

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0001_14	Back, Chris		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Education expenditure increases/indexation	1. Please confirm the following details - in relation to future school education expenditure by governments it is reported that under the proposed arrangements in addition to annual increases to rise to the Student Resource Standard (SRS): a. state and territory governments will increase their expenditure on school education by 3 per cent per year b. the Australian government will increase expenditure on education by 4.7 per cent per year. 2. What do these annual increases in education expenditure imply for the indexation of per student SRS funding each year and the SRS loadings? 3. Will indexation rates for the SRS and schools vary depending on which state they are located in? 4. What are the estimated indexation rates for the SRS in each state over the time of the proposed agreement?
EW0002_14	Back, Chris		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Catholic education - system funding levels	System Funding levels 1. How is the funding to Catholic education systems to be calculated? a. For per student funding? i. Will Catholic systems receive a student weighted average on the Capacity to contribute calculation? b. For loadings? 2. What assumptions in relation to indexation, enrolments and relative need is this based on? 3. What portion of the SRS do Catholic schools reach in each year? 4. How is this relative to government schools in each year? 5. What fee increases are assumed at a school level under the model?
EW0003_14	Back, Chris		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Catholic education - funding shares	Funding shares 1. What share of public funding for school education is estimated for each year for Catholic education? 2. Does the funding share include non-systemic Catholic schools? 3. How does this relate to 16.8 per cent which was apparently the share of public funding for Catholic schools in 2009?
EW0004_14	Back, Chris		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Capital programs in schools	Capital 1. What year have current capital programs have been extended to? 2. Will the share and indexation arrangements to non-government school remain the same as are currently in place?
EW0005_14	Back, Chris		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Students with disability_ future funding	Students with disability 1. What arrangements will cover students with disability (SWD) in 2014 and beyond? 2. What quantum of funding by sector and jurisdiction will be available to support the needs of SWD? 3. What are their projections for SWD in future years and how will this be supported to ensure no deterioration in eligible per student funding for each jurisdiction across Australia?
EW0006_14	Back, Chris		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Catholic education - system funding arrangements	System funding arrangements 1. What conditions will be placed on the distribution of funding within a Catholic education system? a. With respect to per capita funding? b. With respect to loading funding? 2. Will the acquittal required for per capita and loading funding be at a school or system level? 3. What additional reporting obligations will be imposed on schools and systems? 4. What arrangements will be in place to govern the relationship between current and future teacher salaries and additional funding? 5. What are the current settings for capacity to contribute? a. For primary schools? b. For secondary schools?
EW0007_14	Back, Chris		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	School and system modelling	School and system modelling Can we be provided with government modelling that provides the following information: 1. The share of each sector in each state of new funding for each year of the agreement. 2. The number of schools in each sector and jurisdiction which receive the minimum increase in funding for each year of the agreement. 3. The percentage of the SRS that each sector and each jurisdiction is operating at for each year of the agreement. 4. The amount of total funding from each source (state/territory government and Australian government) for each sector and jurisdiction.
EW0008_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Staffing - recruitment and classification	How many ongoing staff recruited this financial year to date? What classification are these staff? How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff? <del>This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their</del>
EW0009_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Staffing - leaving the department	How many ongoing staff left the department/agency this financial year to date? What classification were these staff? How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency this financial year to date? What classification were these staff? <del>How many contract staff left department/agency in the year this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?</del>
EW0010_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Staffing - reduction	How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred this financial year to date? What was the reason for these reductions? Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details. Are there any plans for further staff reductions/voluntary redundancies? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.
EW0011_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	2013-14 Budget Measure - Public Service efficiencies	Please provide details of the amended operational efficiencies your agency will make as per 2013-14 Budget Measure 'Public Service efficiencies' (see 2013-14 Budget Paper No 2 p108). In addition, please provide the following detail: Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by implementing more efficient management structures, through a reduction in expenditure on staff across the Executive Level (EL) 1 and 2, and Senior
EW0012_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Efficiency	Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates? Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors? Has this impacted on the Department/agency, and how? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates? Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
EW0013_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Printing Costs	How many documents (include the amount of copies) have been printed this financial year to date? How many of these printed

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0014_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	2014 Graduate Recruitment	Provide an update on expenditure for 2014 Graduate Recruitment to date? Please itemise and detail costs. <b>Has any travel been incurred for 2014 Graduate Recruitment? Please itemise and detail costs.</b>
EW0015_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Advertising- financial year to date	What was the total cost of all advertising for the financial year to date? Is the advertising campaign or non-campaign advertising? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services. Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item. Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
EW0016_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Hospitality and entertainment - financial year to date	What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location,
EW0017_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Meeting Costs - financial year to date	What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs. <del>What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events</del>
EW0018_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Program launch costs - financial year to date	What is the Department/Agency's program launch spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total program launch spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs. What program launch spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all
EW0019_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Board Appointments	Provide an update of the boards within this portfolio, including: board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.
EW0020_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Board Appointments - financial year to date	Please detail any board appointments for this financial year to date.
EW0021_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Community Cabinet Meetings - financial year to date	Provide an update of how many Community Cabinet meetings has the Minister attended this financial year to date? List date and location. How many Departmental Officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? <del>What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. Which Community Cabinet</del>
EW0022_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Reviews - financial year to date	For this financial year to date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many Reviews are being undertaken?</li> <li>• What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?</li> <li>• Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?</li> <li>• When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?</li> <li>• Has the Government responded to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?</li> <li>• What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?</li> <li>• What reviews are planned?</li> </ul>
EW0023_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Consultancies - financial year to date	How many consultancies have been undertaken this financial year to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies. <del>How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP)</del>
EW0024_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Media Monitoring- financial year to date	What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for this financial year to date? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which agency or agencies provided these services?</li> <li>• What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2012-13?</li> <li>• What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?</li> </ul> What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for this financial year to date?
EW0025_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Social Media	Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and usage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since May 2012 Budget Estimates? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue. Does the department/agency monitor usage of social media? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If yes, provide details of the usage (for example details could include average hours per employee, hours when usage peaks).</li> <li>• Has there been a change to the department/agency protocols due to staff usage?</li> </ul>
EW0026_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Paid Parental Leave	Please list how many staff in each department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? For this financial year to date list which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments.
EW0027_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Training for portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries	For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for staff of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for designed to better suit the needs of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries?
EW0028_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Corporate Cars	How cars are owned by each department/agency? Where is the car/s located? What is the car/s used for? What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date? <del>How far did each car travel this financial year to date?</del>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0029_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Taxi costs	How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.
EW0030_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Hire cars	How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.
EW0031_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Corporate credit cards	Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card. Please update details of the following? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?</li> <li>• How is corporate credit card use monitored?</li> <li>• What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?</li> <li>• Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and</li> </ul>
EW0032_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Provision of Equipment to Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries	For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs? For departments/agencies that provide electronic equipment to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what are the ongoing costs for this financial year to date? Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb
EW0033_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Electricity costs	What are the details of the department/agency electricity purchasing agreement? <u>What are the department/agency electricity costs for this financial year to date?</u>
EW0034_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Briefings for the Australian Greens and Independents	Have any briefings and/or provision of information s been provided to the Australian Greens? If yes, please include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are briefings requests commissioned?</li> <li>• What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.</li> <li>• Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.</li> <li>• Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.</li> <li>• How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.</li> </ul> Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Independents? If yes, please include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are briefings requests commissioned?</li> <li>• What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.</li> <li>• Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.</li> <li>• Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.</li> </ul>
EW0035_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Shredders	Has the department/agencies purchased any shredders this financial year? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.
EW0036_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Protective security policy framework	Provide an update for your department/agency, including what is your current compliance level, what are you doing to manage risk, <u>what is being done to comply with the mandatory requirements and details of any department/agency specific policies and</u>
EW0037_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Office Locations	1. Please provide a list of all office locations for all departments and agencies within the portfolio by: a. Department/Agency; b. Location; c. Leased or Owned; d. Size; e. Number of Staff at each location and classification; f. If rented, the amount and breakdown of rent per square metre; g. If owned, the value of the building; h. Depreciation of buildings that are owned;
EW0038_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Public Relations, Communications and Media Staff	1. For all departments and agencies, please provide - in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff - the following: a. By Department or agency: i. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location. ii. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location iii. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location iv. How many are graphic designers? v. How many are media managers? vi. How many organise events?
EW0039_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Alternative policy costings or advice	Has the Department undertaken any alternative policy costings or advice? If yes, provide details of what these costings or advice were, including provision of costings or advice documents and assumptions used, and who made the request and when.
EW0040_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Portfolio appointments after 14 September 2013	Provide a list of any appointments made in your portfolio that will commence after 14 September 2013. Provide details of the appointment including position and length.
EW0041_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Commissioned Reports - financial year to date	How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your department/agency this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what</li> </ul>
EW0042_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	On time payment of accounts - financial year to date	For this financial year to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If not, why not? Provide details, including what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached)</li> <li>• For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the</li> </ul>
EW0043_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Stationery Costs - financial year to date	How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) this financial year to date? <u>What are the department/agency's stationery costs for the financial year to date?</u>
EW0044_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Media subscriptions	What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.</li> <li>• What is the cost for this financial year to date?</li> </ul> What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.</li> <li>• What is the cost for this financial year to date?</li> </ul> What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.</li> </ul>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0045_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Travel Costs	For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel. What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel. What is the policy for business class airfare tickets? Is there still a reduction in business flights as per the media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State dated 25 September 2012? Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.
EW0046_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Cost of legal services 2012/13 FYTD	What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
EW0047_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Education expenses	What is the department/agency's guidelines on study? For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each participant).
EW0048_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Executive coaching and leadership training	In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date: 1. Total spending on these services 2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification 3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) 4. The names of all service providers engaged For each service purchased form a provider listed under (4), please provide: a) The name and nature of the service purchased b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification 5. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) d) The total amount spent on the service e) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package) Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide: i. The location used j. The amount of travel expenses (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
EW0049_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Media training	In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date: 1. Total spending on these services 2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification 3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) 4. The names of all service providers engaged For each service purchased form a provider listed under (4), please provide: a) The name and nature of the service purchased b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based 5. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) 6. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification) c) The total amount spent on the service d) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package) Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide: i. The location used
EW0050_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Internet	Has the Department experienced any internet problems, such as but not limited to slow internet, or internet blackouts? If yes, what are the reasons for these problems?
EW0051_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Staffing - amenities	What amenities are provided to staff? Provide a list, including any costs and the reason for providing the amenity.
EW0052_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Coffee Machines	Has the department/agency purchased coffee machines for staff usage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased. Why were coffee machines purchased? Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were purchased? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result? Where did the funding for the coffee machines come from? Who has access? Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in this financial year to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from? What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee? Does the department/agency rent coffee machines for staff usage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased. Why are coffee machines rented? Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were rented? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result? Where does the funding for the coffee machines come from?

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0053_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Contractors - financial year to date	<p>For this financial year to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</li> <li>• Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</li> <li>• Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting &amp; UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting &amp; UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</li> <li>• Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</li> <li>• Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</li> <li>• Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).</li> </ul>
EW0054_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Grants	<p>• Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX</p> <p>Could the department/agency provide an update list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for this financial year to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.</p>
EW0055_14	Back, Chris		Cross Portfolio	Freedom of Information	<p>Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?          What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?          How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests?</p>
EW0056_14	Boyce, Sue		Outcome 3 - Employment	Employment Support Services program	<p>1. In answers to questions put to the Department in the Budget Estimates of May last year DEEWR implied that organisations have not raised concerns about funding adequacy for the ESS. [Please see Estimates Hansard Extract- Attached]. Was that opinion factually correct?</p> <p>2. Can you indicate what level of concern about funding adequacy was raised in the Exposure Draft Consultation?</p> <p>3. Didn't the National Disability Services (NDS), Disability Employment Australia, and the National Council on Intellectual Disability all raised concerns about inadequate funding?</p> <p>4. As I understand it DEEWR has made some positive changes in regard to future tenderers having to demonstrate their past record by primary disability groups. Will the Department move to fill gaps if providers demonstrate poor or little performance for particular groups of people with disabilities when results are eventually revealed?</p> <p>5. Now that the Government has provided \$5.5 million in the budget over 4 years for a continuation of the MIDL program will it be setting up transparent, regular reporting and evaluation? Can what is currently available on the DEEWR website, (DES outcomes rates by primary disability on DEEWR web site to 31 March 2012.), be updated to May 2013?</p> <p>6. It's pleasing to see that the Government has decided to continue the MIDL as part of the ESS funding model going. However the NCID has concerns that the MIDL report indicated that there was an urgent need for specialist services or units with the competence to provide the support needed by people with moderate intellectual disability. How is the government going to respond to meeting this gap?</p> <p>7. The key finding from studies is that people with intellectual disability can work in the open labor market when provided with the right service support. In Australia, there is one long term (26-year) demonstration of evidence based service for people with significant intellectual disability which achieves high rates of open employment. • 76.5% of commencements achieve a 26-week employment outcome. • 68.6% of commencements achieve a 26-week job of 15 hours or more per week. These figures make the departments scores in this area look very ordinary, why is that?</p> <p>8. Few people with intellectual disability currently enjoy the dignity of work with just 15% of adults employed in the open labor market. The Commonwealth Employment Support Services (ESS) program is achieving relatively low outcome rates for people with intellectual disability while ESS outcomes for people with significant intellectual disability are also low. Dependence on the pension is typical. Less than 3% of people with intellectual disability earn a wage as their main source of income (i.e. &gt;\$282 per week).</p>
EW0057_14	Boyce, Sue		Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	ACECQA study into national quality controls	<p>According to a recent study of 1620 childcare services by the Australian Children's Education &amp; Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) almost half (44%) of Australia's childcare centres have failed to meet national quality controls - including kids' health and safety standards and the sub-standard centres will not be given a deadline to come up to scratch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has found one in four childcare providers nationally does not meet the national standard for children's health and safety.</li> <li>• One in three is below the standard for "educational program and practice" or for "physical environment".</li> <li>• And at least one in 10 does not meet the minimum staffing requirements, while one in six is below-standard for "relationships with children".</li> </ul> <p>1. The Government has trumpeted its national childcare reform package but do the ACECQA results suggest have those reforms been too extensive and rushed to enable good childcare centres the time and capacity to deal with them?</p> <p>2. I am led to believe that the expected staff qualifications and current pay rates do not match which means it is difficult to attract the staff required to meet the demands of the new national standards. What planning or arrangements are in place to assist the industry to find/train the staff required by the reforms?</p>
EW0058_14	Boyce, Sue		Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Childcare Advisory Board	<p>1. Why is it that the newly announced Childcare Advisory Board does not have a representative of the Australian Childcare Alliance - an organisation that represents 70% of the private childcare industry?</p> <p>2. The Minister, Mr Garrett said: "The board appointees reflect the full spectrum of the early childhood sector. How is that at all</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0059_14	Boyce, Sue		Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Child care costs	<p>1. To what do you attribute the soaring costs of childcare?</p> <p>2. Are there problems with, for example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordability-</li> <li>• Unavailability of certain services due to cost</li> <li>• Areas with waiting lists while, despite what we're told areas of extremely low occupancy?</li> </ul> <p>3. Given that Childcare costs, as a percentage of disposable income in 2012 doubled to 14.5% since the introduction of the National Quality Agenda reforms. Haven't those reforms regardless of how well motivated, already caused financial hardship for families?</p> <p>4. Isn't it axiomatic that without some injection of funds to cover the cost of these reforms, parents will either be forced to reduce hours of care and reduce hours of work or seek to place their child in unregulated and unsafe backyard care, or do all of the above?</p> <p>5. In 2009 this government reduced the childcare benefit from \$7779 per annum to \$7500 per annum with no CPI adjustments frozen for three years and in the last budget the Government has extended that freeze for another 3 years. By how much have these measures devalued the childcare benefit?</p> <p>6. Could it be as high as claimed by independent economic analysts, Urban Economics (Urban) when they reviewed the impact of the reforms on parents eligible for the major parents' subsidy and found it had declined in value by more than 19%?</p> <p>7. The Urban Economics survey claims that long day child care fees will increase by 42% - 44% by 2015. Do you believe that claim is correct? If not what do you think the size of the increase will be?</p> <p>8. In the In 2011 the Productivity Commission report , Early Childhood Development Workforce, they stated the following as a key recommendation: "To ensure these cost increases do not reduce access to ECEC services by low-income families, governments should consider alternative structures for childcare subsidies that improve the targeting of childcare assistance. Are you considering any 'alternative structures' ?</p> <p>9. The body that represents by far the largest number of private child care providers, the Australian Childcare Alliance" say many providers are in despair because they cannot provide a number of the services the community wants and some are facing</p>
EW0060_14	Boyce, Sue		Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	2011 Productivity Commission report - Early Childhood Development Workforce	<p>1. In the 2011 the Productivity Commission report Early Childhood Development Workforce, one of their key recommendations was: "In implementing the National Quality Standard, governments should ensure adequate resourcing for regulators to enable appropriate training of their staff in the new regulatory arrangements and their effective implementation." What exactly has the Department done to respond to that?</p> <p>2. That same report also found that: "To ensure that children with additional needs benefit fully from the COAG ECEC reforms, governments should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• modify the structure and operation of inclusion programs and</li> <li>• reassess funding levels so that such programs:</li> <li>• provide sufficient funding and support to enable the inclusion of all children with additional needs</li> <li>• cover the full cost of employing inclusion support workers at market wages</li> <li>• Provide funding for an inclusion support worker to enable children with high support needs to attend preschool for 15 hours per week in the year before school."</li> <li>• provide multiple-year funding, requiring re-application or adjustment only where there is a significant change in the level of need of a particular child or cohort of children.</li> </ul> <p>What's happened to make these things happen?</p> <p>18. Recommendation 8.2 of that report said; "To provide inclusion support staff with the necessary skills to ensure children with additional needs benefit fully from the COAG ECEC reforms, governments should provide additional, priority funding to cover both the cost of relevant in-service training in child development, disability and ECEC, and the cost of replacement staff."</p> <p>Has that happened?</p> <p>19. The Productivity Commission also made it clear that:</p> <p>"There are no data that comprehensively describe the ECEC workforce and services in rural and remote areas."</p> <p>Why does that data not exist?</p>
EW0061_14	Boyce, Sue		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	National Student Transport Card	<p>Student travel concessions are available on a state by state basis - for instance, Queensland school, TAFE and university students may have access to concessional travel throughout Queensland. However, the concessions do not cross state and territory borders. A Queensland Student ID Card holder is not eligible for travel concessions in New South Wales or Victoria etc.</p> <p>If a student's circumstances make them eligible for travel concessions in one state, then surely they should be eligible across Australia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of a national initiative, is the Commonwealth planning to introduce a National Student Transport Card which would give</li> </ul>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0062_14	Boyce, Sue		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Students with disability - abuse in schools	<p>1. Children with Disability Australia, the national peak body for children and young people with disability completed an issue paper/report "Enabling &amp; Protecting: Proactive approaches to abuse and neglect of children and young people with Disabilities" which expressed the view that there was a high number of incidents in schools where children with disability have been subject to abuse by individuals and the educational institutions they attend. What's the Department's knowledge of this problem?</p> <p>2. There are a number of court cases involving this issue and also a tremendous amount of anecdotal testimony from children with disabilities, their carers and the families alleging numerous incidents of abuse. Are you aware of that?</p> <p>3. Does the department keep records, information, data or records of incidents where children with a disability have suffered bullying, abuse or neglect? Are schools that receive Federal Government funding obliged to report such incidents?</p> <p>4. Do you keep records or incidents in which students with disability are, restrained or subjected to any other restrictive practices and the reasons this is seen to be necessary?</p> <p>5. Do you keep records where where attendance at school for students with disability is conditional on them taking medication to assist with managing behaviour?</p> <p>6. The report was especially critical of the incidence or abuse of children with disabilities in the education system and the failure of education departments to have policies that reflect an understanding of the seriousness of the problem and therefore adequate systems to therefore deal with the problem. Could I have the Department's response to that please?</p> <p>7. The people responsible for putting together the report, "Enabling &amp; Protecting: Abuse and Neglect of Children and Young People with Disabilities", sought comment and input from your Department in compiling the survey. What did the Department say to them? Is it true that the Department gave no 'specific' response?</p> <p>8. Isn't also true that the Department gave that sort of response, because, and I quote, "It wasn't seen as a particular issue." [Reported by researcher Dr Sally Robinson]</p> <p>9. Given that the most reliable studies into these issues found that the prevalence of maltreatment of children with disability to be 3.4 times higher than that for children without disability (31% as compared to 9%). The latest large study puts that rate at almost four times the rate for children without a disability. Consequently is there a role for a national approach to these issues?</p> <p>10. How does this situation and the employment of such practices in Australian schools sit with our responsibilities as signatories to a number of International Human Rights treaties and covenants?</p>
EW0063_14	Boyce, Sue		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	NAPLAN	<p>1. Why in analysing the performance of Naplan did DEEWR use the particular method it employed that didn't include comparisons with any control group?</p> <p>2. Why didn't DEEWR use the same analytical method employed by the arbiter of performance the ANAO, when it examined the performance of the Department in administering the NAPLAN scheme?</p> <p>3. What's the Department's response to the 2012 Auditor General's report that found the Department administered a \$540 million Naplan program to improve national literacy standards without making any "statistically significant improvement" to those standards?</p> <p>4. How could the Department allocate \$145 million in so-called reward payments - when there has been 'no statistically significant improvement'?"</p> <p>5. The Auditor-Generals Report also said this regarding the Department's management of the NAPLAN program;          "The department did not apply a structured approach to negotiating key implementation arrangements, specifically the number of participant schools, performance indicators, and the reform targets for 2010 and 2011 which were the basis for making reward payments.          Consequently, there was significant variability at a state level in the coverage of the LNNP and performance indicators used, and reward targets were not necessarily demanding. In this respect, DEEWR could have more actively pursued the outcomes sought by governments in developing the LNNP framework."</p>
EW0064_14	Ludlam, Scott		Agency - Comcare	Comcare - ANSTO investigations	<p>1. Is ComCare undertaking any investigations on ANSTO currently?</p> <p>2. How many ComCare claims are you processing from ANSTO personnel at the moment?</p> <p>3. In the past ComCare have reported on the ANSTO nuclear facility and found that the nuclear facility had under-reported accidents and breached safety standards.          Do you have any visibility of how recommendations made by the Independent review into your ComCare report in May 2011, are being implemented, for example are you satisfied that notifiable incidents are being reported to Comcare?</p> <p>a. engage a qualified person to conduct systematic monitoring of all workplaces that undertake radiopharmaceutical operations;</p> <p>b. direct a person with demonstrated competency in managing risks associated with hazardous substances to oversee an ongoing system of auditing to ensure radiopharmaceutical operations maintain appropriate systems of work to protect health and safety</p> <p>c. provide ongoing documented evidence to Comcare that systematic monitoring is occurring; regularly audit its consultative protocols with persons involved in radiopharmaceutical operations to ensure its policies and procedures are effectively carried</p>
EW0065_14	McKenzie, Bridget		Outcome 3 - Employment	RJCP - operation, strategies and outcomes	<p>Outcome 3 - Employment Services Arrangements in Remote Australia - the new Remote Jobs and Communities Program.          According to the Portfolio Budget Statement EEW, ( pg 71) the new Remote Jobs and Communities plan will operate in 59 regions throughout Australia and will receive \$1.5 billion over five years commencing on 1 July 2013.</p> <p>1. How is this program different to The Regional Education, Skills and Jobs Plans?          According to the Department's website the existing jobs plans draw upon existing strategic plans in each region, including the local Regional Development Australia regional plan.</p> <p>2. How does the new Remote Jobs and Communities Program connect with these existing programs?</p> <p>3. Will the existing jobs plans continue to operate?</p> <p>4. How are these programs evaluated?</p> <p>5. What criteria do you use to assess the success of these programs?</p> <p>6. What has been achieved under the existing jobs plans? What measures do you use?</p> <p>7. How many additional jobs have been created through the existing Regional Education, Skills and Jobs Plan outside of Regional Development Australia and associated coordinators?</p> <p>8. What industry assistance has been sought to provide employment opportunities in regional areas?</p> <p>9. How is the Priority Employment Area strategy which employs Local Employment Coordinators different to the above jobs</p>
EW0066_14	McKenzie, Bridget		Cross Portfolio	Australian Professional Standards for Teachers	<p>I understand that universities are being encouraged to provide teacher training courses to ensure that cyber-safety material is incorporated in the core units in their curriculums. To support this process \$4 million has been allocated towards the development of online toolkits and professional learning modules.</p> <p>How is the implementation of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers being assessed?          How were these kits developed?</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0067_14	Nash, Fiona		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme - Limited Program Schools	1. Can you please clarify the breakdown of responsibility of Federal Government and the NSW State Government in relation to the bypassing of small rural and remote high schools?  a. Who is responsible for determining which schools meet the criteria for Limited Program Schools?  b. Does Federal Government have any powers to intervene in the lists of Limited Program Schools?  c. Can you explain the criteria used to assess if a school meets the Limited Program Schools criteria?
