

2013-2014-2015

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## UNANSWERED QUESTIONS IN WRITING

as at

WEDNESDAY, 7 JANUARY 2015

(11.25 am)

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*Questions unanswered*

Nos 140, 153-154, 264, 269, 273, 347, 401, 417, 419, 429, 432, 435, 451, 454, 470, 472, 479, 483, 488, 501-502, 504-505, 517, 519-520, 525, 527, 539, 541, 544-549, 551-557, 559, 561, 563, 570, 573-574, 576, 580, 585, 589, 592-593, 595-598, 600-601, 604, 606-608, 610-611, 613-614, 616-619, 621-622, 624, 626, 628-630, 632-633, 636, 640, 644, 646-668, 670-682.

### 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.

*13 May 2014*

**MR DANBY:** To ask the Ministers listed below (questions Nos. 137 to 154)—On (a) how many occasions, and (b) what date(s), has the Minister met with Australian Water Holdings Pty Ltd chief executive Mr Nick Di Girolamo, and can the Minister provide the nature of each meeting.

140 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General.

153 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

154 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

*26 August 2014*

264 **DR LEIGH:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) How many applicants responded to the call for Expressions of Interest for the G20 Volunteer Program announced in April 2014, and of these, how many were of a suitable calibre to progress to the second round short-list of potential volunteers.
- (2) What, if any, (a) stipends, (b) reimbursements, or (c) entitlements will be offered to the volunteers who are successful in being selected for the program (for example, meal allowances, transport and parking costs, accommodation).
- (3) What is the expected duration of daily volunteer shifts during the G20 summit.
- (4) What are the (a) minimum, and (b) maximum number of hours that an individual volunteer will be permitted to work on any given day of the G20 summit.

269 **MS COLLINS:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—

- (1) What total sum of funding across each of the forward estimates has been allocated to key infrastructure projects for (a) roads, (b) rail, and (c) ports, across Tasmania.
- (2) In each of the forward estimates, what is the number of individual key Government funded projects (including the amount of funding) in building infrastructure across Tasmania, and what is the estimate of the number of associated jobs that will be created.

- (3) Can he provide any details on whether the Government will fund the construction of the Launceston Bypass; if not, why not.

273 **DR LEIGH:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) What total number of Treasury staff were made involuntarily redundant as a result of the ‘spill and fill’ process conducted in July and August 2014.
- (2) Were any of the staff deemed excess to his department’s requirements (a) on maternity leave or other forms of approved departmental leave at the time of being made involuntarily redundant, if so, how many; and (b) graduate employees who had joined The Treasury in 2014, if so, how many.
- (3) What is the total combined cost of redundancy packages associated with these involuntary redundancies.

### *3 September 2014*

**MR CONROY:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 347 to 364)—In respect of hospitality since 7 September 2013, has the Minister’s department paid for any function to introduce to the department (a) the Minister, (b) the Minister’s staff, and where applicable, each (c) junior Minister (including Assistant Ministers), (d) junior (and Assistant) Minister’s staff, (e) Parliamentary Secretary, and (f) Parliamentary Secretary’s staff; if so, at what cost.

347 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Prime Minister.

401 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Prime Minister—In respect of the business delegation to China in April 2014, (a) what was the total cost of travel and hospitality, (b) who was in attendance, and (c) who paid.

### *22 September 2014*

**MR CONROY:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 414 to 431)—In 2013-14, how many Commonwealth grants were approved by the Minister’s department, and at what total cost, and of these, how many recipients have (a) signed funding agreements, and at what total cost, and (b) received payment, and at what total cost.

417 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General.

419 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Treasurer.

429 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Minister for the Environment.

**MR CONROY:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 432 to 449)—In respect of departmental staff overseas travel since 7 September 2013, what (a) was the total cost, (b) is the breakdown of this cost ie, airfares, accommodation, hospitality, official passports and minor incidentals, and (c) was the travel for.

432 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Prime Minister.

435 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General.

**MR CONROY:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 451 to 468)—Since 7 September 2013, how many corporate credit cards have been issued to departmental staff, and what is the total cost of all transactions made on them.

451 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Prime Minister.

454 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General.

470 **MR CLARE:** To ask the Minister for Communications—What proportion (as a percentage) is the aerial component of the following fibre serving area modules: (a) 7BEV-01, (b) 7DEL-01, (c) 7GEW-01, (d) 7HOB-01, (e) 7HOB-02, (f) 7HOB-03, (g) 7HOB-04, (h) 7HOB-05, (i) 7KIN-01, (j) 7KIN-03, (k) 7LAU-01, (l) 7LAU-02, (m) 7LAU-03, (n) 7LAU-04, (o) 7SOR-01, (p) 7STH-01, (q) 7STH-02, and (r) 7TRA-01.

472 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—In respect of his announcement of 10 September 2014 on the shortlisting of three consortia to submit project proposals for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, as of this date, (a) what advice had Infrastructure Australia provided to him or his department on this project, and (b) had a benefit-cost ratio (BCR) for the project been assessed by Infrastructure Australia; if so, what is the BCR.

### *23 September 2014*

479 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—In which publications has the new position of Chief Executive Officer of Infrastructure Australia been advertised.

## 30 September 2014

- 483 **DR LEIGH:** To ask the Prime Minister—How many staff have been made redundant (both voluntarily and involuntarily) from the Australian Public Service since 7 September 2013, and what is the breakdown of these redundancies by department/agency.

