

2016-2017-2018

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## UNANSWERED QUESTIONS IN WRITING

as at

THURSDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2018

(8 am)

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*Questions unanswered*

Nos 823, 825, 851, 854, 860, 862-864, 867, 892-925.

### 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.

*14 September 2017*

823 **MR KATTER:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the hydroelectricity proposal that was originally launched as the ‘Tully Millstream’, promised by the LNP in 1995 and then soon after abolished by LNP Energy Minister Gilmore, and which resurfaced as the ‘Reverse Tully Millstream’ and has now evolved into the ‘Southern Tablelands Development Scheme’ (STaDS).
- (2) Is he aware that this scheme adds 50,000 ha of irrigated (sugar cane) farm lands south of Ravenshoe, west of Tully and moves the project from north of Tully, to south of Tully, and should deliver 600 MW of hydro and pump storage power from Tully.
- (3) Is he aware that the Snowy Mountains 2.0 is ineffective in providing security on the north Queensland grid (1 million people), since that grid is nearly 5,000 km from Snowy Mountains 2.0 and line losses over that distance would be prohibitive, making the STaDS proposal a necessary adjunct to Snowy Mountains 2.0.
- (4) Is he aware that when STaDS is added to the ‘triangle of power’ (Hell’s Gates Dam, Kidston Pump Storage and Big Kennedy Wind Farm), the resulting ‘quadrangle of power’ will add 2,200 MW of baseload power and 400 MW of hydro.
- (5) Is he aware that north Queensland’s existing renewables will then be providing over 8 per cent of the entire national grid, which when added to the existing 6 per cent, will deliver nationwide 14 per cent renewables and that to go higher than 20 per cent would jeopardise the cheap \$28 per MWh coming out of existing coal fired power stations, versus renewables at over \$90 per MWh.
- (6) As the STaDS proposal will provide 300 MW of hydro peaking power and 300 MW of pump storage peaking power; 300 million litres of ethanol; 300,000 tonnes of sugar (piped as liquor) to the Tully Mill for processing; and will fatten 500,000 cattle each year off algae ponds (grown from CO2 emissions which will be entirely ‘carbon captured’ in the algae ponds); when will the Minister commit to the Tully Hydro promised to the people of North Queensland and people of Tully/Ravenshoe 21 years ago.

825 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs—In respect of the Minister’s commitment to extend the Indigenous ranger program from June 2018 to June 2020, when will the Government be issuing the contract extensions for all Indigenous ranger groups.

## 4 December 2017

- 851 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs—
- (1) Prior to 31 October 2017, was the conduct of (a) Australian officials, (b) service providers, and (c) other private contractors, at the former Regional Processing Centre on Manus Island attributable to the Australian Government as a matter of international law; if so, on what grounds; if not, why not.
  - (2) Prior to 31 October 2017, did the Australian Government have any obligations under international law in relation to the men transferred to Manus Island; if so, (a) what was the scope of those obligations, and (b) does the Australian Government now have a duty to provide an effective remedy for any breach; if not, why not.
  - (3) Prior to 31 October 2017, did the Australian Government have any responsibility or obligations under domestic law in relation to the welfare of the former detainees at the Manus Processing Centre; if so, what (a) were the legal sources (ie, tort law, constitutional law) of those obligations, (b) was their scope, and (c) remedies are now available for any breach; if not, why not.
  - (4) Since 31 October 2017, has the Australian Government had any obligations to the men transferred to Manus Island under (a) international law, and/or (b) Australian domestic law.
- 854 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs—Have there been any Australian Government officers on Manus Island at any time since 31 October 2017; if so, (a) in what capacity, and (b) what is the breakdown of the numbers by Government department and agency.
- 860 **MR JONES:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Regional Communications—
- (1) In respect of Mr Paterson's claim that there was \$2.1 million in unspent Commonwealth funding for Telstra under Round 1 of the Mobile Black Spots Program (see Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee, *Estimates*, 24 May 2017, page 102), what sum of unspent funding currently exists for each carrier under each round of the Mobile Black Spots Program.
  - (2) Has any of this unspent funding been allocated to other base stations since 24 May 2017; if so, (a) what sum, and (b) which stations.
- 862 **MR JONES:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Regional Communications—How many of the (a) Round 1, and (b) Round 2, base stations under the Mobile Black Spots Program will have more than one mobile network operator co-located on the base station, and which mobile network operators are co-locating on which mobile network operator's base station.
- 863 **MR JONES:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Regional Communications—In respect of the answer to Senate Estimates Question on Notice No. 287 (Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications, *Budget Estimates*, Communications Portfolio, 28 July 2017), what criteria were used for funding the remaining nine priority locations on the Mobile Black Spot Program's database, and where are each of these nine black spots located.