EW0068_14	Nash, Fiona		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Body Image Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the total budget for the Body Image Awards program?</li> <li>How many nominations have been received so far?</li> <li>Did the winners of last year's awards use the Body Image Award Winner Logo in their publications or advertising? If so, to what extent?</li> </ul>
EW0069_14	Scullion, Nigel		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Wadeye Hostel - contract	Aboriginal Hostels Limited has indicated its interest in extending its contract to operate the Wadeye Hostel. What fee will be paid to Aboriginal Hostels for this service?
EW0070_14	Scullion, Nigel		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Garrathalla Hostel	Have any discussions been held with any interested parties regarding management of the proposed Garrathalla Hostel?
EW0071_14	Scullion, Nigel		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Nyangatjatjara College	Please provide, in for each of the last five years; 1. The number of Nyangatjatjara College staff employed for boarding related functions, their job titles and combined salary of these staff members.
EW0072_14	Scullion, Nigel		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Wadeye Hostel - staff housing	What was the cost of the construction of the staff housing at the Wadeye Hostel?
EW0073_14	Siewert, Rachel		Outcome 3 - Employment	Labour market figures - income support recipients	Data on recipients 1. Please provide the latest available breakdowns of recipients of each of NSA, YA(O), PPS, & PPP by: age (<25, 25-49, 50+); state/territory; sex; duration on payment (>1yr, 1-2, 2-5, 5yrs +); youngest child under 6 yrs, 6yrs +; principal carer status (including separate data for sole parents) and partial work capacity status for NSA and YA(O) recipients; whether recipients also receive Carer Allowance; and whether they have current earnings.
EW0074_14	Siewert, Rachel		Outcome 3 - Employment	Labour market figures - Job Services Australia	Job Services Australia 1. In respect of the Labour Market Assistance Outcomes publication for June 2012, please provide details of the 'in scope populations' for each table, if possible adjusted to prevent double counting of exits, and the reasons for the omission of these data from the publication (they were included in previous years of the same publication) 2. Please provide data on the number of entries of very long term unemployed people into the 11-month work experience program in the Building Australia Future Workforce program since 2012. Please indicate the proportion of these people who are employed in the public sector.
EW0075_14	Wright, Penny		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Australian Education Bill 2013 - Redirected funding	1. What is the total funding for national partnerships programs, envisaged by the 2012-13 federal budget for the 2013-14 financial year and over the forward estimates, which is no longer provided for under the 2013-14 federal budget?  2. As well as the Low-SES School Communities National Partnership, which particular national partnership programs are affected?
EW0076_14	Wright, Penny		Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	NAPLAN costs	1. What is the total cost of developing, administering and reporting on the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing, to the Commonwealth government?  2. In relation to NAPLAN, what costs are borne by state and territory governments?
EW0077_14	Xenophon, Nick		Agency - Comcare	Comcare - asbestos investigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How many cases is Comcare now investigating in relation to asbestos removal and dumping relation to NBN Co, Telstra and their contractors?</li> <li>When did these investigations commence?</li> <li>When are they expected to conclude?</li> <li>What matters are considered during the investigations?</li> </ul>
EW0078_14	Xenophon, Nick		Agency - Comcare	Comcare - Government contractors or subcontractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What oversight does Comcare have of government contractors or subcontractors?</li> <li>Does Comcare conduct audits of the work practices of these contractors?</li> <li>Do these audits take place with or without notice?</li> <li>How many inspectors does Comcare have to cover these contractors?</li> <li>What is the investigator to contractor ratio?</li> <li>Does Comcare have specific investigators with expertise in asbestos?</li> <li>What kind of training to inspectors receive?</li> <li>How often to audits take place?</li> </ul>
EW0079_14	Xenophon, Nick		Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Contract clauses for workplace safety and asbestos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there standard clauses in Government contracts relating to workplace safety and asbestos?</li> <li>What are these clauses?</li> </ul>
EW0080_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	FWO - Relates to EW0898_13 (enforcement of court orders)	Senator ABETZ: ..... If I may start with a question on notice, 0898_13 from the February estimates. You kindly provided me with information about the amount of moneys recovered by way of enforcement of court orders over four years, and there seemed to be a ballooning out for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 years. I am just wondering if any light could be shed on why that might be the case. The previous year it was in the mid-\$400,000s; in the following two years, again, it was in the mid-\$400,000s; but in the two intervening years that I mentioned there was nearly \$750,000 and well over \$600,000. Was there any special activity undertaken during those two years that can account for that or was there one big hit on a particular company? It does seem somewhat out of whack with the trend.



QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0081_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	FWO - Queensland Working Women's Service	<p>Senator ABETZ: .....If I can turn to another brief matter, I understand that the ombudsman's office funds the Queensland Working Women's Service.</p> <p>Mr Campbell: That is correct. We do have a service delivery contract with the Working Women's Service.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I do not have the figure in front of me, but from memory is it \$80,000 per annum?</p> <p>Mr Campbell: I can get that information for you.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Or \$30,000?</p> <p>Anyway, I am just wondering: do we undertake any auditing of that money and how are we, the Australian taxpayers, assured that that money is being spent on what it is meant to be spent on?</p>
EW0082_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	FWO - Relates to EW0767_13 (staffing)	<p>Senator ABETZ: ..... I move on to question 0767_13? That deals with a decrease in staff. You told us in that written answer that there were 100 less staff between 31 March 2012 and 31 December 2012. Can you give us an update? Has there been a further decrease, or is then an increase in the number of people working for the Fair Work Ombudsman?</p> <p>Mr Campbell: Other than the usual ones and offs after the material that is reported in that question on notice, I would not think there has been significant change.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So stable would be would be an accurate description?</p> <p>Mr Campbell: Pretty stable. I would say about 800 staff within the organisation.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Alight. Then we head to a few adjustments here and there in corporate finance, albeit I am not sure exactly what percentages they represent. In corporate there were eight departures. Possibly I should have asked for this so I could get a better understanding of it, but how many people are actually employed in corporate? Does a reduction of eight represent, for example, and eight per cent decrease or a 50 per cent decrease?</p> <p>Mr Campbell: That is a good question.</p> <p>pg. 7, Senator ABETZ: Could you take that on notice for the categories: corporate, finance, IT, project management, education, major employers, quality and information policy team et cetera. But then we get to the contact centre compliance and dispute resolution, which to me seem to be the three areas where the rubber hits the road, where the ombudsman is interacting with the public. In those categories we seem to have fairly substantial decreases: contact centre, 22; compliance, 48; dispute resolution, nine; and in legal nine. Are we able to give an explanation for those areas for what appears, on the raw number at least, a substantial decrease?</p> <p>Mr Campbell: That would represent maybe about seven per cent of the total. My maths is not that great, but I could get that tidied up.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Join the club!</p>
EW0083_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	FWO- Breakdown and profiles of 457 visa holder complainants	<p>Senator ABETZ: From the experience of the 157 complaints last financial year and the 164 complaints so far this financial year, are you able to give us an idea as to what pockets of the economy-what areas of the economy-might be the offending areas?</p> <p>Mr Ronson: We have done some analysis on a breakdown, I suppose, of our complaints for the typical profile of a temporary work skilled standard business sponsorship subclass 457 visa holder. This is according to our complaints, individual written complaints that we have received. As the Fair Work Ombudsman has stated, this does not relate to market salary rates and so forth. Of those individuals who have complained, 73 per cent are likely to be male, 37 per cent are likely to be between 31 and 40 years of age-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So can we guess that the 27 per cent are female?</p> <p>Mr Ronson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Good.</p> <p>Mr Ronson: And 38 per cent are likely to be from China, India or the UK; the majority, 54 per cent-this goes specifically to your question, Senator-are likely to be working in accommodation and food services, manufacturing, professional, scientific and technical services, and construction sectors. They are engaged typically--this is our analysis, not obviously the immigration department's-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can I just interrupt you there. That 54 per cent--</p> <p>Mr Ronson: These are the top four sectors, if you like.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So accommodation and food services, manufacturing, scientific and technical, and then construction.</p> <p>Mr Ronson: If you break that down-this is like a profile-they are engaged as either a professional chef or a cook, an engineer, an IT specialist, a scientist or a carpenter. Do you want some more statistics?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, please. It is a bit concerning that we were told that it was not readily available.</p> <p>Mr Campbell: Senator, I think I offered to get you as much granularity as we could.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, but we did not have to take it on notice; it clearly is available. So yes, please, Mr Ronson.</p> <p>CHAIR: Mr Campbell did not say he would take it on notice; he said he would get it as quickly as possible for you.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: It was through my persistence that we finally got Mr Ronson to the table.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Yes, Senator Abetz, you are very persistent, and we are helping you.</p> <p>Mr Ronson: Just very simply, for the female visa holders, as you said, the figure is 27 per cent, with 32 per cent likely to be between 26 to 30 years of age, 30 per cent likely to be from the Philippines, India or the UK, and 90 per cent-this is the most interesting statistic-likely to be working in the healthcare and social assistance sector and engaged as either an aged-care worker or a nurse.</p>
EW0084_14	McKenzie, Bridget	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	FWO - Compliance in share farming and 457 visa workers in the agriculture sector	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Could you flesh out for me your perspective on share farming, for instance.</p> <p>Mr O'Shea: I am not really familiar with the industry.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: It is the practise in the dairy industry, where a young couple, typically, will come on farm with a bigger operation. They may be provided with a home, et cetera, or their utilities. They work for a period of time and after about six to eight years they will either leave that relationship with a deposit for their own property or a herd, which they have obviously bred within that operation and they can take that as a deposit for their own farm.</p> <p>Mr O'Shea: As I said, I am not 100 per cent familiar with that practice. Perhaps the best way for me to answer the question would be for me to go back to common-law arrangements which surround the law of employment. If that was brought to our attention as a complaint, the Fair Work Ombudsman would look at whether or not the elements of the employment relationship being created existed, and, if so, whether or not terms and conditions of employment were required. The way you describe it, if it is a genuine learning opportunity on the other side and there is some consideration and some payment in kind, then that may swing the balance in the other way in that it might be an okay learning environment. But without running a full investigation it would be difficult to say either way.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: On notice then, maybe you could ascertain whether that has been brought to your attention. Also of the information you are getting for Senator Abetz, I would like some statistics around agricultural industry and complaints and how many 457s are being used.</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0085_14	Marshall, Gavin	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	FWO - Complaints regarding Job Services Australia provider	CHAIR: On a sort of related issue about unpaid work-I am going to follow this up with witnesses later in the day but I think it might be a little bit relevant to you-have you ever had any complaints from Job Services Australia about employers who seek, on a regular basis, to trial workers before they employ them but never actually get around to employing them? The reason I ask-and this might help explain it-is that it has been put to me by a couple of constituents in a particular Job Services Australia provider that they have been sent to a prospective job and put on a three-day trial and then not given the job and not paid and not thinking there was too much wrong with that until they talked to others in the same services provider to find out that virtually everyone with that job services provider has been to the same employer and everyone has had the same experience of effectively working for three days for nothing and the job never seems to be filled on a permanent basis. Have you had those complaints made to you? If so, what have been the results of your investigations? Mr Campbell: We may well have, but off the top of my head I cannot recall a case like that.
EW0086_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	FWO - Referral of ABCC matters to the FWO	Senator ABETZ: But the simple fact is that, if you were in the construction sector and underpaid, one way or the other, your case was taken up. If it was by the ABCC or building inspectorate via the matter being referred to the Fair Work Ombudsman, nowadays they do it themselves. Mr Campbell: The FWBC has always done it themselves. But in the old days, pre 1 October 2010, I can get that date checked for you. Mr Campbell: No, we do not refuse to give advice.
EW0087_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	FWO- Calls to Infoline- providing employers name or ABN	Senator ABETZ: Can you tell us what percentage do not give a name or an ABN? Mr Campbell: I will take that on notice. Senator ABETZ: If you could, because I understand that that is a concern.
EW0088_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	FWO - Relates to EW0897_13 (PayCheck Plus calculator)	Senator ABETZ: ..... Let me move on to the PayCheck Plus calculator in which you kindly provided some information to question 0897_13. We were told that the total amendments were, as I understand it, 223. Mr Campbell: That is correct. Senator ABETZ: Yes, for the period 1 July to 31 December 2012. Changes that were made as a result of Fair Work Commission variations, I think we can give that a tick as being appropriate. What I am really wanting to find out is other, human error. We have got the last classification 'other (human error not elsewhere classified)'. I am just wondering where else human error might be classified. Let's go to the second category-correction to or creation of phased rates of pay. When it is a correction to, is that potentially because of human error? If it is going to be a creation of phased rates of pay, one assumes that emerges out of the modern award or whatever that another date has been reached for another transitional provision to come into force which would be, if I might say, in the same category as amendments as a result of Fair Work Commission variations, or not? Mr Campbell: Yes. In my understanding that would be a new coupling of a classification under a pre-modern award and a modern award. I accept that the way that is coupled together with the correction to one of those couplings is different obviously from the creation of a new model.
EW0089_14	Bilyk, Catryna	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	FWO - Cost to handle bullying claims	Senator BILYK: There is a proposal by the government currently before the parliament proposing that bullying claims could be taken to the Fair Work Commission, and the government has provided funding in the budget to assist the commission to deal with those claims. I understand the opposition have some amendments before the House of Representatives to require a complainant to have the issue raised with Fair Work Ombudsman or with Safe Work Australia. I am trying to get some information-and you may need to take this on notice-about what the cost might be to the Fair Work Ombudsman if it were required to deal with bullying claims before they are able to be to the Fair Work Commission. I am talking in areas such as telephone advice, telephone counselling, mediation on the telephone, maybe face-to-face mediation as well, and any sort of investigation or inspection. Mr Campbell: We have done no costing or analysis to that effect as we have not been part of the policy development or the
EW0090_14	Bilyk, Catryna	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman	FWO - Legal restraints regarding making orders in respect of bullying	Senator BILYK: Would there be any legal constraints if you were given the responsibility for making orders in respect of bullying? Mr Campbell: Only because we are moving into a jurisdiction which we do not currently have. I cannot really answer that question for you in the sense that it is a hypothetical at this point. As I understand it, we are not proposing to have a jurisdiction there under the legislation that is before the parliament.
