

**ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-24 – 24 OCTOBER 2023**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS PORTFOLIO**

QoN No.	DepartmentOrAgency	PortfolioQoNNo.	Senator	Topic	Question	Hansard Page
1	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005399	Sarah Henderson	Departmental budget for smoking ceremonies	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I'd like to start by asking about some general costs for your department. In the last financial year how much departmental funding was allocated to welcome to country and smoking ceremonies?</p> <p>Mr Betts: I provided similar information to the other committee yesterday, but I'm very happy to go through it today. This is in relation to the period of financial year 2022-23, plus this financial year up until 31 August. The total amount is \$26,551.95, but within that \$9,960.70 relates to events within the arts portfolio.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: How many separate events does that relate to?</p> <p>Mr Betts: We've got a list. I'll ask Ms Bridger to either give you that information now or come back to you a little bit later on in the session, when we've had a chance to get that at our fingertips.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If it's possible to get that during the morning and bring it back, that would be terrific.</p> <p>Mr Betts: Absolutely.</p>	4

2	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-004818	Sarah Henderson	List of flights undertaken by Departmental staff	<p>Senator HENDERSON: On notice, can you please provide a list of the flights undertaken, including the dates of travel, the nights spent at each location, the reason for the travel, the cost of each trip and also the number of staff on each trip and their APS level?</p> <p>Mr Betts: I'll try to provide that information to you.</p>	5
3	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-004896	Sarah Henderson	FOI requests handled outside of statutory timeframes	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you aware of the delays involved in a number of FOI applications by Minister Rowland?</p> <p>Mr Betts: I'm aware that we have a statutory compliance rate this year across the department of 94 per cent, as against 77 per cent in the year 2021-22, and just two FOI requests were handled outside of the statutory time frames out of 33?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What are those two FOI requests?</p> <p>Mr Betts: I won't take it on notice. We'll try to provide that information to you today.</p>	6
4	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-004835	Sarah Hanson-Young	Discussion between the Prime Minister and US Counterparts on streaming services consultation	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Mr Betts, are you aware as to whether this is one of the topics that the Prime Minister might talk to his US counterparts about on this trip?</p> <p>Mr Betts: I'm not aware.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If anybody could get an answer to that question by the end of today, that would be helpful.</p>	9

5	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005400	Sarah Henderson	FOI applications to the Minister	<p>Senator HENDERSON: There was also a separate FOI application to the minister. That's what I'm also seeking-not the departmental FOI but what's happened to the application to the minister herself, please.</p> <p>Mr Grunhard: I think there are two questions there. On the first question, I'll go to Ms Pidgeon on the details of what was released in that FOI. On the-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could I just address the application to the minister, because that's the one that I'm referring to-the one that was lodged on 30 March and for which there was a notice of decision on 28 April.</p> <p>Mr Grunhard: On the question of an FOI request to the minister or her office, I'm afraid I can't answer that. That would have to be a question directed to the minister or her office.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you obtain that information? I imagine that you manage the minister's FOI claims.</p> <p>Mr Grunhard: I'm happy to take on notice what I can find out, but I just note that obviously it would have been for the minister's office to respond to any FOI request about documents that they hold.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: You don't have anything to do with the minister's response to FOI claims?</p> <p>Mr Grunhard: It was some time ago. I'll have to check for you on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could take that on notice and come back to me-</p> <p>Mr Grunhard: No problem.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What I'm seeking-this has now gone to the Information Commissioner. The minister was asked for a range of information in relation to her management</p>	11
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				<p>of the black spot program. The minister has not complied with the request. We're seeking information as to why the FOI application has not been complied with.</p> <p>Mr Grunhard: I understand. We'll see what we can find out.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Mr Windeyer, do you have any further information about this?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I don't. As Mr Grunhard says, FOI requests to the minister are things on which we would need to go and seek what information we can from the minister's office.</p> <p>Mr Betts: Or the Senate could ask the minister, which would be an easy way home.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Sorry, Secretary. I didn't hear that.</p> <p>Mr Betts: You could ask that directly of the minister.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Assistant Minister, do you have any insights into Minister Rowland's management of her FOI applications?</p> <p>Senator Carol Brown: I don't have any of that information with me, but I'm happy to take it on notice for you.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you very much.</p> <p>Senator Carol Brown: Do you want to detail exactly what information you're looking for?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes. As I've already mentioned, there was an application under the FOI Act on 30 March. There was a notice of decision on 28 April. The minister has not complied with the FOI application. That's of serious concern. There's a statutory obligation to do so. I'd seek information as to what's going on.</p>	
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					Senator Carol Brown: I'll take that on notice and get back to you, or to the committee.	
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6	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-004819	Sarah Henderson	20 oldest FOI requests sitting with the Department	<p>Senator HENDERSON: On notice, can I ask you to table the 20 oldest FOI requests sitting with the department in order of the date of request, for those that are outstanding, including the name of person who's made the request, the nature of the request and the status of that request, please?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We can take that on notice.</p>	12
7	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-004836	Sarah Hanson-Young	Requirement for Prominence model to be signed off by Cabinet	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So that I'm clear-perhaps the minister can answer this-will the model that is chosen need sign-off by cabinet before legislation is introduced, or is this an issue that cabinet has decided the minister can have free reign on?</p> <p>Senator Carol Brown: I can't answer that. The government doesn't normally disclose cabinet deliberations-</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'm not asking for the deliberations-</p> <p>Senator Carol Brown: or if or when something is going to go to cabinet.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do you expect that this would need to go to cabinet before it's introduced into the parliament? Not everything does.</p> <p>Senator Carol Brown: I'll take that on notice.</p>	13
8	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-004832	Sarah Hanson-Young	Prominence models advocated for by Foxtel	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is there a model that Foxtel has specifically advocated to the government for?</p> <p>Mr Penprase: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	14

9	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-004833	Sarah Hanson-Young	Details about confidential submissions to the potential anti-siphoning models	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So nine were published. Where is the remainder? Why haven't they all been published?</p> <p>Mr Penprase: With all consultation processes, we enable submitters to provide confidential submissions-submissions they want to provide but don't necessarily want the department to publish. We uphold those requests for confidentiality.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Are any of those confidential submissions from major sporting organisations?</p> <p>Mr Penprase: I'm not really inclined to disclose who the confidential submitters are.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So not only can we not see the submissions; we're not even allowed to know who they're from?</p> <p>Mr Penprase: The submitters have asked to remain confidential. I'd prefer, unless someone has a different view, to maintain that.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Can we take that on notice and see what we can come back to you with? I completely understand your point that there's a difference between the confidentiality of the contents and the confidentiality of the submitters themselves. In the interests of being fair to the people that made the submissions, can we check what we can do.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I would like to know who submitted.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Understood.</p>	24
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10	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-004834	Sarah Hanson-Young	Impact of changes to gambling advertising laws raised in anti-siphoning submissions	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: The government is not inclined to do a deal with broadcasters so that they can access and bid for some of the most popular sports in exchange for not running gambling ads?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: All I'm saying is, from our perspective, in the way we consider it, the two are not being connected in that sense.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: In any of those submissions that were received, out of the 17, did anybody raise the impact of changes to the gambling advertising laws?</p> <p>Mr Penprase: No, but I would like to take it on notice to make sure I haven't missed something.</p>	25
11	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-004826	Bridget McKenzie	Data on viewing patterns for watching free-to-air products on aerial services versus streaming services	<p>Senator McKENZIE: If you are Channel 7, Channel 9, Channel 10, ABC or SBS, you are a free-to-air operator. Whether you're coming in through an aerial or coming in on the wi-fi, the product is the same. And people's viewing patterns are changing. Can I get a sense from the department what the proportionate difference-and the trend over time-is between watching on an aerial service versus watching a free-to-air product on a streaming service?</p> <p>Mr Penprase: We can certainly provide on notice specific data on viewing patterns.</p>	27

12	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-004831	Ross Cadell	Timetable for 3G shutdown	<p>Senator CADELL: That's all I have on that little thing. If I may, I will segue quietly across to 3G shutdown. The chair would be aware that I pulled over on the side of the road from Dunedoo to join a meeting of this to sign off on, and I was on 3G. It was all I had out there. What is the timetable for the 3G shutdown at the moment?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I will see if I can get you an answer. The timetable for 3G shutdown has been set by the mobile operators themselves. I'll see if we can find what it is for Telstra and for Optus. I think they are the only two that have currently announced the timetable. I don't have it to hand.</p>	31
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13	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004827	Hollie Hughes	<p>ABC - Rear Vision broadcast of 'The Gaza Strip: How a tiny slither of land became the epicentre of a conflict in the Middle East.'</p>	<p>Senator HUGHES: [...] On 22 October, the ABC radio program, Rear Vision, broadcast 'The Gaza Strip: How a tiny slither of land became the epicentre of a conflict in the Middle East.' It interviewed five experts: Professor Ilan Pappé, the director of the European Centre for Palestine Studies at the University of Exeter in Britain, who has authored <i>The Forgotten Palestinians: A History of the Palestinians in Israel</i>, <i>The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine</i> and <i>Gaza in Crisis: Reflections on Israel's War Against the Palestinians</i> with Noam Chomsky; academic and activist, Norman Finkelstein, the author of <i>Gaza: An Inquest Into Its Martyrdom</i>; Gideon Levy, columnist <i>Haaretz Daily</i> newspaper in Tel Aviv and the author of <i>The Punishment of Gaza</i>; Khaled Elgindy, senior fellow at the Middle East Institute and director of the Palestinian Israeli affairs program and author of <i>Blind Spot: America and the Palestinians, from Balfour to Trump</i>; and, Nathan Shachar, a Swedish journalist and author of <i>The Gaza Strip: Its History and Politics-From the Pharaohs to the Israeli Invasion of 2009</i>. I have been reliably informed, and I'm pretty sure, reading the titles of their books, that Professor Ilan Pappé, Norman Finkelstein and Gideon Levy are well-known radical left-wing critics of both Israeli policies and Israel's existence as a Jewish homeland and their views don't represent the mainstream views of Israeli historians or academia. For example, Pappé is a self-declared antizionist who rejects Israel's right to exist. Khaled Elgindy, who is also one of the experts, has worked for the Palestinian Authority. Would you call this an example of balanced reporting from the ABC?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm not familiar with that. I will have to take</p>	36-37
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				<p>that on notice, but I will take a good look at, and we'll get our people to take a good look at it, too.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Part of the issue with regard to this was that the comments that were made, at no point, when they were incorrect, were they corrected; at no point, when they were factually wrong, were the correct facts produced. It was incredibly lacking in any basic context and detail, and anyone who listened to it would have been significantly misled on what they were being told. That includes when Yitzhak Rabin was killed. The way things were working was that, all of a sudden, it went to Netanyahu as the Prime Minister, which was actually not factually correct. He was the Prime Minister in between. It then talked about the second uprising, or intifada, and the fact that there has never been the option of a Palestinian state being created-again, that's not true. That was led by the PM Ehud Barak, who did do that, before Netanyahu. These are factual inconsistencies that play into a pro-Palestinian narrative that is anti-Zionist and anti-Israel in its existence. How is this part of the ABC Charter of fair and balanced reporting-providing a program from one perspective only, with incorrect information? I'm yet to find one that gives an alternative view.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Again, I'm going to have to take it on notice. Our partiality standards are such that we do need to provide a balance of perspectives over time. I don't know that story, but I will certainly look into it.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Again, we'll provide the name of that program to you on notice. Perhaps someone could have a listen to it and explain to us how absolute, undeniable facts</p>	
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					over the past 30 years of this conflict were just omitted. I'll leave it there.	
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14	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004837	Sarah Hanson-Young	ABC - Cost of Black Summer emergency broadcasting events	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do you have any idea how much the Black Summer, how much those 950-odd incidents cost you?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll come back to you on notice about that, but we certainly peaked with regard to cost in that financial year as a result of covering all those events in addition to what was the Black Summer.</p>	38
15	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004838	Sarah Hanson-Young	ABC - Audience figures for the Voice referendum night versus 2022 Election broadcast	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Three million on referendum night. Where does that sit in comparison to the 2022 election?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I think it's above. I'll take that on notice, but I think it's higher.</p>	39