## 1 October 2014

- 488 **DR LEIGH:** To ask the Prime Minister—How many public servants were employed per capita in the Australian Public Service in (a) 2006-07, (b) 2007-08, (c) 2008-09, (d) 2009-10, (e) 2010-11, (f) 2011-12, (g) 2012-13, and (h) 2013-14.

## 21 October 2014

- 501 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—

- (1) Is it a fact that, as reported in a recent media report ‘Just Plane Risky’ by Aleks Devic (*Herald Sun*, 16 October 2014), an Australian Transport Safety Bureau report has found that (a) amateur-built aircraft have an accident rate three times higher than factory-built aircraft on similar flights, (b) the fatal and serious injury accident rate is more than five times higher in amateur-built aircraft than factory-built aircraft, and (c) crashes of amateur-built planes had caused 26 deaths, 21 serious injuries and 26 minor injuries from 1998 to 2010.
- (2) What action is he taking, or will he take, to reduce the (a) risk of aviation accidents involving amateur-built aircraft, and (b) incidence of amateur-built aircraft overflying highly populated residential areas.

**MR CONROY:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 502 to 519)—Since 7 September 2013 to 30 June 2014, what training has been provided for (a) Executive, and (b) Senior Executive Service, level departmental officials, and what (i) total sum has the Minister’s department spent, and (ii) is the breakdown in cost, for such training.

- 502 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Prime Minister.

- 504 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

- 505 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General.

- 517 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Minister for the Environment.

- 519 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs.

- 520 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Prime Minister—Since 7 September 2013 can he list all trips undertaken by ministers accompanied by their spouse where the spouse (a) was not invited by a foreign government or host organisation, and (b) did not have an official program of events separate to that of the Minister; and what was the cost of each trip in parts (a) and (b).

**MR CONROY:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 522 to 539)—Since 7 September 2013 can the Minister provide details as to the use of all consultants within his/her department, including reasons for engaging their services, and the costs involved.

- 525 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Minister representing the Attorney-General.

- 527 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Treasurer.

- 539 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs.

- 541 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment—What costs did businesses incur as a result of the Government’s cessation of the T-QUAL Accreditation scheme.

- 544 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment—Has the Government received a business case from Cadbury in respect of the \$16 million grant promised by the Prime Minister on 28 August 2013.

- 545 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Prime Minister—Does he stand by his statement on 28 August 2013 to (a) contribute \$16 million towards a \$66 million upgrade of the Cadbury Visitor Centre in Claremont, Tasmania, to (i) boost innovation, (ii) support growth in local manufacturing jobs, and (iii) expand tourism, (b) help create 200 new jobs and 120 indirect jobs by 2017, and (c) help secure 600 existing direct jobs and 340 existing indirect jobs.

- 546 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment—
- (1) Has he received any correspondence from businesses concerned about the cessation of the Survey of Tourist Accommodation.
  - (2) Will the Government fund the Survey of Tourist Accommodation in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017-18.
- 547 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment—Was tourism included as one of the priority areas in any draft of the Government's Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda.

*23 October 2014*

- 548 **DR LEIGH:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) In respect of the Productivity Commission recommendation in August 2011 for the establishment of the National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS) with four streams, (a) motor accident, (b) workplace accidents, (c) medical treatment accidents, and (d) general accidents, (i) what progress has been made so far in the development of the four NIIS streams, and (ii) has a minimum benchmark been established in all four streams.
  - (2) How will the NIIS build on and interact with existing state and territory accident compensation schemes, and does the introduction of the NIIS mean that these existing state schemes are no longer viable.
  - (3) Do the states and territories have any flexibility in respect of the implementation of the NIIS; if so, what happens if a jurisdiction does not fully meet the minimum benchmarks set by the NIIS.
  - (4) What is the long term plan for the NIIS, and will it eventually completely replace all existing state and territory accident compensation schemes.
- 549 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—Can he give affected communities his assurance that the proposed changes to the types of aircraft able to access (a) Sydney Airport, and (b) Adelaide Airport, during curfew hours will not increase the (i) noise burden on residents, or (ii) number of flights.

*28 October 2014*

- 551 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—How has the Government implemented its election commitment to appoint representatives of (a) key federal agencies, and (b) state governments, to the Infrastructure Australia Board.
- 552 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—What processes has the Australian Government ensured are in place to provide affected residents with information about the impact of the WestConnex on their communities.
- 553 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—What processes has the Australian Government ensured are in place to allow affected residents to provide feedback about the impact of the WestConnex on their communities, and how will this be a meaningful process.
- 554 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—Will the final route of WestConnex be determined by the New South Wales Government or the winner of a tender process.
- 555 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—What conditions has the Australian Government placed on payment of further funds to the New South Wales Government for the WestConnex project, and what milestones apply to (a) Stage 1, (b) Stage 2, and (c) Stage 3.
- 556 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—What assurances does the Australian Government require about the level of consultation with affected communities in respect of (a) Stage 1, (b) Stage 2, and (c) Stage 3, of the WestConnex project.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 557 to 558)—In respect of a recent media report 'Leaked report raises concerns over 457 visa' by Heath Aston (*The Age*, 19 October 2014), will the Minister (a) take action to strengthen the integrity of Australia's Migrant Worker Programs, and provide greater opportunity for young unemployed Australians to find work, following revelations that a leaked Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) report and audit into Australia's migrant worker program found significant shortcomings, discrepancies and serious issues with the program, (b) investigate claims and take action on media reports that the (i) audit raised serious concerns over 40 per cent of the 457 visa holders, including evidence that many are no longer working for their nominated employer or are not being paid at the rate at which they were promised, and (ii) FWO report suggests that serious concerns regarding migrant worker jobs, payment and treatment throughout the hospitality industry exist, (c) investigate claims that (i) almost 350 people, nearly 20 per cent, of migrant workers were found to be 'no longer

