

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-17 Additional Estimates Hearings

Department of Social Services

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000002	Xenophon	Government Waste	<p>Given that government and opposition politicians have all raised concerns over time and had policies on government waste:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a central government authority responsible for the elimination of waste? 2. If so <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is there a government wide definition on the meaning of 'waste', and if so, what is that definition? b. How does this central government authority monitor and manage waste within the Department? c. Is there a central government mechanism (e.g. phone number, email address, web site) for public servants or contractors to report Departmental waste? d. How much Departmental waste was identified by the central government authority in FY 13/14, FY 14/15 and FY 15/16? 3. If not: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is there a departmental definition on the meaning of 'waste', and if so, what is that definition? b. What are the Department's arrangements for monitoring and managing waste? c. Is there a central Departmental mechanism (e.g. phone number, email address, web site) for public servants or contractors to report Departmental waste? d. How much waste was identified by the Department in FY 13/14, FY 14/15 and FY 15/16? 4. In either case: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Can Departmental officers or contractors report waste anonymously? b. Are they afforded a protection if they do so? 	Written
SQ17-000003	Cameron	Housing and Homelessness	Can you provide a copy of the papers that are developed following each face-to-face meeting between housing and homelessness senior officials?	47-48
SQ17-000004	McAllister	1800RESPECT	What measures are in place to safeguard privacy in data and personal information obtained by MHS as part of the 1800 Respect line?	Written
SQ17-000005	McAllister	MHS Staffing	How many instances of sick leave and claims for workers compensation have there been related to stress or other mental health issues from workers employed on the MHS telehealth line – broken down by contracted service?	Written

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SQ17-000007	McAllister	1800RESPECT	Are there incentives (e.g. a bonus payment or other incentive) for workers who are employed to take calls for other services to answer calls to the 1800RESPECT line?	Written
SQ17-000008	Cameron	Housing and Homelessness	Is the department aware of a homelessness task force, apparently involving all levels of government, and apparently involving Shoalhaven City Council, to tackle increasing rates of homelessness in the council area?	54
SQ17-000009	McAllister	1800RESPECT	Does MHS allow call centre workers who are employed to take calls for other services (e.g. HealthDirect, Beyond Blue, Garrison Health, etc.) to answer 1800 Respect line calls in the same shift?	Written
SQ17-000010	Cameron	Housing and Homelessness	Did Shoalhaven City Council ask the department to be involved on a Housing task force?	55
SQ17-000011	McAllister	1800RESPECT	Is MHS required under the terms of its contract to forward information about all complaints regarding 1800 Respect line to DSS? If they are, how many complaints have been received from MHS in total in relation to 1800 Respect line (please specify by total per month, per complaint type from August 2016 to February 2017)?	Written
SQ17-000012	Cameron	Housing and Homelessness	Can you provide the file notes or the extracts from your notes from each housing and homelessness senior officials meeting so we can understand what has been happening and who attended?	56
SQ17-000013	McAllister	1800RESPECT	Does the 1800 Respect triage call centre set time limits and / or targets to close calls?	Written
SQ17-000014	Cameron	Housing and Homelessness	Who do I speak to (in Department of Finance) about using surplus government land for inclusionary zoning?	57
SQ17-000015	McAllister	1800RESPECT	Under the contract with MHS is it permissible for a MHS triage worker to respond to more than one inquiry simultaneously, for example, while responding to on-line clients?	Written
SQ17-000016	McAllister	1800RESPECT	What is the average time callers are put on hold under the current MHS triage model for 1800 Respect line? (please specify by month from August 2016 to February 2017).	Written
SQ17-000017	Rhiannon	Housing and Homelessness	What can local governments do in terms of housing programs in their area? Could you provide how - at your level, the federal government - interacts and can interact with local government in assisting them?	61
SQ17-000018	McAllister	Staffing for MHS	Has any current Department of Social Services official been seconded to work for MHS within the last 12 months?	Written
SQ17-000019	Smith	Housing and Homelessness	I am wondering whether you could share with us what the 2016 COAG performance report says about the agreement?	66-67
SQ17-000020	McAllister	MHS Contract for 1800RESPECT	What is the term length and end date of the current contract with MHS for 1800 Respect?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000021	McAllister	MHS Funding	What is the total annual amount of money given to MHS across all of its current contracts with Government (financial year 16/17)? What is the value of each contracted service in Financial year 16/17?	Written
SQ17-000022	Watt	Family Tax Benefit	What is the income distribution for families in Australia? Where does: a) \$80,000 a year sit in the income distribution? b) \$100,000 a year sit in the distribution?	68 and 78
SQ17-000023	McAllister	MHS Telehealth Service Contracts	Can the Committee be provided with a full list of all government contracts held by the MHS telehealth service?	Written
SQ17-000024	McAllister	1800RESPECT	What is the total value of the current contract with MHS contract for 1800 Respect, broken down by financial year.	Written
SQ17-000025	McAllister	1800RESPECT	Can the Committee be provided with a copy of the current MHS 1800 Respect line contract?	Written
SQ17-000026	McAllister	1800RESPECT	What are the KPIs contained within the DSS contract with MHS for the 1800 respect line?	Written
SQ17-000027	Di Natale	Multiculturalism - Settlement Grants Program	What proportion of the Settlements Grants Programme are going to small (<15 staff) and medium-sized (<200 staff) organisations involved in settlement activity?	Written
SQ17-000028	Di Natale	Multiculturalism - Staffing	What is the level of ethnic diversity among each of the senior levels of Government Departments: a. EL1/EL2 b. SES Bands 1-3 c. Agency heads d. Departmental heads	Written
SQ17-000029	Di Natale	Multiculturalism - Staff	How is the level of ethnic diversity among senior levels of Government Departments determined and reported?	Written
SQ17-000030	Di Natale	Multiculturalism - National Anti-Racism Strategy	How is the Commonwealth ensuring that the goals of the National Anti-Racism Strategy are being implemented in the delivery of Commonwealth services?	Written
SQ17-000031	Watt	Family Tax Benefit	What is the median income of those who are losing FTB-A, those who are losing FTB-B and those who are losing both?	69
SQ17-000032	Bilyk	Flights	What was the Department's total expenditure on flights for departmental staff in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)?	Written
SQ17-000033	Watt	Family Tax Benefit	Will families who lose their FTB-A supplement but receive the \$20 per fortnight increase still be \$200 worse off per child over the course of the year?	70

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000034	Siewert	Family Tax Benefit	What number of families who received FTB parts A and B, who would lose the supplement, would benefit from the child care changes?	70
SQ17-000035	Bilyk	Ground Transport	What was the Department's total expenditure on the following categories of ground transport in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive): (i) Taxi hire; (ii) Limousine hire; (iii) Private hire car; (iv) Ridesharing services.	Written
SQ17-000036	Siewert	Family Tax Benefit	Can you please provide a cameo of a family with younger children in child care who are likely to be using more hours of child care and possibly getting FTB-A and B. Also have the difference for families with older children - ages 9 and 10 - who are not likely to be in child care.	71
SQ17-000037	Watt	PES and EdEP	Has the Government sought any advice on how the abolition of the Pensioner Education Supplement and Education Entry Payment would impact income support recipients' ability to undertake study?	Written
SQ17-000038	Pratt	Family Tax Benefit	How many families receiving the maximum rate of FTB-A - meaning that their household income is less than \$52,000 a year - are losing their FTB-A supplement but receiving the \$20 a fortnight increase? a) How many children are in these families? b) How many families will have a reduced rate of FTB-A and also lose their FTB-B end-of-year supplement? c) How many of these families are single parent families? d) How many of these families have children only of school age and not younger?	72
SQ17-000039	Pratt	Family Tax Benefit	How many families currently use an end-of-year supplement to clear a debt?	73
SQ17-000040	Xenophon	Child Support	When will the Government make a decision on the implementation of penalties for non-lodgement or late lodgement of tax returns for child support clients?	76
SQ17-000041	Watt	PES and EdEP	Please provide the number of people in receipt of each of the Education Entry Payment and Pensioner Education Supplement by electorate, state and primary payment type.	Written
SQ17-000043	Watt	PES and EdEP	Can you please provide the average income of people in receipt of the Education Entry Payment and Pensioner Education Supplement.	Written
SQ17-000045	Watt	Family Tax Benefit	Have you provided advice to ministers on the income distribution of families that will be losing FTB payments?	78

