

Portfolio Question No	Department or Agency	Senator	Question Text	Written or Hansard	Proof Hansard Page	Hearing Date
SQ25-000001	Department of Education	Fatima Payman	<p>In November, the government announced it would cut HELP debts for all Australians by 20% on June 1, 2025.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How did the government arrive at the figure of 20%? 2. Why did the government postpone this relief until June, given it was able to change the indexation formula and offer 3 billion dollars in credits following the passage Universities Accord (Student Support and Other Measures) Act in November? 3. When does the government intend to enact the legislation to effect this change? 4. Was there a barrier to passing this legislation in the February sitting fortnight? 	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000002	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I wanted to start with the protest at Granville Boys High School, which is due to get underway again at nine o'clock this morning. I want to confine my questions to matters concerning the regulation of the school and any action that the minister has taken. Minister, to you first, could you just update the committee on what action the minister has taken in relation to the importance of children attending school? Of course, this proposed protest defies the obligation of students to be at school. Could you update the committee, please?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'm aware of the issues you've raised. Obviously, it's predominantly a matter for the New South Wales state government, given that it's a state school in their system, but I do note that, when protest issues of students have been raised historically, Minister Clare has been really strong that students belong in class.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What action has the minister taken to ensure these students remain in class this morning?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Obviously, it's a matter for the New South Wales government to handle in terms of this, but the minister's strong view, consistently on any protest action, is that during school hours students belong in class.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Okay. He can have that view, but I'm asking what action he has taken. I note that the education minister in New South Wales, Prue Car, has warned teachers at Granville Boys High School that they must perform their duties impartially and apolitically. Has Mr Clare made a similar statement or had any discussions with the minister in relation to this matter?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'd have to take on notice what discussions he has with Minister Car, but I know he has a good relationship with her. But, as I've said, it is a matter for the New South Wales government; obviously Minister Car is handling that. But the minister's strong and consistent view is that during school hours students should be in class learning.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can I take it from you that Minister Clare has not taken any action or had any discussions? I note that you're taking that on notice in relation to any discussion with Minister Car, but, as far as you are aware, Minister Clare has not taken any action in relation to this matter. These were pretty dramatic scenes yesterday, where adults were actively encouraging children outside this school</p>	Hansard	4	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000004	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can I go to the additional estimates statements pages 37 and 47, and program 1.5. Sorry, I don't have the page number for that but I am sure you have got it there. Can you provide a full list of funded programs, including organisations, which are funded under programs 1.5 and 2.3?</p> <p>Mr Cook: A number of them are there, like Life Education. Sorry, it was 1.5, and what was the other one? Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes, 2.3 is on page 47.</p> <p>Mr Cook: In 2.3, for example, every university would be part of that list because every university would receive some form of Indigenous, Regional and Low SES Attainment Fund. Is that the sort of information you are after?</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes. I am keen on the organisations. If you are telling me it is every university, we can take that.</p> <p>Mr Cook: In most of 2.3 it will be universities. National institutes, for example, are based in a number of universities. Central Coast Health and Wellbeing Precinct is part of the university program. Under the Disability Support Program, every university receives funding. So 2.3 would be basically giving you a list of universities.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: So it would be every university. Is that the entire list?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Not in every case; not everyone gets national institutes, for example. We have already given you the suburban university study hubs.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Let me rephrase the question then for efficiency. Are there any on that list that are not going to a university?</p> <p>Mr Cook: There will be some, just between the two lists, yes. In 2.3, suburban university study hubs will be going to potentially local councils and things like that. We have already given you that list. I would have to take Women in STEM on notice to see where that is going to, unless someone at the table knows more about that than me.</p> <p>Ms Shrives: Some of that funding for Women in STEM in program 2.3 may be going to some of the learned academies but we would have to take that on notice to get you a more definitive list.</p> <p>Mr Cook: In terms of 1.5 which is early learning schools, there will be some of those that are going to organisations, like Life Education, for example. Life Education generally is the organisation. There will be</p>	Hansard	6	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000005	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I just wanted to ask in relation to—I love this acronym, the DTBNYAs—decisions taken but not yet announced. What is the total quantum of any decisions taken but not yet announced?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Relating to our portfolio, obviously? Is that what you mean—in the range of our portfolio?</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes, of course, not the entire Commonwealth budget.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I am not sure we have that information.</p> <p>Mr Boyd: We don't actually have that information because they haven't been disclosed. The Department of Finance would have those.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: So it sits with them until it is actually announced and then it comes to you?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Hang on, that information doesn't sit with the department?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No, it always sits with Finance.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But you have no information in relation to decisions not yet taken but about to be announced, in terms of the quantum of funds?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No, I can assure you we don't and we never have. It is the way the budget operates. Finance always has that information rather than us.</p> <p>Mr Boyd: It is a decision of government that we don't have the detail on.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But wouldn't you be liaising with Finance, in relation to the quantum of funds concerning decisions not yet taken?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We may be, but the final decision around that is not our decision; it's Finance's decision and—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Alright. Could you provide the information that your department has in relation to the quantum of funds relating to decisions not yet taken, please, Secretary?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'll see what we can do. I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you, and could you bring it back as soon as possible.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll do what we can.</p>	Hansard	6-7	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000006	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: When one of the senior ministers, Minister Clare or Minister Aly—or Minister Chisholm, for that matter—does a transcript, what is the process by which the department and the minister's office undertake that transcription?</p> <p>Ms Ratajkoski: The media function or media team within the communication branch undertake that activity. If a minister undertakes a press conference or a media type interview and there is a transcript generated for that, on the request of the minister's office we would publish that transcript as long as it relates to portfolio related matters.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: What is the process of fact checking that is undertaken by the department?</p> <p>Ms Ratajkoski: When it's a transcript, in terms of that's a record of an actual statement made in public, we check that it is accurate, in terms of delivery. We don't fact check transcripts.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: On 5 December 2024, Minister Clare held a doorstep in Sydney and said, 'It's pay day for hundreds of thousands of early educators right across the country.' Then, when the transcript appeared, it came out as: <i>It's payday for thousands of early educators right across the country</i>. That's an error of magnitude difference. Who made that change?</p> <p>Ms Ratajkoski: I'd have to take that on notice. I don't have the transcript in front of me and I'd have to check back to what was actually provided.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: With due respect, you just said you don't change transcripts for accuracy. So that happened within the minister's office?</p> <p>Ms Ratajkoski: No, I didn't say that we don't change transcripts. I said that we check them against delivery. I'd have to take that on notice, to check at what point what was provided. But the transcript is generated, we make checks against delivery and, then, on request of the minister's office, we publish that transcript.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Do you indicate where there's been a significant change? This is an order of magnitude change. Would you indicate on the transcript where an order of magnitude change, of that nature, had been made?</p> <p>Ms Ratajkoski: I think common practice would be, should there be an adjustment made, that a statement at the end of that transcript would</p>	Hansard	7-8	27/02/2025
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			<p>be added. If that's not the case, on this occasion—I'd have to check. I don't have the transcript with me. I would have to check as to how that occurred.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Have we got those ones?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It should be on the minister's media website.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: It's on the departmental website. Obviously, the video of the presser is still available online, so you can very easily compare the two. Will you go back and check to see whether this has actually been changed without acknowledging the fact that the minister got it wrong by an order of magnitude?</p> <p>Ms Ratajkoski: Yes, I can go back and check. I think it's important to note that our transcribing services are provided by a third party. We use Stroom for our media monitoring services. We can go back and check the history in terms of the original transcript and any amendments made, and, if they were, where they were made. But it's not a common practice to change transcripts.</p>			