employed by a sponsor', and that there are concerns regarding the rife underpayment of many foreign workers, and (ii) certain cafes and restaurants in populated areas are almost entirely staffed by foreign workers, (d) investigate what measures or attempts were made by the cafes and restaurants identified in the media report, to advertise and hire Australian workers, before they staffed their businesses with foreign workers, and (e) reduce the number of foreign workers being granted working rights in Australia in order to improve employment opportunities for Australians, and improve working conditions for employed Australians.

557 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 559 to 560)—In respect of a recent media report 'Leaked report raises concerns over 457 visa' by Heath Aston (*The Age*, 19 October 2014), will the Australian Government now reconsider (a) its measures to make it easier for businesses to apply for 457 visa workers, (b) the proposed relaxation of English language competency, and (c) the loosening of migrant worker rules and regulations in the context of addressing Australia's high unemployment of 6.1 per cent.

559 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 561 to 562)—In respect of a recent media report 'Leaked report raises concerns over 457 visa' by Heath Aston (*The Age*, 19 October 2014), will the Minister support the calls by United Voice, which represents 120,000 hospitality workers, to oppose the cutting of (a) penalty rates, (b) wages and (c) conditions, following the increase in foreign workers now engaged by the hospitality industry.

561 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

563 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection—In respect of a recent media report 'Leaked report raises concerns over 457 visa' by Heath Aston (*The Age*, 19 October 2014), (a) is he aware of the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) spokesperson's reply to the media report that matters concerning unmet sponsorship obligations may be referred by the FWO to his department; if so, have such matters been referred, and (b) what action will his department take in respect of these migrant worker program revelations.

### 29 October 2014

570 **MR KATTER:** To ask the Minister for Agriculture—

- (1) Will he get his cabinet to agree to a policy decision that hospitals, army, prisons, and numerous other Government institutions buy Australian made unless there is a 30 per cent price differential.
- (2) Is he aware that Australia is already a net importer of fruit and vegetables, pork and seafood, and will very soon be a net importer of food overall.
- (3) Is he aware that imports are increasing at 125 per cent every ten years, whilst exports are increasing at only 28 per cent every ten years, and in fact, if we are talking about edible (food) we would be taking out the live cattle and grain, and getting pretty close to being a net importer.
- (4) Does he understand that Australia will not be able to feed itself.

### 14 November 2014

573 **MR FITZGIBBON:** To ask the Treasurer—Have any of the 61 recommendations in the Senate Economics References Committee's final report 'The Performance of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission' (26 June 2014) been adopted by the Government; if so, which ones, and why; if not, why not.

574 **MS ROWLAND:** To ask the Minister for Social Services—In respect of a press release dated 29 October 2014 where it was said that about \$545 million is committed in 2014-15 to initiatives for multicultural communities, can he list the (a) specific initiatives, and (b) funding allocated to each initiative.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 575 to 577)—Is the Minister aware of the latest Small Area Labour Markets (June Quarter 2014) figures, which show that unemployment in Melbourne's inner northern suburbs has been increasing rapidly since the 2013 election of the Government.

576 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 578 to 582)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that unemployment in the City of Moreland, Melbourne, increased from 6.8 per cent in September 2013 to 8.0 per cent in June 2014.

- (2) Is the Minister aware that since the 2013 change of government, unemployment in the City of Moreland suburb of Coburg, has risen from 8.5 per cent to 10 per cent, and that unemployment in the City of Moreland suburbs of Brunswick and Fawkner, has also climbed by around 1.5 per cent to be 9 per cent.
- (3) What action is the Government taking to reverse the rising trend in unemployment in the City of Moreland.

580 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 583 to 587)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that unemployment in the City of Hume, Melbourne, increased from 6.9 per cent in June 2013 to 10 per cent in June 2014.
- (2) Is the Minister aware that since the 2013 change of government, unemployment in the City of Hume suburb of Broadmeadows, has risen from 21.9 per cent to 26.4 per cent, and that unemployment in the City of Hume suburbs of Campbellfield and Coolaroo, has risen from 18.8 per cent to 22.9 per cent, and that unemployment in the City of Hume suburb of Meadow Heights, has risen from 18.6 per cent to 22.9 per cent.
- (3) What action is the Government taking to reverse the rising trend in unemployment in the City of Hume.

585 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 588 to 590)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that unemployment in Melbourne's inner north is now higher in some cases than the unemployment crisis facing Europe, with unemployment as of January 2014 in (a) Greece at 27.2 per cent, and (b) Spain at 24.5 per cent.
- (2) Is the Minister aware that as of July 2014, unemployment across the Eurozone was 11.5 per cent.

589 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 591 to 593)—Is the Minister aware that the communities in the electoral divisions of Wills and Calwell are yet to absorb the full effects of the hollowing out of the local manufacturing base, as a result of the Government's decision to abandon manufacturing, particularly through the closure of Ford Australia's manufacturing plant in Broadmeadows.

