

2025-2026

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS IN WRITING

as at

WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL 2026

(8 am)

Questions unanswered

Nos 136, 138, 140, 143-162.

QUESTIONS IN WRITING

On the first sitting day of each fortnight, a complete Notice Paper is published containing all unanswered questions. On subsequent days, only new questions for the sitting are included in the Notice Paper.

19 January 2026

136 **MS STEGGALL:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Is the Treasurer aware that at COP30, Australia signed the Belem Declaration pledging to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies ‘as soon as possible’.
- (2) Is the Treasurer aware that Australia’s Fuel Tax Credits scheme, which is an example of this, costs Australians over \$10 billion a year and largely benefits big mining companies.
- (3) Will the Treasurer, as a matter of urgency, direct the Treasury to: (a) prepare a phase-out of the Fuel Tax Credit scheme; and (b) have the saved revenue instead be invested in funding climate resilience and adaptation for our communities.

20 January 2026

138 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Housing—In respect of the worsening home ownership and housing crisis in Australia:

- (1) How many residential properties in Australia are foreign-owned.
- (2) How many standalone houses are foreign-owned.
- (3) How many units, apartments, and townhouses are foreign-owned.

140 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Treasurer—In respect of foreign investment in the residential housing market:

- (1) What has been the total effect on the availability of housing supply since 2022.
- (2) What is the modelled impact on home values.
- (3) Has Treasury undertaken analysis on the impacts on price dynamics; if so, what is the impact on residential housing construction activity.

12 February 2026

143 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Health and Ageing—

- (1) What action has the Government undertaken in response to the report on *The State of Diabetes Mellitus in Australia in 2024*, since it was tabled by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport in June 2024.

- (2) Is the Minister concerned regarding the committee’s finding that for people living with diabetes ‘there are huge barriers to appropriate management and support, particularly in outer metropolitan, rural and regional areas’, such as in the electoral division of Mayo.
- (3) Is the Minister supportive of the committee’s recommendation that subsidised access to continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) be further expanded, including: (a) to remove barriers to access for all people with Type 1 diabetes; (b) to individuals with insulin-dependent Type 3c diabetes; (c) to people with gestational diabetes; and (d) to people with Type 2 diabetes requiring regular insulin.
- (4) Does the Government intend to expand subsidised access to CGMs as recommended, to provide patients with real-time glucose data, improve diabetes management, prevent and delay the onset of complications and reduce out-of-pocket costs for people living with diabetes in Australia.
- (5) When will the Government provide its response to the committee’s recommendations as set out in the report.

12 March 2026

- 144 **DR WEBSTER:** To ask the Minister for Health and Ageing—Given recent media reports have repeatedly raised a lack of investment in the health budget for preventive measures, will the Minister commit to investing in adult genomic screening for disease prevention as per recommendations 7 and 8 of the 2024 Senate Community Affairs References Committee inquiry report into diagnosis and treatment for individuals with rare and less common cancers.

23 March 2026

- 145 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Energy—In respect of reports that fuel wholesalers commenced rationing supply of petrol and diesel across Australia:
- (1) Is this a case of industry undertaking voluntary self-regulation, or has the Minister exercised his powers.
 - (2) If the Minister has exercised his powers: (a) what powers has he exercised; and (b) under what legislative instrument.
- 146 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Energy—
- (1) Has the Minister requested a full suite of policy options be developed by the Department of Climate Change and Energy, to address Australia’s current fuel security issues.
 - (2) Has the Minister been briefed on these options by the department; if so, when was the Minister first briefed.
 - (3) Can the Minister outline the policy options the Government is considering.
- 147 **DR M RYAN:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors—
- (1) In respect of the ‘functional independence’ and ‘needs met’ scores referred to in section 81-10 of the Aged Care Rules 2025—which, alongside significant compounding factors, determine the support recommended by the Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT)—how are these scores determined.
 - (2) Will the Government make the underlying algorithm for the determination of these scores publicly available.
 - (3) Is it a fact that early guidance, such as the May 2025 guide for the Single Assessment System workforce, explicitly allowed aged care assessors to override IAT outcomes, and that this included revising recommended Support at Home classification levels either downwards or upwards, to more appropriately reflect the needs of older Australians.
 - (4) Why did the Government remove this override function for Support at Home classifications from later policy guidance.
 - (5) What consultation did the Government undertake with the aged care sector before changing the policy guidance on assessors’ ability to override IAT outcomes.
 - (6) When did this consultation occur.
 - (7) What is the Government’s response to claims that no broad consultation had occurred.
 - (8) What does the Government suggest is the appropriate process where the IAT gets the outcome badly wrong, including when the Support at Home classification is manifestly inadequate for complex needs.

