think, in the last financial year where we started the pursuit of penalties in respect of an employer who had had a penalty imposed upon them and our pursuit of those penalties was fruitless. So we have discontinued the pursuit of that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Is that the only case?</p> <p>Mr Corney: It is the only active case at the moment. It is a Western Australian case.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can you take it on notice for us?</p> |
| EW0628_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Regional definitions of schools | <p>Ms Paul: That is awesome, isn't it? You did ask a minute ago about the basis for the regional definitions.</p> <p>Senator NASH: Oh, yes.</p> <p>Ms Paul: It is a definition that is on the website. It is not ARIA, it is a definition accepted by all ministers of education.</p> <p>Senator NASH: Lovely, thank you.</p> <p>Ms Paul: It is on the ministerial council website.</p> <p>Senator NASH: Is it easy to find? Do I need a little extra direction, or do I have to trawl through 100 pages?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Do you want us to send it to you on notice?</p> <p>Senator NASH: Sure; that would be great if you could do that. Thanks.</p> |
| EW0629_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBC - Complaints to FWO and FWBC | <p>Senator ABETZ: I asked the Fair Work Ombudsman about this earlier: in the event that there are posters referring to scabs if there are certain other illegal activities taking place it would be open to a person or organisation to make a complaint to the Fair Work Ombudsman as opposed to the FWBC. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Johns: I did not see Mr Wilson's evidence in respect of that. He is probably better to form a view about what complaints can be made to his agency.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: He did, in fairness, go away agreeing, if I recall his evidence correctly, to take it on notice and give it due consideration. I was wondering whether you might be so kind as to do the same, because as I understand it there is potentially an overlap in jurisdictions and that overlap in jurisdictions may potentially become of interest in relation to matters that are prosecuted for a penalty in circumstances where the civil claims do in fact refer to the Fair Work Act. In such cases if there is a settlement the prosecution can still proceed, because that which you are not allowed to do is not a restriction on the Fair Work Ombudsman, as I understand it.</p> |

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| EW0630_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBC - Proceedings in relation to the Grocon dispute | Senator ABETZ: In relation to the Grocon matter, can you explain to us why the bringing of proceedings by the FWBC would not have assisted the matter? By proceedings, I am talking about the comment you made in the Australian Financial Review on 29 August 2012. That was the last sentence in that paragraph. Do you have that in front of you or not? Mr Johns: I do not have that media statement. Senator ABETZ: In that case, and given Senator Sinodinos is here, I will put that on notice. I have addressed the actual article so hopefully you can source that. |
| EW0631_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Agency - ABCC/FWBII | FWBC - Discussions with Grocon | Senator ABETZ: Did you have discussions with Grocon about potentially seeking an injunction? Mr Johns: I will have to take that on notice. Senator ABETZ: Take that on notice, but one would have hoped that private organisations are not reduced to taking injunctions in the courts to ensure that there is no illegality taking place. I would have thought that may have been a very proactive role that the FWBC could have taken in the federal jurisdiction very quickly as soon as an illegality came to light. |
| EW0632_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | Data for average return to work by JSA stream | Senator SINODINOS: What does stream 1 (limited) mean? Ms Drayton: It is a stream for people who have some but not full eligibility to Job Services Australia. ...Ms Drayton: To put that into some sort of perspective for you, stream 1 constitutes 28 per cent of the case load, stream 2 is 24 per cent, stream 3 is 21 per cent, stream 4 is 22 per cent and stream 1 (limited) is 2 per cent. Senator BACK: Could you take on notice and give us some stats on the average return to work for each of those four groups? |
| EW0633_13 | Back, Chris | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | return to work providers | Senator BACK: Could you give us some advice on the return to providers for each of the four streams respectively? If not now, could you provide it on notice? Ms Parker: Certainly. Ms Drayton: I have the figures for your question by stream. This is for the 2011-12 financial year. For stream 1 the total was 167,336,947. I can break that up for you by service fee and outcome fee, if you like, now or, Senator BACK: On notice, if you would. Ms Drayton: Okay. Do you want the total for the other streams? Senator BACK: Yes. Ms Drayton: For stream 2 it is 324,512,417. For stream 3 it is 260,827,507. For stream 4 it is 352,732,544. Senator BACK: When you give it to us on notice, it would be interesting to know what the per capita figure is for each of those. Ms Paul: Yes, that is fine. |
| EW0634_13 | Siewert, Rachel | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | 19 per cent of the JSA caseload returned after 26 weeks | Ms Taylor: We had this discussion, senators, as you may recall. What we have found from talking with DHS is that we cannot, from the administrative data that we have at the moment, track what you were talking about, the trend. So we are looking at what we can commission to try to find out. It will not be a single data source, and one of the issues will be comparing apples with apples. But if we can use the administrative data and if we can use some of the other data, particularly some of the census data, that may indeed give us a bit more of a rich data source to do that. So our reply to you in our questions on notice will be around, 'We can't do what we think you are asking' but we will certainly try to have a look to see what we can do and do some research. Senator SIEWERT: That would be really helpful; thank you. Of the 19 per cent and the 26 weeks, are you able to break that down into streams? Ms Drayton: We will have to take that on notice. I am not sure. We will have to go back and have a look at what we can do with that. Ms Parker: Yes, I think we can. Senator SIEWERT: That would be really appreciated. |
| EW0635_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | Average hours per week worked by job seekers | Senator SINODINOS: What has been the average number of hours per week worked by job seekers placed in employment by their job services provider? Mr Seveque: We will have to take that one on notice. |
| EW0636_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | JSA- case load of stream 1 job seekers | Senator SINODINOS: There are a few you can take on notice. I do not know whether Senator Back covered this. For the current case load of stream 1 job seekers, what is their average duration of unemployment? Ms Parker: I think we can give you stats on how long they are in JSA. The unemployment figure is slightly different. Ms Drayton: We will take that one on notice, if that is all right. |
| EW0637_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | JSA stream - stream 1 job seekers after 12 months | Senator SINODINOS: Yes. You may have to take this on notice. What percentage of stream 1 job seekers are still in Job Services Australia after 12 months? Ms Drayton: We will take that one on notice too. |
| EW0638_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | JSA - 13-week outcome - hours per week | Senator SINODINOS: Of the job seekers for whom an employment outcome is made, what is the average number of hours per week they are working at their 13-week outcome mark? You may have to take this on notice. Ms Drayton: I can tell you how many 13-week outcomes we have but not the hours worked. But we will take that on notice and look at what we can find. Ms Parker: I should mention that some of them, of course, are assessed as only having certain hours of capacity, so that will vary. |
| EW0639_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | percentage of job seekers off welfare 26 weeks after their employment start date | Senator SINODINOS: What percentage of job seekers who are placed in employment by a JSA provider are off welfare 13 weeks after their employment start date? Ms Parker: To the end of June, 48.7 per cent of stream 1 to 4 job seekers were in employment three months following participation in JSA. That is the end of June 2012. Senator SINODINOS: What about 26 weeks after the employment start date? Ms Drayton: We survey people three months after they have had assistance through JSA, so I am not sure, and I will just check for you. Ms Parker: We also collect stats on how many are in employment, how many are in training, three months after, and how many are in both education and employment. So it is not just employment we are tracking. Ms Drayton: Senator, we will have to take your question on notice. |
| EW0640_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | work-for-the-dole activities | Senator SINODINOS: Is it possible, not now, to provide a list of those activities or a representative list of the types of activities we are talking about? Ms Drayton: Certainly. Senator SINODINOS: And the breakdown by state and territory, if possible. Ms Drayton: We can give you the state breakdown now or on notice, whichever you prefer. Senator SINODINOS: I will take those figures now if you have them. Ms Drayton: Again, this is as at 31 August. There are 829 in Western Australia, 2,870 in Victoria, 501 in Tasmania, 1,041 in South Australia, 3,359 in Queensland, 328 in the Northern Territory, 4,344 in New South Wales and 15 in the ACT. I can provide for you a bit of breakdown of what some of those are on notice. |
| EW0641_13 | Scullion, Nigel | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Schools involved with the Indigenous Ranger Cadet Program | Senator SCULLION: Obviously spatially it will be a different answer, it depends on where you are, but a number of places and schools, if I could have a list of the schools, that would be useful. Could you provide that to me? Ms Houston: Yes. |
| EW0642_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | Centrelink-granted exemption from Job Search | Senator SINODINOS: How many jobseekers currently have a Centrelink-granted exemption from Job Search? Ms Drayton: It is 72,270. Senator SINODINOS: What are the criteria for getting this exemption? Ms Drayton: The main one for that is short-term medical conditions. These are exemptions placed on a jobseeker through DHS. They can vary in length: some are short-term, some are long-term. The short-term ones are mainly to do with short-term medical conditions. There are longer term ones, which are a result mainly of caring responsibilities or for parents. They are generally 52 weeks. There is a range of personal circumstances ones and crisis ones for varying lengths of time. Usually it is a shorter-term one. Senator SINODINOS: If you could provide the breakdown on notice, that would be great. Ms Drayton: We can. |
| EW0643_13 | Sinodinos, Arthur | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | percentage of the voluntary participants | Senator SINODINOS: What is the percentage of the voluntary participants? Ms Buffinton: I do not have a figure for volunteers. I can certainly take that on notice. But I can say that when you are on DSP you would volunteer into the disability employment service. You do not have an activity requirement. We also take into the disability employment services those that are on no income support. You also have access to the disability employment service even if you are a nonallowee, and obviously they are also volunteers. But I am very happy to take that on notice. |

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| EW0644_13 | Fifield, Mitch | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | job seekers who had an exemption. | <p>Senator FIFIELD: Do you have a number for the total number of people in the financial year?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: No. I have it at a point in time over the last three years. I would probably have to take it on notice to get a cumulative amount because, as you would be aware, some of the exemptions go for 26 weeks, 52 weeks, 13 weeks.</p> <p>Page 82 Senate Wednesday, 17 October 2012</p> <p>EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD: You have got people coming in and coming out, so it can be,</p> <p>Ms Drayton: Some people have the exemption reapplied.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD: So you can give it month by month?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: We could certainly do that. I have got it year on year.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD: If you could. So 72,270 is point in time for August</p> |
| EW0645_13 | Fifield, Mitch | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | Newstart | <p>Senator FIFIELD: But you do not have what the average time is that someone is on Newstart?</p> <p>Ms Milliken: I do not have that with me; I can take that on notice if you would like me to.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD: Okay, thank you. Are you able to say how many newly arrived migrants received Newstart in 2011-12?</p> <p>Ms Milliken: I do not have that information with me. I can take that on notice.</p> |
| EW0646_13 | Fifield, Mitch | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | Number of people on working age payments leave the country | <p>Senator FIFIELD: At a point in time. You can take this on notice. Are you able to say how many people on working age payments leave the country each year in total rather than point in time?</p> <p>Ms Milliken: Yes, we can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD: If you could. Could you provide that by payment type as well?</p> <p>Ms Parker: Yes.</p> |
| EW0647_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | QoN EW0303_13 | <p>Senator ABETZ: ... Can I ask yet again, in relation to question No. 1158_12, about this nonsense of the bold type. I thought I would ask it whilst the night is young, while it is not late, when people might be getting cranky.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: Can I just check the number again, please?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Sorry, it is 0303_13, which relates to 1158_12.</p> <p>We now know it was not the minister's intervention that undertook the pathetic exercise of bolding. We are now told that it was at the department's initiative. Can I be told at what level within the department that was initiated?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: In terms of what level, I cannot be precise. I do not know.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Will you take it on notice and make inquiries?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I am happy to take it on notice.</p> |