16	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004828	Malcolm Roberts	ABC - Details about Redundancy Provision	<p>Senator ROBERTS: How many people will that \$22.2 million cover?</p> <p>Ms Kleyn: The \$22.2 million provision, I anticipate, will cover-sorry, I pause because at the time of the announcement-</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: It's 127, right?</p> <p>Ms Kleyn: Our announcement was for up to 130 people. Through the process of consultation, a number of people are able to have a redeployment opportunity. That's why I pause, in terms of how many I anticipate. I would not like to give a view on what might happen through a redeployment process.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: So it's around 130, minus any redeployment.</p> <p>Ms Kleyn: Some roles naturally became vacant. At 30 September, 74 employees. I would estimate that number might move to perhaps 100.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: So that's \$220,000 each, on average?</p> <p>Ms Kleyn: The redundancy provision, at the time, was for 130 people. Mathematically, I can understand the question, but perhaps I could provide that on notice. It's not quite as simple as that being the basis on which we provisioned for the redundancy.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: It varies on classification and pay rates et cetera.</p> <p>Ms Kleyn: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Could you provide that on notice, please.</p> <p>Ms Kleyn: Absolutely.</p>	46-47
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17	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004839	Sarah Hanson-Young	ABC - ABC consultation about streaming service regulations on Australian content	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Mr Anderson, you would be aware that the government has delayed the introduction of its regulations on streaming services in relation to Australian content. We've been told today that the government would still like to make sure that the scheme is in place by 1 July, but we were originally told that we would have this legislation done and dusted this year, and we're not going to have it. I want to ask some questions about the impact of local content requirements on the ABC. Have you been involved in any negotiations or consultations in relation to the options that the government has put forward recently?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Thank you. You asked me a question about this last time, and we sent a response back against one of the options. That was really pointing at the regulation towards spend, rather than volume of hours. I certainly haven't been involved-I can speak for myself: I haven't been involved in any discussions since that moment. There might have been a round table and there might have been something that happened that someone else attended, but I'd have to come back to you on notice about it.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Alright. If there has been any consultation with the government over the last few months, I'd be interested to know about that.</p>	48
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18	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004822	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Heston Russell defamation case	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Can I suggest, Mr Anderson, that part of the reason for your flawed decision not to accept an early settlement-in fact, even when the editorial complaint was first made by Mr Russell, all he wanted were the defamatory articles to be removed, and that was declined-is that your reporter Mr Willacy was not candid in relation to what his source Josh told him? That only came out under cross-examination. So Mr Mark Willacy, your reporter, and Ms Puccini knew that the source never named Mr Russell. The source never named the November platoon. In fact the source never said that Mr Russell was there on that particular night. Those critical facts were concealed by your journalists, and they only came out in cross-examination. In fact, I would put it to you, Mr Anderson-this is how deeply serious this situation is-that your journalists misled your own editorial complaints team, and that is borne out in the evidence. What do you say to that?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Senator, I'm not prepared-meaning that I'm not prepared; it's not that I'm not willing, but I'm not prepared-to rerun what was presented in court through the proceedings-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm asking you to respond to my question, please.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm responding to your question with an answer I gave earlier that, at the moment, we are in our 28-day period of assessing whether or not we would appeal. I'm not saying that we would, but we are assessing that at the moment and going through it line by line. What you just mentioned of course is mentioned in the judgement, and we're looking at that. And I said earlier,</p>	51
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				<p>whatever comes out of this-appeal or no appeal-there's a lot to be learnt from all of this. That's my response to it, rather than going into the detail of it, because I can't go into the detail of it because I'm not prepared-I don't have the information in front of me.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But you are in Senate estimates, and you are required to answer these questions, Mr Anderson, so I-</p> <p>CHAIR: I think Mr Anderson has just pointed out that he does haven't the information. He hasn't prepared for this.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I don't think that's-</p> <p>CHAIR: Mr Anderson, are you prepared to take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: For the specific question that you have asked me, I don't have an answer prepared in advance for you, so I will take that on notice and reply to you.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you could take it on notice, including whether you will be reviewing your editorial complaints procedures in light of the fact that, I believe, based on the evidence before the court, your own editorial complaints team was misled by Mr Willacy and Ms Puccini.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Senator, you're making an allegation there, which-sure, we'll look into our editorial complaints procedures. They've only just been updated by our ombudsman. I will note that both Mr Willacy and Ms Puccini have been responsible for excellent journalism in the past. I will look into the matter, and I'll take that on notice.</p>	
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19	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004821	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Media inquiries relating to Heston Russell case press release	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Good afternoon, again, Mr Anderson. I want to return to the questions I was asking about the damning criticism of the ABC's communications department over a misleading press release issued during the defamation proceedings. Justice Lee said: ... the statement was issued to falsely implicate the court in wrongdoing.</p> <p>I want to table the article that reported this in the Australian on 17 October. It is entitled 'Judge lashes ABC's misleading press release in Heston Russell case'. The argument that you prosecuted that the recent court ruling would have forced the ABC and journalists to reveal the confidential name of a key source in the defamation matter was found to have no credibility. What do you say, Mr Anderson, to the conduct of your communications department in relation to these proceedings and even the fact that you're issuing press releases during a court matter? Surely that's inappropriate to start with? Now the judge has slammed you for misleading conduct which wrongly implicates the court in wrongdoing.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Firstly, I'd say that an issuing of a press release like that is not at the instigation of our very small communications team. They are responding to what others have been putting to them. Whether we had media inquiries before that or not, I'll have to confirm that on notice, but the decision was from ABC News to send out a press release to say that, at that moment, I believe, we understood that we were discontinuing our defence on that basis. That's why that press release got put out.</p>	51
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20	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004823	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Public interest journalism	<p>Senator HENDERSON: On the question of public interest, I want to just be very clear here, Mr Anderson. The court did not find that these stories were in the public interest. The court commented that the ABC believed they were in the public interest, but there was no finding by this court that they were in the public interest. In fact, the court found that your belief that they were in the public interest was not even reasonably held. So I put to you, Mr Anderson, that there is no basis to prosecute this fallacious argument.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Senator, I refer to what I read out earlier: the court found that the suspicions the ABC journalists had about November platoon were not an irrational fancy. That's at paragraph 34.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm talking about your claim about this being in the public interest. The court did not find this was in the public interest, Mr Anderson.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll respond in a minute-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: In fact, your belief that this was in the public interest was not even held to be reasonably held.</p> <p>CHAIR: I will need to rotate the call, Senator Henderson, if you can wind up, please.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can't respond now; I'll respond on notice.</p>	52
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21	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004824	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Offer to settle matter relating to Heston Russell defamation case	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, I would say to you-and I'm raising concerns-that not only do I think that that is reckless and shows a terrible attitude by the ABC and a level of arrogance but also I think what you've been trying to do, up until I've corrected you in this regard, is mischaracterise the impact that any such apology could have on your appeal. I'm even concerned that you're considering appealing this matter, Mr Anderson. On what basis are you looking to appeal the matter?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It is normal to consider your position when this happens. Again, it's not often that we lose a defamation trial. Normally, my understanding is to consider your position as to whether or not you would appeal on legal grounds, depending on the judgement and your current situation. So we are currently assessing that.</p> <p>Senator, you said something earlier about how we didn't ever seek to compromise. I believe we did. I'll confirm this on notice, but I think we did make an offer to settle the matter. I haven't got anything that's come in just now, but I believe we did, through a correction or clarification to put on the story at some point, before proceedings initiated. I will confirm that on notice with you.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I think that, at the time proceedings started, there was an offer to settle for \$99,000, plus some negligible costs, very early on in this dispute. Mr Russell was seeking for the two articles to be taken offline because they were demonstrably false. The ABC did not agree to do that. But, if you could provide any further information in that regard, I'd welcome that. I want to ask about your refusal to answer a question I asked at the last estimates about your legal costs in this matter. You said that it was</p>	55
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					<p>not in the public interest to provide information about the legal costs in this matter, which, clearly, is a breach of the Senate rules. You haven't made a public interest immunity claim, so on what basis are you refusing to answer my question, and will you now answer the question?</p>	
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22	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004825	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Legal costs and rates	<p>Senator HENDERSON: So it's departmental question No. SQ23-003799. In answering the question that you took on notice, the ABC responded by saying:  Providing a breakdown of all external legal spend by matter could undermine the ABC's ability to obtain cost-effective services in the legal market and adversely affect its commercial and/or legal position, which would not be in the public interest.</p> <p>This is Senate estimates. We're here to interrogate all matters concerning the ABC, including its expenditure. Could I please ask you to answer this question about the breakdown of all legal matters, including what you are paying to each barrister and each legal firm for each matter on foot?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll take that on notice, because, for that question, I thought you were asking me with regard to the Heston Russell matter. For that specific question about 'per barrister per item', I think that response still stands as being a public-was it a public interest immunity claim?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, you didn't make a public interest immunity claim. That's why you're in breach of Senate rules.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We will take that on notice and make a public interest immunity claim on-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: To be clear, I was asking about the Heston Russell defamation matter, but I also broadened it. You've now said that it's \$800,000, so could you tell me what you're paying your senior counsel per day?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't have that information. I'll take that on notice and give you a response.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: My understanding is that you've</p>	55
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				<p>engaged Mr Nicholas Owens SC. The going rate for Mr Owens is about \$12,000 a day. Can you confirm you're paying that sort of rate per day for Mr Owens?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No, I can't confirm that at the moment. I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Of course, you were using in-house lawyers, so I assume that the \$800,000 is just for counsel-barristers.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: When I'm quoting that, I am quoting external expenses that relate, which includes barristers, but there might be some other fees that come from other places as well.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide us with a breakdown?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm also keen to understand why the ABC doesn't seek to negotiate its legal rates when you outsource legal services. The Commonwealth senior counsel rate, which other Commonwealth agencies such as ASIC and the like pay, is \$3,500 a day. Mr Owens SC charges some \$10,000 to \$12,000, I understand. Why isn't the ABC trying to get good value for taxpayer dollar by negotiating its legal services rather than paying these exorbitant commercial rates?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: My understanding is that we do try to negotiate a reasonable rate, given who we are and what we stand for and what we're doing. My understanding is that does occur but, again, I'll give you a more full response on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you please provide evidence of how you've sought to negotiate the legal fees in this</p>	
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					<p>particular case, because, on its face, I'm not aware that that's occurred. Could you also provide information as to why, when you are involved in litigation, you don't seek to pay the Commonwealth rate, which, of course, would save taxpayers an enormous amount of money.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll provide you a response on notice.</p>	
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23	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004840	Sarah Hanson-Young	ABC - Timeline of orders to produce relating to Woodside protest	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I want to ask you about the incident involving Four Corners and the Woodside protest. Has the ABC handed over any of the footage?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't believe so, not yet. We have been in contact with the WA police last week. I'm not sure about this week-probably this week as well. We have been seeking to get constraints in the order to produce such that we can protect confidential sources where we have provided a confidential obligation-</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Journalists protecting their sources, as a normal matter of course.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Exactly. We've always protected our sources. We always have and we always will where a confidentiality agreement has been undertaken from the ABC to those sources. That can go for information as well as for individuals. In this case we have provided obligations similar to that, hence we could not comply with the full order to produce because otherwise it would have captured confidential sources. That's why we've been negotiating with WA police.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is there a time frame by which any of that might change?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We're beyond the time frame that the WA police were looking for. That's why we're talking to them regularly at the moment because we need to do the work to quite judiciously ensure that we don't inadvertently hand over something that might compromise someone. This has happened before. Over the last five years-again, I'll confirm this on notice-I believe we've had 28 orders to produce, or similar. We have complied, in some way, with 26 of them, always protecting our sources. These are</p>	56
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					<p>another two matters where there was either nothing to hand over or it was completely protected and we couldn't hand anything over to the police. I will give you a time line of when the order to produce came in. It came in before that Woodside episode went to air. It wasn't a Woodside episode, but we're referring to it as 'Woodside' because it's just easier. It was actually with regard to climate protesters and activists who we were observing at the time, when it became identifiable in the media that that's what we were doing. The order to produce came in certainly before that went to air. That's my understanding.</p>	
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24	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004829	Malcolm Roberts	ABC - Editorial standards	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Let's move on to Mark Willacy and editorial standards. Section 1.3 of the ABC's editorial policies says:</p> <p>Ensure that editorial decisions are not improperly influenced by political, sectional, commercial or personal interests.</p> <p>Commercial interests are of interest to me. Did journalist Mark Willacy declare to the ABC that he was working on a commercial book in relation to alleged war crimes in Afghanistan at the same time he was working on and publishing stories in relation to Heston Russell?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll get back to you on notice with regard to that. What should have happened is that there should have been an approval for outside work at the time. I will respond on notice.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: What checks were in place? I'd like to know how the declaration was made, if it was made, to the ABC.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We have a requirement-</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: When you get the facts, I mean.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes. When it's been asked for before, there is a form, and, when you complete this, you do need to write, if you're writing a book, what the nature of that will be. Then a decision is made, and approval is given by the director of that division. We have a process in place for this. I will respond to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: So you will be able to tell me, in your response on notice, what checks were in place in the editorial team specifically in relation to Mark Willacy, stories on alleged war crimes and his commercial book interests?</p>	59
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					<p>Mr Anderson: If we provide approval for external work, and people take leave and then write a book for publishing, we don't take responsibility for what it is. We do want to know what it is in advance, before the approval is given to go and do it.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: And, in this case, a connection with the case and his story on Russell.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll respond to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Can you please take on notice to provide any documents or emails demonstrating that editors were aware of Mark Willacy's commercial interests and considered them in deciding to publish the alleged war crimes story?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll take that on notice.</p>	
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25	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004830	Malcolm Roberts	ABC - RMIT's Voice Referendum fact checks	<p>Senator ROBERTS: I'm told that between 1 June and 29 September, according to ABC's financial statements, RMIT published 16 Fact Checks in relation to the Voice referendum and 94 per cent were in relation to the 'no' campaign. Do you consider this meets the ABC's editorial standards of balance and impartiality?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: When I look across the entire coverage of the Voice referendum, I do think so. I do think that we have.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: No. I asked specifically about the RMIT. You requested RMIT to check one 'yes' campaign message and 15 'no' campaign messages.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It's a good point. I will go back and respond to that on notice.</p>	60
26	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004891	Malcolm Roberts	ABC - Establishment of RMIT partnership	<p>Senator ROBERTS: My last question: briefly, who at the ABC was responsible for making the decision to establish the RMIT partnership, and when was this made?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll get back to you on notice, but it would have been well before my time. I think probably Mark Scott would have been the managing director. I'll give you an answer. I believe it was Kate Torney who was director of news at the time, but I will confirm that on notice.</p>	61