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000046	Di Natale	Multiculturalism - Multicultural Policy Statement	<p>1. What progress has been made on a Multicultural Policy Statement?</p> <p>2. Is the policy that's on the DSS website the current government's policy?</p> <p>3. What is the status / progress of the Government's new multicultural policy (if any)?</p> <p>4. Is there a consultation draft of the policy?</p> <p>5. Can you outline how the new policy might differ or improve on the one that's currently on the DSS website?</p>	Written
SQ17-000047	Pratt	Energy Supplement	<p>How many people overall who currently receive the energy supplement will lose their payments, that is, those who began receiving the payment since 20 September 2016? Can you advise of the number of people receiving Newstart, pension, carer payments and other payments that would be impacted by the cutting of the energy supplement. Please provide this information by state, electorate and type of payment.</p>	80
SQ17-000048	Siewert	National Redress Scheme	<p>Please provide an update on the development of the National Redress Scheme.</p>	Written
SQ17-000049	Pratt	Energy Supplement	<p>Have you factored in people spending less time overseas because of the energy supplement changes, into the figures of how many pensioners will be impacted by the loss of the pension supplement after six weeks overseas?</p>	81
SQ17-000050	Siewert	National Action Plan	<p>As I understand the evaluation of the Second Action Plan under the National Plan was carried out by KPMG and it's finished, but it hasn't been released. Is that correct?</p> <p>a. What is the justification for not releasing the evaluation?</p> <p>b. The National Plan Evaluation Plan, which sets out the government's approach to evaluation for the whole 12 year National Plan was adopted in June 2014. In the Executive Summary on page 2, after outlining the evaluation methods which include these reviews of the Action Plans, the Evaluation Plan says "With these evaluation activities, governments and the community will be able to measure the effectiveness of the National Plan every three years and at the end of the National Plan's 12-year lifespan." How can the community measure the effectiveness of the Action plan if you won't release the evaluation?</p> <p>c. When you commissioned KPMG to conduct the evaluation, did you tell them that you were planning to keep it secret?</p>	Written
SQ17-000051	Siewert	National Action Plan	<p>How can we expect services like Women's Legal Service, or any one of the community legal centres affected by this cut, to continue delivering the same quality services, let alone better services, when their core ongoing funding is going to be cut?</p>	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000052	Siewert	National Action Plan	How many meetings have you had with the Attorney-General's Department to discuss this? a. Have you briefed your Minister on the likely impact of these cuts on the success of the National Plan? b. Has your Minister or a Minister assisting met with the Attorney-General about these cuts?	Written
SQ17-000053	Siewert	National Action Plan	What responsibility do you have for ensuring the plan is implemented? a. How will the Government's cuts affect the plan's implementation?	Written
SQ17-000054	Watt	PES and EdEP	How many people receive both the Education Entry Payment and the Pensioner Education Supplement?	Written
SQ17-000055	Siewert	National Action Plan	Under the Third Action Plan of the National Plan To Reduce Violence Against Women And Their Children, there is a commitment in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children to "[2.4(c)] Improve and expand on current services so they provide intensive, holistic, culturally sensitive responses." As I understand it, the Government is planning to cut \$18m from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services from 1 July this year. Have you had any engagement with the Attorney-General's Department who are responsible for this cut?	Written
SQ17-000056	Pratt	Pension Supplement	Can you advise how many of the 175,000 pensioners that will be impacted by the loss of the pension supplement after six weeks overseas, are full pensioners?	81
SQ17-000057	Siewert	National Action Plan	Community legal centres turn away 160,000 people seeking help every single year. Are you concerned that this number will increase as a result of the cut to core federal funding for community legal centres?	Written
SQ17-000058	Siewert	National Action Plan	Under the Third Action Plan of the National Plan To Reduce Violence Against Women And Their Children, there is a general commitment to improve support services for women fleeing domestic violence. Do you see the cut to core funding for community legal centres as consistent with this commitment?	Written
SQ17-000059	Siewert	National Action Plan	I understand from the community legal sector that services supporting women fleeing domestic violence will be forced to close, or scale back their service as a consequence of a cut to core federal funding for community legal centres from 1 July this year. Have you had any engagement with the community legal sector about this?	Written
SQ17-000060	Watt	Education Supplement	What is the policy rationale to remove the pensioner education supplement?	82

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000061	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card	Please provide an update on the number of reports you have had from Indue on investigations into unusual merchant activity and investigations into unusual trial participation activity since the trial commenced. a. For both areas, how many investigations have been carried out? b. What was the nature of the unusual activity and what was the outcome of each investigation?	Written
SQ17-000062	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card	Are you collaborating data with the WA Government to examine the impact of the card and people's ability to repay debts owed to Fines and Infringements?	Written
SQ17-000063	Siewert	Welfare Reviews	For those that have been reviewed, how many are reporting earnings in both categories, under 35 and over 35?	83
SQ17-000064	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card	Please provide the data the Government has regarding changes in the number of police call outs by incident classification, charges laid, prosecutions, sentence type (categorised).	Written
SQ17-000065	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card	Since the card was introduced, domestic violence has increased in the East Kimberley. What specifically is the government doing about addressing this? a. How do you justify continuing the trial when this is the case?	Written
SQ17-000066	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card	The Government and agencies have called the East Kimberley trial community controlled but what specifically has the Government done to listen to concerns of community members outside the consulted leadership group?	Written
SQ17-000067	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card	What specific personal data is given to Indue? a. How do they use this information?	Written
SQ17-000068	Siewert	Welfare Reviews	For those under 35 who have moved from DSP to Newstart, what is their employment participation and their employment servicing?	84
SQ17-000069	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card	1. What legal advice on privacy did you seek before making the decision not to disclose the names of community members on the panels? 2. What specific personal information is given to members of these panels?	Written
SQ17-000070	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card	How many people have had the amount quarantined on the card reduced? a. What are the reasons for requests to reduce the amount quarantined being rejected?	Written
SQ17-000071	Siewert	Medical Review	Please advise of those whose income support status changed from DSP to an activity-tested payment, such as youth allowance or Newstart, as a consequence of the medical review and what proportion of them subsequently reported earnings or gained employment?	86
SQ17-000072	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card	In relation to the Cashless Debit Card, how many people have approached the panel in the East Kimberley?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000074	Siewert	Exemptions	For the whole of group on an activity-tested payment like youth allowance or Newstart; what proportion have a temporary exemption from the activity test due to an incapacity? and within that, what proportion have that exemption for up to 52 weeks, versus those who have a short-term exemption that has to be continued if they continue to have that issue?	87
SQ17-000077	Siewert	Exemptions	How many of the 95% that were assessed as having a partial capacity to work have subsequently gone onto total exemption or temporary exemption?	87
SQ17-000079	Siewert	NDIS Transition	In relation to the answer provided to question on notice 428 from Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016-17, given that support for carers will be tied to the eligibility of the person they care for, how will data on the amount of support going to carers be collected? a. How will you ensure there is information gathered on carers to monitor what and how much support is provided, particularly post MHR:CS funding transitioning to the NDIS?	Written
SQ17-000081	Siewert	Under 35s Review	Please provide an updated figure of how many people have been moved off DSP and onto Newstart as a result of the under-35s reviews.	87
SQ17-000082	Siewert	NDIS Transition	What is the timeframe for developing ongoing supports for those who currently receive Commonwealth funded mental health programs but who won't be eligible for the NDIS after that funding transitions, noting funding to continue accessing supports is time limited and will decrease as NDIS transition approaches and that for people not eligible for the NDIS that support will end? a. What do the words 'no disadvantage' and 'continuity of support' actually mean in practice when the transitional funding will end, states and territories might remove funding, and people may not get a service from either federal or state or territory programs? b. Who is responsible in this situation?	Written
SQ17-000083	Siewert	NDIS Trials	In relation to the answer provided to question on notice 427 from Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016-17, were the figures provided for all trial sites? a. If not, which trial sites? b. What happened to the other 39 clients? c. What is the process for determining and recording for all the people in PHaMs – post-NDIS transition for all areas – the numbers who won't be eligible for the NDIS?	Written

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SQ17-000084	Siewert	NDIS Transition	The response to question on notice 401 from Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016-17 stated that “[f]or Commonwealth funded providers of community mental health services, funding is allocated to providers for this purpose, while longer-term arrangements are developed. It is a matter for state and territory governments how they provide this support.” Is this response saying that when Commonwealth programs currently delivered in community managed mental health settings transition to the NDIS, that people receiving these services but not eligible for the NDIS will be the responsibility of the state and territories?	Written
SQ17-000085	Carol Brown	Try, Test and Learn Fund - Policy Hack	Can the committee receive a copy of the invitation and participant list to the Policy Hack held in Melbourne?	89
SQ17-000086	Siewert	NDIS - Bilateral Agreements	The response to question on notice 400 from Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016-17 suggests that the bilateral agreements for the NDIS between each state and territory and the Government outline exactly what each state and territory and the Government will be funding. While there is information about funding, exact funding contributions to the NDIS from the states and territories are not readily available. If the information is in the bilaterals, can the government state definitively where – this does not include tables which include expected or estimated contributions and amounts – but the total figure of annual committed contributions to the NDIS from existing state and territory mental health funds? a. The bilaterals do not address who is responsible for funding where the estimated total number of clients is reached or surpassed. What is the process if this occurs, and is there a default to the legislation which states that the NDIA/NDIS must provide support to people who are eligible for the scheme?	Written
SQ17-000088	Siewert	Funds for Mental Health Programs Transitioning to the NDIS	In 2016-2017 funds for many mental health programs, such as Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs), began transitioning to the NDIS. Currently, in 2016-17 funds for this program have been cut by 7%, which will increase to 30% in 2017-18 and 71% in 2018-19. However, many programs report no PHaMs clients have been moved over to the NDIS yet, despite funds already been cut. Where is the money going? a. How are service providers expected to continue to provide services with cuts to funding and meet the NDIA’s service guarantee?	Written
SQ17-000089	Siewert	NDIS Housing	The NDIS is only a small part of the housing solution for people with disability. What data is the government collecting on NDIS participants who cannot find suitable accommodation? a. What are we finding out about housing barriers for people with disability?	Written