## 5 December 2017

- 864 **MR ZAPPIA:** To ask the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs—
- (1) How many overseas (a) doctors, and (b) nurses, were granted a work visa in 2016-17.
  - (2) How many overseas doctors granted a work visa in 2016-17 left Australia before their visa had expired.
  - (3) How many overseas doctors granted a temporary work visa since 1 January 2013 have been granted permanent residency.
- 867 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Human Services—In respect of the following telephone lines for each month between 1 January 2017 and 1 December 2017, (a) myGov help desk (132 307), (b) Medicare general enquiries (132 011), (c) Older Australians (132 300), (d) Financial Information Service: Information on financial issues (132 300), (e) Child support enquiries (131 272), (f) People with disability (132 717), (g) Centrelink employment services (132 850), (h) Newstart Allowance—22 years of age and over (132 850), (i) Help in an emergency (132 850), (j) Job seekers: Youth Allowance—job seeker under 22 years of age (132 490), (k) Indigenous Australians: Centrelink Indigenous Call Centre (1800 136 380), (l) Centrelink complaints and feedback (1800 132 468), (m) Centrelink debt (1800 076 072), (n) Centrelink families (136 150), (o) Report income (133 276), (p) Aged Care Fee Assessments and Services (1800 227 475), and (q) National Disability Insurance Agency (1800 800 110), (i) what was the average telephone waiting time, (ii) what was the average telephone waiting time for callers who then speak to a human operator, (iii) what proportion (as a percentage) of telephone calls

resulted in a conversation with a human operator, and (iv) what proportion (as a percentage) of telephone calls resulted in an engaged dial tone.

*6 December 2017*

892 **MR KEOGH:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Energy—What sum was spent on advertising of the National Energy Guarantee policy (a) Australia wide, (b) in Western Australia, and (c) in the Perth Metropolitan Area, (i) on television, (ii) in newspapers, (iii) online, and (iv) in any social media sponsored or boosted posts.

**MR GEORGANAS:** To ask the Ministers listed below (question Nos. 893 to 894)—

- (1) How many tests have been conducted around Defence and non-Defence sites for perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) or other chemicals related to fighter fighting foams and retardants.
- (2) What were the results, broken down by location tested, and including maps of the impacted areas.
- (3) Specifically, have the estuaries, beaches and waterways around the Adelaide Airport been tested for contamination; if so, what were the results.
- (4) What remediation, if any, has been considered for contaminated sites around Australia.
- (5) Do any sites in South Australia require treatment or further testing; if so, what are the timelines.
- (6) What resources have been allocated to test firefighters and other personnel exposed to PFOS and PFOA.
- (7) What ongoing testing and treatment and or medial monitoring have been considered or implemented by the Government.

893 **MR GEORGANAS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Defence.

894 **MR GEORGANAS:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport.

895 **MR GEORGANAS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications—

- (1) How many Australia Post posting boxes have been removed from around Australia over the last six years, broken down by (a) postcode, (b) state/territory, and (c) electorate.
- (2) How many Australia Post (Government) owned post offices have been closed or transferred to private ownership/franchisee status over the last six years.

*5 February 2018*

896 **MR WILKIE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) What total number of executive positions (those considered by a university to form part of its executive leadership team, including vice-chancellors, deputy vice-chancellors and pro-vice chancellors) existed in all Australian universities in (a) 2006-07, (b) 2007-08, (c) 2008-09, (d) 2009-10, (e) 2010-11, (f) 2011-12, (g) 2012-13, (h) 2013-14, (i) 2014-15, (j) 2015-16 and (k) 2016-17.
- (2) What total sum was spent on remuneration for these executive positions in each of the above financial years.
- (3) Can the Minister provide other relevant data on university executive staffing and remuneration held by the Government.