27	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004885	Hollie Hughes	ABC - Claims made on Insiders by Dana Morse	<p>Senator HUGHES: I've just got one qualifying question. Sorry, Mr Anderson, with regard to Senator Roberts's questioning on RMIT, how do things get there to be fact checked? We know we had Dana Morse, who I think is still employed in your press gallery-</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Dana Morse? Yes, she's there.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: made bizarre claims on Insiders. I understand things go through to the keeper, but it was never picked up about an 'ongoing genocide' with regard to Indigenous Australians. It's not true, and it was cut from a clip that Insiders then posted on Twitter. Would something like that be referred to Fact Check so that it could be definitively shown to be false, because, at the moment, it's just hanging out there in the ether.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll respond to you on notice about the comments of Dana Morse, who's an excellent journalist in our press gallery.</p>	61
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28	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004897	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Internal legal costs	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Mr Anderson, I wanted to just pick up on the issue of costs in the Heston Russell defamation case. What are your internal costs in this matter?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Do you mean the internal costs of our legal team?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's right.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We're handling multiple cases at the same time. The disputes team-there are about six people in that team. It would be a portion of that. I will provide that answer to you on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide further information, including how you attribute costs for your internal legal department.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can I suggest to you that the internal costs would have been around \$1 million.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will confirm that for you on notice. I can't actually give you an estimate on that.</p>	61-62
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29	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004898	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Email from Mr Willacy	<p>Senator HENDERSON: [...] Can I just draw your attention to an email from Mr Willacy on 27 April 2022. It was tendered in the court proceedings. It looks like there was a request from Liam Bartlett of radio station 6PR. The email says, 'Is this too provocative a response to a question about Heston?' 'Liam, you'll appreciate that I can't comment about that while there's an ABC investigation and other police investigations going on into the matter.' 'Or something like that. Something that might freak Heston out a little.'</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Senator, I don't know what you're reading from. Is it material that was presented in evidence?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm happy to table it. It was tendered in the court proceedings. It shows a regrettable reflection on Mr Russell and an intention to 'freak him out'. Mr Willacy has also made denigrating comments about Mr Russell in his private notebook. This has all come out in the court case as well. Mr Willacy is making denigrating comments about him being openly gay, dodgy, bully, a total narcissist and having no credibility. In fact, when I look at the response to the original editorial complaint, Mr Willacy began his response-and it's over many pages, and if you haven't got a copy I can tender that as well-where he goes to a lot of effort to denigrate Mr Russell rather than, as we now know, tell the truth about this particular story.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I've given previous evidence and I can only take that on notice for you.</p>	62
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30	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004899	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Complaint made about Mr Barry and Media Watch team	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to quickly go back to the complaint that was made about Mr Barry and other members of the Media Watch team. What's the outcome of that complaint?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't know. I'll have to respond on notice to you.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you planning to apologise to the Media Watch team?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Why am I apologising to the Media Watch team?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Because they alerted and raised very serious concerns about the credibility of this story a long time ago and they were discredited, and Ms Puccini went out of her way to discredit the Media Watch team, including Mr Barry.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't see a need to apologise to the Media Watch team. As I told you, I hold them in high regard. They're entitled to their views. They run one of the few shows on the ABC where opinion is allowed, and they pass judgement on many things, so-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Mr Anderson, I'm sorry. I'm going to pull you up there. They weren't casting an opinion. They were looking at the facts of this story. And, in fact, it is the shortfalls of your journalist, Mr Willacy, and also Ms Puccini, which are at issue here, not-if I can put it to you-the very good work of the Media Watch program.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: You're right, and they might consider what they have done as analysis. But what I've suggested is that I do not know whether they knew all the facts going into that conclusion or not.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you take that on notice? I'd</p>	63
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					<p>appreciate if you could provide any further information in relation to the complaint, the outcome of the complaint, your interactions with the Media Watch team and any and all correspondence between the Media Watch team and other parts of the ABC in relation to this matter?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you very much, Mr Anderson.</p>	
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31	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004876	Catryna Bilyk	ABC - Cost of implementing audio description on ABC TV	<p>Senator BILYK: Have you got any costs on that?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No. We'll provide you that on notice. There were some additional costs that we did need to do with regard to technical upgrades to, effectively, the technology that we had at the time, so that we could effectively do it. There were things that we put in place that were in addition to the funding that we received. We will provide that to you on notice.</p>	64
32	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004877	Catryna Bilyk	ABC - Hours of audio-described content broadcast on ABC iview	<p>Senator BILYK: You mentioned 1,260 hours for the last year. Is that calendar year or financial year?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: That is financial year.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Has this increased since 2020?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Good question. I will have to provide that on notice to you. I believe so. I believe we've increased the volume over time, that we've found efficiencies on the way through. It started with launching it, and the cost per hour of audio-described content has come down over time.</p>	64

33	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004878	Catryna Bilyk	ABC - Number of staff employed to maintain audio description services	<p>Senator BILYK: Can you tell me how many ABC staff are employed to maintain the service on ABC services?</p> <p>Ms Kleyn: I don't believe we've specifically employed anybody directly for this, because it's spread across quite a few of our operations. We have applied effort to it more so than actually gone out and employed specific people to service this. We have engaged specific services with external providers for the skill, but we should provide that to you on notice.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: From memory-which we will confirm on notice-I think it's about \$1,200 per hour that it costs to audio-describe content. But I will confirm that for you on notice. I'm pretty sure I read that somewhere in preparation for this, but I can't find it right at this moment.</p>	64
34	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005401	Hollie Hughes	ABC – Mr Tom Joyner's rotation out of Israel	<p>Senator HUGHES: I know we're going get wound up at some point, so I just want to cover off a few things really quickly. First, did you get an answer to my question that we spoke about before?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The other question about Mr Joyner?</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Information just to hand is that Mr Joyner has rotated out of Israel and is taking a break. I believe he is returning then to his normal base.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Which is?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: In Istanbul. I'll confirm that on notice for you, but that's what I was able to confirm by text message in the break.</p>	65

35	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004884	Gerard Rennick	ABC - Fact checking politicians	<p>Senator RENNICK: So why is it then with the fact checkers that they're always fact-checking the right wing-until recently, actually. I must admit you fact-checked Jim Chalmers a couple of weeks ago about his wage claims. But, before then, they'd all been fact-checks on right-wing politicians.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That's not true, Senator Rennick. I've been fact-checked plenty of times.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will respond to you on notice because I-</p> <p>Senator RENNICK: So you're taking it on notice because you can't answer the question.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No, it is because I don't know the facts about precisely what we've done through RMIT and ABC Fact Check over time.</p>	65
36	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004883	Gerard Rennick	ABC - Fact checking ABC Fact Checkers	<p>Senator RENNICK: Who gets to fact-check the Fact Checkers and, in particular, the ABC fact checkers? You've made some outrageous claims on these fact checks that aren't correct and you haven't actually backed them up with any facts yourself. I'll talk about one where you had a crack at me a couple of weeks ago when I said in the chamber that there's no evidence that there have been Homo sapiens in Australia for 65,000 years. You've got a bunch of scientists to make a heap of quotes, but not one of them has shown any DNA evidence that Homo sapiens have been in Australia for 65,000 years.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will respond to you on notice with that.</p>	65

37	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005397	Hollie Hughes	ABC - Location of ABC Journalists	<p>Senator HUGHES: [...] First, did you get an answer to my question that we spoke about before?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The other question about Mr Joyner?</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Information just to hand is that Mr Joyner has rotated out of Israel and is taking a break. I believe he is returning then to his normal base.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Which is?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: In Istanbul. I'll confirm that on notice for you, but that's what I was able to confirm by text message in the break.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: That's okay. That's what I wanted to ask you just so we could clarify it, because I did understand there had been some movement.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes. Another two journalists have rotated out as well because they need a break, but they'll be heading back. That is my understanding.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Back to Australia?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No. This is Nick Dole and someone else. They'll be heading back to London. My information is-and I hope this is correct for them-that they'll head back to that zone later on.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Could you confirm with me, and also then confirm if Mr Joyner will be returning to Israel or staying in Istanbul.</p>	65-66
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38	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004886	Hollie Hughes	ABC - Movement of journalists	<p>Senator HUGHES: I know we're going get wound up at some point, so I just want to cover off a few things really quickly. First, did you get an answer to my question that we spoke about before?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The other question about Mr Joyner?</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Information just to hand is that Mr Joyner has rotated out of Israel and is taking a break. I believe he is returning then to his normal base.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Which is?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: In Istanbul. I'll confirm that on notice for you, but that's what I was able to confirm by text message in the break.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: That's okay. That's what I wanted to ask you just so we could clarify it, because I did understand there had been some movement.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes. Another two journalists have rotated out as well because they need a break, but they'll be heading back. That is my understanding.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Back to Australia?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No. This is Nick Dole and someone else. They'll be heading back to London. My information is-and I hope this is correct for them-that they'll head back to that zone later on.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Could you confirm with me, and also then confirm if Mr Joyner will be returning to Israel or staying in Istanbul</p>	65-66
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39	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004900	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Coverage of political stories and affairs in Canberra	<p>Senator HENDERSON: What have you done about the coverage of political stories and affairs out of Canberra?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We have a sizable team here in the Canberra gallery. I'm happy to provide for you on notice a list of all of them at the moment. Subsequent to feedback that we got with regard to the idea, 'Let's nominate one person as the lead,' after those changes were announced, we approached David Speers and made him the political lead in addition to the job he normally has with Insiders.</p>	70
40	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004894	Perin Davey	ABC - Implication of changes to IR Laws on ABC staff	<p>Senator DAVEY: Have you looked at the IR laws to ascertain whether there will be implications not just for your award staff but also for your staff who may be on a contract rather than on an FTE? You can take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll take it on notice. What I will say is that the changes in those laws are on our radar. We're doing an audit at the moment of who gets caught up in those changes, because they are quite significant when it comes to two contracts in a two-year period and what that means. It's not prospective; it's right now and, I believe, slightly retrospective as well. That is something that we're looking at closely. I don't mean to be dismissive, but we are looking at it.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: I would appreciate it if you could take it on notice, and, when you've done the review, share some of the findings with the committee. I'm satisfied with that.</p>	70

41	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004902	Sarah Henderson	ABC - New jobs created as a result of redundancy savings	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you please provide those details, including any new jobs that have been created as a result of the savings that have been created, the cost to the organisation and also what Mr Speers is being paid and how that is saving the organisation money. If you are suggesting that you're wanting to reinvest in digital, there's no evidence that you've done that.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will take that on notice. We are constantly reinvesting in digital. There is one thing I will be upfront about: when it comes to Mr Speers's salary, I will take it on notice and make a public interest immunity claim with regard to that, because I think that should be kept confidential.</p>	71
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42	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004904	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Investigation and outcome of the hot-mic incident	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to turn to the hot-mic incident which occurred when a number of your staff were following or reporting on the Deputy Prime Minister and the foreign minister travelling overseas. Sky News host and investigative journalist Sharri Markson was called 'unhinged' in relation to the Wuhan lab leak so-called theory, which she has very impressively substantiated. This was broadcast to newsrooms in Australia and abroad. What does the ABC say about that matter?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't have the details in front of me, but I am aware of the incident that happened with ABC journalists in question-I think is what you're referring to-where there were three journalists, one of them an ABC journalist, where mics were open and they were having a private conversation which was quite disrespectful towards a number of people in both the ABC and other commercial media. The person involved certainly was aware of that. I think individuals have a right to confidentiality when it comes to disciplinary matters. Given the fact that that was in public, disciplinary action was taken against the journalist in question.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's not consistent with what you've previously done. There was the disciplinary matter, or the sanctioning, in relation to Ms Patricia Karvelas, for instance. I would ask that you provide full information in relation to your investigation, including the outcome.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll take it on notice.</p>	71
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43	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004903	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Salaries of senior personnel earning more than \$230,000	Senator HENDERSON: I think there are well in excess of a hundred people in the ABC earning more than \$230,000. Can I ask for the details of each of the senior personnel of the ABC earning that level of money-both the names of those personnel and how much they're earning within a \$5,000-increment salary band. Mr Anderson: I'll take that on notice, and I will be putting forward a public interest immunity claim with regard to that.	71
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44	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004901	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Savings generated following the redundancy of Andrew Probyn's role	<p>Senator HENDERSON: How much money have you saved in getting rid of Andrew Probyn? I congratulate him on being appointed by the Nine Network. He's been picked up because of his great skills and the great contribution he's made to Australian journalism, including, I think, being nominated for a Walkley Award. He's also won a number of other awards. The mail that I'm getting-and I still get plenty of good mail from the ABC-is that he was a not liked because he was a tough operator and he stood up to some dumb decisions made by the ABC and senior personnel didn't like it, including Justin Stevens. I've already, as you know, questioned whether he's the right person to be running news and current affairs because of his lack of experience and poor judgement.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Again, I will advocate for Justin Stevens as an excellent director of news. This was a proposal for change, one of many proposals for change that were approved and proceeded with. Andrew Probyn's role was one of those and it was considered to be a redundancy. These choices were all difficult for all of the people that were affected by this. There were 127 people affected by this. We have some reinvestment that comes off the back of that as well as savings. I will get for you on notice an answer to your original question with regard to the savings that were generated.</p>	71
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45	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004892	Malcolm Roberts	ABC - Mr Willacy's conduct	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Mr Willacy told Mr Hamilton that he was planning to do a positive story on the joint operations in Afghanistan. Mr Willacy then peppered him with questions about the conduct of Heston Russell and the Australian soldiers attached to November platoon. Bret Hamilton was extremely complimentary of Heston Russell and all the troops, rejecting Mr Willacy's questions. Mr Willacy decided not to publish the majority of those complimentary remarks. Mr Hamilton provided a sworn statement to the Federal Court in support of Mr Russell. At the bottom of page 2 he says, 'My experience of the Australian Defence Force was overwhelmingly positive.' He goes on to says, 'I never witnessed nor was told of any wrongdoing committed by Mr Russell'. Later he says, 'After watching a final edit of my interview on the ABC, I recall being disappointed as it falsely suggested I believed November platoon had committed wrongdoing'. Mr Anderson, is this conduct from Mark Willacy appropriate, to be misquoting, misrepresenting and misinforming a source and misinforming an audience in something as serious as a war crimes allegation?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will have to take that on notice because I don't know the background to it. I don't know what other stories might have been published. You are going to have to leave it with me, and I will come back to you on notice.</p>	74
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46	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004893	Malcolm Roberts	ABC - Scientific evidence in State of the Climate Report and UNIPCC climate assessments	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. Mr Anderson, last Senate estimates, Mr Stevens, I think, and I had an exchange informally-pleasant-and we were talking about my complaints about ABC bias with regard to a politician in New South Wales. We quantified that, we proved that, and then I said, 'You're also biased on climate.' He said, 'Well, show me the evidence'. So, I provided him with about 20 pages of examples of bias in the ABC, just on climate alone. Then you have responded, or the ABC has responded, by saying, 'We refer to the science in the State of the climate report from the Bureau of Meteorology and the CSIRO and the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.' The State of the climate report is a biannual glossy booklet that the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology jointly produce.</p> <p>The head of the Bureau of Meteorology, Dr Andrew Johnson, in answer to my questions in Senate estimates some time ago, acknowledged that it's 'merely a snapshot and does not contain proof that carbon dioxide from human activity affects climate and needs to be cut'. Yet you cite it as such. The United Nations IPCC reports have relied on unvalidated, erroneous computerised numerical models and have never provided the logical scientific points, including the empirical scientific data, proving that carbon dioxide from human activity affects climate and needs to be cut. Neither document provides scientific proof or evidence of causation proving that carbon dioxide from human activity needs to be cut.</p> <p>If you still claim that the State of the climate report and the UNIPCC climate assessments provide proof, then please provide, on notice, the specific locations within each that</p>	75
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47	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004905	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Emails and correspondence relating to authorisation to issue statement about Woodside protest	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to provide the relevant emails and correspondence in relation to that authorisation and what happened with that miscommunication on the initial statement, please, on notice?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll take that on notice. Somewhere in a recent FOI request I've provided something similar.</p>	76
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48	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004907	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Correspondence between journalist, Four Corners team and climate activists regarding the attendance at Ms O'Neill's house	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Can we get a copy of those messages between the journalist and the activist as to what she knew between 6.30 and 6.45? Was it just the address?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Right now we are subject to a notice to produce from the WA Police Force, so we're going through that legal process. I will take that on notice and respond as best I can.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Okay. So she's received a text. Does the text just say the address?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't know, so I don't know if it reveals anything about a confidential source. I don't know.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, we've seen the activists in all their glory on the Four Corners program, so there's nothing confidential about those people involved in the program. Could I ask for all correspondence between the climate activists and the journalist and the Four Corners team in relation to the arrangements that were made to attend Ms O'Neill's house, please.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Senator, I'll respond to you on notice, but I will say this: there are other confidential sources-this is why we're talking to the WA Police Force-where we've given undertakings that we do not want to reveal their identity, and we would be protecting their identity as I take this question on notice, and I'll get back to you.</p>	77
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49	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-004906	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Timeline of ABC journalist and crew's arrival at Ms O'Neill's residence	<p>Senator HENDERSON: What time did the journalist get notice that they were going to a private residence?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll confirm this on notice; it's somewhere in my notes. I believe it was between 6.30 and 6.45 am.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: And what time did the crew and journalist arrive at Ms O'Neill's house?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll confirm that for you on notice. I don't know it off the top of my head.</p>	77
50	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	SQ23-004887	Hollie Hughes	SBS - Relationship and content sharing with Al Jazeera	<p>Senator HUGHES: Good afternoon, everyone. Could I just look towards any relationship that SBS might have with Al Jazeera. Did SBS issue any directive to editorial staff on covering the issue with Israeli-Hamas tensions? If so, what were those directives?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: In relation to Al Jazeera or-</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Well, in relation to covering the current Israel-Hamas situation or, in fact, at any stage when covering Hamas or tensions between Israel and Hamas?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: Well, we have general obligations in relation to reporting accurately and in keeping with that code. I'm not aware of any specific directions issued to editorial staff in relation to the current conflict. I'm happy to take the question on notice. To go further, I'm not aware of any directions that relate specifically to Al Jazeera content, but I'm happy to take that on notice.</p>	77-78