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SQ17-000090	Siewert	NDIS Housing	When will the NDIS housing legislative instrument be registered? a. Why has there been such a delay in finalising it, given it was promised by 1 July 2016?	Written
SQ17-000091	Carol Brown	Try, Test and Learn Fund	Could you please provide a list of people who are on the expert advisory panel who will be assisting the co-development process for the Try, Test and Learn Fund.	91
SQ17-000093	Siewert	DES Funding	Productivity Commission data indicates that the average DES funding level has fallen by 18% between 2010 and 2014 and another 5% in from 2014 to 2016. Will the Department ensure that there will be no further decreases in funding from the current program expenditure (i.e. \$800 million per year)?	Written
SQ17-000094	Siewert	DES Program	If there is no indexation attached to the new DES and organisations are supposed to operate based on productivity gains and reduced administrative burden as cost savings, has the Department done modelling that interested stakeholders can see, to demonstrate those cost savings as increased income to operate without indexation? If so, please provide a copy.	Written
SQ17-000095	Siewert	DES Program	Do you have an evidence based calculation on where red tape reduction can be made in the new DES and productivity gains can be made? a. If so, are we able to see that document?	Written
SQ17-000096	Siewert	DES Discussion Paper	On Page 52 of the discussion paper <i>New Disability Employment Services from 2018</i> it states that “[t]o identify and develop innovative projects for employing people with disability, the Government will support several projects based on proposals developed by employers.” Can you tell us about these employer projects? a. How do employers get involved?	Written
SQ17-000097	Siewert	Try, Test and Learn Fund - Policy Hack	Were there any participants that attended the Policy Hack who did not sign the agreement?	95
SQ17-000098	Siewert	Moderate and High On-Going Support	Can you explain how Moderate and High On-Going Support works? a. What is the current level of spending under Moderate and High Ongoing Support? b. Will these components remain under the new DES?	Written
SQ17-000099	Siewert	DES Discussion Paper	On Page 50 of the discussion paper <i>New Disability Employment Services from 2018</i> it states that “[t]he majority of DES participants placed in employment exit DES before having an Ongoing Support Assessment. This means around 2,000 people exit DES, per month, as independent workers, without being assessed for their need for additional support in the workplace.” Is this practice an effective use of the Ongoing Support component of DES?	Written
SQ17-000100	Siewert	DES Program	Will the new DES allow for part time jobs to be considered as outcomes?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000101	Siewert	DES Program	Will there be streamlined arrangements for school students who wish to enter the DES program? a. What are these arrangements?	Written
SQ17-000102	Siewert	ESA Panels	Does the Department intend to run a tender or purchasing exercise to select new providers for ESA panels, or if a provider is on one panel in an ESA, will that give them access to all ESAs in that state? a. When are you proposing to advertise these purchasing arrangements? b. How will you ensure that the new market will work? c. Will the Government guarantee a minimum and maximum indicative caseload capacity for each successful panellist?	Written
SQ17-000103	Siewert	DES Contract	The current DES contract is due to expire in March 2018. You are obviously working on a tight time frame. Will all current providers be rolled over to ensure a smooth transition for providers and participants? a. If not, are you considering a partial roll over of current providers? b. What percentage of providers will be rolled over?	Written
SQ17-000104	Siewert	DES Fee Structure	Please provide information about the new risk adjusted outcome fee structure that is proposed under the new DES.	Written
SQ17-000105	Pratt	DSP Review	How much is it costing to undertake the DSP review?	97
SQ17-000106	Watt	Energy Supplement	Please provide the number of people who will not receive the Energy Supplement as a result of its abolition for new recipients, by payment type, electorate and state.	Written
SQ17-000107	Watt	Pension Supplement	Could you please provide the number of Age Pensioners by whether they receive a full or part rate by electorate and state.	Written
SQ17-000108	Watt	Pension Supplement	How many Pensioners will be impacted by the measure to remove the pension supplement after six weeks overseas? Could you please provide this by electorate and state?	Written
SQ17-000109	Watt	Pension Portability	Please provide the average retirement age of pensioners with an AWLR of less than 35 years.	Written
SQ17-000110	Watt	Pension Portability	Please provide the number of pensioners with an AWLR of less than 35 years by electorate and by state.	Written
SQ17-000111	Watt	Pension Portability	Please provide the number of age pensioners with an AWLR of less than 35 years by country of birth.	Written
SQ17-000112	Watt	Newstart eligibility age	Please provide the number of Newstart claimants aged 22, 23 and 24 by electorate and by state.	Written
SQ17-000113	Watt	Newstart eligibility age	Please provide the total number of Newstart recipients aged under 25 years of age who reside in a Priority Employment Area.	Written

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SQ17-000115	Watt	Four week waiting period for Youth Income Support	How many people under 25 will be affected by the four week wait measure?	Written
SQ17-000116	Watt	Four week waiting period for Youth Income Support	How many people under 25 will have to wait to access income support by electorate and state?	Written
SQ17-000117	Watt	Four week waiting period for Youth Income Support	How many people under 25 will have to wait to access income support by Priority Employment Area?	Written
SQ17-000118	Watt	Increase the age of Newstart and Sickness Allowance	How many people will be impacted by the changes to the age of eligibility for Newstart Allowance, by electorate and state?	Written
SQ17-000119	Watt	NDIS - WA Agreement	What will the Commonwealth save as a result of the Bi-lateral WA NDIS agreement with WA?	Written
SQ17-000121	Smith	Evaluation of NDIA Trials	Was part of the MOU or contract or agreement that the Department had with WA, that they would choose the reviewer?	100
SQ17-000122	Watt	Child Support	Please provide the number of child support recipients who receive their child support via CSA by electorate and by state	Written
SQ17-000125	Watt	Child Support	Please provide the number of child support recipients who receive payments through private agreements, registered with CSA by electorate and by state.	Written
SQ17-000126	Watt	Evaluation of NDIA Trials	Did the evaluators have any consultation with the other states as part of this review?	102
SQ17-000128	Siewert	Evaluation of NDIA Trials	How much is it expected that the Commonwealth saves by WA funding the administration?	105 and 111
SQ17-000130	Reynolds	Permanent Residential Care	Please provide a breakdown by state of young people aged under 65 receiving permanent residential care. A) Also breakdown by the condition which has led them to be in an aged-care facility.	109
SQ17-000132	Watt	Child Support	How many child support recipients also receive FTB B payments? Please provide this data by electorate and by state.	Written
SQ17-000133	Reynolds	NDIS Plans	Can you provide an update with the next lot of regular data in terms of how many people have got plans and how many are in the process of getting plans. And then could you estimate that forwards, with the total number of people in aged care? Could the committee have updates every estimates - or periodically - on how many you are forecasting?	109

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SQ17-000134	Reynolds	NDIS Process	Under the NDIS Act, we have rules and we have phasing rules, and that is where we set down in a legislative instrument how people will come in. We would be aiming to agree with the states and territories, so we would need to work with them about how we may bring people in, in that way. And the NDIA works on that basis then. Can I perhaps ask you to take on notice to provide a little more information on that process? I think it would be interesting for us, but also for the applicants and people that work in the area, to get a little more clarity on how that is going to work, in terms of the phasing and the timing.	110
SQ17-000135	Carol Brown	NDIS Act	Could you please advise what amendments will need to be made to the NDIS Act as a result of the agreement with WA?	112
SQ17-000136	Carol Brown	Evaluation of NDIA Trials	I would like to clarify if Minister Porter had signed off on the release of the evaluation?	113
SQ17-000137	Reynolds	NDIS	Can you advise whether the options in the document provided by Senator Reynolds are viable or not?	116-117
SQ17-000138	Reynolds	YPIRAC	Young people in aged care would not be required to pay for fees that relate to their care and support in the aged care facility.' Does that mean they transfer off pensions to the disability support pension plus additional support? How does this actually work? Once they are enrolled and have a plan, how does a payment for the aged care accommodation work?	117
SQ17-000139	Reynolds	ACAT Assessments	Can you confirm if people who have ACAT assessments will come off DSP and go onto a pension? Given that they are still significantly financially disadvantaged by being on a pension and not in the DSP with other allowances that they have had in other facilities, could you unpack that for us?	117
SQ17-000140	Siewert	Specialist Disability Accommodation Funding	How is the specialist disability accommodation funding going to work in WA?	119
SQ17-000141	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card	Could you please provide the names of the community leaders from both trial sites involved in discussions over the continuation or cessation of the current trial.	123
SQ17-000142	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card	What was the exact date that trial participants could select Savings or Cheque when making purchases? How much are Credit transaction fees for using the CDC? What is the maximum charge someone has received?	124
SQ17-000143	Dodson	Cashless Debit Card	How many people have exited the trial? How many people have received a reduction in their quarantined amount on application to the community panel?	126