592 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

593 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Industry and Science.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 594 to 596)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that according to the 2012 North Melbourne Regional Development Australia report *Manufacturing in Melbourne's North: Now and into the Future*, manufacturing is still the largest regional employer in Melbourne's north, employing 53,160 workers across the region, followed by health/social assistance with 48,791 workers, retail with 42,188 workers and education with 33,707 workers, totalling 382,967 workers in the region.
- (2) Is the Minister aware of modelling by the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) contained in the report, that forecast that the closure of the Ford Australia factory would result in 16,000 jobs being lost throughout Victoria after just one year.
- (3) Is the Minister aware that NIEIR forecast that after one year, (a) 600 jobs would be lost in the City of Moreland, and (b) 1,600 jobs would be lost in the City of Hume.
- (4) Is the Minister aware that the most strategically important and largest manufacturing industries in North Melbourne are (a) automotive (8,696 employees), (b) food (8,514 employees), and (c) chemicals (6,267 employees).
- (5) Is the Minister aware that the latest Census Data shows that 5,911 people who live in the electoral division of Wills are employed in manufacturing, which accounts for 8 per cent of total employment locally, and that in the electoral division of Calwell there are 9,185 people employed in manufacturing, which accounts for 14 per cent of employment locally.
- (6) What industry, re-skilling, and job opportunities will the Government invest in to help regenerate the local economy and job market in Melbourne's Northern Suburbs.

595 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

596 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Industry and Science.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 597 to 599)—

- (1) Is Australia now running record high migrant worker programs, including the Skilled Migration program, growing from 125,755 places in 2011-12 to 128,973 places in 2012-13.
- (2) Is it a fact that the Skilled Migration program is now more than five times the size it was in 1995-96 when it had 24,100 workers.

597 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment.

598 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 600 to 602)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that according to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's State and Territory Migration Summary Report (March 2014), Victoria absorbed the second largest proportion of 457 visa grants in the first three quarters of 2013-14, with 23 per cent or 17,432 people.
- (2) Is it a fact that for the first three quarters in 2012-13, the largest changes for 457 visas amounted to a 38.3 per cent decline (7,999 less people) for Western Australia, and a 30.2 per cent decline for Queensland (4,978 less people),
- (3) Is it a fact that many more migrant workers are coming to Victoria than to the mining states of Queensland and Western Australia.

600 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment.

601 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 603 to 605)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the latest Victorian Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure Victorian Population Bulletin shows that Victoria grew by a record 106,820 people between June 2012 and June 2013, which is a 1.9 per cent increase, higher than the 1.8 per cent national average.
- (2) Is the Minister aware that Victoria is absorbing a large proportion, 26.2 per cent, of Australia's overall population growth.
- (3) Is it a fact that for the year ending 30 June, Australia's population grew by 407,027, or 1.8 per cent to 23,135,281 people, and Victoria's population grew by 106,820 people.
- (4) Is the Minister aware that Greater Melbourne is absorbing the vast majority, 89.4 per cent, of Victoria's population growth.
- (5) Is the Minister aware that there are numerous Victorian local government areas that have grown by more than the 2.2 per cent average, including Melbourne (10.5 per cent/11,029 people), Wyndham (6 per cent/10,759 people), Whittlesea (5.5 per cent/9,306 people), Cardinia (4.8 per cent/3,877 people), Melton (4.3 per cent/5,028 people), Yarra (3.2 per cent/2,606 people), Maribyrnong (3.2 per cent/2,436 people), Hume (2.9 per cent/5,229 people), Casey (2.8 per cent/3,877 people), and Moreland (2.2 per cent/3,372).

604 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 606 to 608)—Is the Minister aware of the report by John Masanauskas 'Unemployment in Melbourne suburbs will be a social disaster, says researcher' (*Herald Sun*, 29 October 2011), that Dr Bob Birrell from the Monash University's Centre for Population and Urban Research stated that the unemployment figures were disturbingly being concentrated in areas where many young people with limited education were looking for work, and having to compete with very large numbers of temporary migrants; if so, what is the Government doing to address the integration of young people in such neighbourhoods.

606 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment.

607 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

608 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 609 to 611)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the statement made by Sir Robert Menzies on 2 October 1964 at the opening of the Chrysler Manufacturing Centre in Tonsley Park, South Australia, where he said that the manufacturing industry, providing large scale employment, has enabled migration programs to continue, and in turn, given confidence to other industries that benefit from the higher demand for goods and services resulting from annual population increases.