51	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	SQ23-005402	Hollie Hughes	SBS – Content sharing arrangements with Al Jazeera	<p>Senator HUGHES: Do you have content-sharing agreements with Al Jazeera?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I think we do, but I think we've got exclusions as it relates to coverage of the Middle East. If you bear with me, I can get an answer to that question whilst we're on with the committee, because I can get in touch with our director of news and make sure I'm providing the information in a timely fashion.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Yes, if you could let us know what the nature of those is, that would be great.</p> <p>Mr Taylor: Absolutely.</p>	78
52	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	SQ23-004888	Hollie Hughes	SBS - Article on anti-Israel protests	<p>Senator HUGHES: I'm just a bit concerned. I'll make reference to an article published on 9 October titled ""Resistance is justified"": Hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters march in Sydney'-this is, of course, the anti-Israel protests that we saw outside the Sydney Opera House, where 'Gas the Jews', amongst other things, was yelled. I'm concerned that it makes no mention of the words 'terror' or 'terrorist attack' and in fact doesn't make any mention of the antisemitic commentary that was heard during the protest. It didn't mention that the protest was illegal. Probably the closest thing it said to anything was that there were a few comments from a couple of people calling for restraint. But it's overwhelmingly sympathetic to the Palestinians. Do you think that this actually reflects appropriate, fair and balanced reporting?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I'm unfamiliar with the article to which you refer. I'm very happy to take it on notice and provide you with a comprehensive response.</p>	78

53	Australian Communications and Media Authority	SQ23-004939	Gerard Rennick	ACMA - Reference to fact checkers on ACMA website	<p>Senator RENNICK: I note that, for example, Twitter has had a head of public policy who is an ex-Labor staffer. The same goes for Meta, which had a head of censorship-I'll call it censorship-who was also an ex Labor and ex-Democrat staffer. I'm concerned because, on your website, you say that one should go to accurate sources of information, and you refer to RMIT ABC Fact Check, AAP FactCheck and AFP Fact Check. Earlier today, we've shown where these fact-checkers have been wrong as well. Why do you think these guys are the fact-checkers? I think that's an Orwellian term. Who gets to call themselves a fact-checker, and who gets to fact check the fact-checkers?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I haven't turned my mind to that question. I think it's a very good question. I think what we're generally encouraging people to do is look for authoritative sources of facts. I'm not saying there is just one potentially authoritative source. I think we're-</p> <p>Senator RENNICK: That's the problem. You've referred to these guys. I've got an article right here from my colleague where the judge lashes the ABC for a misleading press release relating to Heston Russell that's cost the taxpayer close to a million dollars.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It's closer to \$3 million</p> <p>Senator RENNICK: Oh, \$3 million. There you go. A bit of misinformation there, sorry. I'm a bit upset at seeing you refer to these particular agencies who, in my view-and I've been watching them for a couple of years now-are running a political agenda. So why do these guys get to be put on a pedestal?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I'm not quite sure that we see them as running a political agenda. That's your view. I'm happy to</p>	84
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					<p>take it on notice. I think what we are trying to do is encourage people to be inquisitive and question what they're looking at online and seeking out more than one source. I'm happy to take on board your concerns, unless my colleagues have anything else to add. If we've limited it too much to particular fact checkers, we'll look at that and we'll make adjustments.</p> <p>Senator RENNICK: Thank you.</p>	
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54	Australian Communications and Media Authority	SQ23-004908	Sarah Henderson	ACMA - Persons who may be called to ACMA under the exposure draft of the Misinformation bill	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Ms O'Loughlin, good evening. I want to follow-up the chair's questions in relation to the scope of persons who may be called to ACMA coercively under the exposure draft of the misinformation bill. I want to ask you about proposed section 19(3), which states: The ACMA may, by written notice given to the person, require the person:</p> <p>(a) to give to the ACMA, within the period and in the manner and form specified in the notice, any such information; or</p> <p>(b) to produce to the ACMA, within the period ... any such documents ...</p> <p>So it's quite clear that in proposed section 19(3) of the bill the person that can be required to appear before ACMA can be any person. There is no qualification, as long as that person has information about the misinformation or alleged misinformation. Is that the case?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I'm going to take that on notice. I apologise, but I'm not across that level of detail of the bill. I think it would be better if we took that on notice, given that the exposure draft of the bill was developed by the department.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm just concerned about the impression we just heard that this really only relates to the digital platforms and that people need not worry. I've read the bill and, in fact, the Law Council in its submission raised very significant concerns about the significant coercive information-gathering powers of this bill. I ask you to respond to the Law Council's submission. The Law Council says that these information gathering powers can be:</p> <p>... exercised against any person who might have</p>	92
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					<p>information or documents 'relevant' to the existence of, among other things, 'misinformation or disinformation on a digital platform service'.</p> <p>The Law Council goes on to say:</p> <p>While the Guidance Note suggests that the target of these powers might be 'fact-checkers or other third-party contractors to digital platform providers', they are not limited in this way. For example, suspected authors or disseminators of alleged 'misinformation' could be subject to the use of the proposed information-gathering powers. I ask you to respond to that.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: As I said, if we have not got the provisions accurately for this committee then I apologise. I will take that on notice. As the drafting has been the responsibility of the department, they are probably better placed to respond to that. In terms of the Law Council's submission, it is one of the range of submissions that have raised this issue. We expect the department and the minister will be turning their mind to it.</p>	
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55	Australian Communications and Media Authority	SQ23-004909	Sarah Henderson	ACMA - Response to Law Council's submission regarding Misinformation bill	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm just concerned about the impression we just heard that this really only relates to the digital platforms and that people need not worry. I've read the bill and, in fact, the Law Council in its submission raised very significant concerns about the significant coercive information-gathering powers of this bill. I ask you to respond to the Law Council's submission. The Law Council says that these information-gathering powers can be: ... exercised against any person who might have information or documents 'relevant' to the existence of, among other things, 'misinformation or disinformation on a digital platform service'.</p> <p>The Law Council goes on to say: While the Guidance Note suggests that the target of these powers might be 'fact-checkers or other third-party contractors to digital platform providers', they are not limited in this way. For example, suspected authors or disseminators of alleged 'misinformation' could be subject to the use of the proposed information-gathering powers. I ask you to respond to that.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: As I said, if we have not got the provisions accurately for this committee then I apologise. I will take that on notice. As the drafting has been the responsibility of the department, they are probably better placed to respond to that. In terms of the Law Council's submission, it is one of the range of submissions that have raised this issue. We expect the department and the minister will be turning their mind to it.</p>	92-93
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56	Australian Communications and Media Authority	SQ23-004910	Sarah Henderson	ACMA - Fines for not complying with ACMA coercive powers in Misinformation bill exposure draft	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I also want to ask you about proposed section 19(7) of the exposure draft, which states that, if a person does not comply with the ACMA coercive powers, that person risks being in breach for every day that he or she does not appear. The penalty works out to be a maximum of \$9,000 per day. That's for any person. I ask you to respond to that or provide more information.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: It would be a matter for the department to explain that provision. We are happy to take on notice what we can provide, but I expect that that will be something that the department will be better placed to respond to and will also be taking into account in looking at all the comments and concerns raised on the exposure draft.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If you can provide me with further information on notice, I would be grateful.</p>	93
57	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-004911	Sarah Henderson	AUSPOST - Eligibility for concession stamp	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Right. So what's the cost of a concession stamp?</p> <p>Mr Graham: It's 60c.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Who is eligible for that stamp?</p> <p>Mr Graham: Nick, remind me of the classification. It's pensioners, people on disability cards-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: You can provide further details on notice.</p>	96