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000144	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card Evaluation	How many people refused to complete the survey that was being used for the Cashless Debit Card evaluation? How were refusals dealt with in terms of whether it was counted as people having concerns, et cetera?	127
SQ17-000145	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card Evaluation	How many people attended the consultation process that was held at the main park of Kununarra?	127
SQ17-000146	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card Evaluation	Can you provide a list of each of the centres where you did the more public consultations?	127
SQ17-000147	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card Evaluation	Can you please provide a full list of discussions the interviewers and evaluators have held with community leaders and the broader community regarding the Cashless Debit Card and how many people have attended?	128
SQ17-000148	Waters	National Plan – evaluation of the Second Action Plan	<p>1. In relation to the evaluation of the Second Action Plan under the National Plan. Our understanding is that an evaluation was carried out by KPMG and it's finished and sitting on someone's desk, but it hasn't been released. Is that correct?</p> <p>2. An evaluation like this will only happen four times in the 12 years of the National Plan – one for each of the Action Plans. What is the justification for not releasing the evaluation?</p> <p>3. The National Plan Evaluation Plan,[2] which sets out the government's approach to evaluation for the whole 12 year National Plan was adopted in June 2014. In the Executive Summary on page 2, after outlining the evaluation methods which include these reviews of the Action Plans, the Evaluation Plan says "With these evaluation activities, governments and the community will be able to measure the effectiveness of the National Plan every three years and at the end of the National Plan's 12-year lifespan." – How can the community measure the effectiveness of the Action plan if you won't release the evaluation?</p> <p>4. If sensitivity is an issue, can the Department simply withhold any particularly sensitive parts?</p> <p>5. When the Department commissioned KPMG to conduct the evaluation, did you tell them that you were planning to keep it secret?</p> <p>6. Could that explain why there might be sensitive material in the evaluation?</p>	Written
SQ17-000149	Siewert	Cashless Debit Card	What support services and local partners were provided funding?	129
SQ17-000150	Leyonhjelm	Violence Against Women Campaign	Can you give a citation for the claim that disrespect and gender inequality is where violence against women begins and is at the heart of the issue?	130
SQ17-000151	Watt	Child Support	What proportion of child support recipients receive income support payments?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000152	Leyonhjelm	Violence Against Women Campaign	Can you give a citation that suggests that poverty, alcohol abuse and drug abuse are not where extreme violence against women begins and are not at the heart of the issue?	131
SQ17-000153	Pratt	1800RESPECT	Can you provide a breakdown of the areas of complaints that 1800RESPECT has been receiving?	134
SQ17-000154	Watt	Child Support	What is the median income of child support recipients? Please provide this data by electorate and by state.	Written
SQ17-000155	Watt	Child Support	What proportion of child support recipients are re-partnered?	Written
SQ17-000156	Pratt	Grants	For agreements expiring on 30 June 2017, how many will be offered extensions?	136
SQ17-000157	Watt	Child Support	What proportion of child support payers are re-partnered?	Written
SQ17-000158	Watt	Child Support	What proportion of child support recipients are female? Male?	Written
SQ17-000159	Pratt	Program Redesign	There are a number of programs that are required to be redesigned. I have the <i>Strong and resilient communities</i> paper in front of me. Can you please provide the committee with the papers attached to the redesign? For the papers that are not out, can you provide a time line for the rest of them?	136
SQ17-000160	Watt	Child Support	On average, how many children do child support payers pay child support for?	Written
SQ17-000161	Watt	Child Support	How many children in the following age brackets have active child support cases; 0-3, 4 - 7, 9 - 12, 13 - 15, 16 - 18?	Written
SQ17-000162	Siewert	Program Redesign	Are there other programs that are subject to a review (i.e. review of peak disability advocacy groups) of that nature that are outstanding at the moment? Please advise of programs that are still undergoing review and for which the future is yet to be determined.	137
SQ17-000163	Watt	Child Support	What proportion of child support recipients are owed arrears?	Written
SQ17-000164	Pratt	Volunteer Support Services	Will you continue to fund volunteer support services?	139
SQ17-000165	Watt	Child Support	What is the average amount of arrears owed?	Written
SQ17-000167	Pratt	Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse	What is in your plan to ensure that you are able to respond quickly to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. I am more interested in the preventative aspects relating to current children in Australia rather than the redress scheme.	141
SQ17-000168	Watt	NDIS - WA Agreement	What is the difference in the Commonwealth's expenditure on the NDIS as a result of this agreement with WA, as opposed to a fully national scheme?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000169	Watt	NDIS - WA Agreement	How much will it cost WA to run their own scheme? Could this please be broken down into administration costs and costs that result from the different risk sharing for WA in this agreement.	Written
SQ17-000170	Watt	NDIS Act Legislation Changes	What will the legislative changes to the NDIS Act (2013) entail? When does the Government intend to introduce these changes?	Written
SQ17-000171	Waters	National Plan on VAW – cuts to front line legal services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are already hearing from the CLC sector that services supporting women fleeing domestic violence will be forced to close, or scale back their service. Have you had any engagement with the CLC sector about that? 2. Under the Third Action Plan of the National Plan To Reduce Violence Against Women And Their Children, [1] there is a general commitment to improve support services for women fleeing DV. Do you see this cut to core funding for CLCs as consistent with this commitment? 3. CLCs already turn away 160,000 people seeking help every single year – why aren't you more concerned that that number is about to get a lot bigger? 4. Also under the Third Action Plan, there is a commitment in relation to Aboriginal and TSI services to “[2.4(c)] Improve and expand on current services so they provide intensive, holistic, culturally sensitive responses.” Our understanding of the government's policy is to cut \$18m from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services from 1 July 2017. Have you had any engagement with the Attorney General's Department who are responsible for this cut? 5. Do you see it as your job to help make sure the plan is implemented? How can there be such a huge disconnect? 6. How many meetings has the Department had with AGD to discuss this? 7. Have you briefed your Minister about the likely impact of these cuts on the success of the National Plan? 8. Has your Minister or a Minister assisting met with the Attorney General about these cuts? 	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000172	Collins	Settlement Services	<p>In relation to SQ16-000301:</p> <p>a) Does the Minister or department see any links between multicultural policy and settlement services and issues of race and racism?</p> <p>b) Does the Minister or department see any links between multicultural policy and settlement services and issues of radicalisation?</p> <p>c) Has the department provided any briefing to the Minister or Minister's office on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racism • The Racial Discrimination Act • Section 18C <p>Has the Minister has been provided briefing from other department's (for example the Attorney General's department) in relation to 18C, the Racial Discrimination Act or Racism as it pertains to their portfolio responsibilities?</p>	Written
SQ17-000173	Collins	Settlement Services	<p>In relation to the Ernst and Young report "Evaluation of the Humanitarian Settlement Services and Complex Case Support Programs" Commissioned by the department: a) The Ernst & Young report's 4th recommendation says to 'make the performance framework of the HSS programme more outcomes-focused' and recommendation five recommends merging the HSS and CCS to be replaced with a HSS plus model. Can the department update the committee on if this is currently in the Department's planning and if so what stage it is at?</p>	Written
SQ17-000174	Collins	Strengthening Communities Redesign	<p>Regarding SQ16-000450</p> <p>a) Who was shortlisted for the Stage 1 process and invited to participate in the co-design workshop on 10, 15 or 17 November 2016</p> <p>b) How many of those participants are existing providers and how many are new organisations wishing to be involved</p> <p>c) Can you explain if there is a reason behind any substantive change or lack thereof of the makeup of the organisations participating in the tender process compared to existing providers?</p> <p>d) Can you provide the information gathered from the co-design workshop that is informing the program redesign?</p> <p>e) In the previous Senate estimates you stated that Stage Two of the tender process would invite organisations shortlisted from Stage One to tender for the delivery of the Humanitarian Settlement Program in early 2017, where is that process at as of now? If there is a deviation from the timeline given can you please provide an explanation as to why there has been a delay or forwarding of that timeframe?</p>	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000175	Collins	Strengthening Communities Redesign	How does the redesign of the Strengthening Communities program keep in line with the Governments Multicultural Policy?	Written
SQ17-000176	Collins	Strengthening Communities Redesign	What evaluations were done in relation to the existing programs?	Written
SQ17-000177	Collins	Strengthening Communities Redesign	Given the new funding model for the Strengthening Communities program is broader in scope than the existing model, and given it is replacing grant programs specifically to multicultural groups (specifically the Diversity and Social Cohesion and Multicultural Arts and Festivals grants), does that mean the only specifically Multicultural programs is the funding to FECCA when you consider the body of funding the Diversity and Social Cohesion and Multicultural Arts and Festivals grant programs are being subsumed into a broader non multicultural specific pool of funding? Can the Department outline what funding will be for specific multicultural programs given the response received in the previous Senate Estimates to SQ16-000300.	Written
SQ17-000178	Collins	Strengthening Communities Redesign	In relation to the redesign of the Strengthening Communities program, how many multicultural organisations that received funding in the last Multicultural Arts & Festival Grants funding round were consulted in this process. What feedback have they provided? Can you provide a list of which organisations have been consulted?	Written
SQ17-000179	Carol Brown	Priority Investment Approach to Welfare - Try, Test & Learn	Are there any other avenues for potential pilot projects to be put forward and/or considered other than through the Ideas Submission Round and the Policy Hack?	Written
SQ17-000180	Carol Brown	Social Services Omnibus Bill	Both the current and lapsed version of these Bills have proposed the removal of the Pensioner Education Supplement and the Education Entry Payment; with the rationale that individuals on payments will be able to access a same or similar service through Job Active Employment Fund. The Employment Fund General Account Guidelines (page 6) states that this fund is for individuals seeking employment through a Job Active Provider; that is, an activity tested payment. Is the Government moving to have Carer Payment activity tested; or do they simply not want carers to be able to afford an education?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000181	Carol Brown	NDIS - Second Implementation Plan	<p>1. In the Second Implementation Plan under the National Disability Strategy, four priority areas were highlighted, including 'Communications activities to promote the Strategy'. What, if anything, has been done to progress this priority area?</p> <p>2. What work has the Ministerial advisory council done to advance 'Transitioning to the full NDIS' a priority area identified in the Second Implementation Plan?</p> <p>3. What work has the Ministerial advisory council done to advance 'Improving employment outcomes for people with disability' a priority area identified in the Second Implementation Plan?</p> <p>4. What work has the Ministerial advisory council done to advance "Improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability' a priority area identified in the Second Implementation Plan?</p> <p>5. Can the Department provide a forward work program available for the Ministerial Advisory Council, including a schedule of meetings?</p> <p>6. Can the Department provide a forward work program available for the National Disability & Carers Advisory Council and a schedule of meetings?</p>	Written