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SQ25-000007	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: Well, it may not be common practice, but it seems to crop up a few times. On 24 January 2025, Minister Aly spoke to ABC Radio Sydney regarding the worker retention payment. She said: 'This is why we backdated the grant. So, they've got right up until the end of this year to apply.' When the transcript was issued, it was changed to:</p> <p>... that is why we backdated the grant. So, they've got right up until the end of this financial year to apply.</p> <p>There is six months difference. In the first example, you've got an order of magnitude difference. In this one, you've got a full six-months difference in the application date. Again, who made that change?</p> <p>Ms Ratajkoski: Again, I'd have to take that on notice. We don't have an exact record of who looks at what. It's a function of the media team. There are five members in that media team who undertake that task on any given day. I'd have to go back and look at who that was.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: This is clearly on the departmental site and with departmental input, misleading the Australian public without an acknowledgement of what was actually said.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm not going to go that far in terms of the department misleading the Australian public. We'll take it on notice and—</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: An order of magnitude change.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, no. I think the minister was misleading</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, we will take it on notice. We don't know the particulars of what you're raising there. You've explained it to us. We're very happy to go back and look at both those occasion. That's what we've committed to do.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Minister, are your senior ministers across the details of their portfolios? I think they're pretty significant errors.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: In my experience, they are. Certainly, they are people who understand the complexities of their portfolio, and obviously we're implementing significant change, given what we inDepartment of Educationted from 10 years of mess of your previous government. There's a lot we've got to fix up. I acknowledge that may be complex for you and your coalition colleagues to get your head around, but we have a very thorough and detailed process. And I think Minister Aly is doing an outstanding job fixing up the mess that she inDepartment of Educationted from the previous government.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: You like talking about us a lot, Minister, but an</p>	Hansard	8	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000008	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	<p>Senator BROCKMAN: I draw your attention to a media release issued on 19 December 2024 entitled 'Peter Dutton's Liberal Party confirm they will go to the next election cutting child care funding'. This was uploaded to the Department of Education's website but was then removed a few hours later. Why was it removed from the department's website?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We reviewed that. It was our decision that that was a political statement, and departments don't put political statements on their website. It was an error on our behalf. We reviewed that. It was alerted within the media team, I understand, and therefore we removed it. So it was our mistake.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: I don't want to name, but who made the error? What level was the error made?</p> <p>Mr Cook: It was made in the communications division, the area that would upload the press releases usually. When the senior officer responsible for that area identified it, they identified that we had made a mistake and so we removed it.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: What would the process have been? Did one of the senior ministers instruct the department to upload this?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No, it would have been our usual process, I think, which is that, when media releases are issued, we generally upload them. In this case, I don't think there was sufficient due diligence on the headline, and that is our error, and I'll absolutely own that. So, when the senior officer in the coms area identified that, it was removed immediately, as it should be.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: I read the headline. Without much analysis, it's pretty obviously political.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Accurate.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Political, Minister.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Accurate.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Political.</p> <p>Mr Cook: A mistake was made.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: I would have thought you would care about the independence of the Public Service, Minister.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: The department took action.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Can we have any communication from the minister's office to the department about that particular media</p>	Hansard	8-9	27/02/2025
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			<p>release, on notice.</p> <p>Ms Ratajkoski: Sure. In regard to that particular release, the media on-call officer on that day, who was an EL1 level, did upload that, and, when it was identified, it was immediately removed. Do we have a process and standard practice? For releases distributed by the minister's office, we generally do wait for a request to come in to upload those materials, but, at the same time, we're also tracking them behind the scenes to ensure we can upload them as fast as possible.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: So normally you'd wait for a request, but in this case an officer just decided to upload this media release?</p> <p>Ms Ratajkoski: No, in this particular case the request was made. It was: can this be uploaded? Senator BROCKMAN: There was a request?</p> <p>Ms Ratajkoski: Often it's the same time—it's literally directly after a release is distributed, so there was a request, yes.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Could I, again, on notice, please have communication from the minister's office that requested this media release be uploaded and any other communication about this media release.</p>			
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SQ25-000009	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	<p>Senator BROCKMAN:On 13 February 2025 the department uploaded a media release entitled 'Albanese government passes legislation to deliver child care three-day guarantee'. Obviously, it's not unusual for the government to issue a media release following the passage of legislation. However, this media release included a number of highly political lines including: <i>The Liberals have said the 3 Day Guarantee was "not something ... the country can afford" but are happy for taxpayers to pay for bosses' lunches</i>. Does the department think it's appropriate to be hosting media releases of this nature on their website?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm not aware of that one. I'd have to look at it and see the full context of that release. I'm very happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: But is it appropriate?</p> <p>Mr Cook: As I said, I'm happy to look into that because I haven't got the release and I haven't seen the full context of the release.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: I've just read the content. Surely you can make a judgement as to whether that's a political statement.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Thank you. I've made my answer.</p> <p>CHAIR: The secretary is answering the question. If you'd like to do a follow-up question, you are welcome to, even though it's going into my time. Secretary.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I haven't seen that release. I'm happy to look at it and see the context of it. As I said, our job is to ensure that there aren't political statements on our website. If we've errored in that case, we'll rectify it.</p>	Hansard	9-10	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000010	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I've some more questions on corporate. Secretary, I want to ask about the government's election commitment in relation to a 20 per cent reduction of HECS. It's quite confusing whether this is an election commitment or not. Can you confirm that it's in MYEFO?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Senator, I think it's a decision of government. If it's in MYEFO, it's a decision of government. Otherwise, it wouldn't be reflected in MYEFO.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So why has it been characterised as an election commitment, then?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That would be a matter for the minister, not for me. I don't talk about election commitments. That's the role of government.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's exactly right, and that's what I'm concerned about. Election commitments are not a matter for the department. This is a decision of government, so why is the minister saying that this will be delivered as an election commitment if Labor is re-elected?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That will be a matter for government rather than for me. You're asking me why a minister is explaining it in a certain way, and that's a matter for the minister rather than for the department. What I can say to you is there's a decision, because it's reflected in the documentation.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Okay. So it's reflected in the documentation—</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, it's not MYEFO; it's PAES—that's my correction.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: This is a one-off discount. Is that right, Secretary?</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's right. The offer says that—a one-off, 20 per cent reduction.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If the government was re-elected, when would this be proposed to come into effect?</p> <p>Mr Cook: As it says in the PEFO statement, 'Subject to legislation, it will apply to all outstanding loans as of 1 June 2025.'</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So any students starting out this year, new students or students who've paid off their debt won't get any discount. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sorry, Senator, can you repeat the question?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: For any students just starting out this year at university or for future students or for others who have paid off their</p>	Hansard	12	27/02/2025