| EW0648_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | EW1158_12 | <p>Senator ABETZ: Can we get a specific answer from the minister's office? I would be gobsmacked if there were no notes or references somewhere in some files as to these teleconferences. People must be aware of who was involved in that teleconference and we are entitled to know who they were. So if you can take that on notice.</p> |
| EW0649_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Prime Minister address on 15 July | <p>Senator ABETZ: .. The Prime Minister gave an address on 15 July saying that the Fair Work Act had got the balance right. That speech was delivered in New South Wales. Did you have any input into that speech as a department?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: Not that I am aware of, but I am happy to take it on notice.</p> |
| EW0650_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | name of Fair Work Australia | <p>Senator ABETZ: So where, from all his community consultations, given that it is going to be the most likely name, did he get the idea that the community still wanted the words 'fair work' in the title?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I would have to take that on notice.</p> |
| EW0651_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | consultation for Fair Work Act change of name | <p>Senator ABETZ: ... Parliamentary Secretary, can you shed some light on why the minister is of the view that the Fair Work Act panel review's recommendation of a change of name should not be adopted?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I will need to take that question on notice. The minister himself has conducted the consultations in respect of the review, so I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could, that would be very helpful. I will now move to the other matters relating to this. Can we be told how these five issues arose? For ease of reference, I am referring to the minister's media release of 15 October 2012 in which there is a table of the recommendation numbers and then underneath that there are other matters relating to FWA. Where were these things thought of? Was it the President of Fair Work Australia seeing the minister? Did the minister think of them himself? Was it a departmental recommendation? Where did these things initiate from?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: My understanding is that they arose from discussions between the president and the minister and that they were proposals raised by the president.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: All five of them?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I will take it on notice, just to confirm, but my sense is that it was all of them.</p> |
| EW0652_13 | Xenophon, Nick | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Comparison between protection for workers on ships and aircraft | <p>Senator XENOPHON: Would you mind taking on notice, so that there is some clarity on it, the question: is there a distinction between the protections afforded to someone on a vessel going from port to port compared to an aircraft going,</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I am happy to take it on notice. But again I just highlight that, in respect of vessels that are registered as part of the Australian International Shipping Register, which was one of the initiatives as part of the government's shipping reform package, they are required to meet international standards in terms and conditions of employment. We will take the question on notice.</p> |
| EW0653_13 | Xenophon, Nick | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | Advice from DIAC regarding flight attendants and 457 visas | <p>Mr Kovacic: I am happy to take on notice the question of whether we had an indication from the immigration department as to whether they were contemplating adding flight attendants to the list.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes, I think it would be better to look at how this process might have unfolded rather than to speculate on,</p> |
| EW0654_13 | Xenophon, Nick | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | Criteria for advice given relating to skills shortages | <p>Senator XENOPHON: Also please take on notice to give us the criteria about the advice that you give in terms of skill shortages and the demand for it. When I spoke to the flight attendants union earlier today, it was news to them. So, unless there is some understanding, it seems extraordinary.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: We are more than happy to take those two questions on notice.</p> |
| EW0655_13 | Thistlethwaite, Matt | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | Responsibility for determining skills shortages in particular sectors of the economy | <p>Senator THISTLETHWAITE: Just as a follow-up, which department does determine if there are skill shortages or not in particular sectors of the economy?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: We certainly would provide advice based on our labour market expertise. But, as I said, in respect of this list, it is ultimately the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship that decides which occupations are included or not included in the list.</p> <p>Senator THISTLETHWAITE: So ordinarily you would?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: In a general sort of sense; we will take it on notice as to the details.</p> |

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| EW0656_13 | Xenophon, Nick | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 3 - Employment | Assessment of flight attendant skills shortages | <p>Senator XENOPHON: And, further to Senator Thistlethwaite's question, has any assessment been done by the department about skill shortages in the area of flight attendants?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: That is separate from the advice. What does your department say about the skill shortages in flight attendants?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I am not sure that we have said anything, but I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Paul: The agency which is responsible,at least it was when I had it in my department,for maintaining the list of occupations in demand, the skill shortage list, is the National Workforce and Productivity Agency, which is now an agency of the department of innovation, industry et cetera. It was formerly part of this portfolio; it is an agency. The way these things have traditionally worked in an administrative sense is that Immigration and its minister, obviously, are responsible for the final consideration of what might be included in a visa category. That is informed by the list of occupations in demand, which is maintained now by the other department, or at least the agency connected to the other portfolio,innovation and industry et cetera. Both of those departments are informed by our work. They ask for our advice but we are not the decision maker in either case. The other department makes the decision on the list, or at least it did when I had it, and the immigration department and its minister make the decision on the visa. To my recollection,I will correct this if I am now out of date,we take an advisory role, not a decision-making role in either case. We have now taken all of this on notice in any case.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Generally there is usually some cause and effect between the advice and the decision.</p> <p>Ms Paul: I do not know about this. We have taken this on notice. We would hope our advice gets listened to, in a general sense. Senator Thistlethwaite was going to who does what, so I was just trying to spell that out.</p> <p>CHAIR: Given the policy work that you do, were you aware that there was such a skill shortage in flight attendants?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: My understanding is that we actually did not provide any commentary in terms of what,</p> <p>CHAIR: No, I am asking whether you,</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: Look, I don't know; we will take it on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: I understand you have not provided advice; I am just asking whether you were aware.</p> <p>Ms Paul: I think we have taken it on notice, because we do not know here.</p> |
| EW0657_13 | Xenophon, Nick | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Workers compensation for flight attendants | <p>Senator XENOPHON: And there is that issue of workers compensation. Assuming that they are on an overseas based contract, not covered by the Fair Work Act, does that mean that, if they are injured in the course of their employment, on a flight from Melbourne to Sydney, for instance, they would not be covered by workers compensation under Australian law?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I will take that on notice. Can I just clarify the circumstances of your scenario, Senator Marshall, because potentially there is a range of scenarios. It is an individual who is engaged overseas,</p> <p>CHAIR: One of the first questions you have taken on notice is to ascertain some facts about the employment arrangements, so therefore the other questions that have been asked will not be based on a hypothetical.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: What I am getting at is, in the scenario that you have painted, where there is somebody engaged overseas who may be working in Australia, is it somebody who is in Australia on a 457 visa, in which case the answer would be quite different to the scenario that Senator Xenophon has outlined, where it is part of an inward or outward bound journey, which is incidental, arguably, to their work as a,</p> <p>CHAIR: I think you could answer both scenarios, because I am very interested in the prospect of the ability for an Australian citizen to be engaged overseas, on an overseas employment arrangement, but actually work in Australia.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: So it is an Australian citizen?</p> <p>CHAIR: There are two propositions we are putting to you. I am interested in the answer to both of those things.</p> <p>Ms Paul: We will do our best. I finish by noting that the actual proposition, the actual case about which there must be facts, is sub judice, and we have talked about that before. It is being tested by the Fair Work Ombudsman.</p> |
| EW0658_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Excessive wage claims | <p>Senator ABETZ: An article in the Australian on 25 June 2012 headed 'Unions cleared for Lend Lease strike' asserted that unions had won the right to pursue strike action against property giant Lend Lease in support of a job security claim that employers warned would potentially block business restructuring. Parliament Secretary, was that decision one that was seen as the act working as it should?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I am not familiar with the decision. I will take it on board.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can you take that on notice, then, to advise us whether that was an outcome the government would have expected under the Fair Work Act. Is the government concerned that unions could threaten the boom through excessive wage claims? The boom I am referring to is the mining boom.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Sorry, Senator Abetz: is the government concerned about the claim,from where?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Is the government concerned that unions could threaten the mining boom through excessive wage claims?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: And what is the source of this assertion?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Let's go right through it. Does the government believe that wage claims have been made by unions in the mining sector? Hopefully we can agree that the answer is yes.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Wage claims have occurred, yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes. Good. Would you describe them as being excessive? Does the government describe them as being excessive?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: All right.</p> |
| EW0659_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Submission to modern awards review | <p>Senator ABETZ: Who drafted the government's submission to the modern awards review?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: It was drafted by the department but it was cleared by the minister.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Right. Were there substantial changes made to it?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could.</p> |
| EW0660_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Changes to penalty rates | <p>Senator ABETZ: Can it be explained to me, Parliamentary Secretary, how the Prime Minister was able to say in July that she ruled out changes to areas like penalty rates if it is for the full bench of Fair Work Australia to decide?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I have not seen that report, so I will have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you can take it on notice, please, and ask for an explanation. A handy reference may be the Australian Financial Review of 27 July.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Certainly both the Prime Minister and the minister have been quite clear on the government's policy position in relation to penalty rates, but the reference that you are referring to I will need to take on notice.</p> |
| EW0661_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Intervention in modern award review | <p>Senator ABETZ: You have provided words and I think we might have to agree to disagree that those words are an adequate answer. Whose decision was it for the government to intervene in the modern award review?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: It was a government decision.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Who initiated it? Sure, ultimately, it is the minister's decision as to whether the submission goes forward, but who initiated the government making a submission? Was it a departmental suggestion or was it a suggestion that came from the minister's office asking the department to prepare something?</p> <p>Ms Paul: It was a government decision; presumably it was initiated within government. We can take on notice the chain of events.</p> |
