

2016-2017

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## UNANSWERED QUESTIONS IN WRITING

as at

WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2017

(8.30 am)

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*Questions unanswered*

Nos 14, 58, 620, 682, 729-730, 748-752, 758, 782, 789, 792, 799, 804-806, 809-810, 813-839.

### 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.

*1 September 2016*

- 14 **MRS ELLIOT:** To ask the Prime Minister—Will the Government honour all 2016 election funding commitments promised to the electoral division of Richmond.

*7 November 2016*

- 58 **MR KEOGH:** To ask the Prime Minister—In respect of the \$28,616.50 contract to Peppers Manor House (CN3384440) for hotels and lodging and meeting facilities, (a) for what purpose was the venue hired, (b) how many staff members attended the function for which the venue was hired, and (c) what is the itemised breakdown of the costs associated with the contract.

*10 November 2016*

- 620 **MS T. M. BUTLER:** To ask the Prime Minister—Is it a fact that an Executive Level 1 staff member within the Office for Women is eligible for a salary that is \$10,000 lower than an equivalent staff member within the general Social Policy Division of his department; if so, what steps has the Prime Minister or anyone within his department taken to address this pay disparity.

*15 February 2017*

- 682 **MR GEORGANAS:** To ask the Prime Minister—
- (1) In light of the recent Government announcement that the ASC is to be split into three separate companies, can the Minister confirm that current workplace conditions and agreements for the ASC workforce will remain unchanged.
  - (2) Has the Government, through the Minister for Employment or any other Minister, directed the ASC to enforce its Public Sector Workplace Bargaining Policy on ASC workers; if so, (a) who, (b) on what basis, and (c) why.

*22 May 2017*

- 729 **MRS ELLIOT:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications—In respect of the NBN rollout on the North Coast NSW, (a) can the Minister provide a timetable of expected dates for its completion, and (b) will additional satellite capacity be made available for regional and rural consumers on the North Coast.

730 **MRS ELLIOT:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications—

- (1) Why did it take more than a week to restore NBN services for some customers after the recent flooding in Northern NSW.
- (2) Why were there no effective alternatives offered for these customers to access the NBN, especially given such delays were not experienced when the copper network was in use.

*13 June 2017*

748 **MS MCGOWAN:** To ask the Minister for Social Services—

- (1) How many Australians now suffer from chronic disease.
- (2) What (a) number, and (b) proportion, of (i) rural, and (ii) metropolitan, Australians suffer from chronic disease, and how has the Government addressed this disparity in available medical and surgical services.

749 **MS MCGOWAN:** To ask the Minister for Social Services—

- (1) Has the Government completed modelling on the impact of the rising cost of health care on sufferers of chronic disease; if not, why not.
- (2) How does the Government provide additional support to sufferers of chronic disease in recognition of these conditions being ongoing and incurable, causing a prolonged detrimental effect upon the sufferer's mental and physical health.

750 **MS MCGOWAN:** To ask the Minister for Social Services—

- (1) Has his department undertaken an analysis to assess the greater costs to rural Australians for accessing medical care; if so, (a) what was the Government's response to the findings, and (b) can this response be published.
- (2) Are the additional costs to rural Australians for accessing medical care taken into account when determining Health Care Card eligibility.
- (3) Is the level of support and access to medical care determined by location.

751 **MS MCGOWAN:** To ask the Minister for Social Services—

- (1) Are the partners of people with chronic and serious illness included in the income test for eligibility for the Health Care Card; if so, (a) what is the policy rationale for this, and (b) are there any exemptions; if so, (i) how many Australians are exempt from partner means testing, (ii) on what basis are they exempt, and (iii) what will this cost the Government in 2017-18.
- (2) Has the Government considered only including the income of the person suffering from chronic and serious illness in the means test for Health Care Card eligibility; if so, what is the estimated cost to the Government of removing partners from the income test, and does this estimation take into account the improved mental and physical health prospects of providing an independent income and therefore, greater autonomy to those with chronic illness.
- (3) Will the Government acknowledge that means testing (a) Australians suffering from chronic disease as well as their partners creates a work disincentive for both of them, and (b) to include a partner's income adds significant burden to relationships already stressed by ill health.