SQ17-000182	Carol Brown	Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services	<p>1. Is the Government seeking to change the eligibility framework for the Carer Payment or the Carer Allowance?</p> <p>2. The MYEFO (page 46) notes a reduction in "payments related to the Income Support for Carers program, which are expected to decrease by \$127 million in 2016-17 (\$1.9 billion over the four years to 2019-20), largely reflecting lower than expected growth in the number of Carer Payment recipients." The PBO MYEFO Charts (page 16) notes that "relative to the 2016-17 Budget, policy decisions are expected to decrease expenses on income support for carers by \$0.2 billion over the four years to 2019-20". The PBO Charts reveal the government is planning a policy intervention that would see \$200M worth of payments stricken from the forward estimates; which carers is the government going to throw off the payment?</p>	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000183	Carol Brown	DES Discussion Paper - Transition / Performance Framework	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With this level of change to a market model, what is the Government / Department doing in terms of DES Sector Development to ensure a seamless transition for providers, participants and employers? 2. Will any components of the new DES be tested before the new model actually begins? 3. Can the Department explain the proposed purchasing arrangements for the new DES and Does DSS have sufficient resources to undertake a large procurement exercise in this time frame? 4. If there is a tender, what will be the selection criteria to select providers and how will suitable panellists be determined (p. 30 to 31 Discussion Paper)? 5. Will the Government allow an unlimited number of providers in each ESA? (p. 30 Discussion Paper). 6. We understand there will be changes to test some of the new proposals under the current contract. Will the Department consider removing the 78 week program review? 7. It can be assumed that, with the move to the new model, the Performance Framework of DES will have to be amended (for example inclusion of 4 and 52 week paid outcomes, changes to ongoing support). What will this new framework look like and will providers' performance start 'afresh' from the beginning of the new DES or will you continue with the 3 year rolling data? 	Written
SQ17-000184	Carol Brown	DES Discussion Paper - School to Work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will the new DES allow students with disability to be able to access DES assistance earlier to make a more effective transition from school to work? 2. Will the new DES be more flexible in terms of allowing students to be placed in part time or casual jobs? 3. How can DSS work with States to build an employment advice and support system within schools, to encourage students with disability to dream big? 	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000185	Carol Brown	DES Discussion Paper - Choice & Control	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With the move to a 'Choice and Control' model where a participant chooses their provider, what will be the role of Centrelink, if any, in the referral process of participants, given that the current program is based on Centrelink making most of the referrals to providers? 2. Can the Department provide an update on the proposed review of the Gateway and Assessment Process (as suggested in the Discussion Paper (pg. 46)? 3. Can the Department explain in detail how choice and control will operate in the new DES? 4. Will the participant have choice and support to make that choice and how will that work? 5. How does activity tested policy align with choice and control? 6. Will the Job Plan be the province of the participant and the provider or will it be controlled through the ESS computer system? 	Written
SQ17-000186	Carol Brown	DES Discussion Paper - Ongoing Support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much is currently spent on On-Going Support across DES and is Ongoing Support considered an outcome payment of the program? If not, why? 2. How does the new DES propose to increase expenditure on this part of the program? 3. Will all participants who reach a 26 week employment outcome be required to have an Ongoing Support Assessment under the proposed new DES? And consequentially, will Ongoing Support commence at 26 weeks of employment as a way of supporting participants to a 52 week outcome? 4. Providers say that the compliance and performance framework are reasons for the decline in take up of Ongoing Support – so how can the take up of Ongoing Support be increased, as it is a proven mechanism for people with disability staying in employment? 	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000187	Carol Brown	DES Discussion Paper - Fee Structure	<p>1. The DES Discussion Paper states ‘the current funding model weights service and outcome fees equally. However, actual expenditure indicates that 60-70 per cent of total DES expenditure is on Service Fees’ (see Page 37). There is usually a lot of work that goes into preparing a DES participant to be job ready before referring them to jobs. Is the Government looking at changing the fee split between Service Fees and Outcome fees?</p> <p>2. Can the Department give some detail about proposed changes to the service fee / outcome fee split?</p> <p>3. The DES discussion paper proposes new outcome payments for 4 and 52 weeks of employment (page 42-43 Discussion Paper). How will these be funded and will these new payment points mean that the Performance Framework (e.g. Star Ratings) will have to be amended?</p> <p>4. Has the proposed model of Risk-Adjusted outcome fees been built and if so has the model been tested with providers or will it be tested before the ‘new DES’ is implemented?</p>	Written
SQ17-000188	Carol Brown	BSWAT payment scheme	<p>1. How many eligible workers have registered applications with the Department for the BSWAT payment scheme?</p> <p>2. What is the expected average payment for successful claimants under the BSWAT payment scheme?</p> <p>3. How many BSWAT payment scheme claimants have been rejected?</p> <p>4. What efforts have been made to communicate the outcome of the Federal Court ruling in the class action led by Tyson Duval-Comrie with workers who are potentially eligible for the BSWAT payment scheme?</p>	Written
SQ17-000189	Pratt	Variations in Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements	In respect of the items listed as ‘other variations’ in Table 1.3 on page 24 of the 2016/17 PAES - What do you class as ‘other variations’? For each of the years 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 the reasons for the changes shown? Why are the reasons for these ‘other variations’ not included in the PAES?	Written
SQ17-000190	Pratt	Variations in Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements	In respect of the items listed as ‘changes in parameters’ in Table 1.3 on page 24 of the 2016/17 PAES - what factors that to you class as ‘parameters’ are used when estimating the figures for the forward years? How are these calculated and why do they change? For each of the years 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 the reasons for the changes shown? Why are the reasons for these ‘parameter changes’ not included in the PAES?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000191	Pratt	Variations in Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements	In respect of the items listed as 'movements of funds' in table 1.3 on page 24 of the 2016/17 PAES - what are the reasons for the addition of funds in each of the years 2018/19 and 2019/20?	Written
SQ17-000192	Pratt	Variations in Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements	In respect of the items listed as 'movements of funds' in table 1.3 on page 24 of the 2016/17 PAES - what are the reasons for reductions and additions of funds for 2017/18?	Written
SQ17-000193	Pratt	Variations in Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements	In respect of the items listed as 'movements of funds' (net increase) in Table 1.3 on page 24 of the 2016/17 PAES - there is an increase of \$96 000 for 2016/17? Can you explain why this is?	Written
SQ17-000194	Pratt	Variations in Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements	In respect of the items listed as 'movements of funds' (net decrease) in Table 1.3 on page 24 of the 2016/17 PAES - Is the figure in brackets for 2016/17 of 19,378 a reduction of roughly \$19 million? If so, what are the reasons for this? Is this money simply being moved forward into future years? If there is expected to be an 'underspend' on these programs in 2016/17, why was the estimate increased substantially at the 2016/17 Budget in May 2016?	Written
SQ17-000195	Pratt	Volunteer Grants	Once the department makes a decision on the outcome of these applications, I understand the list of successful organisations will go to the Minister. Will the Minister announce these before the department advises successful organisations? Will all local Members of Parliament be notified of successful organisations in their electorate?	Written
SQ17-000196	Pratt	Volunteer Grants	With reference to the most recent round of volunteer grants - applications closed on 20 December 2016, is that correct? Where is this process at now? When do you expect a final decision to be made?	Written
SQ17-000197	Pratt	Communities for Children	What work has the department undertaken in respect to the outcomes and effectiveness of the communities for children program? Please outline progress of outcomes under this program.	Written
SQ17-000198	Pratt	Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY)	Do you have any plans for the future of the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) program after it ends in 2018?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000199	Pratt	Staffing	Since 1 July 2016, please outline how many non-ongoing and ongoing staff have been recruited, and what their classifications are.	Written
SQ17-000200	Pratt	Staffing	Are there plans for any further staff reductions? If so, please provide the reasons why; the reduction target; and the anticipated impact of this on any services or programs.	Written
SQ17-000201	Pratt	Staffing	Since 1 July 2016, please outline any staff reductions, and provide a breakdown of these reductions by reason (e.g. compulsory redundancy, voluntary redundancy, staff who resigned and were not replaced).	Written
SQ17-000202	Pratt	Staffing	Since 1 July 2016, has there been any change to the staffing profile of the department? If so, please provide a list of changes to staffing numbers, broken down by classification level, division, home base location (including town/city and state).	Written
SQ17-000203	Pratt	Ministerial Visits	Would you please advise for the period since 1 July 2016 for the Minister and each Assistant Minister how many a) Visits were made to Departmental offices in Canberra; and b) Visits were made to Departmental offices outside Canberra and to which ones?	Written
SQ17-000204	Pratt	Ministerial Briefings	Would you please advise for the period since 1 July 2016 for the Minister and each Assistant Minister how many a) Written briefing notes were prepared; and b) Briefings were provided face-to-face by departmental officers? In each case could you indicate how many were initiated by the Minister's or Assistant Ministers' office.	Written
SQ17-000205	Pratt	Department Media Monitoring	From 1 July 2016 - What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Department during the specified period? Which agency or agencies provided these services? What has been spent providing these services during the specified period? Please itemise these expenses.	Written
SQ17-000206	Pratt	Ministerial Office Media Monitoring	From 1 July 2016 - What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the office of the Minister and each of the Assistant Ministers during the specified period? Which agency or agencies provided these services? What has been spent providing these services during the specified period? Please Itemise these expenses.	Written
SQ17-000207	Bilyk	Websites	1. What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by departmental staff in calendar year 2016? 2. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by departmental staff in calendar year 2016?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000208	Bilyk	iTunes/Androids	<p>1. Does the Department have an iTunes account? If so, what was the total expenditure on iTunes in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through iTunes in calendar year 2016?</p> <p>2. Does the Department have an Android account? If so, what was the total expenditure on Android in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through Android in calendar year 2016?</p> <p>3. Do any ministerial offices in the portfolio have an iTunes account? If so, what was the total expenditure on iTunes in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? Please provide separate figures for each Minister. What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through iTunes in calendar year 2016?</p> <p>4. Do any ministerial offices have an Android account? If so, what was the total expenditure on Android in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? Please provide separate figures for each Minister. What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through Android in calendar year 2016?</p>	Written