- (2) Will the Minister consider developing a coordinated strategy (a) to ensure Australia's migration program, particularly the Skilled Migration program, does not reduce the opportunities for Australians to find work in this tough job market, and (b) that helps to regenerate manufacturing and industry in Australia, particularly in Melbourne's Northern Suburbs, in order to reduce local unemployment and improve social cohesion.
- 610 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.
- 611 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Industry and Science.  
**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 612 to 614)—Will the Minister consider attending a forum on the issues of economic growth, manufacturing, unemployment and job creation in 2015 should I arrange one; if so, what dates or timeframes would suit.
- 613 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.
- 614 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Industry and Science.
- 616 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Assistant Treasurer—How many personal staff are currently employed in the Assistant Treasurer's office, and (a) what is the classification (under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*) of each, (b) how many are based in (i) Sydney, (ii) Canberra, or (iii) elsewhere, and (c) on what date(s) (if any) did these staff travel to Canberra to meet with the former Acting Assistant Treasurer.
- 617 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Assistant Treasurer—Since 19 March 2014, on what dates did the former Acting Assistant Treasurer meet with staff in the Assistant Treasurer's Sydney office.
- 618 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for the Environment—  
 (1) Is he aware that Victoria has abandoned the proposed joint New South Wales and Victorian River Red Gum logging trial in the Barmah National Park.  
 (2) Will he now allow the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* approval process for the trial to continue, or will he consider refusing the trial.
- 619 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—  
 (1) Is he aware of a report by Georgia Wilkins 'ATO alleges complex Chevron scheme slashed tax bill by \$258m' (*The Age*, 9 October 2014) that Chevron created an entity in Delaware, United States, for the sole purpose of lending money to its Australian subsidiary in order to avoid tax.  
 (2) Is he aware that the process is alleged to have netted Chevron up to \$862 million in tax free dividends over five years.  
 (3) Is he aware that the Tax Justice Network (TJN) estimates that up to \$80 billion in tax payments has been avoided by the biggest 200 stock market-listed companies over the past ten years due to tax minimisation strategies.  
 (4) Is he aware that TJN representative Dr Mark Zirnsak has stated that artificial debt loading was a 'significant form of tax avoidance globally' and that the Chevron case highlights the need for Australia to be part of the work that the OECD is doing to address this particular type of tax avoidance.  
 (5) What action is the Australian Government taking, either directly or through international channels such as the OECD and the G20, to crack down on tax avoidance through the use of artificial debt loading.
- 621 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Assistant Treasurer—Since 19 March 2014, how many departmental submissions (a) did the former Acting Assistant Treasurer sign, and (b) did staff in the office of the Assistant Treasurer sign on behalf of the former Acting Assistant Treasurer, and of these, how many were briefs for (i) decisions, and (ii) information.  
**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 622 to 625)—  
 (1) Is the Minister aware that young Australian graduates are experiencing unprecedented tough competition to find work in fields such as accounting.  
 (2) In an environment of high national unemployment, and shaky business and consumer confidence, will the Minister consider reviewing the Government's 'business as usual' approach in respect of Australia's overseas student and migrant worker programs.
- 622 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Education and Training.
- 624 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.



**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 626 to 629)—

- (1) In respect of the Deakin University's Centre for Research in Educational Futures and Innovation's report *Australian international graduates and the transition to employment* (September 2014), is he aware that the findings illustrate that (a) the overseas student program needs to be reviewed by the Australian Government to provide greater opportunity for Australian graduates to find work domestically, (b) the graduate labour market in Australia in the three disciplines of nursing, engineering and accounting is very competitive, (c) the proportion of bachelor degree graduates employed within four months of completing their courses has fallen to 71.3 per cent, the lowest figure in over 20 years, and what action will the Minister take to address this issue, (d) shortages for engineers eased significantly in 2012-13 and are now limited to petroleum and mining engineers, and (e) a slowdown in the mining industry, as well as manufacturing, and subdued activity in construction, are contributing to a weak labour market.
- (2) Does the Minister accept the report's findings that employment outcomes for graduate engineers have weakened in recent years with softer market conditions, resulting in graduates competing for work with experienced engineers, with BHP, Rio Tinto and AECOM cutting their graduate intakes.

626 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Education and Training.

628 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

629 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Education and Training.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 630 to 633)—

- (1) Will the Minister review the 2012-13 Australian Government Review of labour market demand, which found that there was no shortage of graduate accountants and that graduate employment outcomes for accounting bachelor degrees have fallen over the past five years.
- (2) Is the Minister aware that in 2012, 7,200 domestic students completed a bachelor or higher degree in accounting, with the Department of Employment declaring that 'a more than adequate supply of accountants existed in Australia'.
- (3) Is the Minister aware (a) of reports that overall employment of accountants increased by just 1.3 per cent over the five years to May 2014, which was well below the 'all occupations' average of 7.4 per cent, and (b) that advertised vacancies for accountancy positions have also fallen since 2008.
- (4) Is the Minister aware of the recent media report by Edmund Tadros 'Accounting bodies do about-face on jobs for foreign students' (*Australian Financial Review*, 29 October 2014), claiming that the Australian Government says it will review the Skilled Occupations List early next year, and that based on the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency's recommendation, a reduced ceiling of approximately 5,000 places or 3 per cent of the domestic workforce, has been set for accountants in 2014-15.
- (5) Is it a fact that the Department of Employment has recommended that accountants be removed from the Skilled Occupations List, having concluded there is a surplus of accountants and 'deteriorating outcomes for graduates...relatively low pay rates for bachelor graduates and weak employment outcomes for masters graduates'; if so, and in light of the evidence from the academic research, media reporting and professional views, will the Minister consider removing accountants from the Skilled Occupations List.
- (6) In respect of a media report by Edmund Tadros and Agnes King 'Accounting Bodies do about-face on jobs for foreign students' (*Australian Financial Review*, 12 February 2014), is he aware (a) that in the past five years, 40,000 migrants have entered the country through accounting skilled stream, which is significantly higher than the numbers entering with other priority areas, (b) of data provided in this report that Graduate Careers Australia shows that 80 per cent of domestic accounting graduates were working full time four months after finishing their courses in 2012, compared with 93 per cent in 2001, (c) that the University of New South Wales (UNSW) had an almost record enrolment in first year accounting in 2014 with over 1,700 currently enrolled, and (d) that the UNSW's record for accounting enrolments was 1,800 in 2010.
- (7) Will the Minister acknowledge the suggestions in the Deakin University's Centre for Research in Educational Futures and Innovation's report *Australian international graduates and the transition to employment* (September 2014) and media report in part (6), that overseas accounting students are being lured to study accounting in Australia on the misleading impression that it is easy to find work experience, work opportunities and permanent residency in Australia.