752 **MS MCGOWAN:** To ask the Minister for Social Services—What appeal mechanisms are available to those whose health is being negatively impacted by the ongoing costs of living with chronic disease but who do not qualify for a Health Care Card.

*21 June 2017*

758 **MS RISHWORTH:** To ask the Minister for Veterans' Affairs—

- (1) Why are there no targets for the Veteran's Employment Program (VEP).
- (2) Will his department provide outcomes for the VEP; if not, why not; if so, when.
- (3) How is the success of the program currently being measured.

*8 August 2017*

782 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Human Services—

- (1) For each month in 2016-17, what was the average number of days taken for an age pension application to be processed to completion.
- (2) What are the remaining inconsistencies in Centrelink's automated debt raising and recovery system and what steps are being taken to address these inconsistencies.
- (3) What was his response to recommendations 1 to 8 of the Commonwealth Ombudsman report *Centrelink's automated debt raising and recovery system* (April 2017).
- (4) What supports are currently available to the most vulnerable Australians to navigate the Centrelink debt raising and recovery system.

*10 August 2017*

789 **MR MARLES:** To ask the Minister for Defence Industry—In respect of competitive tenders for Project AIR 7003, (a) why did the department bring forward the due date from November to August 2017, (b) what is the anticipated impact of this change on competition for the tender, and (c) can the department demonstrate that it has done a comparative analysis to include (i) capability, (ii) Australian Industry Content, and (iii) best value, to evaluate all systems and proposals provided.

*14 August 2017*

792 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources—

- (1) In (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, and (c) 2016-17, what expenditure was made from the Environment Special Account (ESA), and to whom (i) in total, (ii) to fund constraints relaxation, and (iii) to fund water infrastructure efficiency measures.
- (2) What is the projected expenditure for the ESA (a) in total, (b) to fund constraints relaxation, and (c) to fund water infrastructure efficiency measures.
- (3) Do unexpended appropriations made for the ESA remain in that account until expended; if not, to what account/s is/are the unexpended appropriations transferred.
- (4) Are independent audits conducted on the ESA; if not, why not.

*17 August 2017*

799 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications—

- (1) In light of rolling blackouts in South Australia last summer, is the Government taking additional and proactive measures to improve standby power capability for mobile base stations and NBN infrastructure in areas of high bushfire risk; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are these measures, and (b) which of these measures will be complete in advance of the 2017-18 summer bushfire season.
- (2) Why does the Government not currently guarantee any minimum standby capability for mobile base stations and NBN infrastructure in areas of high bushfire risk.
- (3) Who is going to take responsibility for the maintenance of the copper network in areas where the NBN is being delivered through satellite or wireless technology, and in these areas, will there be a requirement to maintain the copper network to a certain standard; if not, why not; if so, what will that standard be.

*4 September 2017*

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

- (1) Did an outbound mail outage occur at the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) in August 2017; if so, (a) for what length of time, and (b) has the Government sought or received correspondence from the ATO on this incident and its impact, if so, can it be provided.
- (2) What is the average number of outgoing correspondence (letters) per week at the ATO, and what is the addressee breakdown by (a) tax agents, (b) tax payers, and (c) other.

805 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Health—Can he detail any current or future plans to provide public funding for transcranial magnetic stimulation, a treatment for major depressive disorder.

806 **MR ZIMMERMAN:** To ask the Prime Minister—

- (1) Is it the Government's official policy to accept and accede to the claim made by the English College of Arms that it possesses 'official heraldic authority' over Australia; if so, (a) when was this policy determined, (b) when and how was it made public, (c) is there an official Commonwealth record of this policy decision being determined, and (d) was it determined by a decision (i) of the Parliament, (ii) of the Cabinet, or (iii) by some other authority.
- (2) If the above is not the official policy of the Government, has the Government delegated heraldic authority to the sovereign of the United Kingdom or any of her officers; if so, (a) when was this delegation made, (b) when and how was it made public, (c) is there an official Commonwealth record of this delegation being made, and (d) was it made by a decision (i) of the Parliament, (ii) of the Cabinet, or (iii) by some other authority.
- (3) Is the Government aware that Canada and South Africa have established their own heraldic authorities independent of the English College of Arms.