EW0091_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Office of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate	FWBC - Budget Cuts	Senator ABETZ: Are you able to tell us how many days in advance of the budget coming down this communication took place? Mr Corney: These obviously evolved over time. It might have been within a couple of weeks prior to budget. Senator ABETZ: Ms Hausler or Mr Casey, do you have a better feel for this? Mr Casey: Senator, my recollection is that it was in the weeks leading up to the budget, but- Senator ABETZ: Two weeks? Mr Casey: Something like that, Senator; I would prefer to take it on notice. Senator ABETZ: Something like that. And the budget is usually printed about a week before it is handed down. So there was not any real meaningful dialogue about this proposed, now actual, cut, was there? Mr Corney: We provided a response as to how we would effect any budget savings. Senator ABETZ: What date was that? Was it in written form? I assume it was. Mr Corney: There was a written exchange with the department, yes, setting out how we would do it. Senator ABETZ: Perhaps you could take on notice when you were first advised that you might be getting a cut and then the date
EW0092_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Building & Construction	FWBC - Budget appropriation	Mr Casey: In 2009-10 our revenue from government, which is our budget appropriation, was \$33.446 million. Senator ABETZ: Yes, that is the figure I had. And, as I understand it, it was then also in the forward estimates as, in round figures, \$33 million, \$33 million, \$33 million, and \$34 million for the year 2013-14. Is that correct? Mr Casey: I do not have a previous version of the PBS, so I will have to take your word for it. Senator ABETZ: Take that on notice, but that is what the ABCC and the building inspectorate was to be operating in the forward
EW0093_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Office of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate	FWBC - Targeting of contractors known to have contacted FWBC	Senator ABETZ: .....Has the agency been made aware that certain union officials are targeting contractors known to have contacted or made a call to your agency? Mr Corney: I am not aware of specific matters like that. I am aware of a case in Western Australia where the visit of our agency brought industrial action, but I am not aware of the specific matter that you raise. Senator ABETZ: Right so you are not aware of any concern expressed to the agency by building representative organisations? Mr Corney: I have certainly had none provided to me. I am not aware of the specific sort of matter that you refer to. Obviously we are aware of the generalities of complaints and concerns but not that specific one. Senator ABETZ: On notice I invite you to ask your various state directors as to whether they have had those sort of complaints made to them. In one particular state, that I will not mention, there is concern that when people make complaints to your agency
EW0094_14	Bilyk, Catryna	3/06/2013	Agency - Office of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate	FWBC - Completion of investigations within 90 days	Senator BILYK: But they do not all take 90 days. Mr Corney: No, obviously we are talking of averages here. But 90 per cent are concluded within that 95 days, from memory. Senator BILYK: The large majority. Have you got any idea how that might compare with your predecessor organisation? Mr Corney: We have advanced over time. I do not have the figures available to me; I can provide those to you- Senator BILYK: Take that on notice, thank you. Mr Corney: There has been a steady increase. I will provide that on notice.

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0095_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Office of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate	FWBC - Investigations	<p>Senator ABETZ: And when those matters were so referred, were they then referred to, or referenced as investigations by, the ABCC in their statistics?</p> <p>Mr Corney: I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Well, I would put to you that it was not. Therefore, to assert that all of a sudden this inspectorate or agency is undertaking a lot more investigations than the ABCC ever did will of course be related to the inspectorate agency, for whatever reason possessed it to take over the wages, entitlements and pay from the expert body that was already in existence in pursuing these matters. I just wanted to clear that up. Then, under the 91 active investigations, how do I differentiate between 402 investigations and 91 active investigations? What is the material difference between those figures?</p> <p>Mr Corney: Total investigations are matters that commenced. Current active investigations are those that are still continuing.</p>
EW0096_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Office of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate	FWBC - Dashboard	<p>Senator ABETZ: Does it still have a dashboard?</p> <p>Mr Corney: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I was told in late May that it was no longer available on the website. Can somebody confirm that to me? This was a tool that was going to give readily available information to the public as to how the agency was tracking.</p> <p>Mr Corney: I do apologise. It has now moved off.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: When was it moved off?</p> <p>Mr Corney: Can I take that on notice and give you exact dates?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Does anybody know why it was taken off?</p> <p>Mr Corney: It was, I think, taken off around May. I would need to confirm the reasoning behind that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Was it because some of the statistical information on the dashboard was, in fact, incorrect?</p>
EW0097_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Office of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate	FWBC - Days lost in construction industry due to industrial disputes	<p>Senator ABETZ: If I may briefly backtrack, I now have the ABS figures that I was struggling to find before. They were behind some other pages. Could you confirm to me that the days lost in the construction industry due to industrial disputes per 1,000 employees year to year were, in 2004, 224; in 2005, 154; in 2006, 24; in 2007, 10; in 2008, 20; in 2009, 34; in 2010, 42; in 2011, 68; and in 2012, 85? They are sourced from the ABS, I am advised.</p> <p>Mr Corney: I do not have that break-up in the way that-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Which would suggest that there was a peak under the Howard government, which then collapsed to 10 with the Australian Building and Construction Commission, and since its demise it has been rapidly accelerating again. So it is nearly a U-</p>
EW0098_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Comcare	Comcare - National Broadband Network and chain of responsibility	<p>Senator ABETZ: Allow me to go back to this chain of responsibility. We have agreed that in principle, at least, the Commonwealth of Australia could be responsible in relation to this. What about the Commonwealth minister?</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: I would not want to speculate.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: One imagines the Commonwealth minister would fit between the Commonwealth of Australia and the NBN Co., wouldn't he? You have speculated about the Commonwealth of Australia, why not about the individual minister?</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: To the extent that the ministers or senators are people conducting business undertakings is one thing-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: The chances are that they would be indemnified by the Commonwealth-the taxpayer, in any event. But technically, or on principle, like the Commonwealth of Australia, the minister could potentially be liable as well. But you would</p>
EW0099_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Comcare	Comcare - NBN safety and awareness course book	<p>Senator ABETZ: Are you aware from reports or elsewhere as to the size of this participant workbook-the NBN safety and awareness course book?</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: No, Senator.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So we do not know whether those two pages on asbestos represent all of the book or one per cent of the book?</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: I do not know and I will not volunteer a review because, as I said before-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Are you able to find that out for us? Who would be able to-</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: NBN Co.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes-been there, done that, and they were not all that forthcoming.</p>
EW0100_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Comcare	Comcare - Asbestos unsafe handling complaints in Tasmania	<p>Senator ABETZ: Today's Australian newspaper has an article, 'Another asbestos threat exposed: seventh case of unsafe handling', and it relates to a Launceston situation. I was wondering whether you are able to give us any indication as to whether you are aware of that report? It is asserted that this lady, who is named and reported, did notify the federal safety regulator, Comcare, as well as Work Safe Tasmania. Are you aware of that situation?</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: Yes, all of the reports as they come in today through the media are being triage by our national assessment team, and we are making sure that we are verifying if they are new issues or incidences and despatching people to make sure that they</p>
EW0101_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Comcare	Comcare - High Court challenge and costs orders	<p>Senator ABETZ: What are the costs orders in place to date?</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: I cannot recite them. I do not recall the specific array of orders from the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Federal Court.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Each time this lady won the case, orders were made in her favour for the costs, one would assume.</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: There were costs orders. I imagine-</p>
EW0102_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Comcare	Comcare - Bullying claims - number of employees in each area	<p>Senator ABETZ: Would it be fair to say there are more complaints from the private sector than from the public sector?</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: I would separate two things: the number of complaints that might come through to us as the work health and safety regulator is at one level; the number of claims that would be received in the Comcare system would be at a slightly different level. In the financial year to the end of March 2013, there have been 114 accepted claims for workers compensation. In the same period we have received about 130 complaints of bullying from across all employers covered by Comcare's regulatory focus.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: From all of them-so you cannot divide them up for us at this stage?</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: We can certainly give you that split on notice. That might be the most time effective way of dealing with it.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: That is fine, if you would do that. Then, so I do not misinform myself, are you able to tell us the number of employees covered by the private sector and the number of employees covered by the public sector so we can compare their percentages?</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: We can do that, and you can then see the incident rate.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could, I would be much obliged.</p> <p>Mr O'Connor: To save putting it on notice, I think I have discovered the right part. If I look at the number of claims received by Comcare on behalf of Australian government premium payers and we can provide these numbers across a five year period in the</p>
EW0103_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Safe Work Australia	SWA - Studies related to the disincentives to employing people over retirement age	<p>Senator ABETZ: I hate it when people say that! Are we doing any studies related to the disincentives to employing people over the magical retirement age?</p> <p>Ms Grey: We have looked into that, particularly on the workers compensation side-not necessarily about the disincentives but looking at age discrimination for workers involved in workers compensation. In the past we have done small internal studies on the performance of older workers at work in terms of their claims and the risk of injury.</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0104_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Commission	FWC - Australian Childcare Centres	<p>Senator ABETZ: Is this organisation that has not had an election since 2003 still operable?</p> <p>Ms Carruthers: I think that is the point. It is still registered and, when you ring up, there is still someone answering the phone. But in the absence of elected officers it is not possible for the organisation to function effectively under the act because there is no-one to sign financial reports, lodge annual reports and so on. That is why I was interested in referring that matter to the tribunal.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: And here we are in 2013, a full decade later, undertaking this activity. Better late than never but, under the rules</p>
EW0105_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Commission	FWC - Organisations in breach of the financial reporting obligations	<p>Senator ABETZ: ..... Can you tell us how many organisations are currently in breach of the financial reporting obligations albeit not necessarily in the market for being deregistered?</p> <p>Ms Carruthers: I can give you an update on the statistics I gave you last time. When we were last here I think I was telling you that by one month after the due date 88 per cent of organisations had lodged for the financial year ending 30 June 2012. In the period between one and three months later 96 per cent had lodged. So there are only 10 reporting units that are outstanding out of 221 for the reporting period, and all of those organisations are either currently under investigation or have been referred to</p>
EW0106_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Commission	FWC - Application for formal rebranding	<p>Senator ABETZ: It might have been old file footage, but I saw something on my TV screen. I have not done a personal inspection, but do the offices still show Fair Work Australia or have we changed that to Fair Work Commission?</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: Most, if not all, of the building signage still refers to Fair Work Australia. We are in the process of changing the signage at the moment. It took some time because it requires formal exemption from the Australian government branding guidelines, which we received a short time ago.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: How long did that take?</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: We formally got the exemption on 6 May.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: When did you put in the application for the formal rebranding?</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: I do not have that date in front of me.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Does anybody else? Talk about red tape!</p>
EW0107_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Commission	FWC - List of current conciliators	<p>Senator ABETZ: Yes. I am suggesting that a maximum of 13 days might not necessarily be conducive to good governance, good regulation and good implementation. But that has become a hallmark of this government and I do not expect you to comment on that. Is the list of conciliators used, employed, and contracted by the commission publically available?</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: Not the names of the conciliators.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Would there be anything mitigating against those names being made available publically?</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: In fact, it is not very accurate to say they are not publically available, because when matters are listed for a conciliation conference with a conciliator the name of the conciliator appears on the hearing list each day. So the names are available.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If I were to ask for a list of the conciliators, would there be any good public policy reasons as to why that list should not be supplied? I am treading carefully here because there might be reasons that I have not thought of.</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: I do not believe so.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Could you take on notice to provide me with a list of current conciliators as of today's date, please? In the event that you think there might be a reason why that should not be supplied, feel free to let me know of that thinking, because I do not want to put people's names into the public domain too gratuitously, if I can use that terminology.....</p> <p>pg 85. Senator ABETZ: How many conciliators are there, roughly? Do we know?</p> <p>Ms Clarke: We have 26 conciliators, with the full-time equivalent at this period of around 20.</p>
EW0108_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Commission	FWC - Annual Member Conference Terrigal	<p>Senator ABETZ: I understand the commission had a bit of a get-together at Terrigal in February or early March. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: There was the annual members conference in Terrigal, in February, yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: What sort of cost does that usually attract?</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: I will take that on notice, if I may. I do not have that information in front of me.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: One would assume the travel, accommodation and a travel allowance would be paid.</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: Generally not travel allowance because the meals and things are provided.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Right.</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: The venues are generally in either Victoria or Melbourne, to minimise the travel costs, where the bulk of members are and it is an annual gathering to share information and provide updates. Sorry, I meant to say Victoria or New South Wales</p>
EW0109_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Commission	FWC - Mr Craig Thompson investigation - additional charges by Victoria Police	<p>Senator ABETZ: .....Turning back to Mr Craig Thomson, the member for Dobell, we have advice that the Victoria Police have laid 19 fresh fraud and theft charges, so that he now faces 173 charges. Have you been able to have a look at those 19 extra charges, Ms Carruthers?</p> <p>Ms Carruthers: Not at this stage.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I am wondering why those 19 extra charges did not come out of the Fair Work Australia investigation into Mr Thomson's activities.</p> <p>Ms Carruthers: I imagine that that is a direct result of the fact that, when we conducted the investigation into the national office of the Health Services Union, there was no capacity for Fair Work Australia to obtain documents or information from third</p>
EW0110_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Commission	FWC - Investigation and inquiries - Employer registered organisations and employee registered organisations	<p>Senator ABETZ: In fairness to these employee organisations-because there seems to be a preponderance of them: the 15 and, if we add these other four, 19-are you able to tell us how many employer registered organisations there are and how many employee registered organisations there are?</p> <p>Ms Carruthers: I can tell you that there are about 115 in total, but I cannot give you the split-the number 45 pops into my head, but I just would not want to chance my arm on that one.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: But there are 115 registered organisations.</p> <p>Ms Carruthers: Around about. We have had a couple of recent amalgamations. But I think that it is in that order.</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: I think the senator asked how many reporting units there are.</p> <p>Ms Carruthers: There are about 405 reporting units-I might have misheard your question.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I did say registered organisations. But reporting units-thank you, Ms O'Neill-is a different category and if I was on top of my game I would have asked about reporting units rather than registered organisations. That is going to make your task even more difficult. How many reporting units are there from an employer perspective and how many from an employee perspective?</p> <p>Ms Carruthers: That is an important distinction to make in this context, though, because a lot of the employer organisations are the one entity-if we can get into even more jargon. For instance, take the Childcare Centres Association, since we have mentioned it a couple of times already tonight. The association is in itself the body that has corporate status under the registered organisations act. It is also the one reporting unit within that entity. It does not have branches. Quite often, employer organisations are just one single entity. When you get into the unions, as you would appreciate, they have divisions and branches. They have big and complex structures.</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0111_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Commission	FWC - Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal to create training fund	<p>Senator ABETZ: In the Australasian Transport News of 27 May 2013 it was reported that: The TWU has asked the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal (RSRT) to create a training fund. Is that report correct?</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: There have been a number of submissions to the tribunal, including submissions from the Transport Workers Union. I do not have that submission in front of me. All of the submissions received by the tribunal are available on its website, and it may be that something of that nature is in the relevant submission on the website.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: We have Ms Acton making public comments, including that Australia's road safety strategy was to 'reduce crashes involving heavy vehicles, which had resulted in 200 deaths from 185 accident in 2011-12. It seems that there is more to be done in respect of road safety.' I think most of us would agree with that. But these are potentially politically charged comments? How many of these crashes involving heavy vehicles were in fact deemed to be the responsibility of the driver of the</p>
EW0112_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Commission	RSRT - Relates to EW0762_13	<p>Senator ABETZ: But this is the underlying object of the legislation that you are supposedly administering. I think you have answered that question for us. Thank you for that. In question on notice No. 762_13 I asked for a full breakdown of the costs and programs within the RSRT. Can you show me where the answer provides a full breakdown of the costs and programs within the RSRT?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: The answer to this question is that the RSRT is assisted by the Fair Work Commission. It relies on the bureaucracy of</p>
EW0113_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Commission	FWC - Leave taken by President of the RSRT	<p>Senator ABETZ: How many weeks leave has Ms Acton had since her appointment?</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could, please.</p>
EW0114_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Commission	FWC - RSRT formulated work programs	<p>Senator ABETZ: In launching the tribunal last June-that was 12 months ago-the minister said that six months had been given to the body to begin formulating work programs and to make remuneration orders before beginning its dispute resolution function, promising that this would make Australian roads safer for everyone. Let us hope it does. Have the work programs been formulated?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: The annual work program has been established through a series of consultations with the public.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: When was that finalised?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: I do not have that date on me. I can certainly provide it to you.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Is it fair to say that it has only recently been finalised?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: Yes, quite recently.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Last month?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: I would not speculate. I will have to find out for sure.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Would you agree that it was not within the six months that the minister announced?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: I would like to confirm the date.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I was told that we did not need Ms Acton here because the staff that would be provided would be fully briefed. Clearly, they are not. I would have thought that we might be able to get information for something that the minister announced would be done within six months. Is it correct to say that the timetable with this tribunal is in some limbo, in a state of flux, because it requires the cooperation of state authorities?</p>
EW0115_14	Abetz, Eric	3/06/2013	Agency - Fair Work Commission	FWC - RSRT constitutional limitations	<p>Senator ABETZ: And what are the constitutional limitations restricting the tribunal? It can only over about 60 per cent of owner-drivers, can't it?</p> <p>Ms O'Neill: I would have to take that on notice. I cannot recall what constitutional-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So 40 per cent of owner-drivers, as I understand it, cannot be covered, and 20 per cent of employee-drivers cannot be covered, which will therefore make it an interesting proposition, because those that are not covered-if the assertion is right that pay does impact road safety, pay also impacts whether or not people get contracts. So you bump up the pay for 60 per</p>
EW0116_14	Sinodinos, Arthur	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	JSA caseload	<p>Senator SINODINOS: I have some questions on Job Services Australia and a few other things. How many JSA providers are there currently?</p> <p>Mr Parsons: The answer to your question is 93 JSA as at today.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: What is the total case load at the moment?</p> <p>Ms Parker: Senator, I will answer the first question. As at 31 March 2013, the total case load for JSA is 788,634 job seekers.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: That has gone up since February. Was it 732,000 then? What was the date of the 788,000?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: It has increased slightly. I have got that from several years back, if that would help.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: No, it is okay. What was the date of the 788,000?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: 31 March.</p>
EW0117_14	Sinodinos, Arthur	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	JSA caseload - active and suspended	<p>Ms Drayton: The case load that we have-the 788,000-has all the job seekers on it. It does include people who are suspended or exempted.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: What would be the active case load? Ms Drayton: I will have to get someone to work that out, because we have 146,161 suspended job seekers on</p>
EW0118_14	Sinodinos, Arthur	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Work for the Dole	<p>Senator SINODINOS: Do you have a Work for the Dole figure for the last 12 months?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: We have the life of the contract and to 31 March.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: What is the attendance rate at Work for the Dole?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: That is a good question. I am fairly certain we do not have it broken down by activity type, as far as the flows into compliance framework. We have the compliance framework broken down by failure type rather than activity type. We will take that question and see if we can find something</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0119_14	Siewert, Rachel	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Building Australia's Future Workforce Program	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Can I park that for a moment because I am going to run out of time; I want to ask a specific question about the review.</p> <p>Ms Parker: There are other pieces of the place based system. Would you like me to describe those? I will do it quickly.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes, if you could. Is it possible to get information on what the deliverables are out of these programs?</p> <p>Ms Parker: Certainly, yes-of the place based in particular?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: The place based in particular, and the evaluation and process that is being undertaken for each of them and the time frames for that. That would be appreciated.</p> <p>Ms Parker: That is fine. I will just list the other ones, then, perhaps. The other components of these place based trials, as you called them, include a program called Regional Education, Skills and Jobs. They are coordinators working with stakeholders, including Regional Development Australia committees, to do plans and work with local communities. They are basically focused on participation, education and training in regional Australia. They are very regionally based.</p> <p>We have a program called Local Connections to Work, which provides locally tailored support for job seekers. Our DHS providers and other services in states and territories work together to provide a wrap-around service to assist job seekers. We also have measures called Helping Young Parents. They are focused on helping teenage parents in 10 disadvantaged locations to get year 12.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: So that is part of the place based-</p> <p>Ms Parker: Yes, these are all place based programs that are aimed at helping their children get the best start in life. Another component of the place based measures is a program called Community Innovation through Collaboration. Again, in the priority employment areas, we have a range of government action leaders, community actions leaders and local advisory groups. All of them are working together in the 10 local government areas with a small Local Solutions Fund, which is aimed at increasing social and economic participation in those areas. That is a four-year program that is run by the Department of Human Services.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: What size is the local fund?</p> <p>Ms Parker: The fund is \$21.79 million over four years. We have a couple more. The compulsory participation requirement for</p>
