

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: School attendance data

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 142

Type of Question: FPA, Friday 30 May 2014, page 57-58

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator Scullion: I would like to intervene for a moment. I know that the assistant secretary is faithfully providing information in answer to the question and thus far probably has not offended one of the jurisdictions he is about to get to. Given that one of the jurisdictions he will read out will be a different amount, I really would like to check with them. These are very delicate arrangements we have with receiving the data, and if I can provide the remainder of that on notice, because I would like to check with the jurisdictions. The jurisdictions that we have already spoken about are quite happy to publish, but the others are challenging and have not released that. I ask to take the remainder of that question on notice, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. I do not want to offend the jurisdictions by making announcements about how quickly or not they are providing that data. If I can take that on notice, I would really appreciate it.

Senator McLUCAS: Could we get that now? The piece of paper that is being—

Senator Scullion: That would mean that I would have to contact the jurisdictions. I will get it to you as soon as possible, but I do not think that I am going to be able to get in touch with those jurisdictions today.

...

Senator Scullion: as I have said, some have done better than others. And it is a sensitivity. I would prefer it if I could provide that to you on notice.

CHAIR: The minister has taken it on notice.

Senator McLUCAS: I think you said that they are all reporting on a weekly basis. Have I heard you correctly?

Senator Scullion: They are not all reporting on a weekly basis, which is why I have indicated—

Senator McLUCAS: All right, I will let it go.

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Answer:

The following school sectors provide weekly school attendance data each week split by day of the week:

- Northern Territory Government
- Queensland Government
- Queensland Catholic Education Office
- Western Australia Government
- Western Australia Catholic Education Office
- Western Australia Independent School (Rawa)

The South Australian Government and the Northern Territory Catholic Education Office provide weekly data but data are not provided for each day of the week.

The New South Wales (NSW) Government provides weekly data once every four weeks. The Commonwealth is working constructively with the NSW Government and we are aiming to obtain data each week. Information technology issues make it difficult for NSW to provide data each week at this stage.