809 **MRS ELLIOT:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications—In respect of the NBN rollout on the North Coast NSW, (a) why has the timetable for completion been delayed, (b) why have 15,000 premises in Ballina had their completion date pushed back to 2019, (c) why have 7,500 businesses and residential premises in Kingscliff been told that completion will be delayed to 2018, (d) why may people living in (i) Mullumbimby, (ii) Brunswick Heads, (iii) New Brighton, and (iv) South Golden Beach, have to wait until the end of 2018, and (e) will the Minister commit to fast tracking the rollout in the electoral division of Richmond.

810 **MRS ELLIOT:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Communications—In respect of the Prime Minister's election promise that every Australian would have access to the NBN by 2016, (a) why has the rollout in regional and rural areas, including in the electoral division of Richmond, been delayed by up to three years, (b) why will over 30,000 premises in the electoral division of Richmond not have access to the NBN for more than two years, (c) why are there delays in regional and rural Australia, and (d) what measures is the Minister taking to address these delays.

#### 5 September 2017

813 **MS KEAY:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport—In respect of the Bass Highway intersections at Leith in North West Tasmania, at Short Street and at Braddons Lookout Road, has he received any representations from the Tasmanian Government for work on these intersections to address local road safety issues and, if so, (a) when were those representations received and (b) what form did they take.

#### 6 September 2017

814 **MR ALBANESE:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Financial Services—In respect of the Northern Australia Insurance Premiums Taskforce report which the Minister received in November 2015, (a) when will the Government response be released, and (b) why was this response not provided by 30 June 2016, as committed to in a media release dated 4 March 2016.

#### 7 September 2017

815 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport—In respect of the *National Land Transport Act 2014* s(5) criteria for a road to be added to the National Land Transport Network, specifically a road which connects a capital city and a major centre of commercial activity, will he define 'major centre of commercial activity'.

#### 12 September 2017

816 **MR HILL:** To ask the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection—In respect of the Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa (subclass 400):

- (1) Does his department publish statistical information about the subclass 400 visa, including the number of visas granted each quarter (by State and by Occupation) and the number of visa holders in Australia each quarter (by State and by Occupation), if so, where can this be found and if not, why not.
- (2) Does his department collect similar statistical information for the subclass 400 visa as it does for the subclass 457 visa, and if not why not.
- (3) What number of subclass 400 visas were applied for in (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16, (e) 2016-17, and (f) 2017-18 (to 10 September 2017).