- (8) Is the Minister aware of the findings in Deakin University's report in part (7), which showed that international accounting students were a major source of income for Australian Universities, making up a record 79 per cent of the 17,600 enrolled postgraduate students in 2013, and 55 per cent of the more than 24,500 enrolled undergraduate students.

630 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Education and Training.

632 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

633 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Education and Training.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 634 to 637)—Is the Minister aware, as reported by John Masanauskas in 'Unemployment in Melbourne suburbs will be 'social disaster', says researcher' (*Herald Sun*, 29 October 2014), of evidence and reports that local young people, unemployed and workers would be better off and have a better chance of being trained and getting a job with fewer overseas migrant workers and students.

636 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 638 to 641)—Is the Minister aware of the views of Dr Bob Birrell from Monash University's Centre for Population and Urban Research, as reported by Edmund Tadros in 'Accounting bodies do about-face on jobs for foreign students' (*Australian Financial Review*, 29 October 2014), that the unemployment figures for Melbourne's north are being compounded by the fact that local unemployed people are currently competing with over one million temporary migrants with working rights visas in Australia, for the same occupations.

640 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 642 to 645)—Will the Government consider cutting the permanent worker program to previous levels of around 25,000 per annum, in the context of reducing unacceptably high unemployment figures in Melbourne's north west.

644 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

#### 17 November 2014

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 646 to 647)—In respect of the concerns of Mr Michael O'Connor, National Secretary of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), about the alleged abuse of 457 visa workers by Samsung C&T Corporation (Construction and Trading) at the Roy Hill Project in the Pilbara region, Western Australia, are the Ministers aware of (a) my letter dated 12 November 2014 to the Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, in which I made representations on behalf of Mr O'Connor on this matter, and (b) the allegations raised with them by CFMEU on this matter in March 2014.

646 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

647 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 648 to 649)—In respect of the concerns of Mr Michael O'Connor, National Secretary of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), about the alleged abuse of 457 visa workers by Samsung C&T Corporation (Construction and Trading) at the Roy Hill Project in the Pilbara region, Western Australia, are the Ministers aware (a) that to date, the CFMEU has not been informed of any progress or results of the promised investigation by the Fair Work Ombudsman, despite multiple correspondence to them urging the Government to urgently investigate these claims, and (b) of the concerns of the CFMEU that this matter will become harder to investigate given evidence can be lost or forgotten over time, and that it is highly likely that some of the 457 visa workers will be sent home or threatened to secure their silence.

648 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

649 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 650 to 651)—In respect of the concerns of Mr Michael O'Connor, National Secretary of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), about the alleged abuse of 457 visa workers by Samsung C&T Corporation (Construction and Trading) at the Roy Hill Project in the Pilbara region, Western Australia, are the Ministers aware (a) that in March 2014, the CFMEU was contacted by a whistle-blower who claimed that there are between 150 to 200 457 visa workers employed by Samsung C&T on the project, about half of whom are Korean nationals, and (b) that the whistle-blower alleges that the 457 visa workers are under the age of 30, (c) that the whistle-blower claims that the 457 visa workers are being grossly underpaid and made to work excessive hours, (d) that the whistle-blower reported that the 457 visa workers are working from 7 am to 9 pm every day with only one day off a month, ie, over 84 hours a week, and (e) of claims that the actual

rate of pay for these 457 visa workers is well below the minimum provided for under the *Fair Work Act 2009* and the approved 457 visa worker ‘market salary rate’ for equivalent Australian workers, at less than \$16 an hour.

650 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

651 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 652 to 653)—In respect of the concerns of Mr Michael O’Connor, National Secretary of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), about the alleged abuse of 457 visa workers by Samsung C&T Corporation (Construction and Trading) at the Roy Hill Project in the Pilbara region, Western Australia, are the Ministers aware (a) that many 457 visa workers on the project are reportedly not working in their nominated occupation, (b) that reportedly the sponsor Samsung C&T has not been authorised by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to employ workers on 457 visas, and has not sought any such authorisation, (c) of claims that many of the 457 visa workers are suffering extreme stress as a result of the excessive work hours and onerous employment conditions, and their welfare is being placed at risk, (d) that the whistle blower reports that many of the Korean 457 visa workers have at best, very poor English language skills, and at worst, no English at all, (e) of how these workers were made aware of their rights under Australian workplace and immigration laws, and (f) of reports that the employer intends to nominate, or has already nominated, many of the 457 visa workers for employer-sponsored permanent residence visas under a visa program which requires the sponsor to have complied with all relevant Australian immigration and workplace laws.