- (9) In respect of the release 35 factsheet for ICT system changes which explicitly states that, ‘Under Aged Care Rules 2025 s 81-10, assessors and delegates cannot override the IAT outcome... From 23 February 2026 a warning message appears if an override is attempted’, and further to the Minister’s response to my Question Without Notice on 9 February 2026, that ‘the IAT classification algorithm does not replace assessor input’, and accepting that assessors have an input function, can the Minister confirm that the IAT algorithm overrides clinical judgement once the output or outcome is generated.
- (10) What avenues do older Australians and assessors have to appeal the decisions of IAT outcomes.
- (11) Given that between the commencement of the Support at Home program on 1 November 2025 and 23 January 2026, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing had reportedly received 414 requests for review of inaccurate IAT results, and that on 11 February 2026, the department told the Senate estimates hearings that only two have been completed (which is less than 1 per cent), how does the Minister explain this delay.
- (12) How many requests for review of IAT assessments has the department received as at 1 March 2026.
- (13) How many of the IAT assessment review requests in (12) have been completed.
- (14) Given Support Plan Reviews are described operationally as a procedural workflow process within My Aged Care, how are Support Plan Reviews funded.
- (15) Are Support Plan Reviews funded as assessment outputs.
- (16) If Support Plan Reviews are funded under current contractual arrangements, under which activity classification are they funded.
- 148 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Energy—
- (1) Has the Government’s approach to fuel standards increased the cost of fuel in Australia.
- (2) How much fuel in millions of litres has not been received into Australia since the commencement of the Government’s new fuel standards.
- 149 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Energy—In respect of the Government’s announcement to address the fuel crisis by releasing up to 20 per cent of the baseline Minimum Stockholding Obligation for petrol and diesel:
- (1) What is the impact on price at the bowser, including the average cents per litre saving resulting from the release.
- (2) Can a list of regional locations be provided that have received diesel supply following the decision to release up to 20 per cent of the baseline Minimum Stockholding Obligation.

24 March 2026

- 150 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Energy—In respect of the Minister’s repeated claims that ships carrying fuel cargo continue to arrive into Australia and that supplies remain adequate, how many ships and/or cargo cancellations has the Government been notified of.
- 151 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Prime Minister—Will the Prime Minister guarantee the Australian people, truck drivers, farmers and those in regions who rely on diesel and petrol, that when the war in Iran ends, petrol prices will return to pre-war levels.

25 March 2026

- 152 **MR PIKE:** To ask the Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme—From 2022 to date, and by quarter: (a) how many National Disability Insurance Scheme plan reviews have resulted in a plan reduction; and (b) what is the total reduction in funding amount due to plan reviews.
- 153 **MR PIKE:** To ask the Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme—From 2022 to date, and by quarter, how many eligibility reassessments for National Disability Insurance Scheme plans: (a) were conducted; and (b) had a decision revoked.
- 154 **MR PIKE:** To ask the Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme—
- (1) How many non-government stakeholder groups were consulted in the formation of the Thriving Kids initiative.
- (2) What process did the Government take regarding consultation with non-government stakeholders.
- 155 **MR PIKE:** To ask the Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme—How many participants does the Government anticipate will be part of the Thriving Kids initiative, by quarter, until 2028.