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			<p>HECS debt, there won't be any entitlement to the discount. Is that right?</p> <p>Mr Cook: If they've paid off their debt, then that's right. They don't have a debt, so there's no debt for the 20 per cent to apply to, so that would be correct. The first bit about students who are starting 1 January already—the higher education team will be able to help in that outcome because they're the experts. I'm happy to take that on notice, but I think the higher education team will be able to help you with that question later this afternoon.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But if it's a one-off discount, it won't be applied to future students obviously because it will happen once?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Not beyond 1 June 2025.</p>			
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SQ25-000011	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I will be addressing this more in the higher education section, so I'm not really going to the substantive issues about this; this is more just about process. Could you explain the status of the legislation being drafted for this proposed measure?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'd have to take that on notice. There are various categories of status of legislation drafting. I'm not sure whether we put together any drafting instructions or not, but Mr Markovic might be able to help.</p> <p>Mr Markovic: We have requested drafting for this, so it's in the process of—you'll be familiar with the categories T and A and B—I'm just not familiar with the category it's been assigned, but a request has gone from the department to commence drafting.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can we get a copy of that request, please. Could you table a copy of that request.</p> <p>Mr Markovic: That request does go to a cabinet committee which makes decisions.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, this is not a cabinet document.</p> <p>Mr Cook: It would be, Senator.</p> <p>Mr Markovic: Sorry, just to be clear: the request is a standard process. Each government has a committee that decides on which bills are going to go forward and in what order and priority. That is a subcommittee of cabinet.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I understand that, but that's not a cabinet document. So could we just please have a copy.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll take it on notice and see what we can do.</p>	Hansard	12-13	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000012	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I go back to the fact that my concern, Secretary—and this has been raised across the board—is that this is a politicisation of the department, and the department should not have published this in the first place. The fact that it is there—and I grant you, yes, there is a reference in one part of the calculator, but it's in very small print, and anyone going on this would think, 'Great, I can calculate my discount,' when in fact the legislation has not been passed and it's completely contingent on Labor winning the election. So I put it to you that it is a political use of the department's website that should not have occurred, Secretary. What do you say to that?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I don't agree.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: You don't agree?</p> <p>Mr Cook: In terms of their school funding calculators, as well, that have happened over previous governments—if that's the case, then no governments would put any information out to people about things that they might be doing or proposing to do. I just don't agree. I think what we've got in there is a factual reflection of what's in the budget papers, and we've clearly outlined that it's subject to legislation. But I'm happy to take it on notice and review it further, if you wish.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I would be very grateful if you could do that—</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm happy to do that.</p>	Hansard	15	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000013	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Are you able to provide a list of all shared decision-making which is required by the Education Ministers Meeting or between Commonwealth and state and territory ministers in the education portfolio?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I don't think I could do that. It's really contextual and depends on the issue of the day. There's no articulated list of things that must be agreed upon only from the education ministers' perspective. Every agenda is dependent on what any education minister might want to discuss.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: It's more ad hoc, in that sense.</p> <p>Mr Cook: It's issues that they wish to discuss; it's more about that.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay. Can you tell me how many education ministers meetings were held in 2024?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: There were three education ministers meetings held in 2024, but quite a number of the matters of national collaboration and papers were dealt with out of session by all education ministers.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can I have the dates of those meetings?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: They were held on 23 February 2024, 26 April 2024 and 7 June 2024.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: You mentioned there were out-of-session papers that were circulated and then agreed to. How many were there?</p> <p>Ms Mohr: I don't have the number with me. We could take that on notice if that's of interest. There's a monthly out-of-session process that occurs every month of the year, where there is an opportunity for out-of-session papers to proceed to education ministers. They're often matters that are more routine and don't require a conversation of ministers.</p>	Hansard	22	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000014	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Moving on to a different topic, can I go to funding for non-government schools. I want to go to the modelling used to inform the budget on pages 35 to 37, to project national support funding over the forward estimates for government and non-government schools. Do the figures in the 2024-25 budget represent any change in growth trajectories compared to previous figures? Are there different trajectories of growth in government and non-government?</p> <p>Mr Cook: There will be, in terms of our models. It won't just be trajectory of growth; it will also be trajectory in terms of particular groups of students, such as students with disability, and it may also be about the differences between the sectors of schooling, non-government and government. Mr Davern, you can get into it.</p> <p>Mr Davern: That's right. There has been a variation for non-government and government recurrent school funding as of MYEFO 2024-25.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: So MYEFO updated the budget, then. Can you take us through that.</p> <p>Mr Davern: Certainly. As of MYEFO 2024-25, there was a \$3.6 billion change over 2024-25 to 2027-28. To break that \$3.6 billion down, there was a \$1.6 billion increase for government schools, and there was a \$2 billion increase for non-government schools.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Were there any assumption changes in relation to the enrolments and the enrolment split between government and non-government?</p> <p>Mr Davern: There were no changes to assumptions regarding enrolments, but we did receive enrolment reports for 2024, so there were changes to actual enrolments between non-government and government.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you provide that to us.</p> <p>Mr Davern: Certainly. For government schools, of the \$1.6 billion, there was a \$0.5 billion increase for 2024 enrolments. I should say enrolments include not just FTE, student numbers, but also characteristics of students.</p> <p>That \$0.5 billion was driven by the higher than expected number of students attracting the student with disability loading.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I'm keen to understand actual FTE, students, more than just the dollar figure.</p>	Hansard	23-24	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000015	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: How has net overseas migration influenced student enrolment projections?</p> <p>Mr Davern: We're going to have to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Mr Cook: It would be very insignificant.</p> <p>Mr Davern: Yes, very marginal.</p> <p>Mr Cook: From a school students perspective, it's a marginal component of enrolments.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay—not a major consideration.</p> <p>Mr Davern: I don't even know whether we have that data.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll take it on notice, but I don't think we've got that data.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: In taking that on notice, can you also come back to me with what modelling has been done to predict the demand for new schools and additional infrastructure in high-growth areas due to migration.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We would not have that data. States plan for new schools, not the Commonwealth.</p>	Hansard	24	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000016	Department of Education	David Pocock	<p>Ms Brighton: We have asked the Brindabella board to reach out to the school community to reassure them and offer the necessary supports to families, staff and community. As well, we've asked them to continue to prioritise learning. That's what we did on the day the ATO winding up order was announced. Then we followed up with the board on Monday of this week, after the nonpayment of wages became known to us, to reiterate our concerns, reiterate the position around the use of Australian government funding and reiterate that message of us requesting that the board reach out to the school community to offer them their support. Minister Clare has made very clear to the department his expectation about the prioritising of learning and supports to the school, so we have written to the school. We're also working with ACT government. As I said to Senator Allman-Payne, the ACT government have set up their phone line. The department doesn't have a mechanism to be communicating directly with staff, hence we went to the board and set out our very clear expectations on what they would be doing.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Are you satisfied that the board has done that? Have you seen communications to—</p> <p>Ms Brighton: We've not been furnished with any communications, nor have we had a response from the board to that correspondence.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: In that case, would it be possible to table the letter to the board, given that teachers and parents seem to not have received that information?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: We can certainly take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	29	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000017	Department of Education	Kerrynne Liddle	<p>Senator LIDDLE: I'd like to ask a question about Good to Great Schools. Could you provide me with the attendance rate for I think it's 20 schools participating in that particular program?