SQ17-000209	Bilyk	Redundancies	<p>1. How many staff were made redundant in calendar year 2016?</p> <p>2. How many were voluntary redundancies?</p> <p>3. How many were forced redundancies?</p> <p>4. What was the total cost of all redundancies (expressed as a single global figure)?</p> <p>5. Have any staff made redundant in calendar year 2016 subsequently carried out work for the Department as a contractor? If so, please provide an itemised list of relevant contracts and related Austender Contract Notice numbers.</p>	Written
SQ17-000210	Bilyk	Consultancies	<p>Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive) for spending in calendar year 2016 on external consultants/service providers in the following categories please be provided:</p> <p>(i) social media;</p> <p>(ii) photography;</p> <p>(iii) graphic design;</p> <p>(iv) web design</p> <p>(v) electronic communications</p> <p>(vi) acting or public speaking training;</p> <p>(vii) ergonomics.</p>	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000211	Bilyk	Legal Costs	<p>1. What was the Department's total spend on external legal services (including services provided by the Australian Government Solicitor) (GST inclusive) for calendar year 2016?</p> <p>2. Can an itemised list of costs of each legal matter (GST inclusive) please be provided?</p> <p>3. Can a list of relevant Contract Notices published on Austender please be provided?</p>	Written
SQ17-000212	Bilyk	Market Research	<p>1. How much did the Department spend on market research in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)?</p> <p>2. Can a list of all market research contracts entered into please be provided, together with the Austender Contract Notice number?</p> <p>3. What was the purpose of this market research?</p> <p>4. Did it relate to an advertising or information campaign? If so, which campaign?</p>	Written
SQ17-000213	Bilyk	Advertising and Information Campaigns	<p>1. How much has the Department spent on advertising and information campaigns since 1 October 2016 (GST inclusive)? Can a list of all Contract Notice IDs for the Austender website in relation to advertising and information campaign contracts please be provided?</p> <p>2. How much did the Department spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored Facebook posts in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)?</p> <p>3. How much did the Department spend on Google adwords advertising in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)?</p>	Written
SQ17-000214	Bilyk	Media and Public Relations	<p>1. How much has the Department spent on media monitoring since 1 October 2016 (GST inclusive)? Can a list of all Contract Notice IDs for the Austender website in relation to media monitoring contracts please be provided?</p> <p>2. How many media or public relations advisers are employed in the Department? At what APS level (e.g. EL2, APS5) is each staff member employed? Can an organisational chart for the relevant area of the Department please be provided? What was the total cost of employing relevant staff in calendar year 2016 (please provide a global figure)?</p>	Written
SQ17-000215	Bilyk	Office Vacancies	Please provide a list of all statutory, board and legislated office vacancies and other significant appointments vacancies within the portfolio, including length of time vacant and current acting arrangements.	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000216	Bilyk	Facilities Upgrades	<p>Have the facilities of any of the Department's premises been upgraded since 1 October 2016, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade please be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive)? Can any photographs of the upgraded facilities please be provided?</p>	Written
SQ17-000217	Bilyk	Executive Office Upgrades	<p>Have the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, been upgraded since 1 October 2016? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive)?</p>	Written
SQ17-000218	Bilyk	Stationery and Paper	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much did the Department spend on stationery and office supplies (excluding paper) in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? 2. How much did the Department spend on paper in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? 3. What brand of paper does the Department use? 4. Is this paper Australian made? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If no, why doesn't the Department buy Australian made paper? 	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000219	Bilyk	Mobile Devices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many mobile telephones are currently on issue to departmental to staff? 2. Can an itemised list showing make and model please be provided? 3. How many new mobile phones were purchased by the Department in calendar year 2016? 4. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of purchasing mobile telephones for departmental staff in calendar year 2016? 5. How many mobile telephones had to be replaced due to damage in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST inclusive)? 6. How many mobile telephones were reported lost or stolen in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST inclusive)? 7. How many iPads/tablets are currently on issue to departmental staff? 8. Can an itemised list showing make and model please be provided? 9. How many new iPads/tablets were purchased by the Department in calendar year 2016? 10. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of purchasing iPads/tablets for departmental staff in calendar year 2016? 11. How many iPads/tablets had to be replaced due to damage in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST inclusive)? 12. How many iPads/tablets were reported lost or stolen in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST inclusive)? 	Written
SQ17-000220	Bilyk	Coffee Machines	Can an itemised list of coffee machines at departmental premises please be provided including (i) make and model; (ii) purchase or lease cost; (iii) ongoing maintenance costs; (iv) ongoing cost of supplying coffee and other consumables?	Written
SQ17-000221	Bilyk	Snacks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of supplying fruit and other snacks at departmental premises in calendar year 2016? 2. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of supplying fruit and other snacks to ministerial offices in calendar year 2016? Please provide a breakdown of the costs for each separate ministerial office, covering both offices at Parliament House and elsewhere. 	Written
SQ17-000222	Bilyk	Water Coolers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of providing water coolers at departmental premises in calendar year 2016? Please provide a breakdown of costs for acquiring and maintaining/resupplying water coolers. 2. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of providing water coolers to ministerial offices in calendar year 2016? Please provide a breakdown of costs for acquiring and maintaining/resupplying water coolers. 	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000223	Bilyk	Gifts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of all gifts purchased for use by departmental officials in calendar year 2016? 2. Can an itemised list of gifts and costs thereof (GST inclusive) please be provided? 3. Who was the recipient of each gift? 4. For what purpose was each gift given? 5. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of all gifts purchased for use by Ministers in the portfolio in calendar year 2016? 6. Can an itemised list of gifts and costs thereof (GST inclusive) please be provided? 7. Which Minister gave each gift? 8. Who was the recipient of each gift? 9. For what purpose was each gift given? 	Written
SQ17-000224	Bilyk	Subscriptions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of subscriptions to print and online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals etc. in calendar year 2016 for the Department? Please provide a complete list of each service top which the Department subscribed. 2. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of subscriptions to print and online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals etc. in calendar year 2016 for Ministers in the portfolio? Please provide a complete list of each service top which ministerial offices subscribed. 	Written
SQ17-000225	Bilyk	Plants and Gardens	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of acquiring and maintaining indoor plants for all departmental premises in calendar year 2016? 2. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of external gardens and landscaping for all departmental premises in calendar year 2016? 3. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of acquiring and maintaining indoor plants for ministerial offices in calendar year 2016? Please provide separate figures for each Minister's office in the portfolio, covering ministerial offices both at Parliament House and elsewhere. 	Written
SQ17-000226	Bilyk	Departmental Functions	<p>In relation to expenditure on any departmental functions or official receptions etc. since 1 October 2016, can the following please be provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000227	Bilyk	Ministerial Functions	In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio since 1 October 2016, can the following please be provided: a. List of functions; b. List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister's family or personal staff; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.	Written
SQ17-000228	Pratt	Strengthening Communities Redesign	Under the current Strengthening Communities Program, the sub activity 'Community Capacity Building' provides grants for short-term services or one -off projects to respond quickly to community needs. Where would this activity fit under the redesigned program?	Written
SQ17-000229	Cameron	National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS)	In relation to ANAO Report No. 23 of 2016-17 into the Administration of Allocations and Incentives under the National Rental Affordability Scheme: 1. Please advise progress made by the Department to implement the recommendations made in the report. 2. Have the recommendations been fully implemented? 3. When is implementation expected to be completed? 4. What changes, if any, have been found necessary to DSS management systems to implement the recommendations? 5. With respect to the ANAO finding that continual changes to the NRAS regulations have rendered them complex and lacking clarity, is a review of the regulations either under consideration or being conducted? 6. If a review is under consideration, when is a decision expected to be made about whether to review the regulations? 7. If a review is being conducted, when will it be completed?	Written
SQ17-000230	Pratt	Strengthening Communities Redesign	The DSS paper 'Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) A Paper on the redesign of the Strengthening Communities grants program' states on page 4, that funding will be available for up to three and a half years. Why is this the case, given the Community Affairs committee review into DSS grants recommended 5 year grant contracts?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000231	Cameron	National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS)	In relation to NRAS incentives: 1. Please provide a breakdown by NRAS year and by State and Territory of the type of incentives received (either Tax Offset Certificate or payment) by approved participants pursuant to items 1 to 4 of the table in clause 29 of the <i>National Rental Affordability Scheme Regulations 2008</i> . 2. Please provide a breakdown by NRAS year and by State and Territory of the number of elections made by an entity to receive an incentive as a tax offset certificate rather than as a payment pursuant to clause 28A of the <i>National Rental Affordability Scheme Regulations 2008</i> .	Written
SQ17-000232	Pratt	Strengthening Communities Redesign	How do you intend to measure the outcomes of the new Strong and Resilient Communities Program?	Written
SQ17-000233	Cameron	National Affordable Housing Agreement - Special Purpose Payment	In relation to State and Territory expenditure of funds provided under the Housing special Purpose Payment: 1. What amount of each State and Territory expenditure is expended on homelessness services? 2. What amount of expenditure on homelessness services, crisis accommodation and family and domestic violence support is capital expenditure and what amount is operational expenditure? 3. What amount of each State and Territory expenditure is expended on social housing including supported accommodation? 4. What amount of social housing expenditure is capital expenditure and what amount is operational expenditure? 5. Has the Department provided advice to government on shortcomings in relation to reporting and/or accountability by the States and Territories in relation to the Housing special Purpose Payment? 6. If so, who requested the advice and when was it provided?	Written
SQ17-000235	Pratt	Strengthening Communities Redesign	In regards to the redesign of the Strengthening Communities Program -Do you expect the consultation process to result in any changes to the proposed new program?	Written