156 **MR CALDWELL:** To ask the Minister for Housing—

- (1) For each month since the commencement of the Help to Buy program or any other Commonwealth home guarantee program requiring a 5 per cent deposit: (a) how many guarantees were issued; (b) what was the median purchase price of properties purchased under the program, by state and territory; and (c) what was the median loan to valuation ratio for those purchases.
- (2) Has the Government undertaken any assessment of the impact of the 5 per cent deposit scheme on: (a) first home buyer purchase prices; (b) first home buyer borrowing levels; and (c) mortgage repayment levels for participating households following recent interest rate increases.
- (3) If the Government has undertaken any assessment in (2), can that assessment be provided.
- (4) Of the guarantees issued under the 5 per cent deposit scheme to date: (a) how many borrowers have a loan to valuation ratio of 95 per cent or greater; (b) what is the average and median age of those borrowers; (c) what is the average and median household income of those borrowers; and (d) what modelling has the Government undertaken on repayment stress among those borrowers under higher interest rate scenarios.

26 March 2026

157 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Education—

- (1) What action is the Government taking to support children and their families who rely on the services of the AEIOU Foundation for Children with Autism, which has collapsed.
- (2) Was the Government aware the AEIOU Foundation was going into administration.
- (3) Did the AEIOU Foundation seek Government support.

158 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government—Further to the answer to question in writing No. 137:

- (1) In respect of the unallocated project funding, have the Commonwealth and Queensland State Governments identified priority sections of the Warrego Highway.
- (2) Why has no funding been allocated for the section west of, and including, the city of Toowoomba.

159 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Energy—In respect of the Minister's announcement on 20 March 2026 relating to the Liddell Battery:

- (1) What is the anticipated end of life for the Liddell Battery.
- (2) What are annualised maintenance costs of the Liddell Battery.
- (3) What is the total cost of additional transmission network, or transmission network upgrades required, as part of the Liddell Battery project.

160 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Energy—

- (1) Did the Minister prioritise attending a meeting of Climate Change Ministers in Brisbane over working on the fuel crisis engulfing the country and destroying livelihoods.
- (2) Does the Minister intend on maintaining his attendance at various meetings and functions related to his full-time duties as COP President, even if this fuel crisis continues.

161 **MR HAMILTON:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Does the Treasurer concede that the Australian Industry Group's Chief Executive Officer, Innes Willox, is correct in describing the impact from current and anticipated fuel shortages as 'significantly biting into productivity and output, with greater deterioration to come'.
- (2) What is the Treasurer's plan to address these challenges.

1 April 2026

162 **MS SPENDER:** To ask the Minister for Defence—In respect of the Future Air Mission Training System (F-AMTS) program AIR5428 PH3:

- (1) Where the Department of Defence bundled simulation technology and aircraft into a single prime contract and down-selected for the request for tender, prime contractors (primes) with in-house simulation capabilities, how does the Department of Defence assess and manage the inherent conflict of interest where those primes are effectively choosing between their own technology and that of a competing Australian small to medium enterprise (SME).

- (2) Given the incumbent simulation provider is an Australian SME with a strong Royal Australian Air Force track record, how does the Department of Defence consider that its chosen procurement model ensures that SME can engage in fair competition for the supply of simulation technology within the program when its only pathway is through its direct competitors.
- (3) How does the Department of Defence ensure equitable treatment of that SME when primes, who have commercial incentives to favour their own solutions, control whether the SME's technology is even included in a bid.
- (4) How does the Department of Defence reconcile this procurement approach with the Government's stated objective of building sovereign defence industry capability, where the effect of the model appears to favour vertically integrated foreign owned primes over Australian SMEs.
- (5) What consideration did the Department of Defence give to alternative procurement models, including unbundling the simulation component, to enable direct competition by Australian SMEs, or down-selecting primes that did not have in-house simulation technology.
- (6) What mechanisms are in place to ensure both accountability and transparency of decision making, and management of conflicts of interest, at the supplier level, including regarding cases where primes are making commercial decisions about competing technologies within the tender process.
- (7) How can the Department of Defence demonstrate that best value for money has been achieved where a high-performing incumbent SME may not have been directly evaluated as part of the simulation component of the tender.

CLARESSA SURTEES

Clerk of the House of Representatives