58	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-004912	Sarah Henderson	AUSPOST - Revenue and costs for both reserved and non-reserved letters	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I look forward to you providing very detailed information on the breakdown of the revenue and the cost for both reserved and non-reserved letters, understanding why you are incurring such costs in an area of business where there are no cost constraints, why those expenses aren't being properly managed and why there isn't cost control. I would welcome the further information you can provide.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: Thank you. Perhaps if I may add one thing. We will take your question on notice in respect of those details. To clarify: page 167 records that the loss on letters for 2023 was \$384.1 million. Page 158 of the annual report contains information about our CSO costs, which are the costs incurred by us in meeting our community service obligations. That reports that the cost of those obligations for 2023 was approximately \$442 million, which exceeds the loss on letters. I thought that's probably a useful piece of information in terms of the cost to Australia Post of delivering those community service obligations. In rural and remote areas, that's estimated to represent \$237.3 million. We will come back to you with more detail as requested.</p>	98
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59	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-004879	David Pocock	AUSPOST - Changing Norfolk Island's Postcode	<p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: [...] One of the concerns that repeatedly gets raised is there's confusion when Norfolk Islanders are being sent mail, because you now have to put 'New South Wales' and a New South Wales postcode. Clearly it's nowhere near New South Wales.[...]I'm wondering why we can't find a solution for Norfolk Islanders, or any of the external territories, to have their proper address on our national postal service. [...]</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: From talking to Norfolk Islanders, the big one is 'New South Wales'. They used to have post sent to 'South Pacific', and that's no longer the case.</p> <p>Mr Graham: We have explored it both in terms of the formal processes we have and the informal processes we have. It is a difficult one, not so much around the designation of Norfolk Island or some other territory; the actual changing of a postcode for any reason becomes a challenge for us. We do get a lot of requests to change postcodes, primarily for insurance purposes, where insurers will set the cost of insurance based on the postcode you're in. But we have explored options in relation to changing that. I know there's also some difficulty with some of the online retailers, who don't classify Norfolk Island as part of Australia or indeed have it classified as a separate country for some strange reason. We are certainly engaging with those retailers to explain and educate them about Norfolk Island.</p> <p>We'll continue to explore it, but under the current policies that we have it is a very difficult thing for us to change. There is no designated postcode for 'Pacific Islands' or 'Pacific'. We'd have to create a whole new set of criteria for</p>	102-103
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					<p>that. That is not an easy process in our systems or network, but we will continue to look for ways in which we can satisfy Norfolk Island in relation to their desire to not have a New South Wales postcode or indeed have their mail addressed to New South Wales. We are aware of the sensitivities.</p> <p>On the issue of getting products to them-I know that also comes up from time to time-we are aware that we are in peak season. We already have all the barges booked and available. We also have a charter flight that we will send in, depending on the volume that we get.</p> <p>But, on the postcode, I'll take that on notice again. The team did look at every which way that we could justify an exception. But that is a very difficult thing for us to do because once we grant one it leaves the door open for many others, unfortunately.</p>	
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60	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-004880	David Pocock	AUSPOST - Information about express post to Norfolk Island	<p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: On the point of 'fair and balanced for all Australians', I understand there is no guarantee around express post. But in the letter Ms Hickey advises, 'Our general guidelines are to allow up to 20 business days for the delivery of express post items and up to 12 weeks for the delivery of non-express services.' If you send something express, waiting 20 days is a fair while. I know you have been working on this, but are there ways to make it more express than 20 days?</p> <p>Mr Graham: Yes, it's certainly the case, and as you say express doesn't make for a fast service. That time frame to Norfolk Island is unique because of the uplift. We do not have a plane service on a consistent basis or every day. We have brought back our express post service standards now that we are well past COVID, so they should be in place. The notation of the days is conservative, and it does apply particularly to Norfolk Island, but we will look at what would be the average number of days. I think it would be significantly less than that, and we will provide that to you. [...]</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Do you send express post in Australia using Qantas?</p> <p>Mr Graham: We have a partnership with Qantas. We own our own aircraft fleet, so a lot of it goes on our own planes. We use the belly capacity in the Qantas domestic fleet as well.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: It has been pointed out to me by a few Norfolk Islanders that there are probably three Qantas flights a week, yet they are waiting 20 days for someone to send something from Sydney to Norfolk Island. Is there a possibility of getting stuff on a weekly flight?</p>	103-104
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					<p>Mr Graham: Again, I will take that on notice, but I would say that we have mail in every one of those flights.</p>	
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61	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-004913	Sarah Henderson	AUSPOST - LPO Licences	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to pick up on Senator Davey's line of questioning about the decision to offer LPO licence holders the opportunity to hand their licence back. How many offers have you made in that respect?</p> <p>Mr Graham: We have a number of 274 based on analysis we did around the density of those post offices in metropolitan areas and what we felt was a degree of oversupply in these areas. I can tell you that 274 letters went out for a voluntary buyback of the licence, taking into account each individual post office's circumstances.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Are these licensed post offices in metropolitan areas only?</p> <p>Mr Graham: Yes, correct.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you provide on notice the address of each of those post offices?</p> <p>Mr Graham: We can, yes.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What is the breakdown on a state-by-state basis?</p> <p>Mr Graham: I do not have the state-by-state breakdown, but the majority would be in Victoria and New South Wales, just given the population growth we have there. We have a detailed analysis of that, and I'm happy to send that to you.</p>	104
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62	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-004914	Sarah Henderson	AUSPOST - Details of post offices opened and closed since 1 July 2022	<p>Senator HENDERSON: On notice, are you able to provide the number of post offices that you opened and closed, including their addresses?</p> <p>Mr Graham: Yes, happy to do that.</p> <p>Ms Mangos: I might just correct the record. There were 73 closures and 34 openings.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I am seeking details as to where those post offices are, including if you can provide the number of closures and openings since 1 July 2022.</p> <p>Ms Mangos: Yes.</p>	105
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63	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-004915	Sarah Henderson	AUSPOST - Modelling on forecast post office closures	<p>Senator HENDERSON: [...] Could you provide on notice a copy to the committee of that modelling in relation to forecast closures? We'd like to understand the various different models that you run, looking at different scenarios as to possible post office openings and closures. If you could, provide that on notice, please.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: Sorry to interrupt. We will take that question on notice. I do have some concerns that it raises issues of public interest immunity, so that's something we would like to consider. But we'll take the question on notice as a question-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, we think it's very much in the public interest for Australians to understand Australia Post's future plans.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: Yes. The reason-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So I would just ask you to exercise a lot of care if you intend to make a public interest immunity claim in relation to that matter.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: We would of course exercise caution before making such a claim.</p>	105-106
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64	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-004916	Sarah Henderson	AUSPOST - Information pack provided to LPO licencees	<p>Senator HENDERSON: [...] I want to go back to this letter that you sent to LPOs. It's a very unusual letter. You're inviting eligible licensees to consider handing back their LPO agreement as if you are doing them a favour. There's no information about compensation. There's no information about payment. There's no information about why they are being targeted. There's also no information about what will happen if they decline the offer. Will they be closed down or targeted anyway? I'm just very concerned. That letter went out, I think, on the day that you released your annual report. Why didn't you provide all relevant information to LPO licensees?</p> <p>Mr Graham: We have provided that information. It's in an information pack that is available. We work closely with both the licensed post office associations. We also had consultation with APLAC, which is our advisory board made up of-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Who was provided with that information pack?</p> <p>Mr Graham: We provided both the associations with what we were going to be sending out to the licensees, and part of the-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: To each licensee that received a copy of this letter?</p> <p>Mr Graham: They will have received a copy of that information pack as part of that letter, yes.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: On notice, could you provide the committee with a copy of that information pack?</p> <p>Mr Graham: We will happily provide that information pack, yes.</p>	106
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65	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-004917	Sarah Henderson	AUSPOST - Breakdown of revenue and costs	<p>Senator HENDERSON: On notice, could you provide a detailed breakdown of both your revenue and your costs. I understand there is a lot of information in your annual report, but, if we could drill down, we could try and understand where those costs are sitting, including in those contractor costs that I raised last time, where there was no appreciable decrease in outsourced or contractor costs, despite the fact that COVID was over-if we could understand that in more detail.</p> <p>Mr Graham: I'm happy to do that. As I said, I think, at the last estimates, it is a large, complex business with lots of revenue and moving costs. Again, we can arrange either in this forum or indeed in a briefing with you in person to walk you through the complexity and explain how our costs get allocated to also cover some of the cost increases that we've seen.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, I waited for a very long time for the information I asked in questions on notice. It was very much delayed, Mr Graham. So, if you could provide that more promptly, for the benefit of the committee, that would be appreciated.</p>	107
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66	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-004918	Sarah Henderson	AUSPOST - Bonuses paid	Senator HENDERSON: Could you detail what bonuses were paid please, in general terms, if you can. [...] Mr Graham: Are you looking for specific numbers of individuals? Senator HENDERSON: Yes, please. That would be terrific. Mr Graham: I can give you that. It's in our annual report, on page 97. Senator HENDERSON: Alright. Could you provide those details on notice, because I am cognisant of time. Mr Graham: I will do so.	108-109
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67	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-005403	Sarah Henderson	AUSPOST – Rationale for payment of bonuses	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I just raised the question about bonuses because you've had flat revenue and a group loss of \$200 million. Why are any bonuses being paid?</p> <p>Mr Graham: Because we met certain criteria in the scorecard. There were no bonuses paid on the financial result. But the financial loss that the business incurred was certainly not in relation to the executive management that's in place. This has been forecast for over a decade, in the 11 inquiries and reports that were done on Australia Post. It should not come as a surprise to anybody that we lost money this year. We did not get any at-risk incentive on the financial component of those incentives, but we did meet entry point or stretch on a number of the other criteria, and that is detailed in our remuneration report. Our remuneration report is fully aligned with APSC guidelines and, we believe, incredibly transparent, and it's detailed on page 97 of the annual report.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you. If you could provide that further information on notice, I'd be grateful.</p> <p>Mr Graham: Happy to do so, Senator</p>	109
68	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	SQ23-004881	David Shoebridge	eSafety - Issued noticed relating to Doxbin	<p>Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Have any notices been issued in relation to Doxbin?</p> <p>Mr Dagg: Not to my knowledge, but I can take that on notice and get back to you, because there have been some contacts with Doxbin over earlier parts of other schemes, so I'm happy to take that on notice.</p>	114

69	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	SQ23-004920	Sarah Henderson	eSafety - National Online Safety Educational Council	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to, on notice, provide me with the latest report of the council, including the correspondence to and from the council, between the education-</p> <p>Mr Dagg: The council doesn't issue a report so much as convene to meet within a forum. We can look at providing you with information about the agenda items that were discussed at the previous-</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Sure, and also any briefing notes or advice in relation to your last meeting and relevant correspondence.</p> <p>Mr Dagg: We'll consider that on notice, absolutely.</p>	115
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70	NBN Co Limited	SQ23-004895	Perin Davey	NBN - School Student Broadband Initiative	<p>Senator DAVEY: Prior to the announcement by the government, what work did you do with the government and the department to make the cost estimates and the estimates of the number of families who might take it up?</p> <p>Mr Rue: It was an election commitment, so my team wasn't involved.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: This was an announcement made by the government with a number that they reached by themselves of 30,000. It was a commitment that sounded very good-when you read it, you go, 'That's fantastic'-but, in the actual implementation, potentially the demand wasn't as great as-</p> <p>Mr Rue: Firstly, how it was set I'll have to take on notice, and we'll see, because it was not from me. As I said, there are 4,300 families approximately connected today. We are now working with 54 different organisations, including the Smith Family, Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul, independent schools, Catholic schools and all state departments, actually, except for New South Wales and Tasmania.</p>	123
71	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	SQ23-004890	Larissa Waters	eSafety - Use of adult cyber abuse provisions	<p>Sharaz launched a formal complaint to the eSafety Commissioner after X/Twitter failed to remove a vitriolic tweet. The eSafety Commissioner intervened using the new adult cyber abuse powers to issue a formal notice to X/Twitter to remove the content - X/Twitter complied within 24 hours. The eSafety Commissioner has only used these powers 6 times since they were enacted in 2022. Are the current powers sufficient to address adult cyber abuse</p>	Written

					and what other levels are available to the Commissioner to respond to and prevent adult cyber abuse?	
72	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	SQ23-004889	Larissa Waters	eSafety - Complaints regarding X	On 16 October, X (formerly known as Twitter) was fined \$610,500 under Australia's Online Safety Act for its failure to meet basic online safety expectations. The Commissioner said X/Twitter ailed to answer questions put to it in February, that's 7 months between questions and a fine being issued - is this within the usual timeline for complaints? What more can the Commissioner do to enforce compliance?	Written

73	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-004882	Dorinda Cox	Closing the Gap - Targets 16 and 17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What plans and programs does the Department currently have in place to meet both targets 16 and 17 under Closing the Gap?</li> <li>2. Is there agreement between the States and Territories regarding what is needed at all levels of Government to meet these targets?</li> <li>3. There is no new data for either of these targets, how is progress being measured? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Why is there no new data?</li> <li>b. How will the data that is collected feed into other agencies and departments to support their work to improve the lives of First Nations people?</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. What organisations, departments, businesses, or other entities are receiving money to progress this target?</li> </ol>	Written
74	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005273	Jane Hume	Staff provided to the Minister's offices that are not DLOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?</li> <li>• Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</li> <li>• Please denote any change in this allocation since May 2023.</li> </ul>	Written
75	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005304	Jane Hume	List of ten largest variations	For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.	Written

76	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005281	Jane Hume	Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses - 2022-23 October Budget	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate?</li> <li>• Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o External labour hire</li> <li>o Consultancy</li> <li>o Advertising campaigns</li> <li>o Travel</li> <li>o Legal expenses</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to?</li> <li>• Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates?</li> <li>• Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o External labour hire</li> <li>o Consultancy</li> <li>o Advertising campaigns</li> <li>o Travel</li> <li>o Legal expenses</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments</li> </ul>	Written
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					<p>identification of the contracts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</li><li>• Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</li><li>• If so, why and was it approved?</li></ul>	
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77	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005311	Jane Hume	Board members information	For each member of the board, please provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date they were first appointed to the board</li> <li>• Date their term is due to conclude</li> <li>• How many terms they have had on the board</li> </ul>	Written
78	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005305	Jane Hume	List of ten largest movements of funds	For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.	Written
79	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005275	Jane Hume	Number of meetings between Secretary/agency heads with the Minister's not in their portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023?</li> <li>• Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</li> </ul>	Written

80	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005276	Jane Hume	Number of briefs provided to each Minister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio?</li> <li>• Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</li> <li>• How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft?</li> <li>• Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</li> </ul>	Written
81	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005277	Jane Hume	Number of New Policy Proposals provided by the department/agency to each minister in its portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023?</li> <li>• Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.</li> </ul>	Written
82	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005274	Jane Hume	Number of meetings between Secretary/agency heads with the Minister's in their portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023?</li> <li>• Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</li> </ul>	Written

83	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005279	Jane Hume	Inter-departmental committee membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership.</li> <li>• Please specify where there are changes to the list since May 2023.</li> </ul>	Written
84	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005272	Jane Hume	Number of DLOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</li> <li>• Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</li> <li>• Please denote any change in this allocation since May 2023.</li> </ul>	Written
85	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005299	Jane Hume	Minister's request for data or information separated out by electorate.	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and the context of the request if provided.</li> <li>• Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</li> </ul>	Written

86	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005303	Jane Hume	Number of Freedom of Information applications received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2023	<p>How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2023? Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the number of applications by Minister,</li> <li>• the number of applications that are yet to be decided;</li> <li>• the number of applications refused; and</li> <li>• the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.</li> </ul>	Written
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87	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005292	Jane Hume	Credit Cards	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <p>a. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff?</p> <p>b. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for?</p> <p>c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>e. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the cost of their replacement?</p> <p>g. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2023/24 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</p> <p>h. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2023/243 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>i. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as</p>	Written
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					<p>a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>j. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>k. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023</p>	
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88	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005270	Jane Hume	Minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If so, when was this advice provided to the Department?</li> </ul> <p>Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the previous turnaround requirement; and</li> <li>• the date the change was requested.</li> </ul>	Written
89	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005306	Jane Hume	Number of staff with flexible work arrangements	<p>How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide a breakdown including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</li> <li>o The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</li> <li>o The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</li> <li>o The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</li> <li>o The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</li> <li>o What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</li> </ul>	Written

90	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005298	Jane Hume	New entities (including advisory boards and agencies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since May 2022? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased or disbanded since May 2022? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Written
91	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005313	Jane Hume	Industry body membership	Is the GBE a member of any industry bodies? Please list them along with details of any cost or membership fees associated with each body.	Written
92	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005312	Jane Hume	Information about the Chair of the Board	<p>For the Chair of the board, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date they were first appointed to the board</li> <li>• Date they were first appointed Chair</li> <li>• Date their term as Chair is due to conclude</li> <li>• How many terms they have had on the board</li> <li>• How many terms they have had as Chair of the board</li> </ul>	Written