897 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Financial Services—What Government financial protections are available to superannuation account holders if (a) there is a major economic downturn, (b) their related registerable superannuation entity becomes insolvent, and (c) their account is with an employer-run superannuation fund and the employer goes bankrupt.

898 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Social Services—In respect of under age 18 participants of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, how many have requested funding for voluntary out-of-home care, and (a) what number of these requests were funded, and (b) what (i) average, and (ii) total, level of funding was granted.

899 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Social Services—In respect of under age 18 participants of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, how many have requested funding for independent supported living, and (a) what number of these requests were funded, and (b) what (i) average, and (ii) total, level of funding was granted.

- 900 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Social Services—In respect of under age 18 participants of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, how many have requested funding for six-plus months of respite, and (a) what number of these requests were funded, and (b) what (i) average, and (ii) total, level of funding was granted.
- 901 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Small and Family Business, Workplace and Deregulation—Separately against each recommendation, what steps have been taken by the Government to respond to the 15 recommendations of the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman’s report *Inquiry into small business loans* (12 December 2016, pages 7 and 8).
- 902 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) Why does the excise rate for beer differ depending on the size of the commercial keg in which it is transported.
  - (2) Are kegs over 48 litres used more frequently than kegs under 48 litres in the transportation of beer in Australia.
  - (3) Is the Government aware that kegs over 48 litres are commonly manually handled at pickup and delivery locations.
  - (4) Does the Government realise that the lower excise rate on beer in kegs over 48 litres could be incentivising greater utilisation of kegs over 48 litres for transportation.
  - (5) What data does the Government have on the number of serious workplace health and safety (WHS) incidents that occur in the manual handling of beer kegs and what does this data conclude on the relationship between the size of the kegs and the prevalence of WHS incidents.
  - (6) Will the Government consider adopting a flat excise rate for beer kegs of all sizes; if not, why not.
- 903 **MR KATTER:** To ask the Minister for Social Services—
- (1) Is there a plan to review the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) zero to six years of age sector in respect of funding for support hours, given the vast gap in the caring role a parent provides a newborn compared with a six year old.
  - (2) Has a sliding scale of parental caring been considered for assessing the zero to six years of age NDIS applicants and their access to support hours.
- 904 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Energy—In respect of the two Green Army projects (wetlands rejuvenation in the Lower Lakes region and support to important environmental areas in the Adelaide Hills) announced for the electoral division of Mayo during the 2016 federal election, have these projects now been completed; if not, (a) why not, and (b) what is the expected completion date for each project; if so, what was the completion date for each project.
- 905 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Energy—In respect of a statement by the Prime Minister on 1 September 2016 that the Government would provide more support for community groups to install solar and battery storage in the electoral division of Mayo, since then (a) how many solar and battery storage projects have commenced under the Solar Communities Program (or other programs), (b) how many have been completed, and (c) what outcomes have they achieved.
- 906 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Energy—Has the Government now fully delivered on its 2016 federal election commitment to provide \$500,000 of funding to the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board for on-ground action to tackle feral cats; if not, (a) why not, and (b) when will the full sum of this funding be delivered.
- 907 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Energy—Has the Government now fully delivered on its 2016 federal election commitment to provide \$200,000 of funding for the Lower Lakes under the 20 Million Trees Program; if not, (a) why not, and (b) when will the full sum of this funding be delivered.
- 908 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications—Further to the Minister’s answer to question in writing No. 797 (House *Hansard*, 11 September 2017, page 10004), in respect of the Government’s commitment to fund the construction of mobile infrastructure in (a) Gosse/Stokes Bay, and (b) Ashbourne, in the electoral Division of Mayo, (i) what was the outcome of the competitive funding process, (ii) were suitable applications submitted and/or approved, (iii) which companies have been chosen for construction, (iv) has construction commenced, and (v) when are the towers expected to be fully operational.

- 909 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport—
- (1) How many Mass Management Accreditations (MMAs) have been issued by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) since its creation in 2014.
  - (2) What total number of accredited heavy vehicle operators have been found to be non-compliant by NHVR audits.
  - (3) What sum of revenue has been generated by the NHVR through the issuing of MMAs.
  - (4) Can he advise why the NHVR is now issuing permits for Road Trains and B-Triple combinations in states where these vehicles have not been able to operate in the past.
  - (5) Can he advise what measures the Government has implemented to reduce the amount of damage caused by the increasing amount of heavy vehicles on Australian roads.
- 910 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Rural Health—
- (1) What measures is the Government taking to ensure that participants in the Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) scheme are completing their return of service obligations to work in a rural or remote area for up to six years.
  - (2) How many doctors who were recipients of an MRBS are yet to complete their return of service obligations.
  - (3) What other measures has the Government taken to ensure a proportionate distribution of doctors across regional and rural Australia.