SQ17-000236	Pratt	Strengthening Communities Redesign	In regards to the redesign of the Strengthening Communities Program -have you made any changes to the proposed Strong and Resilient Communities Program as a result of feedback from organisations?	Written
SQ17-000237	Pratt	Strengthening Communities Redesign	In regards to the redesign of the Strengthening Communities Program -what do you expect the outcome of the consultation process to be?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000239	Pratt	Strengthening Communities Redesign	In regards to the redesign of the Strengthening Communities Program - can you provide us with details of the key concerns and issues raised by organisations in the consultation process? How are you documenting these concerns?	Written
SQ17-000240	Pratt	Strengthening Communities Redesign	In regards to the redesign of the Strengthening Communities Program - what is the nature of the feedback you are receiving as part of the consultation process? Positive or negative?	Written
SQ17-000241	Kakoschke-Moore	Newstart and Youth Allowance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In regards to the proposed policy change moving jobseekers aged 22-25 from Newstart to Youth Allowance, did the Department undertake any consultations with relevant stakeholders, such as ACOSS or the Foundation for Young Australians, prior to the policy change being announced? 2. What evidence was used to determine that a 4 week additional waiting period would be appropriate for young people applying for Youth Allowance? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How was the timeframe, being an additional 4 week waiting period, determined? 3. Youth Allowance applicants will be required to apply for positions and attend job interviews during the additional 4 week waiting period. Will they be able to access funding from a jobactive provider to cover the cost of printing, connectivity, computer access and transport? If so, what is the process for accessing those funds? If not, why not? 4. Has the Department conducted any modelling on the impact for young people potentially being subjected to several 4 week additional waiting periods over short periods of time? 	Written
SQ17-000242	Pratt	Strengthening Communities Redesign	In regards to the redesign of the Strengthening Communities Program - how many organisations have you consulted with?	Written
SQ17-000243	Pratt	Strengthening Communities Redesign	In regards to the redesign of the Strengthening Communities Program - can you please outline the steps of the consultation process?	Written
SQ17-000244	Pratt	Constitutional Powers & Grants	What advice or briefings in relation to the Commonwealth's power to make community grants have been provided since 1 July 2016 to the: Minister for Social Services or staff; Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs or staff; Assistant Minister for Social Services and Disability Services?	Written
SQ17-000245	Kakoschke-Moore	Cashless Debit Card	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When will the report on the recent Cashless Card trial be released? 2. What has the report found? 3. What findings are available? 4. What is the next location for a Cashless Card trial? 5. When will this be rolled out? 	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000246	Pratt	Constitutional Powers & Grants	What advice has been sought from or provided by either the Solicitor-General or the Attorney-General's Department in relation to the Commonwealth's power to make community grants since 2014?	Written
SQ17-000247	Pratt	Constitutional Powers & Grants	In the additional estimates hearing in 2 March, Ms Bennett referred to case law on the Commonwealth's powers to fund certain activities (page 136 of Hansard). Is the case to which Ms Bennett is referring to Williams v Commonwealth of Australia [2012] HCA 23? Is there any other case law the department believes is relevant to the DSS community grant programs?	Written
SQ17-000248	Pratt	Grants	Please provide a list of all Grant programs, activities and sub activities funded through Department of Social Services that are subject to redesign, and include: the reasons for the redesign; how long the redesign is expected to take; what consultation will occur; the expected impact on organisations currently funded under those grants; what changes are likely to be made from the redesign; and when grants under the redesigned activity are expected to commence.	Written
SQ17-000250	Pratt	Grants	Please provide a breakdown of spending on all community grant programs funded through DSS for the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17.	Written
SQ17-000251	Pratt	1800RESPECT	I refer to the letter from Minister Porter to the shadow assistant minister for preventing family violence of 28/02/17, in which the Minister referred to, inter alia, call wait times. Can the department provide data to substantiate the minister's claim that MHS is satisfied that calls were being transferred sufficiently promptly to RDVSA to enable the latter to meet its call answer times KPI?	Written
SQ17-000252	Pratt	1800RESPECT	Does the government believe that, because there is a contractor-subcontractor arrangement in place, with a contractor standing between the commonwealth and the ultimate service provider, the commonwealth is somehow not responsible for ensuring that Australian victims of domestic violence get high-quality, expert trauma counselling?	Written
SQ17-000254	Pratt	1800RESPECT	What steps is the minister taking to ensure MHS 's tender process will meet the same standards as would apply if the Commonwealth was conducting the procurement?	Written
SQ17-000255	Pratt	1800RESPECT	Does the Minister consider that notifying RDVSA on Tuesday morning that the EOI process closes at 3 pm on the Friday of the same week is reasonable?	Written
SQ17-000257	Pratt	1800RESPECT	What steps did the minister/department take to ensure they were satisfied MHS has properly consulted RDVSA prior to the commencement of the EOI process?	Written
SQ17-000258	Pratt	National Action Plan	Each of the 6 outcomes in the national plan have a Measure of Success. Can you advise what progress (over the past 6 years) has been achieved against each of these measures?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000259	Pratt	National Action Plan	The National Plan document identified that the Third Action plan would achieve “Promising Results” i.e. solid and continuing progress in best practice policies: a) what promising results do you expect to achieve? B) and how do these relate to the core objective of a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women	Written
SQ17-000261	Pratt	National Action Plan	If there is no reduction in any of these indicators to date, when do you expect to start seeing this reduction?	Written
SQ17-000262	Pratt	National Action Plan	As the plan is now more than half way through (2010-2022), what progress have you achieved to date against the four high level indicators of change identified in the National Plan? (Reduced prevalence of domestic violence and sexual assault, Increased proportion of women feeling safe in their communities, Reduced deaths related to domestic violence and sexual assault, Reduced proportion of children exposed to their mother’s or carer’s experience of domestic violence)	Written
SQ17-000264	Pratt	National Action Plan	The Government’s Third Action Plan clearly states that “The National Plan is a long term collaboration for action by Commonwealth, state and territory governments aimed at achieving: a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children?” What work have you done on how best to achieve a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children?	Written
SQ17-000265	Watt	Changes to FTB in Omnibus Bill	Could you please provide a distribution of the number of families who will lose both the FTB-A and FTB-B supplements by income in \$20,000 ranges?	Written
SQ17-000267	Reynolds	YPIRAC	How will the department be reporting on NDIS outcomes in WA? Will department ensure that at the next estimates session you are able to provide information on the progress of the NDIS roll out in WA for young people in aged care?	Written
SQ17-000268	Watt	Changes to FTB in Omnibus Bill	Could you please provide the number of families and children who will lose both the FTB-A and FTB-B end of year supplements, by electorate and state?	Written
SQ17-000269	Watt	One week waiting period	Could you please provide the number of people impacted by the additional one week waiting period by payment type, electorate and state?	Written
SQ17-000270	Watt	Pause to indexation of working age payments	Could you please provide the number of people impacted by the freeze on indexation for working age payments by payment type, electorate and State?	Written
SQ17-000271	Watt	Changes to FTB in Omnibus Bill	Across single parents whose youngest child is 17 or over who will lose FTB-B as a result of the changes, what is average amount of FTB (both A and B) that they will lose?	Written
SQ17-000272	Watt	Changes to FTB in Omnibus Bill	Could you please provide a distribution of the number of families who will lose the FTB-B supplement by income in \$20,000 ranges?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000273	Watt	Changes to FTB in Omnibus Bill	Could you please provide the number of families and children who will lose their FTB-B end of year supplement as a result of the changes in the Omnibus Bill, by state and electorate.	Written
SQ17-000274	Watt	Changes to FTB in Omnibus Bill	Could you please provide a distribution of the number of families who will lose the FTB-A supplement by income in \$20,000 ranges?	Written
SQ17-000275	Watt	Changes to FTB in Omnibus Bill	Could you please provide the number of families and children who will lose their FTB-A end of year supplement as a result of the changes in the Omnibus Bill, by state and electorate.	Written
SQ17-000276	Watt	NDIS - WA Agreement	The estimated number of participants in a WA scheme at full roll out is approximately 39,000. Is it correct that this is what DSS expect? What data is that based on?	Written
SQ17-000277	Watt	NDIS - WA Agreement	How many participants have been budgeted for in WA? Given WA account for 11% of the national population and the total number of people with disability is approximately 460,000, meaning the number of people with disability in WA could be as many as 50,000.	Written
SQ17-000278	Watt	NDIS - Quality and Safeguards	What consultation has DSS undertaken in addition to the February 2015 Discussion Paper and forums in the state capitals? Please provide all details of any roundtables, advisory groups, reference groups, etc. that have contributed to the co-design process of the Quality and Safeguarding Framework. Please also identify the participating organisations/individuals in these roundtables, advisory groups, reference groups, etc.	Written
SQ17-000279	Watt	NDIS - Quality and Safeguards	Has DSS developed a timetable for the implementation of the Quality and Safeguarding Framework and identified the processes required for implementation (e.g., regulatory impact statement, primary legislation, subordinate legislation, exposure draft.)	Written
SQ17-000280	Watt	NDIS - Quality and Safeguards	The Quality and Safeguarding Framework refers to a Code of Conduct for providers and workers delivering NDIS-funded supports. What work has been undertaken in developing this Code of Conduct and what external organisations/individuals have contributed to its development?	Written
SQ17-000281	Watt	NDIS - Quality and Safeguards	What aspects of the framework will the Commonwealth have responsibility for and what will stay with the States?	Written
SQ17-000282	Watt	NDIS - Quality and Safeguards	The idea of orientation training for all workers has been introduced the Quality and Safeguarding Framework – what will be the training requirements for more specific roles? When will this be decided?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000284	Siewert	Commonwealth Rent Assistance	<p>a) Please provide the total number of Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients, by category and state.</p> <p>b) The number of Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients currently in housing stress (>30 per cent of gross income on housing costs unless otherwise defined)</p> <p>c) The number of Commonwealth Rent Assistance recipients who would be in housing stress if Rent Assistance was increased by:</p> <p>i) \$15</p> <p>ii) \$25.</p>	Written
SQ17-000285	Fawcett	Telephone Interpreter Services	What, if any, has been the growth of General Practitioners using Translating & Interpreting Services?	Written
SQ17-000286	Reynolds	YPIRAC	Can the Committee be provided with a breakdown of the phasing of when young people in aged care will get into the NDIS (by month or quarter) for each NDIS roll out region for the rest of the NDIS roll out?	Written
SQ17-000287	O'Neill	NDIS Eligibility	In terms of the roles and responsibilities in relation to this area - the state governments closed down tertiary mental health facilities and put funding into community services. Can the Department provide an explanation to who is responsible for community-based funding and who will be responsible for funding the continuation of services past 2019? Who is responsible for community mental health programs and who will deliver funding?	Written