| EW0662_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Comparison of number of industrial disputes with other countries | <p>Senator ABETZ: So we are agreed. How do we sit in comparison with other countries with whom we might be competing on world markets?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: We would have to take that on notice.</p> |

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| EW0663_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Costs of legal advice | <p>Mr O'Sullivan: The figure I have got, which is total paid up till today, is \$162,182; that is inclusive of GST. We do not have any further bills. I am not expecting that figure to be any greater.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So that is barristers' fees?</p> <p>Mr O'Sullivan: I think that is total.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Undoubtedly there would have been senior counsel. Was there a junior counsel?</p> <p>Mr O'Sullivan: Yes. It was a little bit complex. A junior actually got appointed as silk during the proceedings, but, yes, they were the two,</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: But we did not need 17 lawyers for this one, so that is helpful.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: You get more gratuitous as the evening goes along, Senator Abetz.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: It was your government, Parliamentary Secretary, that appointed 17 lawyers to,</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Do you have a question relevant to these estimates?</p> <p>CHAIR: As you know from last night, it was not 17 full-time lawyers, Senator Abetz. You are really misrepresenting the evidence that was taken last night. I was watching it too.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I am just trying to get a feel for how important this High Court case was.</p> <p>CHAIR: I think you are actually really trivialising the matter and you ought not to; I do not think it does you any credit. Why don't we just get back to some questions.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Thank you for that,always helpful.</p> <p>CHAIR: I have been very tolerant tonight but I think it is time we got back to asking questions and trying to receive some answers.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So we had a senior counsel and a junior counsel.</p> <p>Mr O'Sullivan: Yes, except I explained that the junior counsel did get appointed,</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Became a senior counsel.</p> <p>Mr O'Sullivan: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So within the AGS,do we have any other advice? The AGS is external to you.</p> <p>Mr O'Sullivan: Yes, that is right. The point I was trying to make was that I believe that figure to be a global figure for our total external legal costs. I will clarify that and I agree to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could I would be much obliged.</p> |
| EW0664_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Related to PQ 1920 - Individual flexibility agreements | <p>Senator ABETZ: I am willing to put all this aside. I am willing to forget about all that. I want to know: is it the government's current position or not that the 28-day rule is an impediment to the use of individual flexibility agreements? Is it?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I think I answered this question in part in a response in the earlier discussion about the National Workplace Relations Consultative Council and where we were going with the recommendations of the review. But what I would like to do, looking at this question now, is note your comments about there being a Hansard reference, refer to it and then look at a response.</p> |
| EW0665_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Judicial interpretation of provisions in Fair Work Act | <p>Senator ABETZ: We were told in the Australian on 2 August 2012,and the article quotes the panel,that the panel: â€ was disinclined to recommend legislative changes where there was a reasonable prospect that judicial interpretation of existing provisions would resolve the problem. This is an outrageous reflection on possible judicial interpretations and decisions, no doubt. Nevertheless, this was said. On what cases should we be waiting for judicial interpretations to resolve problems?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I would want to take that on notice to: (1) have a look at the article,</p> |
| EW0666_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | FWA President involvement in Grocon dispute | <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: There are two issues, which is why I am attempting to clarify so there is no ongoing confusion here. The two questions are, 'Who initiated the president's involvement?' and, 'Who initiated that a conference occur?' Do you want me to answer them as two distinct questions? What are you trying to get at?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I would have thought they were quite similar. Without the approach to the president, it stands to reason that no conference would have been held. The president indicated earlier today that it was not on his initiative; it was somebody approaching him. There has been a certain minister who has been in the background, and media have been reporting that it was this minister who initiated this, that he had made a call and requested the parties,</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I have no direct knowledge of that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: We had the evidence of the President of Fair Work Australia, which might conflict with that, so if you can get clarification from the minister on notice that would be helpful.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Sure.</p> |
| EW0667_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Relates to EW0311_13 - Appointment of Fair Work commissioner | <p>Senator ABETZ: Thank you. I turn to question on notice No. EW0311_13, about the appointment of Commissioner Riordan, and the information you provided. What discussions, if any, were held between departmental officials and Mr Riordan before the announcement of his appointment?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I think at the last estimates I indicated in response to a similar question that clearly, as part of the appointment process, we would undertake normal due diligence in terms of whether there is a conflict of interest and those sorts of issues,</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: And outstanding court actions?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I would need to check on whether that cropped up as part of that process, and I will confirm that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Being confronted with a \$1 million lawsuit by one's old trade union would not have been a good look for an appointment to Fair Work commission or bench, one would imagine.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: My recollection is that Mr Riordan, in the context of conversations around, I suppose, the preparatory work for his appointment, alerted the department to the issue, but I would need to confirm that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Paul: And, as we say here, the matter had been settled before he was appointed.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes,miraculously, on the day before the appointment! Don't tell me that there was not some prior knowledge that this matter was going to be settled on a particular day and the announcement delayed accordingly. So, Parliamentary Secretary, can we have clarification as to what discussions occurred between the minister's office and Mr Riordan in relation to this just amazingly coincidental settlement of a million dollar court case and the announcement of his appointment as a Fair Work commissioner?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I will take that on notice, although I should indicate that I attended the ceremony on that occasion and I am not aware in terms of my own diary that there were any delays.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: No, they weren't any delays. The case was settled, and the very next day Minister Shorten announced his appointment, along with some others.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: As I said, I will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: It is very coincidental. Was any advice offered by the department to Mr Riordan that his appointment could not be proceeded with whilst the court case was outstanding?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I would have to take that on notice. I do not know that we canvassed that issue in the conversations with him.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could take that on notice, Parliamentary Secretary, in relation to discussions the minister or the minister's office might have had.</p> |
| EW0668_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Departmental discussions with Mr Riordan | <p>Senator ABETZ: So did you talk to Mr Riordan at all prior to his appointment?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: Not that I can recall at all.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Surely you must remember.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I will take it on notice. There may have been one conversation, but I am not sure. I will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: You were aware that Mr Riordan had this \$1 million court case about his sitting fees on a superannuation board?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I was aware, in the lead-up to Mr Riordan's appointment, that there were legal proceedings afoot, whether the information was provided to the relevant person in the department or through media reports that there was a court case afoot. We were also ultimately aware that that matter was settled.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: It is not a run-of-the-mill appointment, when you have got somebody with a \$1 million court case outstanding against him. That would be something that you would recall, I would suggest to you. But you are saying you cannot recall whether you spoke to him.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I may have had one conversation with Mr Riordan. I cannot recall whether that preceded his appointment or whether it occurred post his appointment. I have taken that on notice. If there were discussions, there would have been perhaps one or two, if that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Ms Paul, I assume you did not have any discussions with Mr Riordan prior to his appointment.</p> <p>Ms Paul: No, I did not. We have now taken it on notice. I think we probably cannot go any further at this stage.</p> |

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| EW0669_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Appointment of members of Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal | The Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal has had appointed to it somebody who has been referred in the Fair Work investigation into Mr Thomson. Are these members with so-called industry experience paid a sitting fee or a salary for sitting on this Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal? Mr O'Sullivan: Yes, they are. They are paid a fixed amount and then an amount per sitting day. Senator ABETZ: What period is their appointment for? If you do not know, just take it on notice. Mr Cully: I will take it on notice. The figure for the salary is \$36,050 a year and \$500 per sitting day. |
| EW0670_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Change to Coal Mining Industry Long Service Leave Act | Senator ABETZ: Who is expert on the black coal long service leave act? Mr O'Sullivan, is it? It has been put to me that there has been a change to that act and I recall that going through,when was that? Mr Kovacic: I think it went through in the latter part of last year. Senator ABETZ: It is now covering a lot more and many more people are covered. Therefore, a degree of back pay has become necessary, which is putting some strain on the fund. Are you aware of that, Mr O'Sullivan? If you are not, just take it on notice. Mr O'Sullivan: I am going to have to take that on notice. Mr Kovacic: I think there are two dimensions. One is that the legislation enacted last year was, in essence, to translate what were award provisions into the act. There is a coal industry long service leave corporation which imposes a levy on the sector. We will take it on notice, but it could be that the levy has been adjusted by the corporation itself. That might be the context of the remarks which have been put to you. |
| EW0671_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Departmental input into Prime Minister's speech on productivity | Senator ABETZ: Did the department have any input into a prime ministerial speech, delivered on 20 August, relating to productivity? Take that on notice. She was addressing a business audience and indicated: Australia's falling productivity rate over the past decade was not the fault of, a number of things, or restrictive industrial legislation. I was just wondering whether the department had drafted any aspect of that. Ms Paul: We will take that on notice. It would be unlikely. |
| EW0672_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Right of entry permits | Senator ABETZ: Has it been drawn to the department's attention that there might be a gap in the law in relation to union officials who deliberately do not have a right-of-entry ticket and enter work sites so that they can only be charged with common trespass as opposed to being in breach of their right-of-entry permit, requiring the appropriate notice being given et cetera? First of all,to you, Parliamentary Secretary,has that been brought to the government's attention? You can take that on notice. Senator Jacinta Collins: The first to my knowledge,and I will take it on notice beyond this,was the discussion you had earlier today. Senator ABETZ: You can take that on notice. And the department? Mr Kovacic: To the best of our knowledge, it has not been brought to our attention. |