EW0120_14	Siewert, Rachel	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Stream 4 long-term unemployed	<p>Senator SIEWERT: So we do not know of the stream 4 long-term unemployed, but you could break down the figures. Is it possible to take on notice, then, that break down? I am trying to determine how we are going, particularly, with the long-term and the very long-term unemployed.</p> <p>Ms Drayton: You are looking at the absolutely most disadvantaged-</p> <p>Ms Paul: They are a captive cohort. They are extremely poor, so they have multiple disadvantages. Then, in addition to that, they are long-term or very long-term unemployed. Once you get through all that, they have been unemployed for a year or two years, what proportion of them are getting 13-week or 26-week or at least some sort of job or positive outcome.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Exactly. That is what I am after.</p>
EW0121_14	Sinodinos, Arthur	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Outcomes, payment schedules and claims under JSA contract	<p>Senator SINODINOS: You do not have to do it now but can you provide a list of all 144-or-so types of outcomes under the JSA contract? Is it true that there is a whole matrix of outcomes?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: We can certainly provide you with the outcomes and payment schedules.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: Including the claims made against each in the last 12 months? Is that public information?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: We can take that on notice and provide that for you.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: Of the claims that have been rejected by DEWR or more information sought, what are the top 20 outcome types?</p> <p>Ms Parker: In terms of rejected, there are a couple of ways of doing that. Sometimes the IT system just does not let them go through. Do you mean we have audited them and found them to be invalid? Is that the question?</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: Where there has been a discretionary action, rather than just the IT system.</p> <p>Ms Paul: We will try to get to some indicators of the integrity of the program. I understand what you are getting at.</p> <p>Ms Parker: I think we can do-</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: It is output of indicators of integrity.</p> <p>Ms Parker: Yes, we will see what we can find.</p>
EW0122_14	Sinodinos, Arthur	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Qualification requirement for education outcomes payment	<p>Senator SINODINOS: Is there a minimum certificate level qualification requirement for which an education outcome payment would be made?</p> <p>Mr Watson: No.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: How far down does it go?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: Certificate I.</p> <p>Mr Watson: You could do certificate I, the lower level, and in some cases do registered training courses as well.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: What would certificate I cover?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Sometimes it could be foundation courses. That is another thing. For example, it could be prevocational, Mr Watson, could it not?</p> <p>Mr Watson: Certainly.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Some of the foundation skills-some of the prevocational that are not accredited under the AQF, but all lead to a much more sustainable outcome.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: Yes. Are we talking about situations where they would be covering basic literacy and numeracy?</p>
EW0123_14	Sinodinos, Arthur	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Wage Connect Subsidies	<p>Senator SINODINOS: According to one of your fact sheets, in some circumstances the subsidies can last for longer than 26 weeks.</p> <p>Ms Drayton: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: How do you judge that?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: If someone does not have full-time job search requirements-they have part-time requirements-it can be extended to 52 weeks.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: Which makes up the equivalent of 26 weeks full time or whatever.</p> <p>Ms Drayton: That is right. The amount of the subsidy does not change. The length of time it is available changes.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: Has this occurred to date? Has there been much of this?</p> <p>Mr Watson: It is in place so as not to disadvantage people with lower requirements, particularly people with disabilities or</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0124_14	Sinodinos, Arthur	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Job seeker exemptions	<p>Ms Paul: Would you like what we have, because it may be easier than trying to work it in that way, and we may not have it, anyway.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: Is this the median?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes. If it is to hand-</p> <p>Ms Drayton: We have quite a bit of information around that. The short-term ones represent 87 per cent of all the exemptions. Those are the ones that are generally of a 13-week duration and could go on a bit longer. The long-term exemptions are 9,430. They are usually the legislated ones in respect of parents, in particular, and their caring responsibilities. That split between the short-term and the long-term, over the last four years, has remained fairly consistent. So it does appear that the majority of them are short-term. The average of those short-term exemptions is 13-weeks. We will see what else we can find out for you for those who have had repeat exemptions.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: How many of these job seekers have had an exemption for six months or more?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: There are two different kinds of exemption. The short-term ones go for 13 weeks, and the longer-term ones are for a maximum of 52 weeks. The 13-week exemptions can be extended. You are asking about the ones that have gone for more than 13 weeks.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: My understanding is that the department planned to recover \$5.6 million in provider-brokered outcome fees. Was that recovered?</p> <p>Mr Parsons: That is true. Butterworth was in for the first look at whether the assertion that the claims were wrong was correct. That was the first provider-brokered outcome audit with that small sample group I talked about. The department then because of that was able to recover that \$5.6 million.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: I have a couple of things on social enterprises and research. Do DEEWR currently fund any social enterprises?</p> <p>Ms Paul: We have the Social Enterprise Development and Investment fund, which has matched \$20 million of private sector money with \$20 million of taxpayer government money to fund social enterprise in disadvantaged areas. That was tendered out. It went to international tender, actually. Organisations like Christian Super and Social Ventures Australia et cetera are part of that. Intriguingly, this portfolio has been at the leading edge of some of that investment, in what I guess you would call 'social impact investing'.</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: Yes. How many job seekers have been referred?</p> <p>Ms Paul: I do not have that with me, and these are not the people to ask. Can we take that on notice?</p>
EW0125_14	Xenophon, Nick	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Robert Butterworth Inquiry	<p>Senator SINODINOS: Good. Has DEEWR undertaken or commissioned any research on the cost of getting disengaged youth into employment? Mission Australia are quoting an estimate of around \$15,000. Has DEEWR looked at this?</p> <p>Ms Paul: What was the \$15,000, Senator?</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: Getting disengaged youth into employment and whether DEEWR had looked at this.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Was that a particular research project?</p> <p>Senator SINODINOS: That was from Mission Australia. They quote that.</p>
EW0126_14	Sinodinos, Arthur	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Social Enterprise Development and Investment Fund	<p>Senator McKENZIE: I want to turn to migration and the Seasonal Workers Program. I would like to know how many producers accessed the program over the last 11 months.</p> <p>Mr Roddam: I am not sure I can tell you how many. What I can tell you is that we have 36 approved employers operating under the program. I noticed you used the word 'producers'. Some of those are accommodation businesses. With the expansion of the program into some trial industries, that would include those industries as well. I do not have the figure for how many of those have actually recruited workers into the country over this year, but that is the number of employers who are approved to participate in the scheme.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: So we have 36 approved employers under the program. Can you separate out, then, those that are part of the new pilot program and the ones that are actually in the more formal program of those 36?</p> <p>Mr Roddam: We would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: With the 36 approved employers, how many employees?</p> <p>Mr Roddam: How many workers have come under the program?</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Roddam: As at 30 April there have been 1,015 since the program commenced on 1 July.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Have all of those stayed for their period of contract between the 14 weeks or the six months?</p> <p>Mr Roddam: Yes, they would have. Are you asking if anyone has overstayed the visa?</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: No, I am asking if anybody left early.</p> <p>Mr Roddam: I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: How much does each approved employer contribute?</p> <p>Mr Roddam: There is not a defined amount of money they would contribute. It is a cost-sharing arrangement in terms of the way the program operates. They pay for a certain proportion of the worker's airfare, health insurance and those sorts of things. I would be able to provide that in detail on notice.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Could you outline the detail for that? Thank you.</p>
EW0127_14	Sinodinos, Arthur	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Research on getting disengaged youth into employment	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Why has the Northern Territory not been identified as a priority employment area? What are the criteria? There are 70 indicators. I assume they are weighted.</p> <p>Ms Paul: I cannot recall whether they are weighted, but the 70 variables go to not just straight-out unemployment rate; they also go to the rate of change in unemployment rate and whether they are particularly vulnerable industries. As you remember, this was first developed as a response to the global financial crisis, but, as we said in evidence earlier this morning, those areas are still being found to be vulnerable in an employment sense. The gap between the region in Australia with the lowest unemployment and the region with the highest unemployment widened significantly during the global financial crisis and has not closed entirely. There were income support indicators. As I said, there were 70. It was not just a straight matter of</p>
EW0128_14	McKenzie, Bridget	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Seasonal Worker Program	<p>Senator McKENZIE: I would like to know whether state governments also have regional employment officers doing the same level of coordination a local level.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: On notice, could you update on the region data where higher education and training has been identified as one of the issues for the region? I assume you would collect regular evaluation data around that. I would appreciate an update on how the plan has contributed to improving outcomes for regional people, particularly with respect to tertiary education</p>
EW0129_14	McKenzie, Bridget	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Priority Employment Areas	
EW0130_14	McKenzie, Bridget	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Regional employment officers	
EW0131_14	McKenzie, Bridget	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	RESJ- update on region data regarding higher education and training	

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0132_14	McKenzie, Bridget	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Gippsland RESJ	<p>Senator McKENZIE: I will just refer you to page 11 of the plan, which talks about the government intending to enter contracts for closure by 30 June 2012, and the impact that that particular government program would have on employment outcomes and training needs of the workforce in Gippsland. Given that the contracts for closure program was abandoned on 5 September 2012, I was just wondering if, as a consequence, the plan needed to be revised.</p> <p>Ms Cornish: There are a number of strategies that the Gippsland RESJ has been working on to try to help in relation to the contracts for closure and that whole issue around clean energy. I can outline what those strategies are.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: I am looking at them. I would love to know how they are going against those strategies.</p> <p>Ms Cornish: I might need to take some of that on notice. The information I do have is that some of the strategies that they have listed in the plan to support that goal of Clean Energy Future is that they are working with the DRDA forum in the Latrobe Valley to discuss green skills by the fourth quarter of 2012. They are also supporting specific energy related skills development activities. I might need to take on notice the broader question around achievements.</p>
EW0133_14	McKenzie, Bridget	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Loddon-Mallee RESJ	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Tertiary education training all, and for Loddon-Mallee issue 10.</p> <p>Ms Cornish: We do have a bit of information about the food and beverages skills passport that the coordinator put in place. As of January 2013, 72 participants had undertaken the training, and we understand that around 55 of those have either found jobs in the industry or retained employment in positions that required upgraded skills. The RESJ coordinator in Loddon-Mallee has also developed a horticulture-with-a-difference pilot program, which has resulted in employment outcomes for five of the 14 disadvantaged job seekers that were engaged.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Thank you.</p> <p>Ms Cornish: That was run between mid-August to early November 2012.</p>
EW0134_14	McKenzie, Bridget	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Loddon-Mallee issue 10	<p>Senator McKENZIE: In relation to the Loddon-Mallee plan, specifically around Murray-Darling Basin issues and issue 7 within the plan, the recruiting of horticultural and agricultural workers, I would like an update on that. If we go to issue 10 in the Loddon-Mallee plan, the strategies identified there go to a range of economic diversification, et cetera. In relation to the second strategy of promoting and encouraging place based initiatives designed to reskill workers to capitalise on future opportunities, could you flesh out how that one has been going.</p> <p>Ms Cornish: In the Loddon-Mallee RESJ plan, it does acknowledge that further work might be required to assist those communities to prepare for any challenges with the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. Some of the strategies such as reskilling workers to capitalise of future opportunities, the RESJ coordinator is collaborating with the JSA providers and the DEET providers as well as the RTOs, and is looking at training strategies to retrain workers potentially affected by those water reforms.</p>
EW0135_14	Back, Chris	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Specialist and generalist providers	<p>Senator BACK: Let us now go to a number of questions, if I may, regarding specialists and generalists.</p> <p>Ms Buffinton: With regard to the tender?</p> <p>Senator BACK: Yes, with regard to the now successful providers. Of those job seekers who were previously serviced by a specialist contract how many transitioned to a generalist provider?</p> <p>Ms Buffinton: We do not have the number of individual job seekers that went from a specialist to a generalist.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Is that something you would be able to supply?</p>
EW0136_14	Back, Chris	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Average employment outcome - covered by a specialist or a generalist	<p>Senator BACK: It is all coming back. Thank you for that explanation. The average employment outcome when someone in the cohort is serviced by a generalist provider instead of a specialist, which, I think, follows on from your analogy, you example, of autism.</p> <p>Ms Parker: Yes.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Perhaps you will be able to give us figures for those who are vision impaired or those with mental illness.</p>
EW0137_14	Siewert, Rachel	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	JSAs providing ESS services	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Is that the total number of JSAs that now provide ESS services, or is it the number that took them on as new services?</p> <p>Mr Parsons: It is the former. I have got a figure for the composition of the market at the present stage. There are 43 JSA providers also delivering DES-either ESS or DMS. But what I cannot tell you right now is what that figure was before the tender.</p> <p>Ms Buffinton: And I cannot either, but I can tell you that either three or four JSAs came in for the first time in-</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: So there was not that much change.</p>
EW0138_14	Siewert, Rachel	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Specialist services for DES	<p>Ms Parker: There is another component to choosing specialists. There are those who say they can run a service and the know there are job seekers and they can look after them if they are Indigenous. We do our own analysis as well. There are two components. When we assess whether we need a specialist service in the area, it is about those two things: firstly, is there anyone who wants to deliver it, and thinks they should and can, and has got data to show that those job seekers exist; and, secondly, there is our own analysis. And that is done at the local level through our contract managers and our labour market analysis. It is not just a matter of if you put your hand up and you can deliver; we need the evidence to show that it is actually needed. So all of those things are taken into account.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: In this instance, you do not say you need one here and you need one there?</p>
EW0139_14	Siewert, Rachel	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Accessing employment services and employment outcomes	<p>Senator SIEWERT: In answering Senator Back, you gave information around clients who were accessing employment services and employment outcomes. It sounds like you have a full list. You were talking about the top couple by type of disability. Instead of going through the whole lot now, could you provide us with the full list?</p>
EW0140_14	Back, Chris	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	DES - employed working hours per week	<p>Senator BACK: Of those who are employed, would you have any idea of the percentage who are working for more than 15 hours a week?</p> <p>Ms Buffinton: I can probably do this in two ways. I can give you an idea of the case load that we have. Future work capacity is what the employment services assessment assesses. When you come in for your assessment, it is not about what you are able to work on now. In the course of service in DES, as you may be rehabilitating or getting skills, we are looking at your future work capacity with intervention. This is before we start to put you through the program. If we take DES in total, we have got about 25 per cent with a work capacity of eight hours, 58 per cent with a work capacity of 15 hours and 15 per cent with a work capacity of</p>
EW0141_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Newstart - modelling changes	<p>Senator CASH: When was the department directed to model the changes to the policy and by whom?</p> <p>Ms Paul: It was in the context of the budget, so I do not know that we were necessarily directed. Clearly we would have modelled and costed a number of different options, presumably, in the context of the budget. They would have been considered by the multiple ministers and then ultimately by government, and that is in their budget decision.</p> <p>Senator CASH: So it was part of the normal budget?</p> <p>Ms Paul: It was part of the budget consideration.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Were these changes considered at all when the government was modelling changes to the eligibility for parenting</p>



QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0142_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Transitioned from parenting payment single to Newstart	<p>Senator CASH: I will move now to Improving incentives to work: extended pensioner concession card entitlement for single parents. With regard to this measure, how many income support recipients will now be eligible to receive the pensioner concession where they would not previously have been eligible?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I do not know that we have forward projections of the numbers who would be able to, but I can take that on notice. What I can tell you is that, since 1 January 2013, 1,168 parenting payment single recipients lost eligibility for income support. When their youngest child turns eight and their earnings are such that they are not eligible to go to any other benefit, and therefore move off income support, they would have lost the pensioner concession card. I can take on notice from 1 January 2014 those forward numbers-but as an indication there are the numbers since 1 January 2013.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Please take this on notice: how many of the new recipients are persons who were transitioned from parenting payment single to Newstart following the eligibility changes?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: They would be able to retain their pensioner concession card. Retaining the pensioner concession card relates to those who are totally moving off income support; they are not moving to any other payment.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Again, what were the reasons for these changes commencing on 1 January as opposed to 1 July?</p>
EW0143_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Supporting job seekers in the transition to work	<p>Senator CASH: I now turn to Supporting job seekers in the transition to work-increase and index the income-free area for eligible income support recipients. In relation to supporting job seekers in the transition to work initiative, which was announced in the 2013-14 budget, has the department undertaken any modelling on the number of income support recipients who are likely to increase their workforce participation as a result of the changes? If so, what was the methodology used to make up the assumptions?</p>
EW0144_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Income-free area for income support recipients	<p>Senator CASH: In relation to the income-free area for income support recipients, when was the department directed to begin work on the increase in this particular area?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Same answer.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Budget process, and take on notice by whom et cetera?</p>
EW0145_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Income support recipients affected by changes	<p>Senator CASH: How many income support recipients are expected to be affected by the changes, and can you provide a breakdown of this cohort by payment type?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: Yes, I can provide you with a breakdown on that. For 2013-14 I will give you a breakdown of those that are very likely to benefit from this. It is around 150,000 a year, and I will break that down. In Newstart it will be 92,315. We have also broken that down into Newstart Allowance single principal-carer parents. That will be 35,861. For Parenting Payment, partnered, it is 17,983. For Partner Allowance it is 408. For Sickness Allowance it is 702. For Widow Allowance it is 1,811. They are the people who would benefit immediately, in the 2013-14 year, from the increase to the income-free area.</p> <p>Senator CASH: So when I ask how many on income support are expected to be affected by the changes, when you answer the question you say 'affected' equals 'benefited'. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: That is right.</p> <p>Senator CASH: And that is the 150,000.</p>
EW0146_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Increase in the income free area	<p>Senator CASH: What was the reason for the increase in the income-free area commencing on 20 March 2014 as opposed to 1 July 2013?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: That aligns with indexation points for payments. So that is a fairly important time for people in receipt of payments. Also-</p> <p>Senator CASH: March 2014?</p>
EW0147_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Exemption from job seeker participation requirements	<p>Senator CASH: Were the other figures just that?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: The total group of people with a medical condition is 48,622. It takes in that small group with frequent illness. The caring responsibility subtotal that I have just gone through is 10,810. Then we move into what we call personal circumstances. That has a grand total of 14,866. I can go through-</p> <p>Senator CASH: Would you mind providing a breakdown?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: There are 4,589 people who have an exemption due to a major personal crisis such as homelessness or being in a witness protection scheme. There are a range of personal circumstances. There are 3,728 people who have an exemption because they are claiming disability support pension but it is yet to be determined. There are 2,649 people who are within six weeks of giving birth. There are 1,699 people who are refugees in their first 13 weeks where they get that exemption. There are 304 people with an approved overseas absence, 216 people facing major personal disruption such as fire, storm or accident, 179 people in a bereavement period, 144 people with issues around domestic violence, 53 people with community service orders and another few categories where there are fewer than 20 people, and that is things like jury duty and other circumstances.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Are you able to provide notice a breakdown of the exemptions by approximate location? Is that something that you collate?</p>
EW0148_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Parenting payment moved onto disability support pension	<p>Senator CASH: I turn now to parenting payment, followed by youth allowance other. In relation to parenting payment, I again have statistical questions. How many recipients of parenting payment affected by the eligibility changes have since moved on to Newstart allowance?</p> <p>Mr Brown: On 1 January 2013, there were 63,254 people who were affected by the changes; 62,325 of them moved onto Newstart on that day.</p> <p>Senator CASH: And the balance of those people?</p> <p>Mr Brown: Because of the differences in eligibility, some people moved across to Austudy and some moved to other payments.</p> <p>Senator CASH: And my next question is: how many recipients of parenting payment affected by the eligibility changes have since</p>