*6 February 2018*

- 911 **MR ZAPPIA:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Rural Health—What potential conflicts of interest were disclosed by each panel member in the Food Standards Australia and New Zealand Expert Advisory Group on New Breeding Techniques.
- 912 **MR ZAPPIA:** To ask the Minister for Health—Have all annual reports of the Therapeutic Goods Administration Complaints Resolution Panel been released; if not, (a) why not, and (b) when will they be released.

*7 February 2018*

- 913 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) What Australian Government programs provide subsidies for personal medical supplies for healthcare card holders.
  - (2) What are the uptake rates for these programs, and what measures have been taken to ensure awareness amongst eligible recipients.
  - (3) How effective are these programs in addressing poverty and financial distress amongst older Australians.

*12 February 2018*

- 914 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Jobs and Innovation—
- (1) In respect of the Youth Jobs PaTH program from its inception until 31 January 2018, how many internship placements were (a) fully completed, (b) partially completed, (c) rural placements, (d) urban placements, and (e) hosted at employer organisations with aggregated annual turnover of (i) greater than \$50 million, (ii) between \$10 million and \$50 million, (iii) between \$1 million and \$10 million, and (iv) less than \$1 million.
  - (2) What was the breakdown of internship placements by industry or sector.
  - (3) How many internship placements were converted into post-placement employment.
  - (4) What was the breakdown in the type of post-placement employment between (a) casual employment, (b) part-time employment, (c) full-time employment, and (d) apprenticeships.
  - (5) For those partially completed placements, what was the numerical breakdown of the recorded reasons that the placement was not completed.
  - (6) How many complaints did the department receive, and what was the numerical breakdown of the complaint type for those complaints, from (a) host employer organisations, and (b) internship placements.

- 915 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Financial Services—Further to part (2) of her answer to question in writing No. 842 (House *Hansard*, 5 February 2018, page 201), why does raspberry, blackberry and blueberry cider not meet the definition of cider under the *A New Tax System (Wine Equalisation Tax) Act 1999*.

*13 February 2018*

- 916 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Sport—On what date will the National Sport Plan be released.

*14 February 2018*

- 917 **MR KEOGH:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance—In 2016-17, what sum was spent on replacing lost, stolen or misplaced equipment in all ministerial offices, and what goods were replaced.
- 918 **MR KEOGH:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance—In 2016-17, what sum was spent on replenishing the drinks cabinets in all ministerial offices, on what date were these purchases made, and what was purchased.
- 919 **MR KEOGH:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance—What sum did each ministerial office spend on office furniture in 2016-17.
- 920 **MR KEOGH:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance—In respect of all ministerial office expenses in 2016-17, (a) what sum was spent on the use of private dining rooms for ministerial purposes, and (b) where were these dinners held.
- 921 **MR KEOGH:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance—In 2016-17, were there any instances of cyber security breaches within ministerial offices in respect of the hacking of (a) mobile phones, and (b) social media accounts; if so, (i) how many, and (ii) what sum did it cost to investigate and remedy these breaches.
- 922 **MR KEOGH:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance—In respect of all ministerial office expenses in 2016-17, what sum was spent on (a) indoor plants, (b) office decorations, and (c) artwork.
- 923 **MR KEOGH:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance—From 1 January 2014 to 14 February 2018, what sum was spent on external media and public speaking training for all Ministers.

*15 February 2018*

- 924 **MR ZAPPIA:** To ask the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources—Did his department take action in 2016-17 against any food importer for providing incorrect information on their food labels; if so, (a) in how many cases was action taken, and (b) what was the nature of the action taken.
- 925 **MR ZAPPIA:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance—In respect of the Joint Select Committee on Government Procurement report *Buying into our Future* (June 2017), (a) how many of the 16 recommendations have been adopted by the Government, and (b) what actions have been taken by the Government to implement these recommendations.

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**DAVID ELDER**

Clerk of the House of Representatives

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