| EW0673_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Correspondence received regarding foster carers | Senator ABETZ: I am quoting from it, and I was copied into the correspondence,although it does not say, I am assuming as the shadow minister. This is quoting from the ACT Community Services Directorate, basically saying that their hands are tied: 'The advice that foster carers are not covered by this new legislation is not a decision of the Community Services Directorate; rather advice that has been provided by the Commonwealth. Any change to the legislation would have national implications and is a lengthy and complicated process which will need to include the Commonwealth and all other jurisdictions who have implemented this.' There is the suggestion that foster carers are not covered. Are you able, if you are not, Mr Kovacic: We will take it on notice. It is quite possible that that correspondence might have been referred to Safe Work Australia, but nonetheless we will take it on notice. Senator Jacinta Collins: Senator, just before you move on: does the suggestion seem to be that in the ACT they currently are covered? Is this an issue of moving to harmonisation, where there is a view that people who are presently covered will not be? Senator ABETZ: I do not know if this is a changed situation or, Ms Paul: Just a query. Senator ABETZ: the continuation of a change, but supposedly, under the work health and safety legislation, according to the ACT Community Services Directorate, there is no coverage. Senator Jacinta Collins: We will take it on notice. |
| EW0674_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Deduction of union dues from employees under 18 | Senator ABETZ: If you could, that would be good. I am not sure whether I have asked about this before, but somebody has written to me to say that the Fair Work Act 2009 requires an employer to obtain an employee's consent before they can deduct union dues from the employee's pay. Presently, employees who are under 18 years of age are able to give this consent. How does that work? I suppose if you are under 18 you can sign up for your own job. Mr O'Sullivan: I would just have to have a chance to look at the relevant provisions. Senator ABETZ: All right, take that on notice, thank you. |
| EW0675_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Trade unions | This is one for the parliamentary secretary undoubtedly to take on notice. Mr Shorten on Meet the Press on Sunday, 26 August said: Well let's be really clear on our language here, and what is important. First of all, trade unions in Australia,with notable exceptions, Plural, but very few exceptions,are honestly run. Is he willing to divulge the 'notable exceptions'? Can you take that on notice, please? Senator Jacinta Collins: I will take that on notice. |
| EW0676_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Unionism in workplaces | Senator ABETZ: I am referring to an article from the Australian of 16 August 2012. It is, I think, the ADJ Contracting case. I am inquiring whether, if it is illegal,by agreement,to promote unionism in the workplace and if you were to have a non-union collective agreement where everybody agreed that unionism should be discouraged, that would be appropriate to be in the workplace agreement. Mr Kovacic: I will take it on notice. The relevant consideration there would be the general protection principles of the Fair Work Act. One thing I would say in respect of the ADJ agreement is that it has been the subject of a number of appeals, most recently by a full Federal Court which has upheld the validity of the provisions that were challenged. Senator ABETZ: Yes. Mr Kovacic: The question you ask I will take on notice. Senator ABETZ: So, if that is valid, one has to ask why the reverse would not be valid, because the Fair Work Act also has provisions in it about voluntary association and freedom of association et cetera. The suggestion that companies need to promote unionism,let's not beat around the bush; it is 'no ticket, no start',I think most people would find, Senator Jacinta Collins: I am not convinced of that at all from my experience. Mr Kovacic: I am not so sure that I would accept that assertion, Senator Abetz. Senator ABETZ: In that case, if there were a clause to discourage trade unionism, why would you say that that would be adverse action? Mr Kovacic: What I said is that, Senator ABETZ: It cuts both ways. Ms Paul: That is not what the officer said. Mr Kovacic: In terms of providing an answer on notice, I think a clear consideration would be how such a provision would stack up against the general protections provisions of the Fair Work Act. Senator ABETZ: It looks as though the general protections might only operate one way. But if you can take that on notice for us and confirm for us that the act is equal unbalanced and cuts both ways evenly, that would be good. |

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| EW0677_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Relates to PQ 1922 | <p>Senator ABETZ: Good. I was told, courtesy of parliamentary question No. 1922, the government is currently considering the Howe inquiry report. It was in July I got an answer. Are we still considering?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: When do you think we might finish the considering and come up with a response as to whether anything is going to be happening as a result?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: That is a matter for government, but we will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: We do not have a timetable?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: No.</p> <p>Ms Paul: It is a matter for government.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, but I am asking about a timetable.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Sorry, no, we do not have a timetable.</p> |
| EW0678_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | FWA did not intervene in industrial action | <p>Senator ABETZ: Parliamentary Secretary, are you able to advise me of or take on notice the reason why the federal government did not seek to intervene at Fair Work Australia to bring an immediate end to industrial action that was threatening to cripple the automotive manufacturing sector in your home state around the first week of August 2012?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I will take that on notice.</p> |
| EW0679_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Was advice provided to government regarding amendments to Howe Inquiry | <p>Senator ABETZ: While you are looking for that, can you indicate to us whether or not you provided advice to government as to whether any amendments were necessary?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I will take the specific question as to whether we provided advice to government on notice. I would just note the evidence that Mr Campbell provided earlier today to the committee where he said, in general terms, that the issue had not caused any problems from a compliance perspective for Fair Work Building and Construction.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: That is interesting. I am just asking whether or not you did, the answer would be yes or no.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Let us know whether you did or did not. That was all that was asked.</p> |
| EW0680_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Relates to EW0306_13 - Government amendment to new building inspectorate | <p>Senator ABETZ: In relation to EW0306, the new building inspectorate, and what was called 'the switch-off provision', you do not know where it came from and the department has told me, 'The department is not aware of where the idea for the government amendments originated.'</p> <p>Parliamentary Secretary, can you please tell us where did this idea emanate from? Clearly it was not the department, and when I asked at the Senate hearings the trade union movement said it was not their idea, the employers said it was not their idea, and it is not the department's idea. It seems to be an idea without,</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: A sponsor?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes. It seems to be a bit of an orphan and I would just like to know exactly from where it emanated?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I have not been directly involved in the ABCC processes, so I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Did the department make any inquiries of the minister's office? We were told that the department was not aware where the idea for the government amendments originated. If you are not aware, the only other place that they could have come from is the minister's office, one would imagine, because the minister sponsored the amendments.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I will take that on notice. I imagine that we probably would have.</p> |
| EW0681_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Relates to EW0045_13 - Stakeholder discussion regarding Building Industry Improvement Bill | <p>. In response to EW45_13, Parliamentary Secretary, can we be told with which stakeholders the minister discussed the amendments, if he did discuss them with anybody?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Are these the same amendments?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Okay, I will take that on notice.</p> |
| EW0682_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Minister involvement with Abigroup strike | <p>Senator ABETZ: The minister was written to, it looks as though it might be undated, by his counterpart in Queensland about the changes to the Fair Work Act and a transfer of business provisions. Sorry, I withdraw that. He was written to about that as well, but the issue I want to talk about first of all is the Queensland government health project and the ongoing strike that went for about eight weeks with the Abigroup. The project losses are approximately \$300,000 per day from the delay. Can we be advised as to what the minister did to stop this dispute or to involve himself in this dispute to bring it to an end.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: The minister spoke to both of the parties and as a result of that there was ultimately a memorandum of understanding negotiated between the parties which led to a return to work and a process for resolving outstanding issues, if I can put it that way, which was to be overseen by Commissioner Simpson from Fair Work Australia. My understanding is that the parties were back before Commissioner Simpson on Monday of this week. I am not aware of the outcome of that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: When did the minister involve himself?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: In terms of the precise date I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: How long had the dispute been going on for before he finally deigned to visit?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I need to take that on notice.</p> |
| EW0683_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Prior notice to QLD state government of announcement | <p>Senator ABETZ: During the dispute he seems to have the time to go to Queensland to make an announcement, without consultation with the Queensland state government, about the transfer of business provisions as they might apply to redundant state public servants. Can it be confirmed to me that no prior notice was given to the Queensland state government of that announcement?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: The minister wrote to all state and territory ministers of industrial relations on 21 September.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: And when did he publicly announce?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: My advice is that he announced it on 21 September as well.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Right, so it stands to reason that given they were written to they would not have received those letters at the time of the announcement.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I am happy to take that on notice but I cannot answer that.</p> |
| EW0684_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Consultations by department with trade unions | <p>Senator ABETZ: Was there any consultation by the department with any elements of the trade union movement prior to the announcement?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Consultations by us with the trade union movement.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I will take that on notice but my sense is that I do not think so.</p> |
| EW0685_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Date of request from Minister | <p>Senator ABETZ: Parliamentary Secretary can I ask you about whether the minister or his office had prior consultation with the trade union movement or elements of it? And I ask the department: is this an orphan as well? Where did this idea emanate from? Was it from the minister's office asking the department to undertake work in this area? When was the first you heard about this proposition?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I would have to take the precise date on notice but it certainly would have preceded to the correspondence, Senator.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: By?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: By the minister to his counterpart.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: By how many days or minutes?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I really could not give you a sense of that. I would prefer to take that on notice, to be precise.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Not even a sense of whether it is minutes or days?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I would be hazarding a guess. I think it would be more than days but I do not know how long.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could take that on notice for us</p> |
| EW0686_13 | Abetz, Eric | 17/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Re-employment of public servants | <p>Senator ABETZ: All right. Was any assessment undertaken as to whether that might disadvantage the potential re-employment of public servants, especially in Queensland?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: The policy intent underpinning the bill is to ensure that state public sector employees' terms and conditions of employment are protected where a transfer of business occurs between a state public sector employer and a national system employer, and that was the key element in terms of the bill. Building on the point I made before, were the bill to be passed by the parliament, what it would do is, as far as possible, set up a nationally consistent set of transfer-of-business provisions for when public sector employees are involved in a transfer of business. In terms of the question you asked, I would have to take that on notice.</p> |