Australian Institute of Family Studies

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
SQ17-000001	Fawcett	Exposure Draft of the Marriage Amendment (Same-Sex Marriage) Bill 2016	The Senate Select Committee on Same Sex Marriage received a document from Dr David van Gend as an answer to a question on notice. The document made reference to previous research completed by the Australian Institute of Family Studies and requires comment from the Institute before it can be published. Can the Institute respond to the author's comment on the objectivity of its research in relation to disclosure of any academic bias?	Written

National Disability Insurance Agency

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17-000016	Reynolds	YPIRAC	Senator Reynolds raised the issue of forcing the states and territories into slowing the intake of young people in residential aged care. David Bowen stated the earlier the contact with the Agency the more possible options are available for an individual but raised the issue of avoiding moving into services provided by pre-existing disability and health services. Reynolds, "do you mind taking it on notice to provide a bit more detail of some of the issues there?"	111
NDIA SQ17-000017	Carol Brown	NDIS Call Centre	Brown, "does anyone at the table have figures other than eight minutes (average wait time), and that you have not been provided with anything from DHS other than an average wait of eight minutes?" Tidswell, "I can provide you with the average handle time and the average abandon time but the information that you have asked for, which was in relation to the longest wait time, I do not have that with me. We will take it on notice."	114
NDIA SQ17-000018	Carol Brown	NDIS Call Centre	Brown, "how long have they (the National Call Centre) been taking your calls?" Tidswell, "I am not sure. Someone else might be able to tell me when we started the national call centre." Bowen, "we will take that on notice, but it has been at least 18 months."	115
NDIA SQ17-000019	Siewert	Specialist Disability Accommodation Funding	Siewert, "How much has been spent (Specialist Disability Accommodation funding) in the first seven months (from 1 July 2016) since then?" Bowen, "we will take on notice that amount that has been committed in the plans."	118
NDIA SQ17-000020	Siewert	Specialist Disability Accommodation Funding	Siewert, "...how many new (Specialist Disability Accommodation) properties are there?" Bowen, "we will take that on notice and give you a breakdown of the information we have on the enrolled properties. I suspect that there are very few new builds, but there may be properties that are newly being used to provide housing" Siewert, "Could you take on notice what is a new (Specialist Disability Accommodation) property in that context and also if there have been any new builds?" Bowen, "Yes."	118
NDIA SQ17-000021	Siewert	Outstanding Provider Claim	Siewert, "I want to go to the point you touched on about whether any invoices have been raised. I am given to understand that there is in fact an outstanding claim of \$150,000 for the Newcastle area—for the Hunter, so that is the Newcastle area. Could you confirm whether in fact that is the case?" Bowen, "We will have to take that on notice..."	118

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17-000022	Reynolds	YPIRAC	The NDIA previously informed the committee that 2,058 young people in residential aged care were scheduled to transition into the NDIS in the 2016-17 financial year. In this current financial year, broken down by NDIS roll out site, how many of these young people: i. were scheduled to come into the NDIS; ii. have been found eligible for the NDIS; iii. have been allocated a planner; iv. actually have a funded plan in place that has been activated?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000024	Reynolds	YPIRAC	What is the median NDIS package cost for young people in Residential Aged Care?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000025	Reynolds	YPIRAC	How is the NDIA actively monitoring the number of young people who go into aged care in NDIS sites?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000026	Reynolds	YPIRAC	How many young people have entered Residential Aged Care in sites where the NDIS is fully rolled out? What is the NDIA doing to reduce these admissions to aged care?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000027	Reynolds	NDIS Housing	At the previous Estimates session, the NDIA reported that all young people in aged care “who identify a goal to change their current accommodation situation will have a Housing Options Package included in their NDIS plan”. How many young people in Residential Aged Care have had this ‘Housing Options Package’ included in their plan? What is included in this ‘Housing Options Package’?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000028	Reynolds	NDIS Housing	Since the Specialist Disability Accommodation payments began on 1 July 2016: a. How many “new properties” have been enrolled with the NDIA? b. How many NDIS participants have the SDA payment in their plan? How many of these participants did not live in an existing supported accommodation setting (i.e. are part of the unmet demand for housing)? Can you provide a breakdown of these numbers by NDIS region? c. How much funding has been paid to SDA providers? Of this, how much is ‘in-kind’ funding? d. How much user cost of capital funding is estimated to be allocated to the NDIA by governments for participant plans this financial year, based on the Productivity Commission’s estimate of the cost of capital in participant plans? e. How many providers are registered only for SDA (i.e. they are not registered for any other support other than SDA).	Written
NDIA SQ17-000029	Reynolds	NDIS Housing	Where an NDIS participant is the registered SDA provider for their own housing and claiming the SDA payment, how will the SDA payments affect a person’s Disability Support Pension or other government payments? Is the payment taxable for income tax purposes?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17-000030	Siewert	NDIS Housing	How is the NDIA monitoring that housing is being developed, especially in rural and remote areas? a. What information do you have about how the market is responding?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000031	Siewert	NDIS Qualifications and Experience	What minimum qualification/s and experience are required to apply for the following positions: a. NDIS Planner b. NDIS Local Area Coordinator c. NDIS Support Coordinator	Written
NDIA SQ17-000032	Siewert	NDIS Training	Please provide details of any training that is required to be undertaken by NDIS Planners, Local Area Coordinators and Support Coordinators.	Written
NDIA SQ17-000033	Siewert	NDIS Packages for People with Anosognosia	It is likely that a large proportion of people with anosognosia will not apply for NDIS packages, despite their need for and their entitlement to a package. Does the NDIA have a plan for how to capture and include people with anosognosia to allow access to an NDIS package? a. Are there measures in place for assisted decision making?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000034	Siewert	NDIS Building in Canberra	How much is being spent on the NDIS building in Geelong?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000035	Siewert	NDIS Local Area Coordinators	How many NDIS 'Local Area Coordinators' actually come from the local area? a. Are 'Local Area Coordinators' required to have experience in providing disability or mental health services? b. If not, why not?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000036	Reynolds	YPIRAC	At the previous Estimates hearing, Mr Bowen told the committee that young people in aged care would not be required to pay for fees that relate to their care and support. The NDIA also said that the administrative arrangements for this are still being finalised. a. Are these administrative arrangements now finalised? Can the NDIA confirm what aged care fees it is paying for participants? b. Will young people in aged care (and in the NDIS) be reimbursed for the fees they have been paying while the NDIA works out these administrative arrangements?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000037	Siewert	CALD Strategy	When will the CALD strategy be ready? a. What are the resources (financial and human) attached to the CALD strategy and action plan?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000038	Siewert	NDIS - CALD Backgrounds	What is the current rate of participation in the NDIS among people of CALD backgrounds? a. Does this represent an under (or over) representation of people of CALD backgrounds? b. What strategies are in place to increase this?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17-000039	Siewert	NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity-building Website	I understand that a number of companies have been engaged to develop the NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity-building website. Which companies are they? a. At what cost to the Commonwealth have these companies been engaged for this purpose? b. How are these companies equipped to meet the needs of CALD communities? c. How are resources being shared with smaller, community-based expert organisations?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000040	Siewert	Access to Language Services	What funding is available to ensure that people from CALD and Indigenous backgrounds can access language services (e.g. how much funding through the ILC grant process will be to CALD organisations)?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000041	Siewert	NDIS - Mental Health	The response to question on notice 73 from Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016-17 included the statement that “[t]raditionally psychosocial disability support providers work to support people through their recovery journey.” Does the NDIA recognise that people with a mental illness in the NDIS will continue to require recovery oriented approaches and that the issue is having a workforce able to undertake this work? a. Given this, has there been any consideration to develop appropriate pricing for mental health rather than just for a general disability workforce, noting 13.9% of people in the NDIS having a mental illness does not make it less significant? b. Likewise, will quality assurance processes specifically tailored for psychosocial disability be developed as a part of the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000042	Reynolds	YPIRAC	What mechanisms does the NDIA have to prioritise young people in aged care in the NDIS?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000043	Reynolds	YPIRAC	Does the NDIA collect data to show the number of young people who have successfully left Residential Aged Care after they came into the NDIS? How many NDIS participants have left a Residential Aged Care service since they entered the NDIS?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000044	Reynolds	YPIRAC	How many young people in residential aged care have been found ineligible for the NDIS? How does this compare to the total number of young people in aged care who have been found eligible?	Written
NDIA SQ17-000045	Reynolds	YPIRAC	How many NDIS participants living in Residential Aged Care have a Specialist Disability Accommodation payment included in their plan? How does this compare to the total number of NDIS participants who are living in Residential Aged Care	Written
NDIA SQ17-000046	Siewert	Carer Respite	Carer respite is currently support provided directly to the carer; however, these funds are reportedly in scope to transition to the NDIS. Will the NDIA commit to ensuring that carer respite is provided in every NDIS package for those who have a carer or ensure a funding stream for respite services that is at least the equivalent of the current program through the Department of Social Services?	Written

QoN No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Ref
NDIA SQ17-000047	Siewert	Hearing Services Program	Please provide an update on discussions that have occurred between DSS/NDIA and the Office of Hearing Services concerning the hearing services program.	Written
NDIA SQ17-000048	Reynolds	YPIRAC	How many young people in residential aged care in NDIS sites of Hunter, Barwon and ACT who are not yet NDIS participants? Why are these young people not yet NDIS participants? What actions has the NDIA taken to get them into the NDIS.	Written