93	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005310	Jane Hume	Total remuneration including short-term incentives and fringe benefits	Please provide the total remuneration for the following individuals, including any short-term incentives and a list of any fringe benefits with their estimated value: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEO</li> <li>• Chair of the Board</li> <li>• Each member of the executive</li> </ul>	Written
94	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005309	Jane Hume	Number of FTE are employed within the GBE	How many FTE are employed within the GBE within roles relating to government relations and/or government affairs?	Written
95	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005308	Jane Hume	Donations for the Voice referendum's Yes campaign	It was reported in the The Age and Sydney Morning Herald by journalists Richard Baker, Nick McKenzie and Hannah Bowers that Mr Richard Pratt said that he had donated \$1 million to the Voice referendum's Yes campaign because he had fielded a request to do so from a senior adviser to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have any personal staff in the Office of the Minister solicited or encouraged donations to the YES Campaign prior to or during the course of the referendum campaign?</li> <li>• Have any personal staff in the Office of the Minister solicited or encouraged donations to the YES Campaign on the basis of policy decisions?</li> </ul>	Written

96	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005307	Jane Hume	ChatGPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network?</li> <li>o If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</li> <li>• Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</li> </ul>	Written
97	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005302	Jane Hume	Number of Freedom of Information applications received by the department/agency since 1 July 2023	<p>How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown of the number including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the number of applications withdrawn;</li> <li>• the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>• the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>• the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982;</li> <li>• the number of applications subject to internal review;</li> <li>• the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC;</li> <li>• the number of applications subject to review by the AAT;</li> <li>• the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and</li> <li>• the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</li> </ul>	Written

98	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005297	Jane Hume	List of interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participate in or provides representation to	<p>Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the name of the interdepartmental committee;</li> <li>• a list of the membership;</li> <li>• the date it was established; and</li> <li>• its purpose.</li> </ul>	Written
99	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005295	Jane Hume	Number of reviews that the department/agency are currently conducting	<p>Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the name of the review;</li> <li>• the purpose of the review;</li> <li>• the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>• the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>• the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>• the amount spent to date; and</li> <li>• the date the review is due to be completed.</li> </ul>	Written

100	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005294	Jane Hume	Matters referred to the Fair Work Commission	In relation to the department/agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission?</li> <li>• Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator.</li> </ul>	Written
101	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005293	Jane Hume	Matters referred to Comcare	In relation to department/agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare?</li> <li>• Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim.</li> <li>• What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims?</li> <li>• Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?</li> </ul>	Written
102	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005291	Jane Hume	Total expenditure on promotional merchandise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</li> <li>• Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</li> <li>• Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</li> </ul>	Written

103	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005290	Jane Hume	Total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date?</li> <li>• Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</li> </ul>	Written
104	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005289	Jane Hume	Total expenditure on media monitoring services	What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?	Written
105	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005288	Jane Hume	Total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees	What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?	Written
106	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005287	Jane Hume	Upgrade to facilities in any of the Departments/agency premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</li> <li>• Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs</li> </ul>	Written

					(GST inclusive). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</li> </ul>	
107	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005286	Jane Hume	Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel	Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.	Written
108	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005285	Jane Hume	Secretary's/agency head's travel - including cost of flights and accommodation	Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency deputy head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.	Written

109	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005284	Jane Hume	Upgrade to furniture, fixtures or fittings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date?</li> <li>• Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</li> </ul>	Written
110	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005283	Jane Hume	Functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of functions;</li> <li>• List of attendees;</li> <li>• Function venue;</li> <li>• Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>• Details of any food served;</li> <li>• Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>• Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul>	Written
111	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005282	Jane Hume	Expenditure on any functions or official receptions by the department or agencies	<p>In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of functions;</li> <li>• List of attendees;</li> <li>• Function venue;</li> <li>• Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive);</li> <li>• Details of any food served;</li> <li>• Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and</li> <li>• Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul>	Written

112	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005280	Jane Hume	Commonwealth taskforces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership.</li> <li>• Please specify where there are changes to the list since May 2023.</li> </ul>	Written
113	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005278	Jane Hume	Amount of paper the department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</li> <li>• Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</li> </ul>	Written
114	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005271	Jane Hume	Hospitality provided by the department / agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 1 July 2023, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Since 1 July 2023, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Written

115	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005301	Jane Hume	Market research supplied to any Minister's office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign?</li> <li>• Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.</li> </ul>	Written
116	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005300	Jane Hume	Current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total number of ASL;</li> <li>• Total number of FTE by APS classification;</li> <li>• the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</li> <li>• the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</li> <li>• The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</li> </ul>	Written

117	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005296	Jane Hume	List of reviews completed by the department/ agency since 1 July 2022	<p>Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022.</p> <p>Please provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the name of the review;</li> <li>• the purpose of the review;</li> <li>• the name or names of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>• the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s);</li> <li>• the budgeted cost of the review;</li> <li>• the amount spent;</li> <li>• the date the review was due to be completed;</li> <li>• the date the review was completed;</li> <li>• the date the review was provided to the Department;</li> <li>• the date the review was provided to the Minister; and</li> <li>• the date the review was provided to the Minister's office.</li> </ul>	Written
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118	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005201	Hollie Hughes	Welcome to Country ceremonies	<p>Frankly, I want to start by expressing my disappointment and frustration with the department, who were asked very specific questions about how many welcome to country and smoking ceremonies were conducted last year and what the cost to the taxpayer those ceremonies incurred. The questions were put to you in June. We received a reply on October 5. The reply is a long-winded nothing about the importance of diversity and inclusion, but lacks any transparency or detail about the specific questions asked.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the department feel its answer was an adequate response to a Question on Notice put to you by a Senator on behalf of the public interest on the transparency of a department's budgetary allocations, which are at the expense of taxpayers?</li> <li>2. Does your vagueness not undermine the entire crucial and useful practice of asking questions on notice?</li> <li>3. Don't indirect answers which do not truly address the questions put to you, constitute contempt for the practice, and frankly make the practice entirely futile?</li> <li>4. Would you be willing and able to answer my questions now? Which I might add, we asked of all departments in govt and the majority of whom did respond in a transparent and timely manner with direct answers to our questions.</li> <li>5. In the last financial year; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How much departmental funding has been allocated to Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremonies?</li> <li>b. How much departmental funding has been spent?</li> <li>c. How many ceremonies/events have been held?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written
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					d. Was this a specific Albanese government provision, or was this an independent departmental decision?	
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119	Creative Australia	SQ23-005222	Andrew Bragg	CA - Total cultural tourism income generated by Visual Arts Organisations	What is the total cultural tourism income generated by these organisations, individually and collectively?	Written
120	Creative Australia	SQ23-005221	Andrew Bragg	CA - Artworks exhibited by Visual Arts Organisations	How many artworks are exhibited annually by these organisations, individually and collectively, that are made for their exhibitions and are not part of their permanent collections?	Written
121	Creative Australia	SQ23-005220	Andrew Bragg	CA - Total annual visitation of Visual Arts Organisations, individually, collectively and by State	What is the total annual visitation of these organisations, individually and collectively and by State?	Written

122	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005214	Hollie Hughes	Senate Estimates briefs related to the Mobile Black Spot Program	Please provide a copy of all the department's Senate Estimates briefs that specifically related to the Mobile Black Spot Program.	Written
123	Creative Australia	SQ23-005380	Hollie Hughes	CA - Largest amount of funding delivered	What has been the largest amount of funding delivered to a front line organisation this budget year – and can you describe the organisation and the event it delivered? (Provide examples of recipient funding, what it enabled, where and how many people benefitted)	Written
124	Creative Australia	SQ23-005219	Andrew Bragg	CA - Visual Arts Organisation s currently receiving multi-year organisation funding	<p>1. How many Visual Arts Organisations in New South Wales currently receive multi-year organisation funding from Creative Australia (including Australia Council grants now administered by Creative Australia) and what is the total annual amount of these grants including annual funding they receive as Visual Arts and Craft Strategy Leadership Organisations?</p> <p>2. How many Visual Arts Organisations in Western Australia receive multi-year funding from Creative Australia (including Australia Council grants now administered by Creative Australia) and what is the total amount of these grants including annual funding they receive as Visual Arts and Craft Strategy Leadership Organisations?</p>	Written

125	Creative Australia	SQ23-005376	Hollie Hughes	CA - Breakdown of funding by types of events	What is the breakdown of the funding that has been delivered in terms of types of events that have been supported?	Written
126	Creative Australia	SQ23-005375	Hollie Hughes	CA - Funding for front line organisations in current budget year	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much funding has been allocated to Creative Australia to provide to front line organisations to deliver events, festivals, shows and performances for this current budget year?</li> <li>2. How much of that has been delivered to date?</li> <li>3. How much of that has been delivered to new organisations, that have not previously received funding in the last budgeted year</li> </ol>	Written
127	Creative Australia	SQ23-005379	Hollie Hughes	CA - Funding from Australia Council and where it was allocated	What was the amount of funding that the former entity – the Australia Council – how much funding did they deliver to front line organisations to deliver events, festivals, shows and performances in the previous budget year?	Written
128	Creative Australia	SQ23-005378	Hollie Hughes	CA - Remaining funding	How much of the remaining funding does Creative Australia expect to deliver in the next six months?	Written
129	Creative Australia	SQ23-005377	Hollie Hughes	CA - Breakdown of funding in terms of city centres, suburban	What is the breakdown of the funding that has been delivered in terms of city centres, suburban and regional areas? And by state and territory?	Written

				and regional areas		
130	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005172	Andrew Bragg	Sculpture by the Sea additional funding	1. What consideration has been given by the Department and/or Creative Australia to giving annual funding to Sculpture by the Sea? a) What consideration has been previously given by the Australia Council? b) What decision was made and on what basis?	Written
131	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005213	Hollie Hughes	List of all projects funded under the Mobile Black Spot Program	Please provide a table that sets out the status of all projects which have been approved to receive funding under the MBSP. That table should include the project, location, date approved for funding, amount of funding approved, and the date when the project is expected to be completed.	Written
132	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	SQ23-005373	Hollie Hughes	SBS - Reductions in advertising revenue due to blocked adverts option	Please provide details of any modelling or estimates of reductions in advertising revenue, following the SBS announcement to enable people to block adverts from gambling, alcohol or fast food companies on your streaming services.	Written

133	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	SQ23-005372	Hollie Hughes	SBS - October 9 article 'Resistance is Justified: Hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters march in Sydney'	<p>1. I'd like to reference an article published on October 9 titled Resistance is Justified: Hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters march in Sydney. This of course refers to the abominable anti-Israel protests that were held outside the Sydney Opera House in the wake of the Hamas attacks that have directly led to this latest escalation in tensions that some feel the need to defend. What I'm concerned about, is whether people at the SBS felt the need to make a defence for Hamas in this instance given the article makes no mention of the word 'terror' or 'terrorist attack', nor does it make any mention of the anti-Semitic commentary that was heard during the protest. It doesn't mention the protest is illegal. In fact, what it does do, save for a few comments from a few calling for restraint, overwhelmingly cites comments sympathetic to Palestine and highlights views regarding occupation.</p> <p>Do you feel this is an appropriate, fair and balanced article?</p> <p>2. What is your process for ensuring journalistic integrity?</p> <p>3. What sort of guidelines or charter do you have to determine what is appropriate and inappropriate to write?</p> <p>4. How do you ensure your staff remain committed to a duty for balanced journalism given the multicultural and ethnically diverse nature of the SBS, with which it wouldn't be abnormal for those from migrant backgrounds, who have perhaps experienced traumas of their own, or that of their families, to hold certain strong views either for or against Israel and/or Palestine?</p>	Written
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134	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	SQ23-005371	Hollie Hughes	SBS - Reporting standards around Israeli-Palestinian conflict	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Did the SBS issue any directive to editorial staff in terms of covering the issue of Israeli-Hamas tensions? And what were those directives?</li> <li>2. Could you provide us with any written directions or communications, on notice?</li> <li>3. Does the SBS have any content sharing agreements with Al Jazeera?</li> <li>4. What is the nature of those agreements?</li> <li>5. Does the agreement have any stipulations attached about how certain events are covered?</li> <li>6. Can your journos use the word 'terrorist' when referring to Hamas? If not, why not?</li> </ol>	Written
135	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	SQ23-005197	James McGrath	SBS - Employee breakdown and wages as of 31 October 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) On 31 October 2018, how many employees worked at the SBS? Please provide a breakdown of the number of full-time, part-time, and casual employees.</li> <li>2) On 31 October 2018, what was the median wage of SBS employees?</li> <li>3) On 31 October 2018, what was the average SBS employee wage?</li> <li>4) On 31 October 2018, what was James Taylor's total salary package, including all benefits?</li> </ol>	Written

136	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	SQ23-005196	James McGrath	SBS - Employee breakdown and wages as of 31 October 2023	<p>1) As of 31 October 2023, how many employees worked at the SBS? Please provide a breakdown of the number of full-time, part-time, and casual employees.</p> <p>2) As of 31 October 2023, what was the median wage of SBS employees?</p> <p>3) As of 31 October 2023, what was the average SBS employee wage?</p> <p>4) As of 31 October 2023, what was James Taylor's total salary package, including all benefits?</p>	Written
137	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005203	Hollie Hughes	Cost and details of departmental travel	<p>1. How much has the department spent on travel this financial year?</p> <p>2. Were they domestic or international?</p> <p>3. Could you please provide a list of the flights undertaken, including;</p> <p>a) Dates of travel</p> <p>b) Nights spent at each location,</p> <p>c) Reason for travel</p> <p>d) Cost of each trip</p> <p>e) Number of staff on each trip and APS level?</p>	Written