- (4) What number of subclass 400 visas were granted in (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16, (e) 2016-17, and (f) 2017-18 (to 10 September 2017).
- (5) What are the top 10 reasons a subclass 400 visa is not approved.
- (6) What number of people overstayed, or are suspected to have overstayed, with subclass 400 visa in (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16, (e) 2016-17, and (f) 2017-18 (to 10 September 2017).
- (7) What is the breakdown of all subclass 400 visas granted, by each Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) code, in the financial years (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16, (e) 2016-17, and (f) 2017-18 (to 10 September 2017).
- (8) What is the breakdown of the number of subclass 400 visas approved for a period of (a) three months and (b) six months for the financial years (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14, (iii) 2014-15, (iv) 2015-16, (v) 2016-17, and (vi) 2017-18 (to 10 September 2017).
- (9) What are the precise data/fields which are (a) collected in applications for subclass 400 visas, (b) stored in his department's systems, and (c) searchable in his department's systems.
- (10) Did his department issue any subclass 400 visas in respect of Ships Engineers, Ships Masters and Ships Officers prior to 18th April 2017 and if so, how many in each classification.
- (11) What procedures did his department follow to determine whether the work of these Ships Engineers, Ships Masters and Ships Officers is Highly Specialised Work for the purposes of the Migration Regulations, and did his department (a) consult with any other State, Territory or Federal Government bodies about the nature of the work to be performed by the Ships Engineers, Ships Masters and Ships Officers, and (b) consult with or seek the views of any external bodies.
- (12) What steps has his department taken to ensure that when issuing subclass 400 visas to Ships Engineers, Ships Masters and Ships Officers, such skills are not readily available in Australia, and that such visas will not have adverse consequences for employment or training opportunities for Australian citizens or Australian permanent residents.
- (13) Are subclass 400 visa approvals only available in occupations that are on a recognised skills shortage list.
- (14) Does Ship's Engineer (classification ANZCO 231212) fall within ANZSCO Major Groups 1-3.
- (15) Does Ship's Master (ANZCO 231213) fall within ANZSCO Major Groups 1-3.
- (16) Does Ship's Officer (ANZCO 231214) fall within ANZSCO Major Groups 1-3.
- (17) Has his department contacted any of the Ships Engineers, Ships Masters and Ships Officers, whose contact details it has, and who are unemployed and ready willing and able to work in the maritime industry, and has his department contacted the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) to seek advice about the Ships Engineers, specifically the qualifications of these Certified Officers.
- (18) What advice has AMSA provided to his department about the qualifications required for working as Chief Engineer or First Engineer on vessels working in Australian waters.
- (19) What steps does his department take, if any, to check the answers provided by applicants for subclass 400 visas, particularly in respect of questions about character and background, including questions about criminal record and security issues.
- (20) Is he or his department aware that on the offshore support vessel 'Southern Ocean' owned by Oceanteam Bourbon 4 AS and managed by North Sea Shipping AS (both Norwegian companies), non-Australian Engineer Officers who have held subclass 457 visas are now seeking subclass 400 visas in order to continue working in Australian waters.
- (21) Is the subclass 400 visa intended to be a long-term work visa.
- (22) Is it appropriate for the subclass 400 visa to be used to replace and extend a subclass 457 visa when the 457 visa has expired.
- (23) Are subclass 400 visas being used as a substitute for 457 visas now that the 457 visa is not available for Ships Engineers, Ships Masters and Ships Officers.
- (24) Is he aware that the department has been provided with the names and details of unemployed Australian Engineer Officers who hold the necessary qualifications to fill all Engineer Officer positions on vessels including Offshore Support Vessels such as 'Southern Ocean'.
- (25) Is he aware of applications for subclass 400 visas from persons employed by Programmed Marine Engineering to work on the vessel POSH Arcadia (a Bahamas Flagged vessel contracted to work off WA until late 2017 associated with the commissioning of Shell's LNG plant).

- (26) How many subclass 400 visas have been issued for personnel to work for Programmed Marine Engineering on the POSH Arcadia, and which countries are the workers from.
- (27) What positions on board the POSH Arcadia vessel will be filled by the personnel issued with subclass 400 visas.
- (28) Do these circumstances result in an adverse impact on Australian employment opportunities for Australian Deck and Engineer Officers.
- (29) What instructions has he given to the department about the subclass 400 visa in the last 12 months.
- (30) Has he provided any direction to the department to restrict the issuing of subclass 400 visas for Marine Engineer Officers, Masters and Ships Officers as long as there are unemployed Australian personnel available to do such work.