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Did you say the attendance rate?</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: Yes, the attendance rates.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I don't have that information. We can take that on notice and see what we can get around that.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'd have to get that from the state, I think.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: We'd have to get that from the state, yes.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: So you can't just give me a general statement about whether you know that the attendance rate has improved across all schools within that program?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'd probably have to get onto My School and analyse it from My School. We just haven't got the data with us, I'm sorry.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: Let me give you an example of one My School statistic and see if we can work on that one.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Yes, sure.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: In Hope Vale in 2019, the attendance rate was 47 per cent. Then there are subsequent years. But, in 2024, it's 23 per cent. There was some funding given—I think by the NIAA—of \$150,000 to improve school attendance specifically, in the Good to Great Schools program. I recognise that's the NIAA giving the funding. I'm not sure what the engagement level was between you and the NIAA on that. Do you have any indication of what the money that was given in 2023 for improving school attendance has actually done, given these statistics from My School?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I don't have that with me today, but what we can do is engage with the Queensland Department of Education. My School has, as the secretary said, the attendance rates but, in terms of that school, my recollection was that in the order of 64 per cent were First Nations students. Last time I checked, they had around 175 students. So we can take that on notice and check, and we'll also engage with our NIAA colleagues. We can come back to that in cross-portfolio tomorrow.</p> <p>Senator LIDDLE: I'm interested to understand at what point, and how, the various Commonwealth agencies intervene when there is clearly an issue. In my home state of South Australia in the APY Lands, we've seen a similar trajectory in a couple of those schools where,</p>	Hansard	31	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000018	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Secretary, I want to ask about school funding. Under the previous coalition government, annual school funding nearly doubled from \$13 billion per annum in 2013 to \$25.3 billion in 2022. I want to add that the greatest growth was in government schools, where Commonwealth funding grew by 58.4 per cent per student in real terms between 2013 and 2022. Are you able to provide a breakdown of that funding on a year-on-year basis? I appreciate that it's under the previous government, but do you have that to hand at all, Secretary?</p> <p>Mr Cook: No, not for the past. We've got future figures, rather than past figures, I think. I'll just check with my team. Yes. I'm sorry. We'll take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	32	27/02/2025
SQ25-000019	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Did the department fact-check the media release of 30 January 2025, which is entitled 'New data shows more people applying to become teachers'?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We would have provided the data in relation to that, and I think the data is—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Was there a fact-check of the release, do you know? Is there someone who could give us advice on that?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Is there a particular question in terms of the data itself?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Just in terms of the entire media release.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm not sure, Senator. I don't know. I certainly didn't see it before it was released, I'm sorry. But we would have provided the data.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: My particular concern is that the minister made the false claim that the Liberals ripped the guts out of public-school funding. I'm concerned that that is being posted, obviously, on the minister's website. Did the department fact-check this statement at all?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I wouldn't have thought that statement would have come to us, Senator, but I will have to take it on notice, I'm sorry, because I literally don't know.</p>	Hansard	32	27/02/2025

SQ25-000020	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	<p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: I want an update in relation to the capacity-to-contribute methodology in the wake of the review into Presbyterian Ladies College. Has the department done any further work to assess whether CTC is fit for purpose?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Thank you for the question. You'll recall that the capacity to contribute—that's what we call it now—is one of the recommendations from Gonski, to look at a mechanism to have appropriate funding for the non-government sector. As we've given testimony previously—on, I think, PLC Burwood—we've looked into that and we're confident with the value that it was presenting. We are constantly looking at the settings—ways to improve the settings and whether the settings are achieving the policy intent and outcome. That's part of our cycle of continuous improvement that we're doing in the department. Even just this year, we have been looking at the timing of CCC, when we release the figures and whether there are opportunities to strengthen that. We're looking at the inputs to it and how we continue to strengthen the system. Any further and deeper parts of that examination of the policy intent would be something that the government would need to take a decision on, in terms of further detailed reviews.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Minister, does the government have any plans in that space to review that?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'd have to take it on notice.</p>	Hansard	37	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000021	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	<p>Ms Brighton: The Better and Fairer Schools Agreement that the Northern Territory, Tasmania and the ACT have signed still has the four per cent. It's worthy of note that the ACT doesn't access or use the four per cent. In the full and fair funding agreement, which is the one that Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria have signed, there is a clause under the funding arrangements in the head of agreement that talks about reducing the four per cent indirect school expenditure attributed to their total SRS share for government to zero. There's a clause, expressly in the head agreement, that captures it. Those jurisdictions have signed that head agreement. It is the pace of that reduction that we're negotiating with them at the moment.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: It really is a case of, 'We're all over the shop now, aren't we?' I feel like it's every state for themselves now. That's okay. My last question is: Can you provide the expected dollar amounts under the above timelines for each year and each jurisdiction, both Commonwealth and states and territories? Are you in a position to give that information yet, or is that only the case for the NT, ACT and Tas?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Not until we finish the negotiations of those bilateral agreements will we have that locked in.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: But it is locked in for NT, ACT and Tas?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: Is it possible to get that on notice for those three jurisdictions, given that that's locked in?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: Yes</p>	Hansard	39	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000022	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you. If you could, I would be really grateful. Senator O'Sullivan also asked about correspondence, briefing notes and file notes held by the department or the minister's office in relation to the development of a national schools antibullying code. Are you able to provide those documents?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: The work that Minister Clare has commissioned is a an antibullying review. Those reviewers have just been appointed, and the review has commenced. The terms of reference in the process have been settled, and Minister Clare has written to his education minister colleagues across the country. On the language of a code, what the reviewers will do is conduct research and consultation and provide advice back to education ministers on what a national standard on how to deal with bullying could look like. That work has only just recently commenced.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes. Thank you.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: So it's not a code as such.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I did ask for the correspondence and documents. Are you able to provide those to the committee?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I don't want to be technical, but there is no code, so we have no documents that exist in relation to a code. It's a review of bullying.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: In relation to the code?</p> <p>Mr Cook: There is no code.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I know there's no code.</p> <p>Mr Cook: That's what you've asked for.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, I didn't.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: You did say 'code'.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I said 'in relation to the code' and 'the development of' the code. I know there's no code. In fact I'm concerned about the timeline in developing the code. Are you able to provide any documents like the letter to which Ms Brighton just referred? Could we please have that and any other relevant documents in relation to this work tabled?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I am happy to take it on notice, but we're not developing a code, and that's what you asked for. That's why I'm a bit lost. I'm sorry.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What do you mean you're not developing a code?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We're undertaking an antibullying rapid review, but nowhere has it been announced to the best of my knowledge, unless I get</p>	Hansard	44-45	27/02/2025