EW0149_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Exemption from job seeker participation requirements - Newstart recipients	<p>Ms Paul: I did not think you meant-</p> <p>Senator CASH: By postcode or street? No.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Phew!</p> <p>Senator CASH: Are any of those persons who have been exempted from job seeker participation requirements former persons who have been moved from parenting payment onto Newstart as a result of the recent eligibility changes? If so, what are the reasons for this cohort having been exempted?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: Most of the parents who transitioned from parenting payment to Newstart were already on the JSA requirements, so it was not as if there was a large group that came through. If they had an exemption, it would have been a pre-existing</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0150_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Youth allowance recipients exempt from job-seeking participation requirements	<p>Senator CASH: I now move on to Youth Allowance (other)? How many recipients of Youth Allowance (other) have been exempted from job-seeking participation requirements to date? Could you please also provide a breakdown of the reason, as we did before, for the exemptions?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: The Youth Allowance (other) figure is the same as the one that I gave you earlier, so it is 5,835.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Remind me why you gave me that figure.</p> <p>Ms Drayton: You asked for the exemptions by payment type.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Yes. That was the Youth Allowance-</p> <p>Ms Drayton: That was one of the payment types.</p> <p>Senator CASH: So that is 5,835. Are you able to provide a reason for the breakdown of those exemptions?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: Just the Youth Allowance ones?</p> <p>Senator CASH: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Drayton: I will probably have to do that on notice.</p>
EW0151_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Youth allowance recipients - participation in education or training full time and newly arrived migrants	<p>Senator CASH: In relation to those recipients, how many of the recipients participated in education or training full time?</p> <p>Ms Drayton: Sorry, we might take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I have a bit.</p> <p>Ms Drayton: Okay.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: This may go to some of it. The early school leaver proportion of the youth allowance (other) is 44,484. The early school leavers are not allowed to be engaged in job search, they have to be engaged in full-time study, training or activities that help them in that way. They represent about 38 per cent of the youth allowance (other) population.</p> <p>Senator CASH: This is the breakdown I was looking for, and tell me where those figures fit in with what I was looking for: to participate in education or training full time, which is part of what you have given me, and to participate in part-time study or training while working to attain the year 12 or equivalent qualification.</p>
EW0152_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Receipt of youth allowance while on temporary absence from Australia	<p>Senator CASH: How persons received youth allowance (other) in 2012-13 while on temporary absence from Australia, not exceeding 13 weeks?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: We would need to take that on notice. That would need to be DHS data, so we will get that.</p>
EW0153_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Youth allowance recipients and additional supplement	<p>Senator CASH: How many youth allowance (other) recipients also received the additional supplement of \$20.80 per fortnight as a result of their participation in Work for the Dole, Green Corps, a literacy or numeracy program, or the Community Development Employment Project in 2012-13? Is it possible to provide a breakdown of this program by participation?</p>
EW0154_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Partner allowance, pension supplement and pharmaceutical allowance	<p>Senator CASH: How many recipients of partner allowance also receive the pharmaceutical allowance and the pension supplement, if you have that one, as well?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: I am sorry, we will have to take the pharmaceutical allowance question on notice. check. We have the pension supplement figure. As at March 2013, the number of people on partner allowance who also received the pension supplement was 139.</p> <p>Senator CASH: It was 139?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: Correct.</p> <p>Senator CASH: And if I look at ATI under the Australian Taxation office, it is adjusted taxable income.</p> <p>Ms Paul: I think Ms Taylor wins; she was onto that.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Is that something you can provide, or do you need to take that on notice?</p>
EW0155_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Pensioner education supplement	<p>Senator CASH: How many persons also received fares allowance in addition to the pensioner education supplement?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: We would have to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator CASH: How many persons receiving the pensioner education supplement in 2012-13 were temporarily absent from Australia for a period not exceeding 13 weeks, and how many were newly arrived migrants?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: We would need to take that on notice.</p>
EW0156_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Sickness allowance	<p>Senator CASH: Turning to sickness allowance: how many persons received the payment in 2012-13, and, again, can you provide a breakdown of this by adjusted taxable income bracket?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: I will be able to answer your first question. The second question, unfortunately, I will need to take on notice. So the number of recipients of sickness allowance, as at March 2013, was 7,691.</p> <p>Senator CASH: How many of these persons also received another income support payment, and can you provide a breakdown by type of payment?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: The eligibility for sickness allowance is that they would not have received another income support payment at the same time. So this is not a supplementary allowance.</p>
EW0157_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Utilities allowance	<p>Senator CASH: Utilities allowance: how many persons received the utilities allowance in 2012-13 and are you able to provide a breakdown of those recipients by income support payment?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: Again, breakdown by income support payment we will need to take on notice because it is across agencies for a range of payments.</p> <p>Senator CASH: So you will take it on notice to get the information; okay.</p> <p>Mr Emerson: We need to do so to get a fulsome answer. But I can say that the total number of people on utilities allowance as at March 2013 is 42,374. I can actually break it down to partner allowance and widow allowance.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Yes, please.</p> <p>Mr Emerson: Partner allowance was 13,396 and widow allowance was 28,978. There are other base payments that this payment</p>
EW0158_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Widow allowance	<p>Senator CASH: I turn finally to the widow allowance and similar questions. How many persons received the widow allowance in 2012-13? Are you able to provide a breakdown, which I believe you will need to take notice, of the adjusted taxable income bracket?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: Yes, you are correct on the second question. The number of recipients in March 2013 for widow allowance was 26,636.</p> <p>Senator CASH: You may have to take these on notice as well. How many of these recipients were newly arrived migrants? How</p>
EW0159_14	Cash, Michaelia	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Exemptions from the newly arrived migrant waiting period	<p>Mr Brown: A more practical question might be: how many people have been exempted from the newly arrived migrant waiting period?</p>
EW0160_14	Siewert, Rachel	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Newstart - 2013-14 PBS	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Let us go with the bottom row of figures. In 2014-15 it goes down to 90 and then up again to 97. What influences that from the previous year to the following year?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: Again, that is a model population impact from our colleagues in Treasury. We work with them-</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: So I should go and ask Treasury?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: We worked with them on this.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: There would be a whole range of factors that would go into making up that, looking at where the population is going and the rate and the predicted movements on and off Newstart. Part of that may also be the ageing of the cohort moving on to other payments as well. So there are a whole lot of other things that would go towards making that up.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: But the point is that you used Treasury figures to predict those figures?</p> <p>Mr Emerson: Yes.</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0161_14	Siewert, Rachel	4/06/2013	Outcome 3 - Employment	Newstart - difference in earnings	<p>Senator SIEWERT: So it is January to March, the exact same cohort, not just for single parents-not the whole cohort of the grandfathered mob, but just the group that have been swapped. Are you able to break that down?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I might take that on notice. I can understand what you are saying.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: What I am saying is that, as their children get older, parents would be more likely to feel more confident about finding work.</p> <p>Mr Emerson: Yes, that is true.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: I am trying to look at whether that cohort had a higher percentage.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I will take that on notice and get that for you.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: So we are comparing, exactly, like with like.</p> <p>CHAIR: Ms Taylor, you are saying that there is a cohort that has gone the other way?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: No. There are more people reporting earnings, so there has been an increase in the number of people who are reporting earnings. There has been a decrease in those not reporting earnings, as you would expect.</p> <p>CHAIR: A decrease in people not reporting earnings?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Yes, that is right-not. So it is a double negative.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Do you get an idea of what the earnings are?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Emerson: We will take that on notice and provide you with the detail, but there has been an increase in average earnings over that period of time.</p>
EW0162_14	Sinodinos, Arthur	4/06/2013	Cross Portfolio	FOI requests	<p>Senator ABETZ: With respect, it has not been like that for a long, long time, because I thought we were given a wonderful environmental explanation last time that if you were to grey out the page or black out the page it would use a limited resource of ink which was not good for the environment. That was one of the rationales offered to the committee. I do not think that rationale had been around for a long time, had it Ms Paul? This department changed its protocols and that is why the problem.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: No, this is another question. To your knowledge was the Senate ever advised that the president of the Fair Work Commission had changed his mind in relation to the appointment of two vice-presidents and he now favoured only one?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I would have to take that on notice-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: You do not know?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: My sense is probably not, but to give you a precise answer I would want to check the Hansard.</p> <p>Ms Paul: You are asking about a communication from someone else completely outside the department to a body of the parliament. We would have to take it on notice. It is not a surprise we would have to take it on notice.</p> <p>.....Senator ABETZ: Do you know why you get FOI, Ms Paul. Because you do not know what is in the file. Quite often you get FOIs and the information you get is absolutely and utterly meaningless. The reason you go for an FOI is not because you know that the material is there, because if you knew about the material you would not have to do the FOI, would you? Please! Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Kovacic says that he is aware that the minister was made aware by Mr Ross that he only wanted one vice-president appointed. Why didn't the minister ensure that that information was passed to the Senate during the Senate debate on this bill that you in fact had carriage of? When I asked about this on a number of occasions the answer given at all times was that it was the president of the Fair Work Commission who wanted two vice-presidents.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I will take that on notice.</p>
EW0163_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Appointment of Vice Presidents, Fair Work Commission	<p>Ms Paul: You are putting an opinion to us on behalf of employers. That may be their opinion.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: If I could just reiterate what-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: That is the assertion that is being made. I am asking the Parliamentary Secretary, because this is clearly steeped in politics and the department should not be involved in that: is it the government's view that part of the sign-off from certain employer groups that were encouraging the passing of the Fair Work Bill was that this was part of the deal?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I have not heard it expressed that way. I will take that question-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: How have you heard it expressed?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Can you let me finish my answer. I will take the question, in its broader sense, on notice. But what I will</p>
EW0164_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Fair Work Act - arbitration	<p>Senator ABETZ: It is not your colleagues; I understand that it is the Prime Minister who makes the appointments. In relation to the issue of arbitration, we had the commitment of the Prime Minister in 2007. That was repeated in 2008. We have what the fair work review panel said. But has any legal advice been sought in relation to this issue of arbitration and what it might do to the integrity of the Fair Work Act?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: We seek legal advice on a whole range of issues to do with the Fair Work Act. Whether we have sought advice in the past or recently on the issues related to arbitration, I cannot recall. I would have to check.</p> <p>Ms Paul: We could take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Look, I asked last time round whether any stakeholder group was given access to legal advice during the drafting of the Fair Work Act. I was given an answer that it would be an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources to attempt to answer that. That is fine, but I now ask whether the Deputy Prime Minister, as she then was, on 30 April wrote to the ACTU of the consequences of arbitration.</p>
EW0165_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Arbitration - legal advice and letter from DPM to ACTU	<p>Senator ABETZ: October 2009 and this letter is conveniently dated for me 30 April 2010, a full six months after you took over that role. I am not going to ask as to what the legal advice may or may not have said, at this stage, all I want to know is whether or not you were made aware of any legal advice in relation to the issue of compulsory arbitration of disputes.</p> <p>Mr O'Sullivan: I think I am going to have to take that on notice. It is three years ago that the alleged document that you are referring to-I am going to have to check my notes and records.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: You do not have any personal recollection?</p> <p>Mr O'Sullivan: No.</p> <p>Ms Paul: And we have now taken this on notice several times.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Have you ever been asked to prepare advice on this issue?</p> <p>Ms Paul: I think we have taken that on notice, in terms of arbitration.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: No. Since your appointment in October 2009 have you ever prepared advice?</p> <p>Mr O'Sullivan: Of course I have prepared legal advice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: No, on this issue of compulsory arbitration?</p> <p>Mr O'Sullivan: I do not feel I am at liberty to disclose the nature of the advice I prepared.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I am not asking you the nature of the advice.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Well you are, because you are asking about arbitration.</p>
EW0166_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Legal advice in relation to the issue of compulsory arbitration of disputes	<p>Senator ABETZ: Yes. That was the attachment A but it is, as I understand it, a repetition of it. But let us look at the actual letter. Does the letter-do those first two pages-ring any bells?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I have no recollection in terms of seeing this letter before.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: You see, on this letter-and this is an issue that I want to canvas with the department-you may note that the email is 'dpm'.</p> <p>Ms Paul: What email?</p>
EW0167_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Email address on the letter from DPM to then secretary of the ACTU	<p>Senator ABETZ: Yes. That was the attachment A but it is, as I understand it, a repetition of it. But let us look at the actual letter. Does the letter-do those first two pages-ring any bells?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I have no recollection in terms of seeing this letter before.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: You see, on this letter-and this is an issue that I want to canvas with the department-you may note that the email is 'dpm'.</p> <p>Ms Paul: What email?</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0168_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	NBN Safety & Awareness Course book	<p>Senator ABETZ: All right. That is fine. Have you had occasion, Mr Kibble, to have a look at the participant workbook entitled NBN Safety &amp; Awareness Course book?</p> <p>Mr Kibble: I have not personally, no.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Do you know whether or not it exists? Because NBN were not sure whether it exists. Comcare was not sure whether it existed and as is the way a savvy constituent has emailed me information, but I have not seen the book either. I am</p>
EW0169_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	NBN rollout and asbestos safety issues	<p>Senator ABETZ: And there is still a duty with the property owner.</p> <p>Ms Ross: But you may have done everything reasonably practical that you can do and discharged your duty.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Boards of directors all around the country are grappling with that issue as we speak. I suppose the point I am getting to is: does this scenario also then play out for the Commonwealth and government institutions?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: It certainly does in respect of its own employees, yes.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Indeed, Comcare has been working with each of us. As the chief executive I have those responsibilities as well. Comcare has been working, for example, with the defence department or some of these departments where they would be concerned that they put people in harm's way. The point that Ms Ross makes is the actual point, which is that what the legislation is looking for is the mitigation strategies et cetera. Most of us agencies, departments et cetera will have done some sort of audit or review or looked at what measures we have in place. It is the mitigation strategies that matter.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: But the same regime applies to the Commonwealth?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I just wanted that confirmed, thank you. Mr Shorten has told the public that he has accepted assurances from Telstra that asbestos safety issues were under control. I understand he did that previously in his private capacity and not with input from the department because he was not minister at the time. That is what I am assuming.</p>
EW0170_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Recommendations from reviews of Comcare	<p>Ms Emery: The Hanks report was released publicly on, I think, about 30 March, and the Hawke report, I think, was released publicly on 1 May. The government announced on, I think, 2 May that it was accepting 21 recommendations from those reviews. That is our status at the moment.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Parliamentary Secretary, can you tell us? Accepting 21 recommendations is all good, but are they going to be implemented? Are they going to be enacted? Do we know how they are going to be dealt with?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: .....Can I briefly move to the Fair Entitlements Guarantee?</p>
EW0171_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Fair Entitlements Guarantee	<p>That is what it is called in fact: Fair Entitlements Guarantee, which was formerly the GEERS. It reached \$205 million in the nine months to March, taking the expected cost of the scheme to \$651 million over the three years to 30 June 2013. Do we have any further estimates on that? Are we saying that things will be as per the budget documents or that things will change? It seems that whenever a budget document is delivered, or when an update is delivered, it changes.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: Two things I would say: portfolio budget statements indicate the predicted expenditure under the program. As I think we have canvassed in this committee previously, GEERS previously and now the Fair Entitlements Guarantee are both demand driven programs. So, to the extent that the demand exceeds what is projected, there is the possibility that additional funding would be required; similarly the extent that the demand is less than as projected-clearly likely to be surplus resources. The difficulty in terms of predicting in this sort of area has been something that we have highlighted to the committee over a number of years.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: It is demand driven, but nevertheless a figure is-what is the term-'postulated', 'hypothesised'?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Estimated.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Estimated into the budget. On what basis was that estimation made? Did we take-like with asylum seeker arrivals go for a 10-year average, which completely and utterly distorted the figure and was laughable in the extreme? I am just wondering how we arrived at this particular figure. Was it a 10-year average or was it-</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I think it would probably be a mix of things. One would be-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Not 'probably'. What was it?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I will let Ms Saunders correct me if I am wrong or add to anything, but I think a couple of key considerations would be our past experience in terms of a number of claims that may have been made in preceding years; also what might be average payments under particular claims and they might vary depending on the industry sector where those claims are coming from, the length of service and those sorts of issues, so they would all be factors that would go into the consideration. Sue, is there anything you can add there?</p> <p>Ms Saunders: The costs are actually estimates only and they are our best estimates based on the claims experience that we are experiencing at that time. So certainly-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: 'At that time'? One year? Two years?</p> <p>Ms Saunders: I guess there is a start-</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: Perhaps we might take that on notice for confirmation.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could. I would trust that you do not only look back, let's say, at the claim history over the two years, but</p>
EW0172_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Fair Work Building and Construction Budget	<p>Senator ABETZ: The building agency-let's refer to it as that. It seems like a good idea. That has received a significant haircut of \$24 million. I wonder whether that was simply a decision of government that the department has to deal with or was that something that the department willingly offered up in its budget recommendations to the government?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: Certainly I had some conversations with the previous director of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate, in terms of administrative efficiencies, which informed government's decision in terms of the ultimate decision around savings it took-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Sorry-I did not hear the last bit.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: Which informed government's decision as to the save for FWBC.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: We are in a period of heightened industrial activity. It is escalating at a rather dramatic rate and the fair work building agency is now also undertaking the work-I am not sure why, but it is collecting unpaid wages, which the Fair Work Ombudsman used to do very effectively and efficiently and very professionally, but they wanted to do this as well. It gets a very</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0173_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	EMA Applications	<p>CHAIR: Who has made the other three applications for EMAs?</p> <p>Mr Roddam: My understanding from the department of immigration is that we are not able to name the companies due to commercial-in-confidence.</p> <p>Ms Paul: It is probably a question for that portfolio. I do not think we could go there here.</p> <p>CHAIR: So you know, but you are not allowed to disclose it—is that what you are saying?</p> <p>Mr Roddam: That is my understanding.</p> <p>CHAIR: On commercial-in-confidence grounds.</p> <p>Mr Roddam: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can you tell us how many employees potentially might be involved—even if you cannot tell us in each one—as a global figure in the three?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I think that is a question for DIAC.</p> <p>Ms Paul: I think that is probably a matter for the other portfolio, to be honest. If you want us to take it on notice for them—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: It is either in your knowledge or it is not. It is pretty simple stuff.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: But we do not know—</p> <p>Ms Paul: I do not think we know.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: We would not have the numbers in our head.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Would Mr Roddam know?</p> <p>Mr Roddam: I do not have that information with me, no.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Not the exact but the round figures?</p> <p>Ms Paul: No. It sounds like we will have to take it on notice. Senator ABETZ: You are answering for Mr Roddam, Ms Paul.</p> <p>Ms Paul: No. I said it sounds like we will have to take it on notice. I am not answering for him.</p>
EW0174_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	New regime for registered organisations	<p>Senator ABETZ: ..... The Fair Work Commission indicated some real issues in relation to the new regime for registered organisations with the 1 July start-up date-getting their new rules in place, et cetera. Has that been brought to the department's attention?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: We have had some conversations with the Fair Work Commission. I think the sort of evidence that Ms Carruthers, from memory, provided to the committee last night is perhaps a little more detailed than the conversations we have had. Needless to say, a number of other organisations have also raised some issues in terms of some technical issues going to the registered organisations act as well.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So what are we going to do about it? They are not going to be ready by 30 June, are they-or 29 June? I think somebody corrected me when I was at estimates yesterday.</p>
EW0175_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Minister's speech at MUA conference	<p>Senator ABETZ: Yes. Is it the government's view, Parliamentary Secretary, that, if you want equality in this country, laws need to be broken?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Sorry, Senator, I am waiting for a bit more context to the question.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Is it the government's view that laws need to be broken if you want equality in this country?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I am still waiting for context before I respond to a question like that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I would have thought that any government worth its salt-</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Equality in what respect?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Equality. It is clear that former union officials just have great difficulty in saying to the WA branch of the MUA that that sort of language is unacceptable. So you are following the line of the minister, Mr Shorten, who addressed the MUA conference. Did the department have any input into the minister's speech when he went to the MUA conference which was titled '140 years of militant struggle'?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I do not think so, but I will take it on notice to confirm one way or the other.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you could, that would be very helpful. And whether the department is aware whether, whilst the minister was over there, he took the opportunity to distance himself from the WA branch secretary, Chris Cain, who said: Laws need to be broken, you're going to get locked up. Because if you want equality in this country, you need to take action. That is the man with whom the minister shared the stage. I still do not know or have not seen anything where the minister has said that he does not condone it, let alone does not condemn it. If he did, that would be good. If my attention could be drawn to</p>