*13 September 2017*

817 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Energy—

- (1) Why is Australia the only member country of the International Energy Agency not in compliance with the 90-day fuel supply stockholding obligation.
- (2) Will the ‘ticketing’ arrangement envisaged in the original Liquid Fuel Emergency Amendment Bill 2017 result in any additional holding of physical fuel stock within Australia, if so, (a) how many days of physical fuel stocks will Australia have, and (b) what are the calculated delivery delays from the various sources for fuel provided under the ticketing system.
- (3) Given current global instability and the possibility of a nuclear confrontation between North Korea and the United States, escalating conflict over the South China Sea, and continuing international terrorism, on what basis does the Government believe that reaching 90-day fuel reserve compliance by 2027 is an adequate timetable.
- (4) What is the detailed timetable for reaching full 90-day fuel reserve compliance.
- (5) What plans are there to establish in-country storage facilities for each state and territory.
- (6) What arrangements exist between the federal and state governments to manage a sudden fuel shortage emergency.
- (7) Is there a public information strategy on how to advise, if necessary, when and how fuel rationing would occur.

818 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Energy—

- (1) Does the Government project increases in severity and frequency of coastal storms in Australia, and (a) what is the summary of those projections, and (b) what are the projections for South Australia.
- (2) In the wake of Cyclones Debbie and Yasi in northern Queensland, Cyclone Pam in the Pacific, and Hurricanes Harvey and Irma in the United States, how well prepared is Australia for future coastal storms and cyclones.
- (3) Has the Government issued an official response to the communique of the 2017 Australian Coastal Councils Conference, and if not, why not.
- (4) Does the Government have plans to develop an intergovernmental agreement on coastal zones, if so, what are those plans, and if not, why not.

819 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Financial Services—

- (1) What is the current full-time equivalent (FTE) staff resourcing for the Superannuation branch of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).
- (2) How many FTE staff are currently allocated to recovering unpaid Superannuation Guarantee Charge (SGC).
- (3) What is the expenditure allocated by the ATO to recovering unpaid SGC.
- (4) Has she considered conducting a moratorium for employers with unpaid SGC to provide them the opportunity to ‘come clean and make good’, and (a) if not, why not, (b) if so, (i) what models for a moratorium has she considered, and (ii) is she considering the introduction of a moratorium before the end of the current financial year.
- (5) Has she reviewed how the fines and interest charges associated with unpaid SGC incentivise or deter the payment of superannuation to employees by employers, and (a) if so, what were the conclusions of that review, (b) if not, will she be conducting such a review, and (i) if so, when, (ii) if not, why not.

14 September 2017

- 820 **DR LEIGH:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) Has there been a delay in the release of the 2014-15 individual sample file (taxation statistics, 2 per cent sample of records) by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO); if so, (a) what is the cause of the delay, and (b) has the Government sought or received correspondence from the ATO on this incident and its impact, if so, will he provide it.
  - (2) On what dates were the previous three sample files released.
  - (3) When will the 2014-15 individual sample file be released.
- 821 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Health—In respect of the Modified Monash Model (MMM), a geographical classification system used to address the maldistribution of medical services across Australia:
- (1) Will the Minister advise if any locations have been identified for review of their classification under the model and, if so, whether any of these reviews resulted in a change to a classification.
  - (2) Are there any plans for a review of practice classifications under the MMM and if so, (a) when is such a review expected to occur, and (b) when would the results be released.
  - (3) Will he detail the process for a medical practice to appeal their classification under the MMM.
  - (4) Will he advise if the Rural Classification Technical Working Group (RCTWG) still assesses classifications under the MMM and if so, what is the most appropriate way for medical practices to contact the RCTWG.
- 822 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—In respect of allegations of widespread and increased electoral fraud in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in the recent national elections:
- (1) What lessons has her Department learned about the provision of effective electoral support in PNG.
  - (2) What measures will be taken by current and subsequent Australian-funded electoral support programs, to help reverse this trend.
  - (3) What was the level of Australian funding support for each national election in PNG since 2007, and if there has been a decline between the 2012 and 2017 elections, why.
  - (4) How much funding is Australia planning to provide to support the 2018 APEC meeting in PNG and why is this support greater than that for PNG's democratic processes.
  - (5) Does her department's analysis explain why no women were elected to PNG's national parliament in the 2017 election despite Australian training support for potential women candidates.
  - (6) Does her department's analysis explain why the PNG Government's Alotau Accord II (the Government's guiding policy document), which lists 90 key reforms it plans to deliver within five priority areas, fails to give a priority to women's social or political empowerment.
  - (7) What other measures is Australia taking to support and strengthen electoral democracy in PNG, including for the forthcoming referendum on Bougainville's independence.
- 823 **MR KATTER:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources—
- (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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.
- 824 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—In respect of My Aged Care home care packages:
- (1) Can he provide detail on the average waiting time (a) on the national priority queue for a home care package, and (b) for residents of the electoral division of Mayo.
  - (2) Are applicants for a home care package notified that there is a national priority queue and that they will have to wait for their application to proceed, and if so, are applicants advised of their expected waiting time.
  - (3) What steps is the Government taking to reduce waiting times, especially for applicants deemed as a high priority.
- 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.
- 826 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Energy—In respect of the Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) network which represents 44.6 per cent of Australia's National Reserve System and for which funding is due to expire in June 2018:
- (1) Will the Government be extending the funding contracts of the IPA network to June 2023 in line with the National Landcare Program under which IPAs have been funded.
  - (2) When will he (a) announce the future of IPAs, and (b) deliver contract extensions to the organisations managing IPAs.
- 827 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—In respect of concerns regarding the treatment of Palestinian children by the Israeli military, as identified in reports from UNICEF and Military Court Watch, including that most children do not have parents or legal counsel present during interrogation; 75 per cent report physical violence; a quarter are made to sign a statement in a language they do not understand; and up to 60 per cent are transferred into Israel, restricting the access of family members:
- (1) What representations, if any, has the Australian Government made to the Government of Israel on these issues since November 2016.
  - (2) Is the Government aware of any substantive improvement over the last twelve months to the conditions that Palestinian children face in military custody.