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			<p>corrected, that that results in a code—a national code—being developed.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: No. We are looking—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: The minister has made that clear. He's made that announcement—yes, absolutely.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Can you find that? Can you make that available to me? I'm not aware of that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, I'm not going to do your work—that work.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Well, sorry. You have told me something that the minister's done—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It's just that he made a reference earlier in the year to a code—a national code.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Anyway, I'm just asking if, in relation to this work and the consultation, you could please provide—</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll see what we can find, sure.</p>			
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SQ25-000023	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Ms Brighton: The information that we asked the approval authority for has only just come in—I think it was on the 14th—and we're getting further information tomorrow. Once we have all the information, the team will make an assessment. If they determine that they need to apply sanctions to the approved authority, they will apply sanctions.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: But isn't this a matter of urgency? These are horrific comments. If the information has come in, aren't you in a position to make a determination?</p> <p>Mr Cook: There's more information still coming in. We have to operate under the law in terms of what we're allowed to do. We have sought that information. We wrote to that school quickly. They provided some information, but there's more coming. Once that information is through then we can determine that, and we'll do it quickly. We're happy to furnish the letter that we sent to the school to you, and we'll do that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: And the responses too, please.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure. We'll take that on notice, because there will be stuff that we will have to redact. They only came in yesterday, so we'll have to do that. We can give you, today, the letter that we sent, but we'll take on notice the responses—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: And any of the other correspondence as well, please.</p> <p>Mr Cook: For this school, sorry?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's right—as Senator O'Sullivan asked for.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Sure. Absolutely.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'll go back to the correspondence that you've provided, Secretary, on these two Islamic schools.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Do you have four letters there?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes. Are you able to furnish the responses to those letters?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'll take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	48	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000024	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON:I refer back to previous estimates when the coalition repeatedly asked for the teacher workforce supply and demand projection data. On notice AITSL advised that these projections would be due for completion in December 2024. Has this work been completed?</p> <p>Mr Bullard: Yes. We have prepared the disaggregated projections for workforce and also for ITE graduate supply. You might recall that AITSL doesn't own that dataset. It's actually owned by ministers. So we are now in a position where we're waiting to put that through ASOT and EMM and looking for publication and approval in 2025.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm not concerned about who owns it; I'm concerned about the information that you have and your obligation as part of Senate estimates to provide information if it's requested. Are you able to provide the committee with a copy of the work that you have done to date?</p> <p>Mr Bullard: That is information that needs to go through EMM and be agreed for publication.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's a matter for you, but this is Senate estimates. I am seeking that information now, and it is a requirement to provide any document—unless you want to make a public interest immunity claim—that we seek as part of Senate estimates.</p> <p>Mr Bullard: I don't have that information here. We can take that on notice and then we can work with the Australian government around the appropriate mechanism for providing that to you.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes, I appreciate that. Again, I go back to my question. What can you tell us about your findings on teacher workforce that were finalised in December 2024?</p> <p>Mr Bullard: As I've said, we'll take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, no. That was a different question you took on notice. That was about the documents that I was seeking. I appreciate that. Going back to my previous question, what can you tell us, at a high level, about your findings? Do we have any way of quantifying the teacher shortage in this country?</p> <p>Mr Bullard: It will give you projections moving forward, but there's no headline in that. What it does is show, year on year, the difference in supply and demand in particular regions, based on the data that's</p>	Hansard	53-55	27/02/2025
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		<p>gone into the model.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So what can you tell us at the moment about the supply and demand situation with teachers in this country? You're a taxpayer funded agency there to do a job. You've been commissioned to do this work, and you're now before this committee. We are seeking this information please.</p> <p>Mr Bullard: Maybe we're best to take that on notice, unless Mr Misson has—</p> <p>Mr Misson: I'm not sure how helpful this will be, but I might just say a bit about the nature of these projections. As Mr Bullard says, they don't give a single national number on the shortage or surplus in the teacher workforce, and that's partly because there are some extra factors that you'd have to model and make assumptions about that we don't have data on—for example, the number of teachers coming in from overseas and how likely they are to end up in the workforce and so on. For each geographical area in Australia and each subject area in secondary schooling, the projections will show the number of graduates we're projecting, the number of teachers who are in the workforce in 2023 and the number of those who are likely to be retained over time, and then we also use population projections to show how many teachers are going to be required. This is assuming all else is equal, right? So with class sizes there's a lot—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: There's a lot that you're not telling me at the moment. I'm sorry; I just want to be very plain-speaking—and I take issue with the fact that the dashboard is not directly relevant to the work that you were meant to finalise in December '24. What can you say, for instance, about the shortage of maths teachers in this country?</p> <p>Mr Misson: Again, the data that we have—and I'd have to take on notice the detail about maths—would tell you those things I've just outlined about maths teachers. There would be some other factors you'd have to make assumptions about. To simply say—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Sure. That's fine, but I'm asking for that information now. What can you tell us about the shortage of maths teachers in this country?</p> <p>Mr Misson: And, again: I don't have that information to hand. We can take it on notice. As I say, there are hundreds of variables that go into this.</p>			
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SQ25-000027	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: So have you looked at the progress of the core curriculum work that's being done in initial teacher education in this country?</p> <p>Ms Brighton: If I could respond to that, the oversight of the implementation of the core curriculum work is being done by the quality assurance board. The quality assurance oversight board is also working on the transparent indicators for initial teacher</p>	Hansard	57	27/02/2025

			education. We're happy to take some information on notice to give you an update on the progress of the implementation.			
SQ25-000028	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Perin Davey	<p>Senator DAVEY:I'm interested in World Teachers Day. I thank you for the response you provided to us on questions on notice—specifically SQ24-000564, about World Teachers Day. We were asking about research and what you'd done about a communications campaign for World Teachers Day. In your response, you identified that, as part of your communications campaign, you had used two social media influencers to help promote World Teachers Day: a Courtney Adamo, and social media website Mamma Knows Melbourne. I like social media; I get into it a bit. I'm just wondering how you landed on those two influencers.</p> <p>Mr Bullard: I would need to seek some advice from our team about how we chose those two influencers. What we did have as our objective this year, though, was maximum reach. World Teachers Day is a core part of the work that AITSL undertakes, because, as you're aware, part of our role is to celebrate the profession. The campaign was really grounded in schools and school communities this year. We wanted it to reach parents and carers in school and encourage them to be posting on social media a celebration either of a teacher that they had had themselves or of a teacher that their child or young person had in a school. Part of what we know is that the world has moved on in terms of being able to put an ad in a newspaper—that social media is where it's at—and influencers were another avenue that we wanted to explore to see whether that actually increased our reach.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: I have had a cursory glance at both Courtney and Mamma Knows Melbourne. Courtney does target parents, so I sort of get it. I didn't look at how many followers she had. Mamma Knows Melbourne is a bit geographically specific, when it's a national campaign. So I'm really interested in why they were chosen and whether this went to tender and these were the successful tenderers, or whether someone just did a scrape of social media and went, 'Ooh,</p>	Hansard	58	27/02/2025

			<p>these people have a lot of followers.'</p> <p>Mr Bullard: I'm certainly very happy to take that on notice so that we can get that information to you.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: What was the contract value and what was the expectation of the contract? How long were they engaged?</p> <p>Mr Bullard: Again, we would need to get that information. I understand that leading up to and on the day itself they were used, but I'm happy to get the number of days or on what basis they were contracted. It might have been posts, not days.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Yes. It would be interesting, because I know some influencers, and I know that, when they enter into agreements with brands, it's a post on this day or so many posts and so many mentions of the brand. So it would be really good to know that, as well as the value. Have you evaluated the impact, the reach and how many interactions each post or influencer might have got?</p> <p>Mr Bullard: I understand that that data was being pulled together, so we can certainly see what we can provide in terms of that information.</p>			