EW0176_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Outlaw Motorcycle Gang involvement in CFMEU	<p>Senator ABETZ: Can I ask the government whether it is concerned about reports of bikie influence, bikie involvement in the CFMEU in Victoria in particular?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I cannot speak for the minister, other than to say I am concerned about such reports.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: you are. That is good. How has the government expressed those concerns?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: While the officers are looking up the details of that answer, I think I should elaborate on Mr Kovacic's statement. The ILO has been going through a process of auditing compliance with what they have regarded as the eight fundamental conventions. Whilst this convention might, as you said, have been in mothballs for some time, there is a process that the International Labour Organisation is going through to audit the progress of member countries with respect to what they have identified as fundamental conventions.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: How long has this convention been around for?</p> <p>Ms Williams: This convention was adopted by the ILO in 1973.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So this is a convention that the Fraser government and the Howard government did not ratify.</p> <p>CHAIR: The Whitlam government should have started it back there.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Exactly. The Rudd government did not, the Keating government did not, the Hawke government did not and not even the Whitlam government did. That was for very good reasons, I understand. What has been this great light bulb moment that makes us consider that which was rejected by the foreign affairs guru Prime Minister, Mr Rudd, by the union guru Bob Hawke and the man who loved the international stage, Gough Whitlam. They all did not see the desirability of signing up to this convention and now, in the death throes of this parliament, some are saying this government, 'We are rushing to sign up to this ILO convention.' Can you explain?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I think I have in part explained by explaining the process that the ILO has been going through.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, but that does not make it a good idea.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I am sure that Mr Kovacic can elaborate on what the requests have been to Australia with respect to that</p>
EW0177_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	International Convention on Child Labour	<p>Senator ABETZ: How long has this convention been around for?</p> <p>Ms Williams: This convention was adopted by the ILO in 1973.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So this is a convention that the Fraser government and the Howard government did not ratify.</p> <p>CHAIR: The Whitlam government should have started it back there.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Exactly. The Rudd government did not, the Keating government did not, the Hawke government did not and not even the Whitlam government did. That was for very good reasons, I understand. What has been this great light bulb moment that makes us consider that which was rejected by the foreign affairs guru Prime Minister, Mr Rudd, by the union guru Bob Hawke and the man who loved the international stage, Gough Whitlam. They all did not see the desirability of signing up to this convention and now, in the death throes of this parliament, some are saying this government, 'We are rushing to sign up to this ILO convention.' Can you explain?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I think I have in part explained by explaining the process that the ILO has been going through.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, but that does not make it a good idea.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I am sure that Mr Kovacic can elaborate on what the requests have been to Australia with respect to that</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0178_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	MUA Wage Demands	<p>Senator ABETZ: ..... Can I ask about Minister Gary Gray's comments about wage demands hitting big energy projects. That was on 27 May. Does the government agree? Is that government policy? Is concern being expressed that unions need to be mindful of making unreasonable wage demands that are not linked to productivity?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Without more context than your referring to some comment that Gary Gray may have made around energy projects, I am not in the position to give you an informed government response.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: You are not aware of Minister Gray's comments in relation to that?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: No, I am not.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Let us try the member for Batman, Mr Ferguson. Mr Ferguson warns power strikes will cost jobs. Are you aware of those comments?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: No, I am not.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I have a greatly briefed government and parliamentary secretary here. So we do not know whether what these gentlemen are saying actually represents government policy because the parliamentary secretary does not inform herself. So, does the government believe that the MUA seeking 26 per cent over four years is a good move? Is it within the bounds of what the government believes are sensible wage negotiations?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: I will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Unable to tell us?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Well, I am not going to respond for the minister in relation to his reference to a variety of different</p>
EW0179_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Consultation regarding supporting paid leave for living organ donors	<p>Senator ABETZ: .....Now, the supporting paid leave for living organ donors which was announced in April of this year: was the department consulted in relation to this announcement? It was made by the Minister for Health and Ageing and the Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I am not aware that we were, but I will take it on notice to confirm.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Right, because clearly that will have employment implications and cost implications. Look, on the face of it it looks like a lovely idea, but unless we actually know what the cost and dislocation to business might be it might be difficult to make a proper assessment of it. Now, 1.3 million dollars was committed to this over two years for a trial. But you have not had any input into how this figure was arrived at?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I am not aware of it, but I will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Right. So the salary will be based on the national minimum wage and paid to employers, who will then pass the money on to donor employees. Why it does not go straight to the worker, I do not know. Anyway, you were not consulted so you cannot assist us.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: No, I think Mr Kovacic said that he would take on notice whether the department was consulted. It is not to his immediate knowledge.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I am not aware of this-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: All right. Is there anybody in the body of the room</p>
EW0180_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Enterprise awards	<p>Senator ABETZ: It is my understanding of it as well. Can I ask Mr Breen, or anybody from the department, has there been any feedback that that is mitigating against employers with enterprise awards from seeking to modernise them early? Because if they go to the commission to seek to have them modernised early and the modernisation is rejected, then that enterprise award ends there and then and is terminated rather than at its nominal expiry date, which I think would be 31 December 2013, when all of these are supposed to expire unless modernised.</p> <p>Mr Breen: I am not aware of any feedback or-</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I have not seen any representations to that effect.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Right. Because representations have been made to me to that effect, where employers are saying, 'If we went in early to have it modernised and the modernisation process was rejected, then we lose the benefit of, let us say, 12 months of this enterprise award'. I am just wondering if we know how many enterprise awards there are, because there might then be a huge rush on the commission towards the end of the year to have hearings on modernisation? If they can modernise them, all well and good. But if not they will only lose a month or two rather than what, if I might suggest-and it has only come to me of recent time-is a bit of a design fault, that if you seek to modernise, and the commission for whatever reason decides, 'No, we won't allow you</p>
EW0181_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Extension of notice period of terminating an individual flexibility agreement	<p>Senator ABETZ: ....I think that it was yesterday that we canvassed the Fair Work Commission ruling that the notice period of terminating an individual flexibility arrangement under the Fair Work Act be extended from four to 13 weeks. Parliamentary Secretary, can I ask if the government accepts that decision from the Fair Work Commission? Does it want to legislate to overturn that decision?</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: As far as I am aware it accepts the decision.</p>
EW0182_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Union application regarding apprentices, trainees and juniors	<p>Senator ABETZ: Thank you. What about supporting common matters by union applications regarding review relating to apprentices, trainees and juniors? Did the government intervene in that one?</p> <p>Dr Moorehead: Yes, Senator: the government made a submission on that case.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Basically, in support of the union application?</p> <p>Dr Moorehead: We supported some of what the unions wanted and did not support others.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: How much, in rough terms-over 50 per cent?</p> <p>Dr Moorehead: I can read out what the government did submit support for.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: How many different aspects were there?</p> <p>Dr Moorehead: The government submitted support for four different aspects. That was to have a suitable increase to apprentice minimum wages, for both junior and adult apprentices; to include provisions in modern awards to facilitate competency based wage progression; to include school based apprenticeship provisions in seven modern awards which do not already have those provisions; and to pay course fees and text books associated with an apprentice's off-the-job training by the employer and other costs associated with traveling to attend training. These came out of the big review that the government did called</p>
EW0183_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Union application regarding public holidays and penalty payments	<p>Senator ABETZ: All I am trying to ascertain is on which side the government has been intervening in all these matters. What about the public holidays one? Have we found that one yet, Mr Kovacic?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I am still looking for it.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I think we got sidetracked with the Master Builders. We know that, because of heady matters of public interest, the government intervened on behalf of Barclay in the matter of Barclay and Bendigo TAFE.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Senator Abetz, one moment you say that Mr Kovacic has been distracted, and the next moment you throw in another distraction. If you would allow him to find the reference he needs to answer your question, he could then move on to Barclay, if that is the next one you want to canvass.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: In terms of public holidays, the government submitted that public holidays should attract penalty rates.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Was that the argument being put forward by the unions in that case?</p>
EW0184_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Intervention on behalf of an employer	<p>Senator ABETZ: All of these are for the public interest, of course, and that is fully understood. Can you now point us to any matter of the public interest where the government saw it appropriate to intervene on behalf of an employer?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I would have to take that on notice.</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0185_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Flexibility arrangements and better off overall test	<p>Senator ABETZ: But the individual flexibility arrangements specifically allowed non-financial benefits in exchange for monetary benefits?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: Subject to the employees being better off overall.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: That's right-there's no argument about that at all. So, by simply allowing non-monetary benefits, of itself, does not undermine the Better off Overall test, does it? It depends on the circumstances.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: It certainly does depend on the circumstances.</p> <p>Mr O'Sullivan: Including that the arrangement is genuinely agreed between the employer and the employee.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Of course, we know all the other underlying conditions of individual flexibility agreements.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: I think it is important to indicate here that the minister has made it clear that the government would not support measures that would undermine the Better off Overall test, including allowing non-monetary benefits to be traded for penalty</p>
EW0186_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Media release concerning wages and non-monetary benefits	<p>Senator ABETZ: Thank you. It wasn't that difficult after all. I am just wondering whether the department provided any assistance and take this on notice-with the minister's media release of 15 May 2013. Then Mr Shorten tells us in the House of Representatives:</p> <p><i>They are now proposing. I love this. I do not know who dreamed it up, but they deserve a medal for idiocy to make law that you</i></p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Have we had a look at the decision of Commissioner Bull on Ecotech Building Services, and does that reflect the government's policy views and interpretation of what the Fair Work Act allows in relation to flexibility arrangements?</p> <p>Mr O'Sullivan: I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: All right, if you could. It is a decision of 13 May 2013, where the flexibility arrangement was sought to simply deal with adjustment to trade union training leave and blood donor leave. If you could take that on notice I would be much obliged.</p>
EW0187_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Ecotech Building Services decision and interpretation of FWA	<p>Senator ABETZ: .....Have we had consultation on the Seacare report? Where are we with that?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: They are currently underway, which is the short answer.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: What does that mean-legislation is underway?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: We are consulting with stakeholders across May and June.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Is the consulting still taking place?</p> <p>Ms Emery: Yes, it is. The first consultation took place last week on Thursday with the Seacare Authority, and we have further consultations planned over the next couple of weeks with a variety of stakeholders.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Parliamentary Secretary, would it be fair to say we will not be seeing any legislation on that score before the end</p>
EW0188_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Seacare Report	<p>Senator ABETZ: Can somebody assist me as to what happens or who supervises approved worker entitlement funds? Does anybody know what they are?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: Is this the one you were asking last time?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, with the redundancies. What is it? The approved worker entitlement funds, AWEF, in Australia represents the largest state or national redundancy funds: Incolink, ACIRT, Protect, BIRST, MERT, CERT, WACIRF and BURST. Supposedly \$1.5 billion is held in trust for over 300,000 active members.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: My recollection is that they are established under Corporations Law, but I would need to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: So, this department does not monitor it?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: No.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If I wanted to monitor that I would have to go to ASIC.</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: Assuming my assumption that it is Corporations Law, I think that is probably correct.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If there is a potential breach of the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act who looks into that?</p> <p>Mr Kovacic: Comcare. It could be either. I think the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, together with Comcare, share the regulatory responsibilities, but I will just get Ms Emery to confirm that.</p> <p>Ms Emery: Senator, exactly what sorts of breaches are you talking about?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: There was a letter written to the minister on 6 May 2013 in which he refers to a response by the minister's office, an adviser, of 22 January 2013-the letter says 12, but it means 13-in response to a letter sent to the Attorney-General by a Dr John Culviner on 7 December 2012.</p> <p>Ms Paul: I do not think we have any of that in front of us.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you can take that on notice for me. There is a section in the act, section 89M, aimed at preventing corruption</p>
EW0189_14	Abetz, Eric	4/06/2013	Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy	Potential breach of the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act	<p>Senator ABETZ: Let me go to the office of the good Parliamentary Secretary and the Minister for Workplace Relations. I refer to an answer provided to question on notice 789_13, talking about equipment et cetera. Just so I understand, Minister Shorten has thirteen personal staff, is that correct? I am not talking about his electorate or the component he gets by virtue of being a member of parliament.</p> <p>Ms Paul: I am sorry, I have got a different-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Did I say 789? There was a table attached.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: It says: 'The below data is as at 28 February 2013.'</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Sorry, that does not have the staffing component on it. But why I was asking about the staffing component is that, as I understand it, he has thirteen personal staff in his office. Can somebody confirm that for me?</p> <p>Ms Paul: We can probably reasonably quickly, but I do not know.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I want to link it to the fact that he has 26 desktop computers. How does that work? Two each?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Don't forget that he has his electorate office as well. Presumably there would be a parliamentary-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Wait a minute. That would be funded by ministerial and parliamentary services, as opposed to the department, wouldn't they.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes, we will look into that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Provision of equipment to ministers was the topic and question, so it wasn't two private members of parliament. As I understand it, apart from his electorate staff he has a ministerial component of thirteen staff and each of them seem to have been given-in fairness he would have a desktop computer, for example, and the DLO in the office may well have a desktop</p>
EW0190_14	Abetz, Eric	5/06/2013	Cross Portfolio	Relates to EW0789_13	<p>Senator ABETZ: And seven laptops. Is it correct that the minister has three media advisers? A table is provided from time to time-government personnel positions as at 1 May 2013. I am advised that the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations on this occasion has two media advisers. Can that be confirmed?</p>
EW0191_14	Abetz, Eric	5/06/2013	Cross Portfolio	Minister Shorten media advisers	

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0192_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Cross Portfolio	Staffing - absenteeism	<p>Senator MASON: An interest. Okay. Absenteeism, Ms Paul: is that cross-portfolio?</p> <p>Ms Paul: If you are talking about absenteeism in the department, yes.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Let us start there then. Perhaps there is an officer who deals with the HR system, human resources system, and the information available on that.</p> <p>Ms Paul: What did you want to know, Senator?</p> <p>Senator MASON: I will ask a specific question. Does the department's HR system have information-data, I suppose-that can disaggregate absenteeism, particularly unscheduled absences but absenteeism more broadly. Let me give you some examples, if I might: by age, job position and classification, days of week that leave is taken and gender. There are other ones as well. Do you have the capacity within the department to disaggregate that sort of information?</p> <p>Ms Rundle: Senator, we do have quite a bit of that information with us today. In terms of whether or not it is available today, I do not have with me today data by age, which I think you asked about. I have it by type of leave. I believe I can get it by classification. I can get it by gender. So I think most of the things that you asked for I could give you on notice, except I could give you today by leave type.</p> <p>Senator MASON: I do not need the specifics. I just want to know if you have the capacity to do it.</p> <p>Ms Rundle: Yes.</p> <p>Senator MASON: How about days of week that leave is taken?</p> <p>Ms Rundle: I am sorry?</p> <p>Senator MASON: Days of week-that is, Monday, Tuesday et cetera? That is available as well?</p> <p>Ms Rundle: Yes, we can give you that too.</p> <p>Senator MASON: That is interesting. And you said job classification as well.</p> <p>Ms Rundle: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator MASON: And age?</p> <p>Ms Rundle: I would need to check that for you. I am not sure. I think we may be able to.</p> <p>Senator MASON: There is quite a bit of information available, isn't there, that can be disaggregated across the department? That is very good news. Have you ever done any analysis on what that data might mean?</p> <p>Ms Rundle: Yes, we have.</p>
EW0193_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Cross Portfolio	Staffing - absenteeism disaggregation	<p>Senator MASON: That is all right. We could be here all day doing this, because it is very, very complicated and very involved. But let me ask another question, which I know my colleagues would be interested in: when unscheduled absences are taken, is there a greater propensity for that leave to be sought on certain days of the week rather than other days of the week-specifically, Monday and Friday, for example?</p> <p>Ms Rundle: We do have that information, but I would need to check whether I have it here. Indeed, I think with most of the days taken, there are more single days taken than multiple days-I do know that. I do not think necessarily that there are more days taken on a Monday or a Friday, for example; but, again I will check that for you.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Can you check that?</p> <p>Ms Rundle: Yes.</p> <p>Senator MASON: At other places there are disproportionate, sometimes grossly disproportionate, days taken on Friday or a Monday. I cannot work out why.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Can you not?</p> <p>Senator MASON: No, Minister. I would not want to draw any conclusions.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: You should look at some of the HR material on that syndrome.</p> <p>Senator MASON: I just want to ask the question. Can you take it on notice? I would like to know. The committee would like to know that. In terms of job position, or classification of the job as well, can you give leave in relation to that as well?</p> <p>Ms Rundle: Yes.</p> <p>Senator MASON: This will sound like an interesting or perhaps more difficult question: the location of the employee. By that I mean this: if the employee is located in Canberra, as opposed to a regional office, do you have statistics on that as well?</p>
EW0194_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Cross Portfolio	Carbon tax on electricity prices for the department	<p>Senator MASON: Please provide the committee with updated figures for the effect of the carbon tax on the department's electricity costs since September 2012. I understand that may need to be taken on notice, but if you could provide a written response incorporating data from as many sites as possible, that would be appreciated. I add, Mr Manthorpe, that the format of the answer to the previous question on notice was very helpful, so if that same format could be adopted for this one, it would be appreciated.</p> <p>Mr Manthorpe: I might be able to obviate the need for us to take it on notice by providing you with a couple of figures. One is that, for those three locations-Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney-for the financial year to March this year, the carbon cost component is \$84,921.</p> <p>Ms Paul: It is not just from September, then. You were asking for an update for the whole financial year up until now-or up until March.</p>
EW0195_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Contract for Mowbray College (CN1327291)	<p>Senator MASON: I move now to contract notices. First of all, I want to ask about CN1327291, which is the engagement of a liquidator to examine the affairs of Mowbray College. I understand that Mowbray College closed in June 2012 after accumulating about \$18 million in debt-or that was what was reported. Administrators were to assess whether the school had operated while insolvent and, after initial investigations, found it did not meet its governance and financial management standards. That is what has been reported. The contract period for the investigation into Mowbray College ends on 30 June this year. I am assuming the investigation is still in progress-or has it been completed?</p> <p>Mr Storen: The contract was our contribution. We went fifty-fifty in the cost of the services from the liquidator with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority. You can see that the contract note is actually a payment to the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority. The school was closed to students on 22 June and moved into formal liquidation then. We agreed late in 2012 to the fifty-fifty arrangement for funding the liquidator. The liquidator is still undertaking the work.</p> <p>Senator MASON: He is still going? So there will be further costs subsequent to this contract?</p> <p>Mr Storen: This is the total contract period up until 30 June. One would expect that we should be able to finalise it by then, but information I have at hand does not quite tell me whether it will be ongoing. We can come back to you on that.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator MASON: It is not unheard of, no. Do you know, Mr Storen, if the results of this investigation will be made public?</p> <p>Mr Storen: I am not aware of that, but we can certainly come back on notice. Because it is a fifty-fifty funding arrangement and a joined up investigation, I think we just have to check whether there is a report provided on the outcome or not and how that works its way through. We can come back and provide you with that information.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Yes, because there could be some valuable lessons to be learnt, that is all. Is there no plan to change schools reporting requirements because of this?</p> <p>Ms Paul: No, I think the reporting requirements are adequate to the task. It is really what you do about it. Often it will, in the first</p>



QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0196_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	University of Tasmania youth clearing house services (CN1239282)	<p>Mr Manthorpe: This is quite a longstanding arrangement. We have had a contractual or grant relationship with this entity, which is based in the University of Tasmania, since back in the 1980s, as I understand it. Essentially what the clearing house does for us is that it gathers, makes available and disseminates information particularly relating to youth. In effect, it is a kind of-this might now be almost an old-fashioned term-library. It gathers material and makes it available to the youth sector and to academics to enable deeper research. It takes reference inquiries and that kind of thing. It also produces a newsletter and runs a website, which you can go on and find out information specifically about youth across a range of topical areas of interest.</p> <p>Senator MASON: You just touched on this, but let me ask a more specific question. How does it add value?</p> <p>Mr Manthorpe: Essentially, there is no other entity that performs this function around Australia, so it adds value by making available in a form that is accessible to youth and accessible to youth sector people material for research, analysis and so forth.</p> <p>Ms Paul: The context for this is this is part of our whole-of-government responsibility through the Office for Youth.</p> <p>Senator MASON: So they do not actually conduct empirical work themselves?</p> <p>Ms Paul: No, they draw it together like a normal clearing house, if you are familiar with the concept of a clearing house. In modern speak, you might call it a portal.</p> <p>Mr Manthorpe: Yes, you are more modern than me, Ms Paul.</p> <p>Ms Paul: I hate to say it, but that is the notion.</p> <p>Mr Manthorpe: They do literature searches and things like that.</p>
EW0197_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority	ACARA - NAPLAN breaches in Queensland schools	<p>Senator MASON: I will keep going. Last estimates, I asked some questions on NAPLAN cheating and other breaches. You might recall that. Since then, it has been reported in The Courier-Mail of Thursday, 16 May, on page 14, that a teacher's employment was terminated after they instructed students to change responses following their completion of a test. That was reported under the headline 'NAPLAN breaches on rise-test cheat loses job'. What are you able to tell the committee about this case? I know you are not responsible for disciplinary action, but what do you know about the facts?</p> <p>Mr Adams: I am happy to take that-</p> <p>Senator MASON: Do you know the case, Mr Adams? Are you aware of it?</p> <p>Mr Adams: We are. As you rightly said, it is the test authority that investigates and determines what sanctions are put in place. In that case, the severity of the cheating was the determining factor. Where you get an incident of this nature, the severity of the incident is usually correlated with the severity of the sanction, from reprimand through to, as in this case, the dismissal of a teacher. I would agree that, certainly, that is what happened. I would not agree with the fact that the news item says there has been an increase in incidents, because that is not what the figures are showing.</p> <p>Senator MASON: No, that was just taken from The Courier-Mail report, 'NAPLAN breaches on the rise'.</p> <p>Mr Adams: But I do recall your question about that and yes, that is the case. We are aware of it, and the person was dismissed.</p> <p>Senator MASON: All right. Do you know how many students were told to alter their responses?</p>
EW0198_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority	ACARA - NAPLAN breaches	<p>Senator MASON: I understand. Are there any other instances of teachers or indeed other school employees from any state or territory being terminated as a result of NAPLAN testing breaches? We have this one that was reported in The Courier-Mail; are there any others?</p> <p>Mr Adams: I would have to take that on notice. I think there was may have been one in South Australia, but I would like to, if I may take that on notice as we can advise.</p>
EW0199_14	Bilyk, Catryna	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Breakdown of average hours of JET care	<p>Senator BILYK: I first want to ask about the JET system. Can someone tell me what the average hours of care claimed by JET recipients are?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: The average hours per child for the 2011-12 financial year was 34½ hours.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: 34½?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: Correct.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: So has that average usage of the childcare that is subsidised by JET increased, then?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: Yes, there has been a slight increase in the number of hours over the previous financial years. We are seeing growth at JET not only in the hours used but in the number of people using JET; for example, 34½ in 2011-12. In the preceding years, 33.7 hours was the average for 2010-11 and 32.4 hours per child per week for 2009-10.</p>
EW0200_14	Bilyk, Catryna	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit, and approved child care services	<p>Senator BILYK: Thanks. Can someone tell me how much the department's budget for the childcare rebate and childcare benefit over the forward estimates is?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: Over the forward estimates, the childcare benefit would be \$11 billion. For the childcare rebate, it would be \$11.1 billion.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: You might need to take this on notice: are you able to do a comparison for that compared to the forward estimates in the last budget?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: We will take that on notice. There has been growth, though, over the forward estimates. Sorry-I can probably give it to you now.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Okay.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: In childcare benefit there has been a 4.2 per cent increase in outlays from 2012-13 to 13-14; in dollar terms that is \$106.2 million. In childcare rebate there has been a 13.2 per cent increase in outlays, that is \$281.005 million.</p> <p>Mr Maynard: That is the rate of increase between the two financial years, but we will need to take a notice your question in relation to out years from the last budget.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: I understand the number of children receiving childcare services in Australia is now over 1 million, is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Yes. From the September quarter 2012 there were 1,030,970 children.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: September 2012 is the most recent childcare update, is it?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Yes, it is. That is an increase of 3.9 per cent over the year.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Are you able to tell me the growth in the number of children accessing child care over the past three years?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I can do five years.</p> <p>Mr Maynard: I can do three years. In September 2012, as Ms Taylor just said, 1,030,970. In September 2009 it was 871,110, so the rate of growth over three years is 18.4 per cent.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Presumably that means more families are actually accessing child care over that period. Are you able to tell me the increase in the families?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: Certainly: over the same period: in September 2009 there was 624,640 families and in September 2012 there were</p>
EW0201_14	Bilyk, Catryna	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Family Day Care	<p>Senator BILYK: I am interested in the increase in the family day care area, in particular. Do we have any data or information about why that might have increased so much and in what areas? Would that be in regional areas?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: We might take that on notice. I know there has been an increase in applications in metropolitan areas and in some states, although nationally there has been an increase in applications and in some states perhaps more than others. In Victoria, for example, there has been quite an increase.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: I am aware that in my state of Tasmania some of the family day care schemes have reduced over a period of</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0202_14	Bilyk, Catryna	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Productivity Commission report into the early childhood development workforce	<p>Senator BILYK: That would be really good. My last question is about the early childhood workforce. I particularly wanted to ask about the Productivity Commission's report into the early childhood development workforce. On page 49 of the report there is an interesting section called 'Changing the funding structure to improve targeting'. The Productivity Commission's report then summarises the elements of the Henry review recommendations on child care and it says: Childcare assistance should be means- tested based on family income. Then directly after that on page 50 with recommendation 3.6 it states: Governments should consider alternative structures for child care subsidies that improve the targeting of child care assistance. I am interested to know what the meaning of targeting is. Does that refer to means-testing?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I do not have the report in front of me. I will take that on notice to get it exactly right. From my recollection, I think they were referring to means-testing and targeting towards low-income brackets. They talked in that report about how that</p>
EW0203_14	Bilyk, Catryna	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Child Care Benefit	<p>Senator BILYK: What would the upper income threshold for the childcare benefit would be for a family with one child in the next financial year?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: The current year's maximum income is \$142,426. Each subsequent year's maximum income limit will be subject to CPI adjustment. I do not think we able to give any forecast as to what the CPI might be two years out.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Whatever the CPI is, that is it what will advance to.</p> <p>Mr Maynard: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Are there any projections on how families are likely to earn over the upper income threshold?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Yes, I can give you that.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Are you able to break that down for me by the income bracket?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Certainly, Senator. So for the next financial year, 2014, the number of families in total represents 10.6 per cent-that is, 100,079. By income bracket, under income under \$50,000, there will be 1,035 families. Sorry, you were after who was above the cap?</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Yes, but that is alright because this information you are telling me now will help me get to that anyway, won't it?</p>
EW0204_14	Xenophon, Nick	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Early Years Quality Fund - pay equity and competitive neutrality	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Has this scheme been referred to or considered by Fair Work Australia?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: No. As part of the budget measure a Pay Equity Unit will be established in Fair Work Australia. I am not sure if we covered that last night.</p> <p>Ms Paul: We covered it a bit. Basically the announcement also covered the establishment of a Pay Equity Unit inside the Fair Work Commission.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: So the implications of this will be considered down the track by Fair Work Australia?</p> <p>Ms Paul: It is not so much that. There are two parts to the one announcement. The Pay Equity Unit inside the Fair Work Commission will have a broader remit than simply the childcare sector. It will certainly undertake research and data collection to inform matters related to pay equity and inform the modern award reviews et cetera but not necessarily on this particular fund.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: If, for arguments sake, 40 per cent of the sector gets a pay rise and the other 60 per cent does not, will those who did not get the pay rise be able to go to Fair Work Australia and say, 'We missed out. There is a pay equity issue here and, therefore, that is part of our case to get the pay rise'?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Pay equity is generally accepted to be about gender equity. The Social and Community Services workers case is the first case that is being dealt with against pay equity. It is quite a big thing for the Fair Work commission to do. So my short answer would be no, it is probably not the case.</p>
EW0205_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Early Years Quality Fund - distribution	<p>Senator CASH: Given that the Early Years Quality Fund is going to be distributed by a grant process and childcare centres will have to apply for the funding, did the minister's office seek advice from the department in relation to the sharing of the fund equally amongst workers?</p> <p>Ms Paul: I will not go to the nature of-</p> <p>Senator CASH: I do not want you to go to the nature of the bias. I am asking whether or not the minister's office sought that advice from the department.</p> <p>Ms Paul: We can answer that in a general sense but I will not answer about whether it was across the workforce. Yes, we did provide advice.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Of the nature-</p> <p>Ms Paul: I am not answering that question.</p> <p>Senator CASH: But they could have sought advice on what colour the sky is today. I am asking whether the minister's office sought advice from the department on the sharing of funding equally among staff, as opposed to the formula that has now been</p>
EW0206_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Early Years Quality Fund - wage increases	<p>Senator CASH: My understanding is that Mr De Silva and other members of this department have on previous occasions said that the advisory board would determine the wage amount and that the \$3 that was announced by the government is not necessarily set in stone. Do you recall saying that?</p> <p>Mr De Silva: I do not think I have discussed the Early Years Quality Fund before.</p> <p>Ms Paul: We have not had any outings since the budget, until now.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Not even in any briefings?</p> <p>Ms Paul: There was some evidence last night which was not from these people. It was in workplace relations with Senator Abetz. We will check that Hansard, if you like.</p> <p>Senator CASH: If you could. Please also come back to the committee, and take this on notice, and clarify the evidence given in relation to the increase and whether or not the board will or will not have the role of determining the wage amount and whether or not the \$3 is or is not set in stone.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: We will take that on notice.</p>
EW0207_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Early Years Quality Fund - wage amounts	<p>Senator CASH: Mr De Silva, could you also take on board as to whether or not words to the effect of 'the wage amount is a union approximation' have ever been used?</p> <p>Ms Paul: By whom?</p> <p>Senator CASH: By Mr De Silva.</p> <p>Ms Paul: I do not think that Mr De Silva has given evidence.</p> <p>Mr De Silva: I have never said that. I have not given evidence against Early Years Quality Fund prior to today.</p> <p>Senator CASH: You did not use those words or you have never used those words in relation to this wage rise?</p> <p>Ms Paul: We have not had an outing in the Senate on this since it was announced in the budget, except for last night but that was not Mr De Silva. That was in workplace relations with Senator Abetz. That phrase was not used last night.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Have you ever briefed any members of the shadow ministry on this issue?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Yes, we briefed Ms Sussan Ley.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Was Ms Ley told in that briefing that the wage amount is a union approximation and it was not set in stone?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I do not recall. I was at that briefing, but I do not recall.</p> <p>Senator CASH: That briefing was on 27 May in Minister Garrett's office?</p> <p>Mr De Silva: Yes.</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0208_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Early Years Quality Fund - correspondence with United Voice	<p>Senator CASH: In relation to the evidence received about the behaviour of the TWU, has any instruction been given to the union that it should desist from advising employees above this?</p> <p>Senator BILYK: I do not think the TWU covers childcare workers.</p> <p>Senator CASH: United Voice.</p> <p>Mr De Silva: I wrote to United Voice; I am not sure of the date.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Recently; in May, in April?</p> <p>Mr De Silva: I will double-check-I think it was in April-to advise that some issues had been raised with our department. I said the frequently asked questions had been updated and that any information regarding the fund would be based on what is on the DEEWR website.</p> <p>Senator CASH: That was to United Voice?</p> <p>Mr De Silva: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CASH: In terms of eligibility and money being paid to the centres, is that per the evidence you gave to Senator Xenophon?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CASH: From what date would you expect centres to be receiving the money?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: That will depend on how quickly the guidelines can be settled and made publicly available and then an assessment process can be started and undertaken. We would expect, because this is a budget measure that starts from 1 July, this in the coming financial year. I am hopeful that very quickly after that time we would be in a position to have the process up and running.</p> <p>Senator CASH: But there is no actual date that anybody is working towards at this stage?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: The funding becomes available on 1 July.</p> <p>Senator CASH: I assume there has to be an application process after that time.</p>
EW0209_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Early Years Quality Fund - Advisory Board meeting	<p>Senator CASH: The advisory board have a big job tomorrow in relation to their first meeting.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: They do.</p> <p>Senator CASH: There will be a few items that they will be ticking off.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Are they on the agenda?</p> <p>Senator CASH: Are these issues on the agenda? That is a very good question, Senator McKenzie. Are these issues on the agenda for the advisory board tomorrow?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Yes. We are expecting discussion around criteria. I cannot remember what the agenda is. But I think all of those issues it is quite a long agenda-that we have discussed here-</p> <p>Mr De Silva: Are being discussed.</p> <p>Senator CASH: How are the advisory board being remunerated?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: There is no remuneration for the advisory board, Senator. They will be reimbursed the costs of travel.</p> <p>Senator CASH: So there is just a reimbursement policy for expenses?</p>
EW0210_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Child care vacancies	<p>Senator CASH: Could I now turn very briefly to the issue of vacancies. Has the department undertaken any research into the vacancy rates or wait lists for the zero-to-two age group?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I think the answer is no for that particular age group, but I will ask Ms Caldwell just to check that.</p> <p>Ms Caldwell: The department collects and publishes a range of information on childcare vacancies, part of which is, as Ms Taylor mentioned, aggregated. We do have some available information on the zero- to two-year-old-</p> <p>Senator CASH: My question was: have you undertaken any research into the vacancy rates or wait lists for zero to two? Is the answer yes?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: It is not research; it is information collected about the vacancies.</p> <p>Senator CASH: What information could you give to the committee then? For example, how many children currently are in childcare benefit approved care in this group and how many were in this cohort in 2011 and 2012?</p> <p>Ms Caldwell: During the September quarter 2012, we know that the majority of all long-day care services who were reporting that they provide care to zero- to two-year-olds had at least one vacancy for that age group in the reference period.</p> <p>Senator CASH: How many children currently are in CCB-approved care in this group?</p> <p>Ms Caldwell: <del>To have that broken down from the zero- to two-year-olds as a subset, we would take on notice</del></p>
EW0211_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Establishment assistance for child care services	<p>Senator CASH: I want to now turn to establishment assistance. Page 38 of the PBS, it indicates that 250 centres are due to receive start up assistance in each financial year. How many centres have received this support in the 2012-13 financial year to date?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: Unfortunately, I do not have that information with me. I will need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CASH: If you could, that would be good. Could you also provide how much funding each centre received and a list of the particular centres that have received that funding.</p>
EW0212_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Budget based funded child care services	<p>Senator CASH: Going to the column underneath 'budget based funding programs', how many children are cared for in the 342 budget based funded services?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I was about to say that I will take it on notice, but we might have that.</p> <p>Mr De Silva: There are approximately 9,500 children who attend on a weekly basis, on average.</p> <p>Senator CASH: I also note that the minister recently announced ongoing funding for the budget based services. Is that in essence a contract extension?</p> <p>Mr De Silva: Yes. Funding is done on a 12-month basis. It was announced a few weeks ago that the funding will continue for 2013-14.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Okay. Does this extension preclude new providers from commencing?</p> <p>Mr De Silva: It is a capped program, so there is a finite amount of funds. There are 342 operating this financial year. It is expected that there will be 344 in the next financial year. The extra two are two BBS that had closed that we are hoping will re-open with new providers.</p> <p>Senator CASH: I also understand that there was a slight increase in fees for the extension period. Is that correct?</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0213_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit recipients	<p>Senator CASH: On page 40 of the portfolio budget statement in table 2.1.2a there is a column entitled 'number of families receiving both CCB and CCR'. You will see that there is a spike downwards between the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years and then it spikes upwards and continues to trend upwards for the forward years. What is the reason for the spike downwards from 659,000 to 652,000.</p> <p>Ms Caldwell: The breakdown of families who receive both CCB and CCR or only the childcare benefit or only the childcare rebate varies over time. What you are seeing there is that the total numbers are reflecting the growth in the number of families and of children using child care. The department models its estimates of the distribution of those families from our available information. In particular, we regularly update our base reference week modelling in the light of additional information that comes through, either from the ABS or from our own administrative data. In 2013-14 and in the out years, there is a straight series in terms of the number of families-a clear trend across those three categories. There is some adjustment in the distribution between the previously published 2012-13 and 2013-14 figures, reflecting new administrative data feeding into that.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Is the 7,000 there the same 7,000 that Senator McKenzie made the point about 7,000 PhDs previously? Have we seen a drop-off of 7,000? It is 659,000 down to 652,000. What happened to them?</p> <p>Ms Caldwell: The 659,000 and 652,000 are those families who are receiving both forms of payment.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Correct. I just want to know why there is a decrease.</p> <p>Ms Caldwell: The status of some of those families will have changed to child care rebate only. There is an increase in the number of them.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: If you look at the number of CCB and CCR families-</p> <p>Senator CASH: I need to understand what is the reason why between these two financial years there is a significant decrease but in then in the forward years-2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17-there is the trend upwards that you have referred to. What has changed?</p>
EW0214_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit recipients - 2012-13 to 2013-14	<p>Senator McKENZIE: I have a follow up question. We have the 7,000 reduction. That is hopefully accounted for by a policy change. The two rows under that have the number of families who are only receiving CCB or CCR. As a result of the changes that you are talking about in the system due to the updating of the data, are we to assume that some who were maybe receiving both have, because of the update, fallen into either one of those to other categories?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I would think so. Having said that, I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: After doing my rough calculations, we have 7,000 sitting over here, but when you look at the difference between the number of families receiving only CCB between 2012-13 and 2013-14 there is a difference of 29,000. Similarly, with the families receiving only CCR there is a difference of 41,000, which is a total difference of 12,000 if we are looking at a straight transfer. There are about 5,000 families extra. Could you clarify that for us on notice.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: I will. As I said, it may be that the budget revisions for this year reflect higher than anticipated usage. We would need to look at whether that flows through to the other years before making those revisions in the out years. That is probably the case. If we compared the 2013-14 to the 2012-13 budget at this time last year-</p>
EW0215_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Child care costs and disposable income	<p>Senator CASH: I want to now go to the key performance indicators and the percentage of childcare out of pocket expenses as a proportion of weekly disposable income after childcare subsidies, which is on page 40. It is forecast to be eight per cent to 12 per cent for the financial year and the forward estimates. In looking at childcare expenses, do you look at how that equates with wages growth over the period of time?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: It is the out of pocket cost as a proportion of disposable income in the long daycare. It is calculated-</p> <p>Ms Caldwell: We look at calculations of disposable income that are produced by the department of families and community services for this purpose.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Do they rely on ABS data?</p> <p>Ms Caldwell: The FaHCSIA advice takes into account, as I understand it, a range of tax transfer payments and work out, at any given wage, how much a family would qualify for in family tax benefit and other costs. We would need to take the details of that</p>
EW0216_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Child Care Rebate cap	<p>Senator CASH: Turning to the childcare rebate and the fact that it has now been capped at \$7,500 in the 2010-11 financial year: had it not been capped, what would be the value of the childcare rebate today for families?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: We would need to take that on notice. I do not have that information.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Could you also take on notice what it would have been for the 2013-14 financial year had it not been capped at \$7,500?</p>
EW0217_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Child Care Benefit - full or part payment by income level	<p>Mr Maynard: As at May this year, the number of people who had hit the \$7,500 CCR per child is 22,297 families.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Of those families, what percentage are also receiving the CCB benefit in full or in part?</p> <p>Mr Maynard: I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Senator, do you want that number as a percentage as well? We can also give it to you by income level.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Whatever breakdown you can give.</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Around 1.2 per cent under \$100,000 have reached the cap. But I will check that. And then the average amount of CCR by families in 2011-12 was \$2,446. That is expected to increase to \$3,178 in 2014-15, \$3,414 in 2015-16 and \$3,648 in 2016-17. Then, going forward, in 2014-15 the total number of families under the \$100,000 income level expected to reach the cap is 1.57</p>