652 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

653 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 654 to 655)—In respect of the concerns of Mr Michael O’Connor, National Secretary of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), about the alleged abuse of 457 visa workers by Samsung C&T Corporation (Construction and Trading) at the Roy Hill Project in the Pilbara region, Western Australia, (a) have breaches of Australian immigration and employment laws and regulations occurred in this case, (b) can the Ministers explain what labour market testing was undertaken by the employer or the Australian Government, to provide an opportunity for local Australians to seek employment at the Roy Hill Project, before the 150 to 200 foreign nationals were brought in as migrant workers, and (c) can the Ministers explain with national unemployment now at 6.2 per cent, and with some parts of Australia having unemployment higher than in Spain and Greece, with Broadmeadows, Melbourne, for example, being over 26 per cent, how encouraging migrant workers to come to Australia assists our local unemployment crisis.

654 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

655 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

**MR THOMSON:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 656 to 657)—In respect of the concerns of Mr Michael O’Connor, National Secretary of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), about the alleged abuse of 457 visa workers by Samsung C&T Corporation (Construction and Trading) at the Roy Hill Project in the Pilbara region, Western Australia, will the Ministers urgently investigate and respond to these concerns and release the investigation and its findings; if so, when.

656 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

657 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

#### *18 November 2014*

658 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Minister for Small Business—In respect of the International Competition Network annual conference, to be held from 28 April to 1 May 2015 in Sydney, (a) what are the details of the contract for (i) venue hire at Sheraton on the Park, including the date of tender and total cost, and (ii) the dinner to be held at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, including the date of tender and total cost, and (b) will a representative of the Australian Government open or officiate; if so, which Minister.

659 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Minister for Industry and Science—In respect of the G20-IEF Gas Market Dialogue meeting, held at the ‘Fairmont Pierre Marquee’ in Mexico on 11 November 2014, how many staff from his department were in attendance, and of those, what was the total sum of their (a) flights, (b) accommodation, and (c) other associated travel costs.

24 November 2014

- 660 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment—Will Australia remain a member of the United Nations World Tourism Organization under this Government.
- 661 **MR FITZGIBBON:** To ask the Minister for Agriculture—In respect of him hoping to announce an additional \$100 million for drought specific concessional loans, (a) when will he announce the additional funding, (b) which states and territories will be eligible, (c) has he exchanged letters with the Treasurer's office agreeing to the extra funding, (d) what criteria have been agreed to, and (e) have the guidelines for drought specific concessional loans been approved; if so, on what date.
- 662 **MS BIRD:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—In respect of the announcement on 1 March 2013 of joint state and Commonwealth funding of approximately \$8 million (\$4,045,000 each) under the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program for the upgrade of the existing truck stop at Mt Ousley Road, Mt Keira (northbound) in the electoral division of Cunningham, (a) will he provide a progress report on the work being conducted, and (b) by what date will this work be completed.
- 663 **MS MCGOWAN:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—
- (1) Is it intended that the Ballast Rehabilitation Program (BRP), when completed, will result in high quality track conditions reflecting the goals of the North East Rail Revitalisation Project (NERRP).
  - (2) Is it intended that the BRP, upon completion, will (a) enable passenger trains like the New South Wales CountryLink XPT to travel at 130 kilometres per hour to 160 kilometres per hour on the Melbourne to Albury rail line as they are able to do on other parts of the rail network, and (b) reduce typical journey times for passenger and freight train services; if so, is it anticipated that they will be shorter than typical journey times on the line prior to the NERRP.
  - (3) In the design phase of the NERRP, did the Australian Rail Track Corporation anticipate a reduction in passenger and freight train journey times on the Melbourne to Albury rail line, not including time savings as a result of the Wodonga Rail Bypass.
  - (4) What contingency plans are in place should, at the completion of the BRP, train service reliability and journey times remain affected by poor track conditions.
- 664 **MS MCGOWAN:** To ask the Minister for Communications—
- (1) What is the planned commencement date for the NBN Co. Limited Long Term Satellite Service (LTSS).
  - (2) In respect of some households in regional areas such as the electoral division of Indi, currently only able to access broadband Internet via the 3G mobile network, (a) when does the NBN Co. Limited plan to inform them of the type of National Broadband Network (NBN) service they will be offered, and the expected commencement date for that service, and (b) is it intended that they will be able to access the LTSS from its commencement if the NBN Co. Limited does not plan to offer a fixed line or fixed wireless NBN service to them.

25 November 2014

- 665 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development—What are the current steps being taken by the Australian Government to support the Five Star Trucking initiative.
- 666 **MS MACTIERNAN:** To ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) Is she aware that neither foot and ankle surgeries performed by accredited podiatric surgeons, nor related anaesthetist fees, have an item number in the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS).
  - (2) Is she aware that many of these procedures, if performed by an orthopaedic surgeon, do have access to item numbers on the MBS.
  - (3) Does she accept that this is not providing a level playing field and that podiatric surgeons are being disadvantaged.
  - (4) Is she aware of the Access Economics report *The Economic Impacts of Podiatric Surgery* (2008) that shows that podiatric surgeons deliver the same procedures as orthopaedic surgeons, with 'substantial financial savings; decreased waiting time for elective foot surgery; increased productivity; improved prevention of co-morbidities; and quicker return to an improved quality of life.'
  - (5) Will she approve an MBS item number to allow patients the freedom of choice when requiring foot and ankle surgeries that could be performed by podiatric surgeons rather than orthopaedic surgeons.