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SQ25-000029	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON:Could you please run through each state and territory, Mr Gniel, and provide information about which state and territory is implementing what version of the curriculum?</p> <p>Mr Gniel: I don't have that level of detail in front of me, but I can provide what we have. I think you've asked that question previously. All jurisdictions have indicated that it will be fully implemented by the start of 2027.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: We have asked that question before, and I think it's very important that ACARA does know which state and territory is implementing which version of the curriculum.</p> <p>Mr Gniel: That was why I made it not just a semantic point around regulation and who's responsible. The responsibility for the implementation of the curriculum resides with the states and territories.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm not disputing that, but I'm asking for the information.</p> <p>Mr Gniel: We can provide you with what we have.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: You don't know?</p> <p>Mr Gniel: As I said, we understand that all jurisdictions will be finished with implementation in 2027.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I understand that, but I'm asking for the current status.</p> <p>Mr Gniel: As I said, we can take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	63	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000030	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: It's been brought to our attention that the department is funding some third-party organisations to help services with their application for the worker retention program. When was this decision made to offer this support?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: I don't have the date the decision was made, but I can talk through the grant and the organisations that have been involved in that grant process. We have eight eligible organisations that have received grants under the worker engagement grant. They have a range of expertise. We've got organisations there covering unions, employer groups, employee groups, and particular cohorts. So SNAICC, for example, is one of those and they're part of the program because of their understanding of the sector, their experience with industrial instruments, and their ability to work with the sector and their coverage—</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can we get a full list?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: It was in the 2024-25 MYEFO, so in November that was released, that program.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: So, that's when the decision was made?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: That's right.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can we get a list of those providers?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: Yes, I can give that to you now, if you'd like.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Have you got it just as a list? I don't want to take up your time, if that's alright.</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: Yes, I can give you the list. I can take that one on notice. I don't have it separately, but we can take that on notice and provide that.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can I get that today, though?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: Yes.</p>	Hansard	71	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000031	Department of Education	Carol Brown	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: I now want to go to another area. Numerous reviews, including from Jobs and Skills Australia, the Productivity Commission and the ACCC, found that growing the early childhood education and care workforce must be prioritised to enable any future reform. Is there any data that demonstrates that the government's workforce measures are having a positive effect, including from the sector?</p> <p>Mr Cook: The headline is—because we all like good news—that the number of staff has increased quite considerably over the last 12 months, and, importantly, job vacancies have decreased quite considerably. I'll let my colleague experts at the table give us the details.</p> <p>Ms Chandra: We have seen a really positive change in some of the numbers. We've seen the actual size of the workforce increase over the past 12 months from November 2023 to November 2024. We saw an increase of 17,900 workers, which is about a 7.3 per cent increase. The main indicator we look at, though, is the internet vacancy index, and that does show a decrease in job vacancies. Between December 2023 and December 2024, vacancies decreased by 22.11 per cent, and in January we saw a further drop by another 686 vacancies. The third indicator that we've been watching is the change in staffing waivers, and that has decreased as well. It was 8.9 per cent in October 2024, and in January 2025 it's down to 8.3 per cent.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Is there anything else you can tell me about that data? Are there state-by-state breakdowns? They're very good figures.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We can probably tell you little bit of a breakdown in terms of the vacancies. The biggest decrease in the vacancies is early childhood teachers themselves. As you can imagine, there are categories like centre managers, childcare workers and early childhood teachers. What's really pleasing is that the vacancy rate for early childhood teachers has dropped significantly, by almost a third, 33 per cent, which shows that we have more people who are training to become early childhood educators, both childcare workers and childcare teachers. I think that's really important in terms of some of the initiatives that the government has put in place—with states and territories in relation to some of these things. I don't think we've got a</p>	Hansard	74	27/02/2025
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			state breakdown, but we can probably take that on notice, Senator, if you're interested in that.			
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SQ25-000032	Department of Education	Barbara Pocock	<p>Senator BARBARA POCOCK: I want to go now to a particular centre—the Windsor Community Children's Centre. I want to discuss the slated closure of that centre, which is community run. It's very high-quality. It's not-for-profit. It's exactly like the kind of centre that I used myself and is much valued by our communities. I understand my colleague, Senator Hodgins-May, has written to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Early Childhood Education twice urging the government to work with City of Stonnington and the Victorian government to buy the site from its current owners, Swinburne University of Technology, who are seeking to rezone and sell the land.</p> <p>In response, they said they have requested the centre, state government, university and council note their concern. I understand that City of Stonnington has also written to the Minister for Early Education several times seeking support to buy the land. Minister, has the government met with the City of Stonnington and/or the Victorian government to discuss the closure of Windsor Community Children's Centre?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: What I do know is that the member for Macnamara, Josh Burns, has been very active on this, along with Minister Clare and Minister Aly. We certainly support the ongoing operation of the Windsor Community Childcare Centre and recognise the importance of it to the local community. Minister Clare and Minister Aly have both visited the centre, along with Josh Burns, the member for Macnamara, and made representations on the service's behalf. I do understand that they've, I think, written to both Swinburne university and the Victorian government about this matter. They've asked them to consider the options that will support the centre's long-term future, particularly with regard to the wider impacts that that service has and provides for the local community.</p> <p>Senator BARBARA POCOCK: My question was particularly about whether the government had met with the City of Stonnington and/or the Victorian government specifically to discuss the closure.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'd have to take those specifics on notice, unless the department is able to help me out in regard to that.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'm not aware, no. I could take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	79-80	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000033	Department of Education	Barbara Pocock	<p>Senator BARBARA POCOCK: In December, the government announced it would be establishing a \$1 billion Building Early Education Fund to build new and expand existing early learning centres in areas of need. I'm curious: how are you defining areas of need?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: The department is finalising that methodology right now and looking at a range of details. We are including things like—where we know there are already places—looking at existing supply, looking at future demand, particularly in relation to population growth for that zero to five-year-old cohort, and also looking at definitions of disadvantage. We're working with the states and territories to understand how they assess their areas of priority to make sure they're complementary as part of the fund.</p> <p>Senator BARBARA POCOCK: Will for-profit providers be eligible for those funds?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: That will be a decision for government, but they have stated that their priority is not-for-profit provision.</p> <p>Senator BARBARA POCOCK: Minister, do you have any comment to make on that in relation to these funds being available to not-for-profit or for-profit as well?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'd have to take it on notice.</p>	Hansard	81	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000034	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Following on from Senator Pocock's question in relation to large providers and smaller providers, does the government acknowledge that the wage retention program processes have been harder on smaller providers compared to larger providers? Large providers would have the systems and wherewithal to manage the applications and go through the processes?</p> <p>Ms Crane: I don't know that we would characterise it as harder. I think the same conditions for the eligibility for that funding are there. As we would expect from any program of government, there are conditions that need to be met. In terms of what we're seeing for the applications that are going through, the vast majority of applications are from smaller providers that have been approved. But what we've seen in terms of those applications that were progressed, 78 of the providers have one service, 33 providers have two to 24, and eight providers have 25 or more services. So they are applying. They are going through the process. We are working with them. We are also, as Ms Arcaro mentioned earlier, working with a number of other providers who have small providers as their stakeholder group, to make sure that at every point they understand what's needed. If they have questions around it, they can clarify, and they are supported through that process.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Finally, I'll point to an article in the Australian where it says that your grant is a joke and a provider says that the process is an absolute joke: 'After spending months of time and money liaising with an accountant and a solicitor, we applied in early December to know exactly what we would get before deciding whether or not to opt in.' There's a complexity here. What are your reflections on that—when providers are feeding back that this is overly complex and that it needs to be streamlined to meet the objectives?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: As Ms Arcaro outlined earlier, in terms of the conditions and what's there, those conditions are there for a reasons. The support that we are providing around that is going to understanding what it looks like to meet those conditions and actually have a compliant workplace instrument or a completed application. In terms of the process for applying, some of the things which Ms Arcaro mentioned earlier go to how we make the application form clearer for people around where to find the information, such as their ABN or their customer reference number, or the types of information that</p>	Hansard	84	27/02/2025