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| EW0687_13 | Abetz, Eric | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy | Input into speech provided to Prime Minister | Possibly, Ms Paul, you could advise me whether the department had any input into the speech provided by the Prime Minister to the New South Wales Labor Party conference earlier this year? I understand the advice may have gone via the department to the minister's office, from whence it went to the Prime Minister's office. Are you are aware of any request? Ms Paul: I am not aware. Would you like me to take it on notice? |
| EW0688_13 | Abetz, Eric | 18/10/2012 | Cross Portfolio | Media Monitoring Services | With such a huge bill, what the extra cost would be to the Australian taxpayer if a humble, underfunded opposition spokesman were to get the benefit of this media monitoring service? Ms Paul: We have canvassed this before. Senator ABETZ: Yes. Ms Paul: You are asking about the extra cost. I do not know what the extra cost would be. I would have to take that on notice. CHAIR: I want to know who the humble shadow spokesperson is. Senator ABETZ: You are looking at him. It seems to be a matter of personal disposition of the minister or ministers in the portfolio. I remember when I was a minister I was happy to share, but I understand that certain others do not and that it is an issue of the certain disposition of the minister. But if there is no extra cost to the taxpayer then, of course, the issue is one of, if I might describe it as such, bloody mindedness, of not being willing to share with the opposition something which would not cost the taxpayer any extra dollars. Can you confirm, Secretary, that there would be no extra cost to the taxpayer if one lot of this media monitoring was made available to the opposition? Can you confirm that it would not incur an extra cost to the taxpayer? Ms Paul: I do not know that, but we have taken that on notice. |
| EW0689_13 | Abetz, Eric | 18/10/2012 | Cross Portfolio | Estimates folder for the Parliamentary Secretary | Does the department prepare the estimates folder for the parliamentary secretary? Ms Paul: We prepare briefs, but I suspect the folder is put together by her office. Actually I am not sure; I will have to take that on notice. Actually, I do not know. Senator ABETZ: I see, so you provide all the paper, but the office punches the holes in it to put it into a folder? Ms Paul: It is possible. Actually, I do not know. I will need to take that on notice. |
| EW0690_13 | Abetz, Eric | 18/10/2012 | Cross Portfolio | In house Health and Safety Representative training | I want to turn to contract notice view CN843541. It is for this department. It was published on 23 August 2012. The description was 'In house Health and Safety Representative training' for \$26,070. Have we got that one? Mr Manthorpe: I do not have that one with me, no. Senator ABETZ: Right. Can somebody tell me, and if not take it on notice, how many people were trained for this sum of money? Mr Manthorpe: We will take that on notice. Senator ABETZ: And how many health and safety representatives does the department have? Mr Manthorpe: Off the top of my head, I do not know the answer to that. Senator ABETZ: Does somebody behind you know? Mr Manthorpe: I will see. We just do not have that detail with us, but we can take it on notice no problem. Senator ABETZ: Yes, take that on notice as well. |
| EW0691_13 | Abetz, Eric | 18/10/2012 | Cross Portfolio | Personal Leave | Mr Wyers: The definition is not fully explicit. It does not go to every possible circumstance. The example you provided, I would not have normally thought so, but the decision maker is the person's manager at the time and they need to take into account each of the circumstances. A pet dying? I would not have thought so. Senator ABETZ: I would have hoped so, so thank you for that. Can you take on notice whether or not anybody in the department has been provided leave for that purpose, paid or unpaid, and for what length of time. Mr Wyers: Yes. |
| EW0692_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Cross Portfolio | Carbon tax on electricity prices for the department | Senator MASON: What is the impact of the carbon tax on electricity prices for your power? Mr Manthorpe: The answer is that we do not know definitively, Senator MASON: You still do not know? Mr Manthorpe: because of the fact that in some of our building arrangements the amount is not, Senator MASON: All right. When are we back next? In February? Mr Manthorpe: That is right. Senator MASON: Will you have an answer for me then? Mr Manthorpe: I will endeavour to have an answer. Senator MASON: I hope you will then. Mr Manthorpe: It depends on how we are billed. So the point I am making, Senator MASON: That is eight months after the beginning of the carbon tax, is that right? It is seven or eight months. Ms Paul: But the point Mr Manthorpe is making is that our bills are going down. Senator MASON: Yes, but the impact of the carbon tax would still be disaggregated from those bills. That is still possible. Ms Paul: Not always. Mr Manthorpe: Not always. The point I am making is that that is not always the case. Senator MASON: Where you can, can you do it. Mr Manthorpe: Yes. Senator MASON: All right. So you will do that for the committee in February? Mr Manthorpe: Yes. Senator MASON: All right. I have asked about this before. I asked about it in May and now, and I do not want you in February to say, 'I wasn't expecting the question; I don't know.' Mr Manthorpe: Indeed, and that is why I have come prepared. That is why I have asked the question inside the department as to how much we incur, and the advice I have is that we do not have a definitive amount. Senator MASON: It is not definitive, but the committee wants to know what you have. Mr Manthorpe: Sure. Would you like me to take on notice what we have, that is, the extent to which we can itemise? Senator MASON: All right. Could you take it on notice. Mr Manthorpe: Yes. |
| EW0693_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Performance Audit - Audit Report No. 30 of 2010-11 | Senator MASON: That is fine. This one sounds similar but it is a different contract. CN917671 is an audit of a sample of schools funded under the Digital Education Revolution National Secondary School Computer Fund. That is a different one. The contract period is from 3 September to 21 December this year. The contract value is about \$113,000. How is this contract different? Ms Potter: There was a performance audit undertaken by the ANAO, Audit report No. 30 of 2010-11. Senator MASON: By the Audit Office? Ms Potter: That is right. One of the recommendations was that DEEWR consult with education authorities to design and construct an audit of a sample of schools funded under DER in relation to the computer to student ratio. This contract is for the audit to be undertaken. That work is expected to happen during November. Senator MASON: Will it be published? I suppose it would be. Mr Manthorpe: That will be a matter for the government. Senator MASON: So it might be? Ms Paul: I am not sure that it culminates in a report that would be published. We might have to check that. Senator MASON: Can you check that? Ms Paul: I am happy to. Senator MASON: If it will be published. Ms Paul: If it actually culminates in a report, will it be published? That is fine. |

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| EW0694_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Evaluation of the more support for students with disabilities initiative | <p>Senator MASON: I go to 608481. It is the evaluation of the more support for students with disabilities initiative, its overall effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness. It is about for \$1.1 million.</p> <p>Ms Potter: The initiative is about providing additional support for teachers in schools so they are better able to support the needs of students with disability. The initiative encompasses things like providing students with assistive technologies. For example, a hearing impaired student might be provided with equipment that provides text captions very soon after the teacher has spoken the words. Other things provided under the initiative are support for teachers in terms of developing curriculum. For example, if a teacher had a student with an intellectual disability, then they would be given support to develop a curriculum that is age appropriate.</p> <p>Senator MASON: How do you measure or assess effectiveness, efficiency or appropriateness? How do you do that?</p> <p>Ms Potter: The evaluation is primarily about sharing examples of good practice. Through the evaluation we are undertaking a range of case studies, and in addition to that there are stakeholder seminars and workshops. In a region where they are schools that are not directly participating in an initiative, we bring them together to try and share innovation and examples of good practice so that they can learn from,</p> <p>Senator MASON: Development of best practice and innovation. Okay, I understand. That makes perfect sense. Is the evaluation for internal use or, again, will that be made publicly available?</p> <p>Ms Potter: I am not sure. I might need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Can you take that on notice for the committee?</p> <p>Ms Potter: Sure.</p> |
| EW0695_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority | ACARA - Absenteeism | <p>Senator NASH: Okay, I will have a look at it when it comes out and see if it is going to address it. In answer to a question on notice I think you said ACARA possesses all the information relating to the attendance of the tests, but not, clearly, the absenteeism.</p> <p>Mr Randall: Can you direct me to the question you have there please?</p> <p>Senator NASH: I think it EWO_13813, I think. Sorry, I may not have given you the correct one.</p> <p>Mr Randall: Just so that we are on the same page.</p> <p>Senator NASH: I do not have it with me to double check, but I think that is the one,</p> <p>Mr Randall: We have the aggregate data of the participation, but will not be able to break it down to a finer level.</p> <p>Senator NASH: Okay, so it is probably just a little bit loose to say that you possess all the information,</p> <p>Mr Randall: It may be a matter of the phrasing.</p> <p>Senator NASH: or most of the information. I was just a little confused. Perhaps I could get you to take on notice to clarify that for me.</p> |
| EW0696_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority | ACARA - Absenteeism - Boosting results by not attending school. | <p>Finally, does the department have any knowledge of any complaints from rural and regional areas of schools asking particular children not to attend school in order to boost results?</p> <p>Mr Randall: It does not come to mind. We have discussed it at this committee previously and we have talked previously about where matters are raised. We have undertaken, if particular things were brought to our attention, that we would follow them through. I am happy, again, to check that. I do not have it to mind. I am pretty confident that I would know, but we will check if we have particular cases of any of those sorts of concerns.</p> <p>Senator NASH: If you could also take that on notice, that would be appreciated.</p> |
| EW0697_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority | ACARA - Public consultation for Australian curriculum | <p>Senator MASON: Mr Randall, at the last estimates you advised the committee that the draft senior secondary Australian curriculum for 14 subjects across the areas of English, maths, science and history was out for public consultation.</p> <p>Mr Randall: Yes.</p> <p>Senator MASON: The consultation was to conclude on 20 July.</p> <p>Mr Randall: Yes.</p> <p>Senator MASON: How many feedback submissions did you receive?</p> <p>Mr Randall: Across the 14, and I will just check the numbers, there was a significant number. I do not have the actual number in front of me,</p> <p>Senator MASON: But you could get it for the committee? Even on notice would be great.</p> <p>Mr Randall: Yes, I can; I can give that to you.</p> |
| EW0698_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority | ACARA - Draft senior secondary Australian curriculum - feedback submissions | <p>Senator MASON: Thank you. I think you invited feedback from the general public and organisations and institutions? Did you get feedback not just from the education sector but also from the broader community?</p> <p>Mr Randall: Yes.</p> <p>Senator MASON: You did. Is that broken down in the answers that you can provide to the committee?</p> <p>Mr Randall: I can give you a breakdown and, again, we take it from the broader community, that is, open to everybody, and we get it from authorities, individuals, people in universities and others. I can provide you with that profile.</p> <p>Senator MASON: You can get that for us? That would be great.</p> |
| EW0699_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority | ACARA - Lowering of the discussion of issues like puberty to 7-year-old children. | <p>Senator MASON: So who recommended that it be lowered and that seven-year-old kids should learn about physical change?</p> <p>Mr Randall: Who proposed that we do it? We had a small writing team of people. I am happy to provide the list of those people and their backgrounds.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Yes, thank you.</p> |
| EW0700_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Development of NAPLAN online | <p>Mr Adams: It is a development of test, correct. The delivery of it is being undertaken by Education Services Australia, a ministerial company. ESA has been given a funding grant from the Commonwealth government to do two things to secure a platform to deliver the sample assessments next year which will be to about 13,000 or 14,000 students and at the same time investigate the potential to develop a capability to deliver NAPLAN.</p> <p>Senator MASON: You have a company that has been challenged to do that. So a tender has been let.</p> <p>Mr Adams: No, this is by a funding grant because it is a ministerial company. It is done under a funding grant from the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Senator MASON: So where can I find that?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We will take that on notice and come back to you.</p> |
| EW0701_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | NAPLAN online delivery platform | <p>Senator MASON: That is great. How much is the development of that platform costing or going to cost?</p> <p>Mr Randall: I do not have the figures right in front of me. We will take that on notice and get that back to you.</p> |