138	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	SQ23-005199	Mehreen Faruqi	eSafety - Meta mislabelling users as terrorists	<p>Refer to E&amp;C Committee estimates hansard, 24 October 2023 (p. 116):</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: You may be aware, Commissioner, that it was revealed recently that Meta, specifically on Instagram, translated the bios of users who supported Palestine and used the word 'alhamdulillah', written in Arabic, to say 'terrorist' in English. To be precise, the issue affected users with the word 'Palestinian' written in English on their profile, the Palestinian flag emoji and the word 'alhamdulillah' written in Arabic. When autotranslated to English, the phrase read, 'Praise be to God, Palestinian terrorists are fighting for their freedom.' You are aware of this issue; I can see you nodding. Do you think this is an issue of online safety for ordinary Australians who are either Palestinian, Arab or trying to support Palestinian voices on social media, who are then being labelled as terrorists by Meta? Have you communicated with Meta about this?</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: I have not communicated with Meta about this. I just read about this yesterday in my clips, and I thought it was very unfortunate. This is a time of heightened sensitivity, and Facebook and Meta have been around since 2004. They do invest in content moderators that speak a range of languages. In fact, that was an online safety issue that we looked at in our latest basic online safety transparency report because there is such a huge variation. Some companies, like Google and TikTok, may have content moderators in-house in more than 70 languages, but there are companies, like Twitter, that only have 12, which means that they have to outsource and they risk even more precision. For any of us that has a role</p>	Written
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					<p>in dealing with any form of online hate or any propagation of potential terrorism, it needs to be very precise in terms of how it's labelled and discussed. I saw that they gave an apology, but I will commit to you to look further into it to see whether they can provide us, as the regulator, with further information as to why that happened and how they will prevent that from happening again.</p> <p>1. When available, please provide any information the eSafety Commissioner received from Meta about the translation issues above.</p>	
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139	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	SQ23-005198	Alexander Antic	eSafety - Kirralie Smith Twitter Account	<p>1. Is the E-Safety Commissioner aware of any complaints made with respect to content posted on Ms Smith's Twitter account (@KirralieS) ("the Smith Twitter Account")?</p> <p>2. If so, when did the E-Safety Commissioner become aware of those complaints?</p> <p>3. Was the E-Safety Commissioner aware of the complaints made with respect to the Smith Twitter Account on the day of the previous Senate estimates hearing on 24 May 2023 referred to above?</p> <p>4. Has the E-Safety Commissioner taken any action or exercised any of its powers with respect to the Smith Twitter Account, including by making referrals to Twitter to have content removed from the Smith Twitter Account?</p> <p>5. If so, please advise the dates on which such action was taken.</p>	Written
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140	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	SQ23-005384	Hollie Hughes	eSafety - Roadmap for Age Verification Report/Trial Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please provide a copy of any quote or advice which the eSafety Commissioner received from service providers for an age verification or age assurance trial, including from both within Australia, or overseas providers.</li> <li>2. Please provide a copy of any advice provided to the Minister's office or the department on options for an age verification or age assurance trial, prior to the public release of the Roadmap for age verification report.</li> <li>3. Since the Government's announcement that it would not support the eSafety Commissioner's recommendation for an age assurance trial, has eSafety provided to the department or Minister's office any further advice or briefs regarding new or alternative options to hold a trial? If so, please provide that advice.</li> <li>4. The eSafety Commissioner told Senate Estimates she "consulted broadly" on her age verification report. Did this include the porn industry? If eSafety officials met or held calls with members of the porn industry, please provide details of who the meetings were with, when, and who attended.</li> <li>5. Please provide details of the use of any consultants or contractors that were hired to contribute to the work of the Roadmap for age verification report. Those details should include the name of any consultant or contractor, the cost of the contract, and the purpose of the engagement.</li> <li>6. Please provide details of any payments made to the porn industry as part of the consultation and preparation of the report.</li> </ol>	Written
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					7. What was the total cost of preparing the completing the Roadmap for age verification report?	
141	Australian Communications and Media Authority	SQ23-005388	Hollie Hughes	ACMA - Consultants	1. Please provide a list of your top 20 consultants and contractors, by name, date, purpose and value, in 2022-23. 2. What is the comparative cost of the use of consultants, from 2021-22 to 2022-23?	Written

142	Australian Communications and Media Authority	SQ23-005387	Hollie Hughes	ACMA - Staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you confirm the growth of staff numbers in ACMA – over the last two years? What are the figures?</li> <li>2. What has that done to your payroll bill? What is the comparative cost of staffing from 2021-22 to 2022-23?</li> <li>3. What's been the reason for the change?</li> </ol>	Written
143	Australian Communications and Media Authority	SQ23-005386	Hollie Hughes	ACMA - National Anti-Scam Centre	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many people are working in the National Anti-Scam Centre now?</li> <li>2. Please provide a breakdown from agency the workers represent.</li> <li>3. How many ACMA staff are now part of the Centre?</li> <li>4. Where are the staff located?</li> <li>5. Please provide a list of the number of staff per location.</li> <li>6. Where is the head office located?</li> <li>7. Which agency is deemed as having lead responsibility for scams?</li> <li>8. Which Minister is deemed to be responsible for scams - - the Communications Minister or the Assistant Treasurer? If they share the role, who is the Senior Minister on Scams?</li> </ol>	Written
144	Australian Communications and Media Authority	SQ23-005385	Hollie Hughes	ACMA - Consultants used in relation to Misinformation Bill	Please provide details on the engagement and spend on the use of any consultants in relation to the work of ACMA regarding the proposed Misinformation Bill.	Written

145	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005215	Hollie Hughes	Copies of all Senate Estimates briefs related to the proposed Misinformation Bill	Please provide a copy of all the department's Senate Estimates briefs that specifically related to the proposed Misinformation Bill	Written
146	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005188	James McGrath	ABC - More details on annual audits	As per the response to Question on Notice no. 44, Portfolio question number: SQ23-003796, "As part of the EU, the ABC must complete three annual audits, conducted by an external independent expert, to confirm ongoing compliance with workplace laws. The first audit was completed in February 2021. The second audit was completed in August 2022. The third audit is due for completion in August 2023." Please table these three audits	Written

147	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005216	Hollie Hughes	Submissions and/or comments on the exposure draft of the Misinformation Bill	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please provide a copy of any briefing that went to the Minister's office regarding advice on the submissions and/or comments on the exposure draft of the Misinformation Bill.</li> <li>2. Please provide a copy of the standard response or acknowledgement that was provided to persons who sent in submissions on the exposure draft of the Misinformation Bill. For clarity, we are seeking a single copy of the email or emails that were provided back to those submitting submissions (ie not the 3,000 or so.)</li> <li>3. Please provide a copy of the standard response or acknowledgement that was provided to persons who lodged 'comments' to the Misinformation Bill. For clarity, we are seeking a single copy of the email or emails that were provided back to those submitting comments (ie not the 20,000 or so.)</li> </ol>	Written
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148	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005225	Hollie Hughes	ABC - Interview with Samah Sabawi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At the start of this most recent Israeli-Hamas conflict, you platformed Samah Sabawi, who is a Hamas apologist. You need only scroll through her twitter account to see her continual condemnation of Israel. Did you feel it was appropriate to have her speak to the issue to defend Hamas as Israel grappled with the devastation of a terror attack?</li> <li>2. I note that her ABC Stories appearance was scrubbed from iView, and on your website she has no articles or clips? Can you explain this?</li> <li>3. You obviously felt it was initially okay to have her on, then decided it wasn't. What changed?</li> <li>4. Her interview largely implicates Israel as the aggressor who are indiscriminately bombing Palestinian civilians. She states "what do you expect from the Palestinians?", effectively justifying Hamas attacks. Your host Ros Childs did nothing to temper the discussion or propose alternatives. Do you feel this is appropriate?</li> <li>5. How was the decision made to reach out to her for commentary on this issue and why?</li> <li>6. She's very vocal about her anti-Israel stance and has been for quite some time so it doesn't appear to be a simple oversight does it?</li> <li>7. When were you first notified of this clip?</li> <li>8. How long was it up before it was taken down?</li> <li>9. Did you receive any complaints? I note when asked about what the feeling was on the ground in Gaza when Hamas first crossed the border, she details a "sense of euphoria at the idea they were able to break through the siege".</li> </ol>	Written
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149	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005404	Hollie Hughes	Cost of living pressures on families	What conversations have you had with the government in your role to assist with the reduction on cost of living pressures on families?	Written
150	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005217	Hollie Hughes	Planned shutdown of the 3G networks	<p>1. Please provide a copy of any briefs that have gone to the Minister's office in 2023 on the planned shutdown of the 3G networks, which is due to commence from mid-December 2023.</p> <p>2. Please provide a copy of correspondence between the department and Telstra, Optus and Vodaphone regarding the planned shutdown of the 3G networks.</p>	Written
151	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005187	James McGrath	ABC - Delivery of People Hub Workforce	Mr Anderson stated in May that "That's not to say that any technical project of this magnitude is likely to be smooth sailing but, at the moment, things are looking good to be able to deliver this in October." Has People Hub Workforce been delivered?	Written

152	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-005381	Hollie Hughes	AUSPOST - Recent television campaign	<p>1. What has been the cost of the recent television campaign run by Australia Post to promote the organisation. For clarity, these have been generic brand adverts, which have appeared in the last few months, including on SKY News.</p> <p>2. Please provide a breakdown of (1) cost to produce the tv advert (2) cost to place the adverts, so far.</p> <p>3. What is the total budget for this campaign?</p> <p>4. What television and radio stations were the adverts shown?</p> <p>5. Please provide a table of the spend on the top 10 television and radio outlets.</p> <p>6. How much was spent on print advertising as part of this campaign?</p>	Written
153	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005189	James McGrath	ABC - Total votes cast in the 2023 Triple J Hottest 100	<p>On 24 May, as per Question on Notice 64, SQ23-003812, I asked "If you could do that on notice, that would be good. You might need to take this on notice too. Do you know how many people voted in the triple J Hottest 100 in 2023?"</p> <p>To which, I received a breakdown from 2016 to 2022 despite Mr Anderson saying, in committee that "Not to hand, Senator. I can take that on notice for you."</p> <p>As such, I request that I be provided with the number of votes cast in the 2023 Triple J Hottest 100.</p>	Written

154	NBN Co Limited	SQ23-005177	David Pocock	NBN - Assistance from A.C.T. Government to reach a 90% target	I understand the Victorian and NSW Governments have made deals with NBN Co to accelerate the rollout in their jurisdictions? Has the ACT Government offered to do anything to help us reach a 90% target, rather than the current 50% target?	Written
155	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-005382	Hollie Hughes	AUSPOST - Licensed Post Offices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please confirm the total number of LPO licensees whom Australia Post has provided letters of offer to. Senate Estimates was told the number was 274. Have letters been sent to any further persons?</li> <li>2. Please provide a list of the locations, with the address, of the 274 (or more) sites where letters have been sent.</li> <li>3. Please provide a copy of the letter sent to licensees.</li> </ol>	Written
156	Australian Postal Corporation	SQ23-005383	Hollie Hughes	AUSPOST - Digital ID	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much money has Australia Post spent on its Digital ID product?</li> <li>2. How much money has Australia Post recouped through commercial returns from this product? Please provide a summary of the returns.</li> </ol>	Written

157	NBN Co Limited	SQ23-005389	Hollie Hughes	NBN - School Student Broadband Initiative	<p>1. Senate Estimates was told 4,300 families had been connected under the scheme. Please provide a table that shows a breakdown of the number of connections per electorate.</p> <p>2. Senate Estimates was told about 18,000 vouchers had been issued under the scheme. Please provide a table that shows a breakdown of the number of vouchers per electorate.</p> <p>3. On 5 September 2023, the Cairn's Post reported, under the heading - 'We are ignored' - that a "Yarrabah community leader (was) furious the township, 50km from Cairns, will miss out" on the program – and that the community of 4000 "had to subscribe to international service provider Starlink because the Australian NBN service would not connect fibre optics into Yarrabah." Please provide a copy of what advice was provided to the Minister's office or department on this issue. What is being done to enable this community access to the program. Please provide details of any other community in Australia which has not been approved access to the program.</p> <p>4. Please provide a copy of any advice to the department or the Minister's office regarding any plans, consideration or options to extend the program beyond 12 months.</p> <p>5. Please provide a copy of the Senate Estimates brief on the School Student Broadband Initiative</p>	Written
158	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005370	Hollie Hughes	ABC - Salaries of On-Air talent	<p>1. Please provide the total salaries for your top ten paid on air team members.</p> <p>2. The BBC publishes such details online. Why does the ABC not do the same?</p>	Written

159	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005369	Hollie Hughes	ABC - YouTube channels and advertising	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The ABC runs a number of channels on YouTube. Are there adverts run on these channels?</li> <li>2. Can you confirm that the ABC receives no revenue from adverts that appear on these channels?</li> <li>3. If the ABC received any revenue, please provide details from whom, how much and when.</li> <li>4. If the ABC does not receive any revenue from YouTube advertising, who gets it? How much?</li> <li>5. Would you like to see some of that revenue coming back to the ABC?</li> </ol>	Written
160	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005368	Hollie Hughes	ABC - Funds spent on advertising, promotions and research over the last 12 months	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much did the ABC spend on advertising, promotions and research over the last 12 months (last financial year)?</li> <li>2. Can you provide specific breakdown on how these funds were spent?</li> <li>3. Please provide a breakdown by television, radio, and social media.</li> <li>4. How much was spent on advertising on billboards? How many billboards did you advertise on in the last year? What were the 5 highest amounts spent on billboard advertising last year? Please provide details of the 5 top billboard spends.</li> </ol>	Written
161	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	SQ23-005374	Hollie Hughes	SBS - Brief regarding relocation to Western Sydney	Please provide a copy of your Senate Estimates brief regarding the proposed relocation of SBS to Western Sydney.	Written

162	NBN Co Limited	SQ23-005176	David Pocock	NBN - A.C.T. Government's utility tax	<p>1. I understand the ACT Government charges a utility tax that none of the other jurisdictions charge. Do they charge the NBN this tax and, if so, how much does it cost you?</p> <p>2. Has the ACT Government offered to waive this tax in return for NBN accelerating the rollout in the ACT, and setting a more ambitious target in terms of gigabit-capable services for the ACT?</p>	Written
163	NBN Co Limited	SQ23-005175	David Pocock	NBN - Backyard poles in the A.C.T.	<p>1. I understand backyard poles are the biggest issue in the ACT – that many of them need replacing because they can't bear any more weight and this is why it's so expensive to upgrade our network. How many of the poles in the ACT need replacing?</p> <p>2. What is the cost of replacing a pole?</p> <p>3. How many does Evoenergy replace per year?</p> <p>4. I understand the ACT Government owns 50% of Evoenergy, and therefore has a 50% stake in all these poles. Have they offered to replace these old poles more quickly to help accelerate the NBN rollout in the ACT?</p>	Written
164	NBN Co Limited	SQ23-005174	David Pocock	NBN - Gigabit-capable services	<p>1. What is the NBN's target for gigabit-capable services across Australia?</p> <p>2. Which jurisdiction will have the highest percentage of gigabit-capable services and what will be the percentage there?</p> <p>3. What is the NBN's current target for gigabit-capable services in the ACT?</p> <p>4. How much would it cost for the ACT to reach the nationwide target of 90% gigabit-capable services?</p>	Written