- 667 **DR LEIGH:** To ask the Prime Minister—In respect of his Parliamentary Secretary's (the Member for Kooyong) recent assertion that 'The operation of a typical outdoor Australian cafe that serves alcohol is subject to 75 different regulations, 25 at the commonwealth level, 29 at the state level and 21 at the local level' (*The Australian*, 10 October 2014), can he (a) list the regulations, and (b) specify which of these regulations the Government has so far repealed.
- 668 **MR THOMSON:** To ask the Minister for the Environment—
- (1) Is he aware of evidence to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna that Japan's fishing fleet killed more than 3000 albatrosses and petrels in 2013.
  - (2) Is it a fact that this is an increase of 300 per cent on 2012; if not, what is the correct figure.
  - (3) What steps will he take to urge Japan to have its fishing fleet adopt preventive measures to reduce the incidence of albatross and petrel deaths.

### 1 December 2014

- 670 **MS ROWLAND:** To ask the Minister for Social Services—In respect of the \$200 subsidy for relationship education or counselling under the Stronger Relationships trial, (a) how many subsidies were made available, and (b) how many couples have (i) applied for, (ii) received, and (iii) redeemed, the subsidy.
- 671 **MS ROWLAND:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) Is the Australian Government currently providing Foreign Aid to the Russian Federation; if so, what sum.
  - (2) Has the Australian Government provided Foreign Aid to the Russian Federation over the previous 12 months; if so, what sum.

### 2 December 2014

- 672 **MR CONROY:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection—Further to the answer to question in writing No. 402 (House *Hansard*, 20 October 2014, pages 11513-4), what are the details, including Contract Notice ID numbers, for the (a) fit out, and (b) refurbishment, of his departmental offices in Adelaide (70 Franklin Street) and Melbourne (215 Spring Street).
- 673 **MS MACTIERNAN:** To ask the Minister for Communications—In respect of NBN Co Limited's (NBN Co's) media release dated 1 December 2014 regarding the new national broadband construction plan, (a) on what basis (i) were the suburbs prioritised and selected, and (ii) did NBN Co determine which area will receive what broadband technology, (b) given that the suburbs of Ashfield, Bassendean, Beechboro, Eden Hill, Kiara, Lockridge and Morley were previously on the National Broadband Network (NBN) roll out plan for 2013-14, that the related upgrade of the Bassendean Exchange was completed in 2014 and that these suburbs have been assessed as having the lowest ranking of Internet speeds and reliability, why were they not included in the latest NBN roll-out plan, and (c) will he release the documents that relate to the assessment of the priority for broadband rollout in those suburbs by NBN Co; if not, why not.

### 3 December 2014

- 674 **MS MACTIERNAN:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection—Further to the answer to question in writing No. 493 (House *Hansard*, 24 November 2014, page 188), does his department take any steps to ensure the consent of the birth mother is obtained before a child given Australian citizenship is permitted to be taken to Australia.
- 675 **MS MACTIERNAN:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection—Further to the answer to question in writing No. 493 (House *Hansard*, 24 November 2014, page 188), can he confirm that a person who has multiple child sex convictions is free to enter surrogacy arrangements outside Australia and obtain Australian citizenship for that child without any character assessment by his department, nor action by his department to alert child protection authorities in Australia.
- 676 **MS ROWLAND:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection—Since the re-opening of the Non-Contributory Parent and Other Family visa subclasses on 25 September 2014, how many places has the Government allocated to new applications in each subclass for (a) 2014-15, and (b) 2015-16.

*4 December 2014*

- 677 **MR ZAPPIA:** To ask the Treasurer—In respect of his interview with Fran Kelly on ABC Radio National Breakfast, 2 December 2014, (a) what are the ‘hard decisions about industry assistance’ that he referred to, (b) what industries have been affected by these hard decisions, and (c) did the Minister for Industry have any involvement in making these hard decisions.
- 678 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment—Has the Government received a business case for the Cadbury factory upgrade.
- 679 **MS BRODTMANN:** To ask the Assistant Minister for Defence—For each electoral division as at 30 September 2014, and as contained in the final pay figures for the July to September 2014 quarter within the Defence People Group of the Department of Defence, what was the (a) personnel headcount for (i) the Navy, (ii) the Army, (iii) the Air Force, (iv) civilians, and (v) Reserves, and (b) number of civilians (i) on fixed-term contracts, and (ii) employed part-time.
- 680 **MR KATTER:** To ask the Minister representing the Assistant Minister for Education and Training—
- (1) Will the Government immediately review the changes to the Community Support Programme, announced in the 2014-15 budget, which will cut funding to valuable fundamental family day care services.
  - (2) Will the Minister acknowledge that family day care services significantly rely on this funding to provide affordable fees and services to families living in rural and regional Australia.
  - (3) Will the Minister acknowledge that if the proposed eligibility criterion is enforced there will be increased fees, with facilities facing closure and in turn, parents not having the capacity to remain in the workforce and meet the repayments on their home.
- 681 **MR KATTER:** To ask the Minister representing the Assistant Minister for Education and Training—Does the Government support the retention of the Universal Access to Early Childhood Education funding which is relied upon by many kindergartens and is critical to maintaining a quality education program for children in the year before they start school.
- 682 **MR KATTER:** To ask the Minister for Education and Training—Will he reinstate the funding for Youth Connections, which helps young Australians overcome barriers and engage with education, and that has a success rate of over 80 per cent with participants still either employed or in the education system two years after completing the program.

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**D. R. ELDER**

Clerk of the House of Representatives

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