| EW0702_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority | ACARA - Funding for Nap tests online | <p>Mr Adams: Yes. My understanding is that ESA would not be represented in that document, but I would seek advice from the Commonwealth on that.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Is that right, Mr Cook?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I guess my query here in fact relates to the dot point above: "Delivery and analysis of National Assessment Program " Sample Assessment (triennial cycle) tests." I would assume funding in relation to anything future in relation to any delivery of the NAP tests, including online, would be part of that. But we can take that on notice. We are happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Can you have a look at that, Mr Cook?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes.</p> |

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| EW0703_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | National partnerships program | <p>Senator MASON: The Auditor-General also found that FMA Regulations, that is the Financial Management and Accountability Regulations, Nos 9 and 12 were not complied with, as no explicit records were made of the approval of spending proposals. Why were those requirements not adhered to? He says that on page 25. Why is that?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I think that is something that we have been looking at in terms of how we improve processes and ensure that we follow accountability requirements there. I do not have the detail about why it did not occur in the past, but I think the report also noted that we made improvements to the management of the national partnership over the time of the national partnership. Certainly that is my understanding.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Ms Paul, do you have anything to add?</p> <p>Ms Paul: I do not know the answer. We will have to take it on notice. I do not know it. I am sorry. I do not have the audit in front of me.</p> <p>Senator MASON: That is extraordinary. It is so much money. We are talking nearly half a billion dollars.</p> <p>Ms Paul: I would not at all think that that issue covered all of that money.</p> <p>Senator MASON: But how much does it cover?</p> <p>Ms Paul: I do not know, and I will take that on notice. It is just that you were drawing an implication that it might have covered the whole lot, and I would be surprised. But let us take it on notice. I do not think it would take long to work out.</p> |
| EW0704_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | FMA Regulations | <p>Senator MASON: Since the release of the Auditor-General's report itself, have the FMA Regulations been complied with? I hope so.</p> <p>Mr Hehir: That is my understanding.</p> <p>Senator MASON: That sounds a bit equivocal. Has the law been complied with?</p> <p>Ms Paul: We agreed with all the recommendations with this audit. I would assume so, so why don't we confirm that for you later on.</p> |
| EW0705_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority | ACARA - Common definition of disability | <p>Senator MASON: I do not think this is a big issue but in the ACARA annual report for 2009-10, the CEO said in his report that ACARA was involved in developing a common definition of disability. What work was done?</p> <p>Mr Randall: That is work that was undertaken with DEEWR and also state and territory authorities. It has now translated and been taken up in terms of some of the disability funding work and others. It is drawing upon current practice in terms of how people have defined them and identified them. As with many of these things nationally we have found that, while there is broad agreement, unless you can settle on some greater agreement about things you might miss those, so there is that ongoing definition work. We have been party to that because it is important to our work in terms of the My School website and in terms of talking about young people's participation in NAPLAN and the like.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Did you come up with a definition? What happened?</p> <p>Mr Randall: I am happy to take notice where we have finally got to.</p> |
| EW0706_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Drafting of Initial Legislation | <p>When was the Office of Parliamentary Counsel given instructions to draft the bill?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I will have to take that on notice. There has been instruction in relation to that, but the actual date I would like to take on notice.</p> <p>Senator MASON: All right.</p> |
| EW0707_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Government Response to the Recommendations from Gonski review | <p>Senator MASON: If I can move to the specifics, the chairman will be happy. I will move to some specifics rather than background milestones. I will just go to the status of the Gonski review now if I can. The Gonski review made, I think, 41 recommendations. Can you identify precisely, with respect to each of those 41 recommendations, which ones have been supported or rejected or are under further consideration? Where are we with respect to those recommendations?</p> <p>Ms Paul: The government did an early response to those recommendations once the review came out. In terms of where each of them is up to, I do not know that we could go through that in detail here. Would you like us to take it on notice and give you that sort of breakdown? In effect, all of the recommendations have been considered. Perhaps it is a little bit more complex than saying 'accept' or 'reject', because all the recommendations have been considered in terms of the further work that needed to be done, to my recollection. There may have been a couple which have not progressed, and I would have to remind myself. Mr Cook may be able to talk more. But it might help you if we could do that on notice.</p> <p>FROM PAGE 41</p> <p>Mr Cook: Again, I would have to take that on notice. Again, a lot of the 41 recommendations actually interplay with each other. I do not want to get too technical but one recommendation often relies on the other, particularly in some of the notions of what a total needs based funding model is. That is the one I record most, but I am certainly happy to take on notice.</p> <p>Senator MASON: In terms of the implementation of the recommendations, do we know which ones are going to be accepted and implemented, or is that still part of the consultation process?</p> <p>Ms Paul: I am not sure that it is as useful to go through every recommendation and say whether it will be accepted, although I am perfectly happy to take it on notice. I do not have it in front of me. What is probably more useful for you is to know that all of the work that the panel said needed to be done has been done or is still underway. I am not sure that it is a case of accept or reject, but I am happy to look at it from that angle. We just need to go back and look literally at those 41 recommendations.</p> |
| EW0708_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Estimated cost of school reforms | <p>Senator MASON: Ms Paul, have Treasury or Finance agreed with the \$6.5 billion estimate of Gonski?</p> <p>Ms Paul: I am happy to take that question on notice, but I am not sure that it is quite the right question. I do not think it is quite where we are at.</p> |
| EW0709_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Percentage of funding for low SES loading | <p>Senator MASON: How much will this loading comprise of the total funding that the Prime Minister suggested was needed for the new model? How much will this comprise? What sort of percentage of the new model will this funding require?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I would have to take that on notice. But noting what Ms Paul has said in terms of the final model is dependent on where we land with states and territories. That particular loading is still something that we are discussing as well, so I probably would have to take that on notice.</p> |
| EW0710_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Cost of Indigenous loading | <p>Senator MASON: The minister suggested on 4 September that an extra 32,000 students in some 3,600 schools would receive the Indigenous loading.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes.</p> <p>Senator MASON: What would the costs be per year for that over the forward estimates?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We would have to take that on notice. That comes back to being dependent on what the loading amount is which is dependent again on the final loading that we have.</p> |
| EW0711_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Index to determine rural and remote and small schools | <p>Senator MASON: Senator Nash will be very interested in these issues about loadings for rural and remote schools and small schools. What index will be used to determine very remote and remote schools under the new model? Is it that ABS geographical instrument again?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, Senator, I should know it off the top of my head, but I may have to take it on notice. It is the formula that is currently used by the ministerial council.</p> <p>Ms Paul: We will have to take it on notice. I am not sure which one it is.</p> <p>Senator MASON: What constitutes a small school?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Good question.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I am just trying to recall the number of students. Again, we will probably have to take it on notice. It is based on student population, although some of the changes that had been proposed are actually basing it also on a sliding scale in terms of a loading concentration. If the challenge is the difference between a small school and a medium school is one child, that would obviously have quite a perverse impact on a funding model. But if you have more of a sliding scale, where you look at the concentration loading, so there is a level of loading whether there are 50 kids or 51 kids, that addresses some of the issues around some of the complexities we had around what we would call a stepped approach to loadings, if that makes sense.</p> |
| EW0712_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Value of loadings for schools in regional, rural and small areas | <p>Senator MASON: You may need to take this question on notice, Mr Cook, or the department. Under the current funding model for non-government schools over a quadrennium, what is the current value in dollar terms of the loadings for schools that are located in regional areas?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MASON: What is the value in dollar terms of the rural and small schools loadings being proposed under the new model for non-government schools over a quadrennium?</p> <p>Ms Paul: We will have to take that on notice, but noting that it is still subject to all the things we have said before.</p> |
| EW0713_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Visits to rural and regional schools | <p>Senator NASH: I get that. Apart from Wollongong and Ballarat, which are not regional, and Camden as a very big stretch as part of the panel schools visits program, which is only 60 kilometres from the city of Sydney, there has been no specific on the ground visiting and discussion with rural and regional schools.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I am sorry but I will have to take that on notice. There have been some school visits from the minister, for example, which have been in regional locations in WA and other states as well.</p> <p>Senator NASH: I am really just trying to get a sense of what the communication has been.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I fully appreciate that.</p> <p>Senator NASH: If you would not mind taking on notice for me what has been done.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Absolutely.</p> |

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| EW0714_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | School funding model - Briefing prior to next estimates | <p>Ms Paul: We might have to say that we are still in negotiations. That is what I am offering. I am offering to at least alert you to how much we will be able to put forward. It might be that we are still in negotiations and, therefore, we are not going to lay down a final model, or it might be that there has already been a sign-up with whoever and here is the model. I just cannot predict it right now. I would prefer to predict it closer to the time.</p> <p>Senator MASON: This becomes very frustrating. Until there is a final model, it becomes very difficult.</p> <p>CHAIR: There is the inquiry, as well, Senator, so there will be an opportunity.</p> <p>Ms Paul: That is true. Because it is subject to negotiation, that is why we are where we are.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Could I perhaps get a briefing, informally, Minister?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes, of course you can.</p> <p>Senator MASON: That would be possible?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes, absolutely.</p> |
| EW0715_13 | Scullion, Nigel | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Students from Palumpa to attend Wadeye | <p>Senator SCULLION: Would you be able to provide on notice or even today even notionally, say, how many from Palumpa and how many from the other communities?</p> <p>Mr Hansen: I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION: If you have some notional ideas about where the remainder of the 40 will be recruited from, that would be useful as well.</p> |
| EW0716_13 | Scullion, Nigel | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Number of staff in Northern Territory hostels | <p>Senator SCULLION: How many staff will be employed?</p> <p>Mr Hansen: I would have to take that on notice. I have not got those numbers.</p> |
| EW0717_13 | Scullion, Nigel | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Budget for Wadeye facility | <p>Senator SCULLION: What was the original budget, then, for Wadeye, if you think there has been a bit of a blow-out?</p> <p>Mr Hansen: I do not actually have the budget for Wadeye.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION: Would you take that question on notice and provide me with a specific budget for the original budget.</p> <p>Mr Hansen: I could do that.</p> |
| EW0718_13 | Scullion, Nigel | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Overspend at Wadeye facility | <p>When were you first aware that there were going to be significant blow-outs in the construction cost at Wadeye?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION: Ms Paul, before we move on from that, I understand that you might need to take that on notice but, given that you do not seem to be disagreeing with me on the quantum here, I think they are pretty basic figures, and that we appear to have spent half of the amount that was originally budgeted on what is effectively one-third of the work, one would have expected that, given the differential in what would have been expected by all the announcements and what it has actually cost you, that you would have been able to provide an answer today. We now have the very first direct figure. I appreciate that we often take things on notice, but I would have thought you would have been able to provide at least some indications of why there has been a blow-out of this nature on something of this import.</p> |