165	NBN Co Limited	SQ23-005173	David Pocock	NBN - Breakdown of FTTP, copper and FTTN premises in the A.C.T.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you provide a breakdown of the premises in the ACT – how many are fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP), how many are copper, and how many are fibre-to-the-node (FTTN)?</li> <li>2. How many of those that are not currently FTTP will be upgraded to FTTP?</li> <li>3. What is the cost of upgrading an ACT premises to FTTP compared to the national average?</li> <li>4. What will happen to the remaining premises that aren't upgraded?</li> </ol>	Written
166	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005231	Hollie Hughes	ABC - Radio expenditure for the 2022-23 financial year	<p>Please provide for the 2022-23 financial year a table of total Radio Expenditure by the ABC, broken down as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Radio National</li> <li>b) Triple J</li> <li>c) ABC Sport</li> <li>d) NewsRadio</li> <li>e) ABC Radio Local – Sydney</li> <li>f) ABC Radio Local - Melbourne</li> <li>g) ABC Radio Local - Brisbane</li> <li>h) ABC Radio Local - Perth</li> <li>i) ABC Radio Local - Adelaide</li> <li>j) ABC Radio Local – Hobart</li> <li>k) ABC Radio Local – Canberra</li> <li>l) Other Radio</li> <li>m) Total Radio Expenditure</li> </ol>	Written

167	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005230	Hollie Hughes	ABC - TV expenditure for the 2022-23 financial year	Please provide for the 2022-23 financial year a table of total television program expenditure, including the top 50 highest costs television programs by the ABC, broken down as follows: a) The top 50 programs as individualised line items b) Other programs (A total cost of the remaining programs, from the 51st most expensive) c) Total television program expenditure	Written
168	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005229	Hollie Hughes	ABC - Employee headcount for the 2022-23 financial year	Please provide for the 2022-23 financial year a table of total employee headcount within the ABC, broken down as follows: a) Employees in Television b) Employees in Radio c) Employees in Digital (excl. iView) d) Employees in iView e) Other Employees f) Total Employees	Written
169	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005228	Hollie Hughes	ABC - Total expenditure for the 2022-23 financial year	1. Please provide for the 2022-23 financial year a table of total expenditure by the ABC, broken down as follows: a) Expenditure On Television b) Expenditure on Radio c) Expenditure on Digital (excl. iView) d) Expenditure on iView e) Other Expenditure f) Total Expenditure	Written
170	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005227	Hollie Hughes	ABC - Israel reporting directives	Have there been any directives about Israel's right to defend itself? If so, provide a copy.	Written

171	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005226	Hollie Hughes	ABC - Al Jazeera contracts and use of the word 'terrorist'	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Did the ABC issue any directive to editorial staff in terms of covering the issue of Israeli-Hamas tensions? And what were those directives?</li> <li>2. Could you provide us with any written directions or communications, on notice?</li> <li>3. Does the ABC have any content sharing agreements with Al Jazeera?</li> <li>4. What is the nature of those agreements?</li> <li>5. Does the agreement have any stipulations attached about how certain events are covered?</li> <li>6. Can your journos use the word 'terrorist' when referring to Hamas? If not, why not?</li> </ol>	Written
172	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005224	Hollie Hughes	ABC - Management of fallout from August 6 article regarding shooting in Tel Aviv	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Obviously management dealt with this issue - you constantly affirm the ABC charter for impartiality - you've acknowledged the headline didn't meet the criteria and it was dealt with, but the problem is, that it happens all too often. Does the ABC have a problem within its ranks, with recruiting people who share an anti-Israel sentiment?</li> <li>2. Why does it seem to rear its head with more regularity than it does at other mastheads and networks?</li> <li>3. You don't seem to have an issue with far-right reporters landing themselves in hot water at your broadcaster, do you? Why is it the case so many within your ranks espouse what are often known as leftist issues?</li> </ol>	Written

173	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005223	Hollie Hughes	ABC - Headline of August 6 article about Palestinian shooting attack in downtown Tel Aviv	<p>I want to point to an ABC article from August 6, Palestinian shooting attack in downtown Tel Aviv kills Israeli security guard. The headline is much more accurate now, but it was actually updated on August 18. For 12 days, the article was titled "Palestinian man killed in Tel Aviv shooting that leaves another critically injured". Same story; Incredibly different implications and assumptions inherent in the wording.</p> <p>1. How was management notified of this and what was your response, given, I would argue, this couldn't simply be misconstrued as a mistake. The Article was about a Palestinian shooter killing an Israeli security guard but the headline implies a Palestinian was shot by an Israeli aggressor.</p> <p>2. Sometimes rookie reporters can bury a lead, and make the story about a secondary issue, but a choice was certainly made here, wasn't it? This changes the entire meaning of the story, not simply the focus.</p>	Written
174	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005195	James McGrath	ABC - Revenue raising mechanisms	Please table all emails, file notes, briefing materials and other written correspondence relating to revenue raising mechanisms for the ABC.	Written

175	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005194	James McGrath	ABC - Mr Gerth and Ms Balfour departure as Board Directors	In response to Question on Notice 82, SQ23-003810, the ABC stated that "It is expected that Board Directors will, in keeping with their fiduciary obligations, report any matters of significance or relevant to their appointment during the term of their appointment." Please table all emails, file notes, briefing materials and other written correspondence relating to the departures of Mr Gerth and Ms Balfour.	Written
176	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005193	James McGrath	ABC - Employee breakdown and wages as of 31 May 2019	1) On 31 May 2019, how many employees worked at the ABC? Please provide a breakdown of the number of full-time, part-time, and casual employees. 2) On 31 May 2019, what was the median wage of ABC employees? 3) On 31 May 2019, what was the average ABC employee wage? 4) On 31 May 2019, what was David Anderson's total salary package, including all benefits?	Written
177	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005192	James McGrath	ABC - Employee breakdown and wages as of 30 September 2018	1) On 30 September 2018, how many employees worked at the ABC? Please provide a breakdown of the number of full-time, part-time, and casual employees. 2) On 30 September 2018, what was the median wage of ABC employees? 3) On 30 September 2018, what was the average ABC employee wage? 4) On 30 September 2018, what was David Anderson's total salary package, including all benefits?	Written

178	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005191	James McGrath	ABC - Employee breakdown and wages as of 31 October 2023	<p>1) As of 31 October 2023, how many employees worked at the ABC? Please provide a breakdown of the number of full-time, part-time, and casual employees.</p> <p>2) As of 31 October 2023, what was the median wage of ABC employees?</p> <p>3) As of 31 October 2023, what was the average ABC employee wage?</p> <p>4) As of 31 October 2023, what was David Anderson's total salary package, including all benefits?</p>	Written
179	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005186	James McGrath	ABC - More detail of total number of employees and corresponding costs associated with People Hub Workforce	<p>1) As per the response to Question on notice no. 29, Portfolio question number: SQ23-003770, "approximately 25 to 30 people are engaged on the project". Please detail the roles and responsibilities of each of the employees engaged on the project.</p> <p>2) As per the response to Question on notice no. 29, Portfolio question number: SQ23-003770, "further resources are engaged via outsourced providers Deloitte (lead system implementer) and Tambla (ABC SAP support vendor)." Please table the total cost of the cost of the services delivered by each of these organisations and a more detailed description of the services rendered.</p>	Written

180	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005185	James McGrath	ABC - Fair Work Ombudsman's Enforceable Undertaking of People Hub Workforce	<p>1) As per the original Enforceable Undertaking, "The ABC has advised the FWO that a pilot of the record keeping system was completed by June 2021 and that Implementation will be completed by 17 June 2022." How far off this deadline is the ABC at delivering its record keeping system, People Hub Workforce?</p> <p>2) Has the ABC requested an extension from the Fair Work Ombudsman to deliver its record keeping program after the date outlines in the Enforceable Undertaking?</p> <p>3) Please table all correspondence between the Fair Work Ombudsman and the ABC relating to its Enforceable Undertaking with since 2019.</p>	Written
181	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005184	James McGrath	ABC - Allocation of funds spent or to be spent on People Hub Workforce	<p>1) Please provide a comprehensive outline of how all funds being spent on People Hub Workforce have been spent to date.</p> <p>2) Please provide a comprehensive outline of how all remaining funds are intended to be spent on People Hub Workforce.</p>	Written
182	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005183	James McGrath	ABC - People Hub Workforce budget	<p>1) Please provide a copy of the initial budget for the People Hub Workforce.</p> <p>2) Please provide a copy of the budget for the People Hub Workforce as per the response to Question on notice no. 29, Portfolio question number: SQ23-003770. Has the budget changed since the ABC's response to this Question on Notice? Has the budget changed from \$30,947,815?</p>	Written

183	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005181	Ross Cadell	ABC - Voice Tracker	<p>1. Throughout the Referendum coverage, the ABC implemented a 'Voice Tracker' to identify how much coverage was given to each side of the debate, please provide detail of the final breakdown of this 'Tracker'.</p> <p>2. Has the ABC used this 'tracker' in past election coverage? If yes, which election coverage?</p> <p>3. Does the ABC intend to use this 'Tracker' in their future election coverage?</p>	Written
184	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005180	Ross Cadell	ABC - Referendum outcome mourning period	<p>1. Following the Referendum, there was commentary around a week of mourning from the Yes campaign, were any ABC staff granted leave to mourn the result during the period following the vote?</p> <p>2. Please advise how many ABC staff were granted leave to mourn the result of the Referendum during the period following the outcome of the vote and the length of leave taken.</p>	Written
185	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005178	Ross Cadell	ABC - Risk management	<p>1. Following the departure of Stan Grant earlier this year, what steps did ABC take to ensure staff safety when preparing its Referendum coverage?</p> <p>2. Journalist Patricia Karvelas told media she was trolled following a story she reported on, which included an interview with No campaigner, Warren Mundine – what procedures were considered by management regarding the safety of staff covering the Referendum?</p>	Written

186	Screen Australia	SQ23-005239	Sarah Hanson-Young	SA - Overseas airfares	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could you provide details of all overseas airfares paid by Screen Australia for each year of the last three financial years?</li> <li>2. Could you please provide details of all overseas airfares paid by Screen Australia for travel by Screen Australia staff for each year of the last three financial years?</li> <li>3. Could you please provide details of the cost of all overseas airfares paid by Screen Australia for travel by the Screen Australia CEO in calendar year 2023?</li> <li>4. How many events overseas does Screen Australia host each year and what are the costs associated with each of these?</li> <li>5. What was the total cost of the event that Screen Australia hosts at the Academy Awards in USA in 2023?</li> </ol>	Written
187	Screen Australia	SQ23-005238	Sarah Hanson-Young	SA - SXSW funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much funding support did Screen Australia provide overall to SXSW and to which events did Screen Australia provide funding support?</li> <li>2. How much funding did Screen Australia provide to support the attendance of Nicole Kidman at SXSW?</li> <li>3. What was the total funding by Screen Australia for the "Faraway Downs" event at SXSW?</li> <li>4. Could you also provide a breakdown of itemised expenses covered, for example, airfares/accommodation etc?</li> <li>5. How much development funding did Screen Australia contribute to the Baz Luhrmann production "Faraway Downs"?</li> <li>6. What was the rationale for providing public funding to</li> </ol>	Written

					"Faraway Downs"? Did Screen Australia determine that it was an uncommercial project?	
188	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005237	Sarah Hanson-Young	Intentions for Live Music Australia to end or to be extended	Does the Government intend for the Live Music Australia program to end in 2023-24 or will they extend it in next year's budget?	Written

189	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005233	Malcolm Roberts	Possible contraventions with draft Misinformation and Disinformation Bill	<p>1. Ms Rainsford said that "But certainly, in the discussions we've had with the department about the development of a misinformation and disinformation bill, we have never envisaged a power which would have us calling in a member of the public or a Facebook user or a Twitter user to provide us with information". Please confirm whether the draft misinformation and disinformation bill in anyway prohibits ACMA from being able to use this power to compel a member of the public or a Facebook user or a Twitter user to provide information? Please provide the specific sections of the draft legislation that do this.</p> <p>2. What advice has been provided in regards to potential contraventions of the implied right to political expression?</p> <p>3. Who defines misinformation, disinformation and truth under the draft misinformation and disinformation bill?</p>	Written
190	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005234	Peter Whish-Wilson	ABC - Extra funding for regional news rooms	The ABC has allocated extra funding to its regional news rooms. Yet on Monday October 23 a "rural report" broadcast every weekday throughout Northern Tasmania had a third of its programming cut. What were the reasons for this?	Written
191	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	SQ23-005232	Malcolm Roberts	ABC - Total cost for the Heston Russell defamation matter and decision to appeal	<p>1. What is the total cost for the Heston Russell defamation matter including the damages awarded, costs the ABC incurred in defending the matter and costs awarded to Heston Russell?</p> <p>2. Will the ABC appeal the decision?</p>	Written

192	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005390	Ross Cadell	News Media Assistance Program	<p>1. The 2022-23 Budget committed \$4 million for the development of the News Media Assistance Program. When will applications open for the News Media Assistance Program?</p> <p>2. When will the department release the guidelines for the News Media Assistance Program?</p>	Written
193	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	SQ23-005412	Susan McDonald	Digital Connectivity in Northern Australia	<p>What is the progress of the \$10 million for broadband and mobile service upgrades for indigenous people and \$0.3 million to provide mobile and internet in Alice Springs Town Camps? Is there an allocation to improve digital connectivity across other parts of Northern Australia?</p>	Written