*16 October 2017*

- 828 **MR KATTER:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment—A constituent has reported repeated occurrences of job seekers listing the constituent's business as a job opportunity, attending the induction (at significant time and cost to the business) and then not turning up for any days of work and the business has not been contacted for a compliance check. After a welfare recipient notifies Centrelink that they are seeking a job opportunity, will he ensure welfare compliance is undertaken by Centrelink calling businesses to confirm recipients of job seeker income support turn up to work.
- 829 **MR KATTER:** To ask the Treasurer—In respect of the announcement that Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) has appointed three CEOs as panel members to conduct the prudential inquiry into the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA):
- (1) Is he aware of the negative perception around the track record of those appointed to the panel, that it is a case of the people that have created the problem, now judging themselves and their own class of people.
  - (2) Will he review the decision to appoint these panel members, as each of them comes from a CEO position, the new power group that runs society and pays themselves obscene amounts of money, and they are perceived as being from the group of people they are now going to judge.
- 830 **MR KATTER:** To ask the Treasurer—In respect of the decision to raise the Medicare levy from 2.0 per cent to 2.5 per cent on 1 July 2019—a 25 per cent increase—and given the Medicare levy is calculated from total income (not income after deductions), so it is directly tied to wage increases, can he explain why Medicare levy increases are not in line with CPI, where a 1.5 per cent CPI increase would instead see the Medicare levy increase from 2 per cent to 2.02 per cent.



- 831 **MR DANBY:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Finance—Given the Productivity Commission’s most recent public Migration Program data on taxes paid by immigrants only covers 2015-16, has further modelling based on current assumptions been done to show the tax base of immigrants (by each visa stream) on consolidated revenue; if so, can the Minister provide it.
- 832 **MR FITZGIBBON:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources—In respect of the National Forest Industries Plan to be developed by the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources as announced by the Prime Minister on 12 September 2017, (a) who will be engaged to develop the Plan, (b) what will be the cost of developing the Plan, (c) have funds been allocated for the development process of the Plan, (d) when is the Plan due for completion, (e) will consultation be undertaken during the development of the Plan; if so, with whom, (f) who will have input into the Plan, (g) will there be a discussion paper for comment prior to finalisation of the Plan, (h) what areas of the forest industry will be covered under the Plan, (i) who will be tasked with implementing the Plan, and (j) what is the timeframe for the implementation of the Plan.
- 833 **DR LEIGH:** To ask the Treasurer—Can he provide (a) a timeline for the past two years of COAG consideration of the National Injury Insurance Scheme (NISS), (b) the proposed timeline for future COAG consideration of the NIIS, (c) the minutes and/or details of COAG’s progress on the ‘general accident’ stream of the NIIS, and (d) the commitment to an ‘implementation review’ of the ‘general accident’ stream on behalf of COAG, and the details therein (including matters of consideration for implementation).