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			<p>they might be looking to provide. There is a continuous improvement process through feedback that we get from stakeholders, as well as the feedback from staff about what they're seeing. That informs either the way that the application form looks or the outreach that we do with stakeholders, the communication that we have in our weekly newsletter or now, more formally, through the providers that have been engaged with us to support that. The reflection is that there is always room for improvement, and we are happy to look at where we can do that. That is a continuous process for us.</p> <p>Mr Cook: What we're pleased about is the data we gave you earlier, Senator. We've now got applications that cover 148,000 workers, so we'll be processing applications which providers tell us would cover 148,000 workers. They've all been received. I take your point about there are issues that we need to improve, and that's what we're working on, but the majority of workers are now part of an application process.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you come back to us—today, if you're able to—with a breakdown of private, large and small providers in relation to those numbers? I don't want to take the time up now because I realise how little time we've got.</p> <p>Ms Crane: It will have to be on notice, yes.</p>			
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SQ25-000035	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>Ms Arcaro: The figure of 100,000 is based on the number of families in our system that are currently using child care and that aren't using three days. If they choose to, they would be entitled to more hours. They could increase their usage up to the three-day mark. The 66,700 are those that are already using three days but, based on the current activity test, are not entitled to three days. Their subsidised hours are less than what they're actually using.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I understand. Have you done any modelling on how many families will now enter the CCS system as a result of this policy?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: We have done some modelling on that. I'll have to find the information on that and come back to you, but, again, I think that the modelling illustrated that it was relatively marginal.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: With the 66,700 families who'll be better off initially, do you have a breakdown of what subsidy rates those families are eligible for?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: Yes, I do.</p> <p>Ms Crane: I'll work from the start. There are 500 families that have a subsidy rate greater than or equal to zero and less than 10. For 800 families, it is greater than 10 and equal to or less than 20.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Just keep going. We'll catch up.</p> <p>Ms Crane: I don't know how fast you're writing.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: It's on Hansard.</p> <p>Ms Crane: For 1,100 families it is greater than 20 per cent and less than or equal to 30 per cent. For 1,300 families it is greater than 30 per cent and less than or equal to 40 per cent. For 2,200 families, the subsidy rate is greater than 40 per cent and less than or equal to 50 per cent. There are 3,500 families with a subsidy rate greater than 50 per cent and less than or equal to 60 per cent. There are 5,800 families with a subsidy rate greater than 60 per cent and less than or equal to 70 per cent. For 8,800 families, the subsidy rate is greater than 70 per cent and less than or equal to 80 per cent. There are 32,800 families with a subsidy rate greater than 80 per cent and less than or equal to 90 per cent. There are 9,900 families with a subsidy rate greater than 90 per cent and less than or equal to 100 per cent.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay. Can I give you a cameo. Let's say there's a couple, David and Jenny. David works full time, and Jenny works four five-hour days, with a child in school and a child at home. Are Jenny</p>	Hansard	88-89	27/02/2025
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			<p>and David any better off under Labor's three-day guarantee?</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'd need more detail.</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: Tell us that again. It would also depend on the income of the family.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We'd need income data; we'd need all sorts of data to be able to provide the answer to that.</p> <p>CHAIR: But also it's a hypothetical, isn't it? You're asking the department—</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: It's not something fictitious. It's a scenario that—</p> <p>Mr Cook: As you know, subsidies are based on income. You haven't given us income information, so we couldn't possibly answer that question for you.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN:.....Can we get a breakdown of the percentage of families who are fully using the subsidised hours that they are entitled to.</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: We'll take that one on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: And families who aren't using the maximum number of subsidised hours that they are eligible for—I'm happy for you to take it on notice.</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can we get a breakdown of families who are using more hours of child care than they are eligible for under CCS.</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: I think we have that.</p> <p>Ms Crane: We may have to take that on notice. Certainly, in the response that Ms Arcaro gave earlier, in the three-day activity component, the 66,700 are currently accessing more and paying more for that. But you're asking about the whole system, not just the three days—is that right?</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes.</p>			
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SQ25-000036	Department of Education	Perin Davey	<p>Senator DAVEY:..... I'm quite interested, and you mentioned this earlier, that it's split into two parts. It's a billion dollars for the Building Early Education Fund—better known as BEEF—so it's \$500 million for targeted capital and \$500 million in a contingency reserve to look at the government owning childcare centres. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: That's right.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: I want to ask about the other side of it: the \$500 million contingency for, potentially, government ownership. Back in 2007, Kevin Rudd also announced that the government would build 260 new early child education centres. Is this a similar proposal?</p> <p>Ms Arcaro: I'd have to take that on notice. I don't know enough about the previous program.</p> <p>Ms Crane: That's right. I certainly don't have visibility on it, and it wasn't something we were asked to go and have a look at and compare. We would have to take on notice what the—</p>	Hansard	90-91	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000037	Department of Education	Perin Davey	<p>Senator DAVEY:..... I'm quite interested, and you mentioned this earlier, that it's split into two parts. It's a billion dollars for the Building Early Education Fund—better known as BEEF.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator DAVEY:how do we get to the \$1 billion figure? Ms Crane: That's a decision for government.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Minister? Are you aware? Was it costed on a per child basis, was it modelled, or did it just sound good? I mean, \$1 billion sounds good.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Thanks for the compliment, Senator Davey! I'd have to take on notice more detail I could provide you, but it's obviously a recognition of the government that we've done a lot in terms of the cost of early childhood care. We've done a lot in terms of how we pay our early childhood workers, and this is obviously an important component of it—to ensure that there's access for people, particularly in those areas that needed from a geographic point of view.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Supply has been one of my biggest issues because we really struggle with supply in the regions. Were any other options presented to the government to address supply? Did the government consider anything else?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'd have to take that on notice, sorry.</p>	Hansard	90 & 92	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000038	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to ask the secretary about some historical data: the Department of Education's quarterly data. I want to confirm that the average hourly fee for centre based day care in the March 2019 quarter was \$9.55.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We wouldn't have 2019 data here—unless my team does.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: It's on your website.</p> <p>Mr Cook: It's on our website, so I'm happy to get on the website and have a look, but I don't have that information to hand.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So it's in your own quarterly data on your website. That was \$9.55 in March 2019. We then go to March 2022, and the average hourly fee for centre based day care was \$11.20. That's an increase of 17.3 per cent in three years. I want to go to the September 2024 data, which is the most recent data you would be able to access. That shows that the average quarterly fee for centre based day care was \$13.70. Between the March 2022 quarter and September 2024, which is two and a bit years, the average hourly fee for centre based day care increased by 22.3 per cent. That's correct, isn't it?