EW0218_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	National Partnership on Early Childhood Education	<p>Senator CASH: ... I will turn now to the national partnership agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care. My understanding is that \$655.6 million has been offered to the states under the latest partnership. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Yes-not for the national quality partnership; that is for the national early childhood education national partnership.</p> <p>Senator CASH: What conditions have been placed on the funding?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Very similar conditions or agreements have been reached with the states and territories as for the current national partnership agreement. The national partnership agreement is around the provision of preschool or kindergarten universal access, as we refer to it-600 hours per year. The proxy measures go to 95 per cent enrolment. There are a range of other measures that are set out in individual states' implementation plans. The implementation plans for this current national partnership have been developed on a state-by-state basis. But there are some general things that states have to achieve. Provision by an early qualified teacher is 95 per cent enrolment. There is I think 90 per cent attendance.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Is that something you are able to provide to the committee, instead of going through them? Is it possible to get you to give to the committee the list of conditions associated with the money have been placed upon the states?</p> <p>Ms Taylor: Absolutely. I would note that it is a national partnership, so there is agreement with states and territories. And it is through COAG, so it is first ministers signing. I do not think that the national partnership has been signed as yet, although I will</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0219_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Indigenous preschool attendance	<p>Senator CASH: In terms of the number of Indigenous children receiving the 15 hours preschool a week-and obviously by 'receiving', insert 'attending'-are you able to provide any information in relation to that?</p> <p>Mr De Silva: On a national basis; I cannot provide it on a jurisdictional basis.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Okay.</p> <p>Mr De Silva: On a national basis 56 per cent of all children-actually, that was all children-are now receiving-</p> <p>Senator CASH: Okay, so that is of all children. Can we break it down to Indigenous?</p> <p>Mr De Silva: I do not have that figure here.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Could you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CASH: And see whether or not you can break it down. If you can break it down, I would be very interested more in the jurisdictional as opposed to the overall because, clearly, coming from Western Australia, I am assuming that would be an entirely different figure compared to the national.</p> <p>Mr Taylor: Yes, absolutely. One of the issues, though-because it is the ABS who do a lot of the collection-about being able to</p>
EW0220_14	Cash, Michaelia	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	TAFE fee waivers for child care qualifications	<p>Senator CASH: Thankyou for that explanation. My final set of questions is in relation to the national partnership agreement on TAFE fee waivers for childcare qualifications. How many people have commenced qualifications?</p> <p>Mr De Silva: I can tell you that in 2011 there were 13,667 enrolments.</p> <p>Senator CASH: And again: a reason that we do not have more up-to-date data?</p> <p>Mr De Silva: It is based on the latest data that we have. I can double check when the 2012 data will be available.</p> <p>Senator CASH: Would you? And on notice could you provide from the more up-to-date statistics how many have completed of</p>
EW0221_14	Wright, Penny	5/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Funding under the Australian Education Bill 2012	<p>Senator WRIGHT: So I am trying to make sense of why it would not be possible to work out some nominal figure given that you do not know who is going to be a participating state at the moment but you do know what the funding has been and you know what the national partnerships funding has been that will be discontinued and you know what the indexation rate is. Is it not possible to ascertain?</p> <p>Ms Paul: You can divide that number by the three million students that there are, of course, if you want to do it crudely. I suppose the whole point of the funding system is, if you are an Indigenous school, then you are going to get a lot, lot more, let alone an Indigenous remote school et cetera. But, if you want to do it in broad averages, that can be worked out.</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: Even that would probably be more helpful than just school by school, although I do understand that it is not at all exact because of all the effects of the loadings and factors. Is it possible to take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes, sure.</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: See if you can come up with some meaningful figure, because it is an important debate that we are having and to be able to provide information for the public to understand the implications of the debate is really important.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Sure.</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: Can you take that on notice in relation to the 2014-15 financial year and the 2014 school year?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure.</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: Obviously it would be really helpful to have that information sooner rather than later, if that is possible to do.</p> <p>Ms Paul: You could not use it in a way of saying, 'This is for your school.' You could say that it is for a hypothetical school.</p>
EW0222_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Costings for the National Plan for School Improvement	<p>Senator MASON: ... Let me move on. When were the costings for the National Plan for School Improvement agreed to between the Treasury, Education and Finance?</p> <p>Ms Paul: When?</p> <p>Senator MASON: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Paul: It was over a long cabinet consideration process, culminating, of course, in the budget. So we would have to take that</p>
EW0223_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	School funding	<p>Senator MASON: So whose idea was it to adopt this approach, looking forwards rather than backwards, Ms Paul? Whose idea was this new methodology?</p> <p>Ms Paul: It was discussed broadly in government. It was also recognised, as I said at the very beginning, that this is the first time that states are being asked to in any way match or relate their funding to Commonwealth funding. So, historically, there has been no influence from the Commonwealth over state schools' expenditure, except of course what the Commonwealth has paid the states. This is the first time states are being asked both to match the Commonwealth's additionality, or additional funding, and to</p>
EW0224_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	National Plan for School Improvement	<p>Senator MASON: Last week the Department of Finance and Deregulation suggested in estimates that the total amount of funding provided across the forward estimates for the National Plan for School Improvement is \$2.98 billion, comprising \$2.1 billion in redirections. This suggests that \$880 million in additional funding has been set aside across the forward estimates for the national plan. That is my calculation. In light of that, could you tell the committee of the \$880 million in additional funding identified by Finance? Could you tell the committee the value of enrolment growth and indexation supplementation for each year across the forward estimates, in dollar terms?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MASON: You cannot do that?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Not right now, no. We will take it on notice. I do not have that information available to me. In terms of indexation, you would be aware of what the Prime Minister made a commitment to for the Commonwealth, which was the 4.7 per cent indexation rate.</p> <p>Senator MASON: I would not have thought it was that complicated.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I do not have the enrolment projections in front of me, so I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Could you have it tomorrow?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I will have to check with my staff; we will make our best endeavours.</p> <p>Ms Paul: We can give it a go</p>
EW0225_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	National Plan for School Improvement - straight line transition	<p>Senator MASON: All right. If it is a straight-line transition, why is there only \$2.98 billion, of which only \$800 million is new money, budgeted over the forward estimates-that is, the first 3½ years of a six-year period? It should be more, shouldn't it?</p> <p>Ms Paul: I am not sure. We might have to check.</p> <p>Senator MASON: If it is \$2.98 billion over 3½ years, that is not right. Because \$9.8 billion divided by six is-I have my calculator. Hold on. Ten divided by six equals 1.66, and 1.66 times 3½ is \$5.8 billion, and on the table is \$2.98 billion. So what is going on there?</p> <p>Ms Paul: We might just need to check that.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Mr Cook, do you know?</p> <p>Mr Cook: As Ms Paul said, we will take it on notice and look into that.</p> <p>Senator MASON: It does not sound to me like-</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0226_14	Back, Chris	5/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Gonski funding for NSW schools	<p>Ms Paul: Just to be clear, we have just talked apples and oranges here. I will clarify that for you, Senator. The Commonwealth's offer of \$9.4 billion was made by the Prime Minister on 14 April. When you put the state money in, if they accept the offer, it would be \$14½ billion. From the \$5 billion for New South Wales, \$3.2 billion is Commonwealth.</p> <p>Senator BACK: So \$9.4 billion is Commonwealth?</p> <p>Ms Paul: It is \$3.2 billion for New South Wales that is Commonwealth; \$14.5 billion would be all public funding.</p> <p>Senator BACK: That is all states and territories, if they could put funds in.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Just staying where we are at the moment, New South Wales has been offered \$5 billion of the \$9.4 billion from the federal government?</p> <p>Ms Paul: The \$5 billion includes their funding as well. So \$3.2 billion of that \$5 billion is Commonwealth funding.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Senator Back, \$3.2 billion of that \$9.4 billion is I think what you were trying to get to.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes, well said.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Who is the \$3.2 billion from?</p> <p>Ms Paul: It is from the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: The Commonwealth amount to New South Wales.</p> <p>Senator BACK: It is \$3.2 billion.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes, not counting indexation.</p> <p>Mr Cook: And the total amount of Commonwealth across the country is \$9.4 billion. The comparison points of the \$14.5 billion are: \$9.4 billion is Commonwealth; in New South Wales, \$5 billion of the \$14.5 billion is total public funding for New South Wales.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Of which New South Wales puts in how much?</p> <p>Mr Cook: It is \$1.8 billion, and the Commonwealth will put in \$3.2 billion.</p> <p>Senator MASON: So you will be able to give a figure for each individual year for New South Wales?</p>
EW0227_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Loadings for students with additional needs	<p>Senator MASON: Economics was never my strong point. With respect to information about additional loadings expected to be provided for students with additional needs from 2014-is it possible for the department to provide us the precise Commonwealth contribution in funding available for each type of loading over the forward estimates, including by sector? Is that possible, Mr Cook?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I will take that on notice. One of those issues will be, obviously, where we land with states and territories. In terms of the offer, I think we can. I can give you some global figures at the moment if that is useful-what we think each of the loadings would be out of all the total public funding over the next six years. Does that help at all? The figures I have available to me right now talk about-of all public funding that is going to go to all schools in Australia over the next six years-</p> <p>Senator MASON: No, not six years. It is year by year.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MASON: We get the global figure but never the year by year figure.</p> <p>Ms Paul: But if you want to get a sense of proportionality between the loadings, this would give it to you-which loadings will deliver more than others. It depends on what you are after. If you are just after next year, then we will take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Cook: So the low SES loading, for example, is about 11 per cent of the total funding available to all schools in Australia. Of all the loadings, it is the loading that provides the greatest amount of additional funding.</p> <p>Senator MASON: You will take on notice the question about year by year loading?</p>
EW0228_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Gonski funding for NSW schools - disclosure	<p>Senator MASON: Just to go back-and you can take this notice-I asked previously: what percentage of the Gonski entitlement, in other words, the additional funding under Gonski, without indexation or enrolment growth, would a school in New South Wales receive in 2014? I think I also said 'and in every other year, the six-year transition period'. That is the question I want on notice, year by year.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Just to help clarify: of course, a school in New South Wales could get very different funding, depending on the circumstances of that school. Are you talking about the average per school?</p> <p>Senator MASON: Yes. Not a school, but the average school in New South Wales.</p> <p>Ms Paul: An Indigenous School in Wagga.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We will make some assumptions.</p> <p>Senator MASON: What will New South Wales schools receive in aggregate, year by year?</p> <p>Ms Paul: Okay.</p> <p>Mr Cook: The only point I will make is that the New South Wales system will be the system that actually allocates money to their schools. We allocate, through the model, the amount of money that goes to the New South Wales state government, for example, or to the New South Wales Catholic system. The system will then allocate based on a consistent, needs based funding model.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: But doing it in aggregate will get around that.</p> <p>Mr Cook: That is directly as the model would apply.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: So the Commonwealth will be directly funding this?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No, we will not be. As it does currently, it will go through state treasuries and state treasuries will provide that funding to-</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: But the Catholic system-</p> <p>Mr Cook: It will go to the state treasuries still and the state treasurers will provide it to the Catholic system.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: The same method as now?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator MASON: There is an agreement with New South Wales.</p> <p>Mr Cook: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator MASON: It is a public agreement?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That is right. It is actually on the website at the moment-the heads of agreement.</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0229_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Students with a disability loading	<p>Senator MASON: I will go back to the issue about disabilities. What is the loading for a student with a disability estimated to be worth in dollar terms-both for a primary and for a secondary student?</p> <p>Mr Cook: It would be 186 per cent, or about \$9,200 for primary and \$12,100 for secondary.</p> <p>Ms Paul: So each of these loadings-they all the same. You apply it as a percentage of the SRS.</p> <p>Senator MASON: How many students with a disability are estimated to qualify for a loading from 2014?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator JACINTA COLLINS: That would depend on the existing arrangements in that state or territory.</p> <p>Ms Paul: We should be able to get that for you.</p> <p>Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Remember what I said a moment ago-the interim loading is designed to capture existing resourcing from the state and territory level, topped up with some additional spending from the Commonwealth to move into the model into the future. In 2014, you are looking at arrangements which will roughly reflect what is currently occurring in that state or territory.</p> <p>Mr Cook: This will be based on data provided to us by schools and systems. We have it available to us. I just do not know off the top of my head what it is. We can take it on notice. We should be able to provide the information quite easily.</p> <p>Senator MASON: When are the answers to questions on notice due?</p> <p>CHAIR: They are due on 19 July.</p> <p>Senator MASON: Over the forward estimates in the 2013-14 budget, how much funding has been set aside for the student with a disability loading?</p> <p>Mr Cook: It would be part of the total funding. It is calculated through the budget.</p>
EW0230_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Forecast expenditure under the Schools Assistance Act 2008	<p>Senator MASON: Sure, but it is a big task. Good luck. It is a difficult task. I have a more prosaic question for Ms Paul. The 2013-14 budget suggests a continuation of two targeted programs previously funded under the Schools Assistance Act, which are short-term emergency assistance funding and capital grants funding but, seemingly, not all the others. The committee seeks clarification as to whether the following targeted programs have been discontinued and what is the previous value of these programs. Let me read out what they are-</p> <p>Senator Jacinta Collins: Just before you do, what do you mean by the previous value?</p>
EW0231_14	Mason, Brett	5/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Confidentiality agreements for school funding discussions with Queensland government officials	<p>Senator MASON: Mr Cook, is this a standard confidentiality agreement?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That is my understanding. It is standard in the sense that when we are dealing with legislation that has not appeared before a parliament we-</p> <p>Senator MASON: Yes. This cannot be the first time that a confidentiality agreement of this sort has been-</p> <p>Ms Paul: The minister has described that. We kind of modelled it on the process that has been going on for years and years in the Committee on Industrial Legislation, COIL, where exactly this happens. The employers, the unions et cetera all get into one room and work through draft legislation together under a confidentiality agreement.</p> <p>Senator MASON: I just cannot work out, if there have been precedents for this, why state public servants would be suffering this misapprehension?</p> <p>Ms Paul: It surprised us. It was not all of them.</p> <p>Mr Cook: The only thing that I can think-</p> <p>Senator MASON: It wasn't just the Queenslanders, was it, Mr Cook?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I understand that the Queenslanders might have signed it before the meeting, but I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><del>The only possible thing that I can think of is that often these meetings will be with a single department rather than multiple</del></p>
EW0232_14	McKenzie, Bridget	5/06/2013	Cross Portfolio	Child Care Assistance campaign	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Did you retender that or is it the same campaign rolling over, with the same content?</p> <p>Ms Paul: You are testing me, aren't you?</p> <p>Mr Manthorpe: I might be able to help.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Oh, there you go.</p> <p>Mr Manthorpe: I think it is the same creative agency. Much of the creative material is the same, essentially-updated for the current campaign but the same as was used a couple of years ago.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: So the \$8 million goes to TV-</p> <p>Mr Manthorpe: There is a little bit on creative and the bulk of it would be on the advertising spend.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Could you break that down on notice?</p> <p>Mr Manthorpe: We can take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: That would be great.</p>
EW0233_14	McKenzie, Bridget	5/06/2013	Outcome 1 - Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation	Child Care Rebate - indexation freeze	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Thank you. With the indexation pause and the last line, 'No family will see a reduction in payments as a result of this measure,' have you modelled the indexation freeze on workforce participation of women?</p> <p>Ms Paul: This is the cap at \$7,500 for CCR? I would have to take that on notice. I think that is probably the best way of doing it.</p> <p><del>Were you here earlier when we gave some evidence on the impact? It did not go precisely to that question.</del></p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: Thank you, Chair. I have questions in relation to program 2.2. My first question is: over the forward estimates, what proportion of Commonwealth spending for schools education is actually new-that is, what amount did the 2013-14 budget commit to schools education that was not committed to schools education in previous budgets?</p> <p>Ms Paul: In the forward estimates the budget papers commit \$2.8 billion, but I will note that that is over the forward estimates and that is all additional. If you look at the budget papers-it is Budget Paper No. 1 or Budget Paper No. 3-you will see that the money grows each year. But, in terms of additionality, that is the \$2.8 billion. That, however-I do not know if you heard the evidence last night-is worked off an indexation rate assumption of 5.6 per cent, which is no longer considered realistic because current indexation is actually 3.9 per cent. So on that basis, if the real indexation rate were assumed to be lower, of course the additional money is higher. In other words, in reality it is understated in the budget papers because of this historical assumption about indexation.</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: Can I just clarify what we mean by 'new'. It has been put to me that the national partnership agreement money will actually be ceasing and will not be reallocated under that program. The total of that sort of funding is about \$2.3 billion.</p> <p>Ms Paul: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: So in fact, although this may be nominally new funding of \$2.8 billion, if you deduct the amount that was previously allocated for schools education funding, of about \$2.3 billion, then the real new money that is sloshing around in the system is only about \$0.5 billion. Excuse my-</p> <p>Ms Paul: A technical term!</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: use of words. I just want to test it out, because that was put to me.</p> <p>Ms Paul: The budget papers show that the net impact would be lower if you take those things out. However-</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: How much would it be, then?</p>
EW0234_14	Wright, Penny	6/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	School funding in the 2013-14 Budget	<p>Senator WRIGHT: How much would it be, then?</p>

QoN No	Senator	Hansard Date	Outcome	Subject	Question Text
EW0235_14	Wright, Penny	6/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	National Partnership funding	<p>Senator WRIGHT: Thank you for that. I think you came up with the figure of \$4- Ms Paul: \$4.8 billion. I am saying that, if you assume a more realistic three per cent indexation rate and do not count the national partnerships that have not even started, our calculation is that it is more likely that in real terms it will be more like \$4.8 billion additional. Senator WRIGHT: Over four years. Ms Paul: Yes. Senator WRIGHT: Of that money, what proportion is estimated to go to government schools and what proportion is estimated to go to non-government schools over the forward estimates?</p>
EW0236_14	Back, Chris	6/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Parental and Community Engagement - case studies	<p>Senator BACK: If one of the factors has been getting parents and carers to the schools-and I am glad you mentioned carers, because in a lot of instances they would be grandparents-are the projects aimed in any way at getting the parents and other community members into the school environment? If so, can you give us some indication of how those projects are working? Mr Davies: Definitely. I could give you on notice a raft of case studies if you are interested. As you are aware, there are different ways they do that; but, yes, they definitely aim at assisting parents to get engaged in school in a variety of ways. Ms Houston might offer some extra advice on that. Ms Houston: That primarily is the aim. Parents have often had bad experiences at school themselves and so do not necessarily feel confident about engaging with teachers in the school environment. Quite a lot of the projects are about building that confidence and helping them to reach in, meeting teachers and teaching staff halfway. We could certainly get some case studies of that kind of material, but that is really the aim of the program. Senator BACK: I would appreciate those if you could get them. Finally, I am also interested in knowing what role, if any, the teachers themselves-particularly the school executive like principals and deputies-play in this parent-carer community</p>
EW0237_14	Mason, Brett	6/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	BER - incomplete P21 construction projects	<p>Senator MASON: Are there any round 1 Primary Schools for the 21st Century construction projects that remain uncompleted? Ms Smith: Yes. Of the 31, there are five that are from round 1, nine from round 2 and 17 from round 3. You will recall that there were some additional projects made b agreement between Minister Piccoli and Minister Shorten in August last year, so the bulk of those in that larger number are those projects that have been reconfigured. Essentially, even some of those that were agreed in August last year may have been round 1 projects. I think there was one. It depended on when that school originally had a project. Senator MASON: How many were there in the Piccoli-Shorten arrangement? Ms Smith: There were 19. Senator MASON: And what rounds do they come from? Principally round 3, I suppose.</p>
EW0238_14	Mason, Brett	6/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	BER - P21 forecast completion dates	<p>Senator MASON: That would be delightful. The next question is a very obvious one: can we ever expect them to be finished, or is this the Great Wall of China? Ms Smith: I have expected completion dates for all of the remaining 31 projects and can give you details of those if you would like. Senator MASON: Is that for all 31 as a group or individually? Ms Smith: I have them by the education sector. There is one project in the ACT-the Aranda Steiner school- Senator MASON: Let me just get my pen. Ms Paul: I presume these are estimates received from the authorities. Ms Smith: The relevant authorities, yes. Senator MASON: So this is not a time table but an aspiration, is it? Ms Paul: I think this is an estimate by an education authority. Senator MASON: Not again! Ms Paul: Not our estimates. Senator MASON: Not yours; all right. Ms Smith: As Ms Paul has said, they are forecast completion dates. Broadly by quarter, we have nine of the 31 expected to be completed by the end of this month, four by September 2013-they are all this year with the exception of four- Senator MASON: Are you sure? That is very- Ms Smith: 14 by December 2013 and a further four by the first quarter in 2014. As Ms Paul said, these are projects that have been managed by education authorities, grant authorities or state governments. They provide us with their scheduling. There are a range of factors as to why some of the scheduling varies. There might be a re-scoping of the project or a new architect brought on. There are a range of reasons. I actually have reasons attached to all of the remaining 31 projects, if you are interested. Senator MASON: After several years of this, forgive me but I am beyond interest at this stage. Although, I am sure the committee has no problem with you giving that information to the committee. That would probably be the fair thing to do. Ms Paul: Presumably, these are the reasons given to us by the relevant education authorities. Senator MASON: Perhaps we do not need to read it into the transcript at this stage, Ms Smith. That might be a little bit indulgent. Giving it to us on notice is fine, Ms Paul. If there is a written document that you can lay your hands on, that would be fine. Ms Paul: We will take that on notice. Ms Smith: If I may, I would like to say that all of the projects-the remaining 31-have commenced. They are all under way. I just need to let you know that, as well. Senator MASON: That's good to hear. Ms Smith, the question of the forecast completion dates, do you keep those statistics?</p>
EW0239_14	Mason, Brett	6/06/2013	Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth	Visitors to the 'Safe Schools Hub' and 'Bullying. No Way!' websites	<p>Senator MASON: I do not know much about this sort of thing, but, regarding the number of hits on each of the websites, do you keep those statistics? Ms Houston: We do not keep them in the department. At the moment they are kept by Education Services Australia, but we could certainly get them for you. Senator MASON: It would be interesting. I would not mind knowing. Can it also tell us about first time is it 'raw users'? What is</p>