*17 October 2017*

- 834 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Employment—
- (1) Has any material promoting the Seasonal Work Incentives Trial (Trial) been distributed; if so, (a) to whom, and (b) how.
  - (2) What is the total budget for the promotion of the Trial.
  - (3) What steps have been taken to date to inform (a) jobactive, (b) Transition to Work, and (c) Disability Employment Services providers, of the Trial.
- 835 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—
- (1) What is the Government’s official position on ethnic cleansing.
  - (2) In respect of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution on the Extension of the mandate of the independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar (A/HRC/36/L.31/Rev.1), did the Government seek to change the draft wording in the resolution from ‘calling for an end to such violations and abuses’ to ‘calling for an end to violence’; if so, why.
  - (3) Does Australia need to wait until the UNHRC fact-finding mission is complete to ascertain the scale of human rights violations and abuses in and around Rakhine State in Myanmar, or does it possess an independent capacity within her department to undertake such an analysis; if the latter, has an analysis been done and if so, what did it conclude about these human rights violations and abuses, including how the Government characterises them.
  - (4) What diplomatic and humanitarian steps is the Government taking to help avoid an even larger scale human rights tragedy from occurring in this area.
  - (5) Given the past effectiveness of sanctions, is the Government considering the reintroduction of an arms embargo or other sanctions to help signal concern about human right abuses and violations in this area.

*18 October 2017*

- 836 **MS SHARKIE:** To ask the Treasurer—
- (1) Has the Government considered adopting a ‘Glass-Steagall’ style separation of Australia’s banking system; if so, what were the conclusions; if not, why not.
  - (2) What actions is the Government taking to guard against the collapse of ‘too big to fail’ financial institutions.
  - (3) Is it a possibility that the Government will provide major financial support to Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions (ADIs) in the event of a severe financial or economic shock or downturn; if so, what steps is it taking to avoid the socialisation of ADI losses.

- 837 **DR LEIGH:** To ask the Minister for Revenue and Financial Services—In respect of my letter dated 5 June 2015 to the then Assistant Treasurer signalling the potential for an amendment to the Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (Employee Share Schemes) Bill 2015 that would provide for continued deferred taxation after employment ceases where the circumstances for the cessation are beyond the employee’s control (ie, redundancy, illness, or injury), could he confirm (a) receipt of the letter, (b) whether the Government considered the merits of the proposal, (c) the Government’s position on the proposal, and (d) whether The Treasury was tasked with (i) modelling the proposal as an amendment, and (ii) providing any revenue estimates and advice.
- 838 **MR GEORGANAS:** To ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport—
- (1) In respect of special dispensations to land at Adelaide Airport during the curfew period, since 7 September 2013 (a) how dispensations were granted, and (b) what was the (i) airline, (ii) type of plane, and (iii) reason, for each dispensation.
  - (2) During this period, how many planes landed without a dispensation, and (a) what were the results of each investigation, (b) how many fines or warnings have been issued, and (c) how many cases have required further investigation.
- 839 **MR GEORGANAS:** To ask the Minister for Social Services—
- (1) Since 1 April 2017, how many Centrelink clients who were notified of a debt or the likelihood of a debt with Centrelink through its Online Compliance Intervention program have subsequently had their debt (a) reduced, and (b) cancelled completely.
  - (2) What is the breakdown of the above by (a) state and territory, and (b) postcode.

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**DAVID ELDER**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives

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