| EW0719_13 | Scullion, Nigel | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Length of lease at Garrthalala | <p>Senator SCULLION: But you would be aware of the lease. You have not just said, 'Give us some sort of lease.' You would have said, 'We would like'. So what is the Commonwealth position on the nature of the land tenure under which you are making this investment?</p> <p>Mr Hansen: I am not sure that I have that information.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION: The notional process in the opposition's policy and what appears to be the government's policy is that we do not build public infrastructure on private land. For that reason we are very cautious about the particular lease under which this is held. You would be aware of other places in the Northern Territory where there is considerable angst about not having an underpinning lease and organisations being asked to leave private land, leaving behind their infrastructure, which is causing some difficulties at the moment. What would be the notional idea of an underpinning lease of the government with regard to these investments? Would it be like a 40-year lease? I am just looking for a type. The Northern Land Council has a number of ways they can do it, but it is very important that we know or understand exactly what the Commonwealth's intention is.</p> <p>Mr Hansen: I do not have the length of the lease, sorry.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION: Perhaps somebody today could take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Paul: We will take that on notice.</p> |
| EW0720_13 | Scullion, Nigel | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Breakdown of costs on Northern Territory boarding facilities | <p>Senator SCULLION: So how much has been expended outside of the \$14.3 million that has been expended in Wadeye? In terms of the remainder, obviously excluding the ILC moneys, how much has now been expended on the master plan and the other remaining planning processes?</p> <p>Mr Hansen: I can certainly give you the total cost under the initiative to date, which was \$16.494 million. That was at 16 May 2012. It is \$16.494 million that has been expended under the initiative.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION: So there has obviously been at least \$1.1 million that has been expended. We do not have the Warlpiri triangle, but I am not expecting a great deal of results from your answers there, without verballing you about that. So I can say that, through the planning and master planning materials, there is the differential between \$16.5 million and \$14.3 million. So over \$1 million has been expended notionally towards the Garrthalala site.</p> <p>Mr Hehir: It might be better if we actually give you that breakdown. I would feel more confident if we could give you that on notice.</p> |
| EW0721_13 | Scullion, Nigel | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Number of staff at Wadeye facility | <p>Senator MASON: I will be as quick as I can.</p> <p>Wadeye has been handed over to the Aboriginal Hostels, that has been done. From now on, what is the timetable? When are the students moving in?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: It is our anticipation that up to 15 students will move in in term 4, which is now currently underway. Then over the next year we anticipate moving up to 40 students.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Can you take on notice how many staff are going to be working there?</p> <p>Mr Hansen: Yes, I will.</p> <p>Senator MASON: And the projected number of students as well?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes. As we said at the start, staff recruitment and training is currently underway.</p> <p>Senator MASON: I appreciate all of that.</p> <p>Ms Paul: That obviously has to come before the students.</p> |
| EW0722_13 | Scullion, Nigel | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Indigenous Youth Mobility Program cuts | <p>Senator SCULLION: If they have the same sort of level of competence across these how are you going to say who loses? Is it just going to be averaged across the board, or are you going to be selective about how the cuts are made?</p> <p>Mr Davies: We are still working through that. We are looking at criteria. There are different patterns of participation. There are also different patterns of young people's course participation. You will recall that the target is to get certificate IIs and IIIs, quite upper-level courses, and there is a range of participant numbers and patterns. When you think that, 'We'll get a new tranche,' some of the places have fewer new people coming in because they have young people on higher-level courses which go across years. We have to look at the pattern of the participation of the young people as well as the performance of the provider in retaining those young people and getting them through to completion. We will then have to make judgements, yes, about where those reductions are.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION: Perhaps on notice: it would be useful to articulate that process.</p> <p>Ms Paul: That is fine.</p> |
| EW0723_13 | Furner, Mark | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Incomplete BER projects by state | <p>Senator FURNER: Firstly, I am wondering how many BER projects are left in Queensland for completion? It does not have to be exact; you can give me a rough idea.</p> <p>Ms Smith: There are 87 projects nationally. We are just obtaining the information you require. There are 87 projects yet to complete nationally. They are all P21 projects.</p> <p>Senator FURNER: So you are not certain off the top of your head how many are left in Queensland?</p> <p>Ms Smith: We can get that for you shortly. We just do not have a total, at the minute, by state.</p> <p>Senator FURNER: I will put that on notice, if I could just have a state-by-state breakdown</p> |
| EW0724_13 | Furner, Mark | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Completion of BER projects in Queensland | <p>Senator FURNER: My main question is directed at Queensland. There has been an announcement recently by the Liberal National Party government there that there will be over 300 full-time, front-line jobs to go. I am just wondering if that is going to add any impediments or delays to the completion of the projects in Queensland.</p> <p>Ms Smith: We are not aware of that, I am sorry. We are not aware of any specific delays emerging as a result of budget cuts by the state government, but we would need to look into that and give you an answer on notice.</p> |
| EW0725_13 | Wright, Penny | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Capital grants and programs funded under SPP | <p>Senator WRIGHT: Can you please provide some examples of the type of capital grants and programs that are funded under the SPP.</p> <p>Ms Paul: It is probably easier to take it on notice and talk about what the SPP covers. Do you want us to cover what was rolled into it? It is less tagged than it used to be, to use a strange technical term.</p> |

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| EW0726_13 | Wright, Penny | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | denomination of the chaplains | Senator WRIGHT: Is it possible to have a breakdown of the denomination of the chaplains? Mr Sheedy: Yes, I have some information on that. Senator WRIGHT: You can take that on notice for me, if you do not mind |
| EW0727_13 | Wright, Penny | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | qualifications of the welfare officer | Senator WRIGHT: The other question I have is about a breakdown of the data. Do you have any data about the qualifications of the welfare officers? You said cert IV was the minimum requirement, but are they psychologists? Do you have any data about that? Mr Sheedy: We will have it, but I do not have it to hand. Senator WRIGHT: Again, if you could take that on notice, I would appreciate that. Mr Sheedy: I will provide that for you, yes. |
| EW0728_13 | Wright, Penny | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | school music programs | Senator WRIGHT: Where would I find out more information about take-up and reach? Could I ask you to take that on notice for me and give me some information about those four programs? I am interested in the number of schools that benefit from them, how the programs work on the ground and the funding for the last four years, just to get a sense of what the landscape is like. Dr Atkins: Funding I can give you now, if you would like, or I can take the lot on notice. Senator WRIGHT: I will take it as a bundle. |
| EW0729_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Scoutle | Senator MASON: Will you be able to provide the committee, Ms Bloor, with the answer to that question about how many teachers are currently registered either via Scoutle or some other mechanism? Is that possible? Ms Bloor: Certainly. We will take that on notice. |
| EW0730_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Diagnostic Tools | Ms Bloor: It is an additional capacity that they have, yes. They can now also develop their own test items within the tool and link those two resources in the repository. Senator MASON: Do many teachers actually use this website for that purpose? Ms Bloor: I will take the precise numbers on notice, but we understand from ESA the uptake has been very promising. |
| EW0731_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Outcome 2 - Student resilience and wellbeing | Senator MASON: We have done the chaplains, I think. I am not quite sure what this is: 'Student resilience and wellbeing'. Again, it is that same table, Ms Paul. What is funded from that bucket of money? What is that all about? Ms Paul: Some of that, I think, is the antibullying work. Do you want us to give you that breakdown on notice? Senator MASON: Yes. |
| EW0732_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | 13 career information centres linked to Centrelink | Senator NASH: I think there were 13 career information centres linked to Centrelink to be cut, is that correct? Ms McLaren: Yes. They were run by Centrelink and it was a budget decision in the Centrelink portfolio. Senator NASH: Were any of those in rural and regional areas? I am happy for you to take that on notice. Is there any information around how many jobs might have been lost with the closure of those? Ms McLaren: We would not have that information but I would be happy to get that information from Centrelink. |
| EW0733_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | TTC breakdown of trades and qualifications | Senator NASH: I am happy for you to take this next question on notice. I would like a breakdown on the trades that they are offering and the levels of qualifications on offer. Is it possible to do that against each TTC? Mr Edwards: On all 1,080 it might get fairly, Senator NASH: Do you hold any data like that? I do not want to give you six months of work, but do you have any data around the types of courses? Mr Edwards: We do. I can tell you the top five trade areas as a start, if that would be of help. Senator NASH: Would you take the question on notice to provide, insofar as you can, information on the trades they are offering, even if you can give me a sense across-the-board of which are the most common and which are the least common, and provide as much information as you can. |
| EW0734_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Breakdown of TTC locations | Senator NASH: This information may well be on the website, and my apologies if it is and I just have not found it. Do you have a breakdown by suburb of each of the TTC locations? Mr Edwards: We certainly know the locations of those TTCs, and we could provide that to you. Senator NASH: That would be great. I certainly do not expect you to run those down now |
| EW0735_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | TTC - Student Hours | Senator NASH: Obviously I realise there are masses of them, but can you give me a bit of a sense of the expectation of hours per week, roughly, that might sit with a qualification? Mr Edwards: Yes. I will take that on notice. Senator NASH: It would be great if you have some data like that. Ms Paul: Rather than trying to do averages, which actually may not be very meaningful because of the variety, we could probably give you a few examples. For instance, if you are doing a certificate III in this trade, that requires so many hours. Ms Smith: We might do that on the top five that are being undertaken. Senator NASH: That would be useful, even the top 10, if we could. That would give me a bit of a stretch and that would be great. Thank you very much. |
| EW0736_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | BER Demountables | Senator NASH: ... I want to talk about demountables. How many demountable buildings are still in existence in New South Wales schools? I am trying to get a bit of a sense of what is still there after the BER and whether any of that has been addressed through the BER. Mr Hehir: That is a matter on which we would have to seek advice from the department of education in New South Wales. Ms Paul: We would need to take that on notice and seek information from them. |
| EW0737_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | demountables are located in regional and remote schools | Senator NASH: If you could do that for me, that would be great. Perhaps I will get you to take all of this on notice, if you would not mind. What I am trying to get an understanding of is how many of the demountables are located in regional and remote schools. Senator Jacinta Collins: Senator Nash, are you just interested in government schools or non-government schools as well? Senator NASH: If I could have both, that would be, Ms Paul: We will have to go to them. We would not hold this information necessarily, but we can take it on notice and see what we can find. ... Senator NASH: Would you mind taking on notice for me the break down, which of them replaced demountables, to the extent that you can? Ms Smith: We would need to ask the education authorities. We do not hold that data ourselves. Ms Paul: We will see what is possible. |
