

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: Cross Portfolio

Senator: Mason

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Question:

The Commissioner told Senate Estimates on Tuesday 22 May 2012 (*Finance and Public Administration Committee Hansard, p91*) that his role in regards to unscheduled absences within the Australian Public Service is to "promulgate best practice". What specific activities and what agencies has the Commissioner engaged with over the past five years with regards to unscheduled absences within the Australian Public Service that "promulgate best practice"?

Answer:

The APSC has reported on unscheduled absence in every State of the Service Report for the past five years.

Unscheduled absence data was included in individual agency reports provided to Agency heads in 2011.

The APSC conducted a workshop with APS HR leaders in August 2012 to identify best practice in absence management which has been used in a redraft of existing guidance on managing unscheduled absence in the APS. This is in the process of final consultation with APS HR leaders and should be published in September 2013.

The Commissioner presented a paper to the Secretaries Board meeting in November 2012 on the importance of managing unscheduled absences in the APS.

Individual agency unscheduled absence data was available to inform performance discussions between each portfolio Secretary and the Secretary of PM&C and the Commissioner in 2013.