| EW0738_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Senate report addressing barriers to education for rural and regional students | Senator NASH: At the end of 2009 there was a Senate report addressing barriers to education for rural and regional students. That was at the end of 2009. I did not get an opportunity to ask this at budget estimates. We did not get the budget response until March 2012. I am very happy for you to take this on notice if you do not have the answer now, but I am trying to get an understanding of why an eight-page report took over two years to provide to the committee. Ms Paul: We would have to take that on notice. |
| EW0739_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | DER- current connection speeds | Senator MASON: That one regards the current connection speeds of all the schools around Australia, doesn't it? Ms Bloor: Yes, it does, all sectors at state and territory level. Senator MASON: But that is all schools. Ms Bloor: Yes. Senator MASON: Do you have that in relation to just secondary schools? Ms Bloor: I am not sure that we do. We will check. Again, we will have to ask education authorities if they are prepared to let us provide it, but we can certainly take that on notice. Senator MASON: Can you take it on notice? Ms Bloor: Yes. |

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| EW0740_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | DER obsolete computers | <p>Senator MASON: No, what you have said does not contradict that. How many computers will become obsolete and will need to be replaced by the end of 2012? How many over the course of 2013?</p> <p>Ms Bloor: According to our figures, 65,000.</p> <p>Senator MASON: That is the number becoming obsolete by the end of 2012?</p> <p>Ms Bloor: My apologies. The number is 64,000. That is the number which would be four years old. That is the length of time which was agreed.</p> <p>Senator MASON: I remember very well, Ms Bloor, that discussion all those years ago. How could I forget? How about over the course of 2013?</p> <p>Ms Bloor: I do not have that figure with me.</p> <p>Ms Paul: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MASON: And then 2014 as well, please, Ms Bloor.</p> <p>Ms Bloor: To correct the record, the 64,000 is in 2012-13. So it is until the end of this financial year.</p> <p>Senator MASON: In that case, could you please give me the figures for the subsequent two financial years.</p> <p>Ms Paul: We will take it on notice for the rest of the out years.</p> |
| EW0741_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | Dr Thompson's research | <p>Senator MASON: It is under an ARC grant. So, in effect, it is an ARC grant for himself and the university. He conducted a survey of almost 1,000 teachers from South Australia and from Western Australia. Seven out of 10 teachers did not see that NAPLAN improved literacy and numeracy. The majority of teachers also indicated that they did not feel that NAPLAN results adequately reflected classroom learning. What is your response to that?</p> <p>Ms Paul: I think we will have to take it on notice, because we could not comment on something that we have not heard of and have not seen. We will have to take it on notice and analyse it.</p> <p>...</p> <p>â€</p> <p>Senator MASON: With NAPLAN, Dr Thompson found that, when two teachers say that children are so stressed by national literacy and numeracy tests, some are having anxiety attacks, being physically ill and calling in sick to school. Does that surprise you?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Is it the same person we have not heard of?</p> <p>Senator MASON: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Paul: We will just have to take it on notice.</p> |
| EW0742_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | BER - Unfinished P21 Projects by round | <p>Senator MASON: I do not think these are highly controversial questions. This is about unfinished Primary Schools for the 21st Century projects. I think you know what questions I will be asking. Have the remaining 158 primary schools for the 21st century projects been completed yet?</p> <p>Ms Riggs: We have 87 P21 projects yet to complete nationally.</p> <p>Senator MASON: How many in round 1 remain to be completed?</p> <p>Ms Smith: We may need to take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator MASON: You don't have that? In the past I think the department has had that information. I was going to ask, and I have asked this several times of the department before, how many in round 1 still remain to be completed, round 2 and round 3? I have asked that question on quite a few occasions, I think.</p> <p>Ms Smith: We have a list of those that remain to be completed, but not by round. We can give it to you on notice.</p> |
| EW0743_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth | national school improvement framework | <p>Senator MASON: Thank you, Mr Cook. I understand that after putting together the discussion paper Professor Masters was also asked to work with the states and territories on developing and drafting the national school improvement framework. What is happening there?</p> <p>Ms Gordon: That is the second piece of work that I was just talking about. That work is progressing extremely well. The draft framework has undergone quite an extensive first round consultation. We have had a revised draft delivered to us.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Is that publicly available?</p> <p>Ms Gordon: It has been distributed amongst the relevant stakeholders. We would be able to provide a copy of that to the committee.</p> |
| EW0744_13 | Mason, Brett | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | Staffing Numbers - Children and Family Centres | <p>Senator MASON: The foyer opens I understand. We are nearly there, Chair. How many staff are currently employed in connection with these centres?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Again, I am told there are at least 122 staff across 36 sites and last time I think I told you that there were 39 staff across 13 sites.</p> <p>Senator MASON: That is quite an improvement. Are those staff all full time?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I do not have that information but I can see if we can get that from the states and territories. They are not required to report staffing numbers to us but they do in general. I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MASON: That would be very useful, equivalent full-time staff, as it were, if you could provide the committee with that.</p> |
| EW0745_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | JETCCFA - average cost and usage | <p>Senator NASH: What is the average cost per place?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have an average cost for JET.</p> <p>Senator NASH: If you could do that, that would be great. Is there an average duration that a parent-child will utilise a JET place? Do you have any sense of that sort of figure?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Senator, it is available. We probably can get that on notice to you.</p> <p>Senator NASH: That is fine, and any that are not too much detail at the moment. I am happy for you to take them on notice rather than guess.</p> |
| EW0746_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | Child Care Centres - JETCCFA funded places | <p>Senator NASH: How many childcare centres currently have a JET funded places?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Again, I would need to check the actual number of centres because they are across a range.</p> <p>Senator NASH: Is it possible to provide a breakdown on the number of children in each type of child care where the place is a JET funded one?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: In relation to JET?</p> <p>Senator NASH: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I will take that on notice. We certainly have the breakdown of children by care type. We will just have to crossmatch it.</p> |
| EW0747_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | A breakdown on the current number of JETCCFA funded places by employment service area | <p>Senator NASH: ... A breakdown on the current number of JET funded places by employment service area?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: By ESA? I will take that on notice. We may be able to crossmatch it. Again, they are two very different systems, but I will take it on notice. I understand what you are saying.</p> <p>Senator NASH: Of those who are eligible for JET fee assistance, is it possible to provide a breakdown on the approved activities?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I will take that on notice.</p> |
| EW0748_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | CCB Appeals | <p>Senator NASH: How many appeals have been lodged?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: Unfortunately, I do not have that but I can take that on notice and seek information from the Department of Human Services.</p> <p>Senator NASH: That would be great, thank you.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: That would be from the Department of Human Services.</p> |
| EW0749_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | Total cost of the special CCB for the last financial year | <p>Senator NASH: That is fine. Total cost of the special CCB for the last financial year?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: Again, if I were to look to the most recent information I have, for September quarter 2011 it was 33,590,000.</p> <p>Senator NASH: Do you have a forecast of what it is expected to be for this financial year?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: I just want to check that figure, as to,</p> <p>Senator NASH: Do you want to take those on notice?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Yes, we will take those on notice.</p> <p>Senator NASH: That is fine. So, the total cost for the last financial year and, if possible, an expectation for this financial year.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Certainly.</p> |
| EW0750_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | LDC hours | <p>Senator NASH: Is there a total number of hours for children in LDC over the last 12 months?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I will have to take that on notice.</p> |

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| EW0751_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | LDC | <p>Senator NASH: Thanks. Have you been advised of many changes of ownership? Obviously that happens as a process. When there is a change ownership, are you advised of that? Have there been many of those in the last 12 months?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I will take that on notice. I do not have that with me.</p> <p>Senator NASH: Have many centres closed in the last 12 months?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Again, I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator NASH: And out of any that have closed in the last 12 months, how many of those were community based?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Yes, certainly.</p> |
| EW0752_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | Family Day Care centre closures | <p>Senator NASH: That would be great. Have any of the family day care centres closed in the last six months?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: I will take that on notice.</p> |
| EW0753_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | four-year degree qualified staff | <p>Senator NASH: Do you have any data on how many centres currently do not have a four-year degree qualified person staff?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Only from the census information. Again, I can take that on notice.</p> |
| EW0754_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | Cert III qualification - family day carers | <p>Senator NASH: Do you have any data on the number of family day carers who have a cert III qualification?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Again, that would be the census data and I will get that for you.</p> |
| EW0755_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | Family day care services - new licences | <p>Senator NASH: How many new licences have been granted in the last 12 months for family day care services?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: Since the beginning of May through until October, 45 new family day care services have been approved for CCB administration.</p> <p>Senator NASH: How does that compare with the previous 12 months?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: I would need to take that on notice.</p> |
| EW0756_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | Discontinued family day carers | <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: There would be quite a number of day care educators who have discontinued providing.</p> <p>Senator NASH: Do you keep data on that?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: We seek advice from the scheme about the number of carers, and they provide us with some regular updates. I would need to confirm whether or not we could identify the numbers that have left.</p> <p>Senator NASH: If you could take it on notice, and just provide as much detail as you can.</p> |
| EW0757_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | CCMS | <p>Mr Maynard: Yes. We are seeking advice on a range of notifiable events. The upgrade included a range of things. It moved a range of paper based products online, which made it simpler for them to provide us with advice as to when a range of notifiable events occurred. The sorts of information that we are now seeking online does not differ from what we had previously sought in a paper based version.</p> <p>Senator NASH: So there is nothing really additional; it is just the shift from paper to online. With that information, are the qualification levels for staff, obviously there has been a lot of change, required with that data that is provided?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: To my knowledge we have not been asking those questions.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I will take it on notice.</p> |
| EW0758_13 | Nash, Fiona | 18/10/2012 | Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation | The number of waivers issued to services under the National Quality Framework | <p>Ms Taylor: The waivers are granted by the state regulatory bodies. We do not keep records of waivers.</p> <p>Senator NASH: Do they advise you? Or, if you want that information, do you have to request it?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: No, they would not directly advise us; they would be advising ACECQA, and I think there is a requirement that the waivers that they give have to be published.</p> <p>Senator NASH: Can I ask you to take on notice the number of waivers, and perhaps any reasons why those waivers might have been requested. That would be really useful.</p> |