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I'll have to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	93	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000039	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: There is such enormous upward pressure on the cost of running a childcare centre. With the government's cost-of-living crisis, whether it's rent, food or any of the other fundamentals of running a childcare centre, so many childcare centres are under pressure. So I think there's been a lot of fudging in relation to this, including the very substantial increase in the hourly rate which has occurred under this government. On that, I want to ask you about a media release issued by Ministers Clare and Aly on 28 January. The media release says:</p> <p>New data released today shows families across Australia have saved up to \$2,768 since childcare subsidies came into effect in 2023 ...Can you please provide the modelling from which that figure was derived?</p> <p>Ms Crane: We're happy to do that. That scenario I read out earlier is that exact case.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you provide it, though? Can we have a look at that, please?</p> <p>Ms Crane: Do you want us to read it out again?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, I'd like a copy if that's possible, please.</p> <p>Ms Crane: We're happy to take that notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, the copy is there. Sorry, I can't see.</p> <p>Ms Crane: What I've got is a list. It's a table with the—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can we get a copy of the table, then, so I can have a look at it? My concern is that we have sought to understand that claim, including through the Senate, and we've made repeated attempts to obtain that through an order for the production of documents, and we've been told—in fact, by Senator Chisholm—that the department needs more time to consider that request. So we are seeking the proper modelling. We want to understand how you've come to that figure, because it just doesn't add up as far as we're concerned.</p> <p>Ms Crane: I'm happy to organise a copy. This has my scribbles on it, but I am happy to organise a clean copy of the table. As I said, this table is from the September quarter 2023 through to the September quarter 2024. It articulates that it's for centre based day care usage at 30 hours of care per week; the income for each of those families; what the old payment system cost would have been out of pocket; what the new cost is; and then that difference, which is where that \$2,768 came from.</p>	Hansard	94-95	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000040	Department of Education	Mehreen Faruqi	<p>Senator FARUQI: Can the department confirm if any organisations wrote to the education minister or the department about Dr Abdel-Fattah's ARC grant?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We've definitely received some correspondence about that matter. I'm just wondering whether we have further detail about that at the moment.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: If you do, can you let us know how many and which organisations.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We have received correspondence, but it's of a fairly general nature, I believe.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: So no particular organisations have written to the department or the minister about Dr Abdel-Fattah's grant?</p> <p>Ms Sainsbury: There have been individuals, not particular organisations.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Could you give us on notice a list of people who have written?</p> <p>Ms Sainsbury: Yes, we can do that.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Is it impossible to table that correspondence?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Did the minister have the full speech of Dr Abdel-Fattah from that conference, or did he just rely on the Australian and the Murdoch press?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'll have to take it on notice. The minister thinks public confidence in the work of the ARC is very important, so I'm sure he'd want to ensure that the integrity of the ARC is maintained.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: More than 700 Australian academics, including more than 50 at Macquarie University, signed an open letter condemning the education minister's interference in the ARC, demanding that he guarantee the independence of the ARC and defend the academic freedom of scholars in the face of political attacks. The letter also expresses solidarity with Dr Abdel-Fattah, Professor Chelsea Watego, Tasnim Sammak, Sarah Schwartz and countless staff and students across the country who are under attack for their support for Palestinian liberation. Has the minister responded to the open letter?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: Not that I'm aware of, Senator Faruqi.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Has the department responded?</p>	Hansard	97-98	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000041	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to inform me, on behalf of the minister, whether you're aware of any other grants that are being investigated by the ARC at the minister's request?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	100-101	27/02/2025

SQ25-000042	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to go to the costing in the most recent budget papers and ask about the 82,000 places budgeted. Can the department confirm when those places—these are Commonwealth supported places, of course—will be implemented?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: The 82,000 places grow over the medium term, and they're fully implemented by 2035. I think in all the materials that refer to the 82,000 places it's clear that that's a 2035 number. That's the profile of that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could you provide a copy of that profile, and could you step me through the profile. How does that growth trajectory change up until 2035?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: With these 82,000 and the costs associated with those places, has the department factored in any changes in funding clusters?</p> <p>Ms Donegan: There are no changes to funding clusters or the specifics of student contribution amounts or the Commonwealth contribution amount.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So it's modelled under the existing arrangements.</p> <p>Ms Donegan: That's right.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Have you also modelled it under other types of arrangements? Have you looked at other funding arrangements?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: You are going to the advice that we provided to government in a cabinet context with that question.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm asking that question. It doesn't mean it's a cabinet document. I'm asking about that advice that you've provided.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Have we modelled changes to the job-ready graduates scheme?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's right, to the current funding clusters.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Yes, we have.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Can you provide us with a copy of that modelling?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I will have to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	101	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000043	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: What I'm asking for is your informal knowledge. What do you know about the overenrolments, please? I assume that universities may have written or raised their concerns with you about this.</p> <p>Mr Cook: Not overenrolments, no.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I'm not sure that I understand why universities would write—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm asking what knowledge you have about this, about overenrolments.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We can provide some informal sense of universities that are expected to be over or under, but I would caution that who is over and who is under changes frequently, depending on different forecasts and updates to data that universities make. It's a cause of some frustration to me that sometimes a university that we expect to be overenrolled ends up underenrolled, or vice versa. All of that is part of why we're tightening up that system, as part of the managed growth funding system, to get better levels of transparency and accountability.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: In terms of the policy settings for the managed growth funding, what can you tell me about the caps and what is planned in relation to overenrolments?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: The first thing to say is that 2026 is a transitional year. In 2026, universities will be able, as they are now, to enrol students over their funded amount—it's not necessarily something we would recommend as a strategy, but they may do that—and they receive the student contribution amount for the students that are over their funded amount. In 2027, the system will change. There will be a base funding amount, an additional growth allocation and an overenrolment buffer. The overenrolment buffer will be between two per cent and five per cent. The other thing, though, is that the additional growth allowance is expected to be quite different for different providers, so—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Okay. I'll ask you to place the rest of that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Sure.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I want to go back to the overenrolment data. You said that you didn't have it, and now I learn that you have some</p>	Hansard	104-105	27/02/2025
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			<p>informal information. Do you have interim data for 2023. I'm just amazed that you were not able to furnish us with this information when we sought it.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I wouldn't describe it as 'interim'; I would say we have some—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, indicative?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Sure, indicative—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Expected, anticipated—we can choose your adjective.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I'd accept indicative, Senator.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'd just like some information on this, please.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I would accept indicative. We do have some information, but it's not accurate and it's not finalised.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I understand that because it's only indicative; it's not final. Could you please provide us with that information?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Cook: And we answered the question, to be fair, Senator.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: and we don't want to have it in three months time.</p> <p>Mr Cook: You didn't ask for indicative information, Senator; you asked for information. We're unable to provide it. We've indicated that we may have some indicative that we can help you. We've taken it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Is there any prospect we could get that back this evening, Secretary, because in nearly every estimates in which I've participated in the education portfolio the answers to questions on notice have been quite significantly overdue. We're about to go to an election and it is appropriate and reasonable that this sort of important information, particularly for me in my position, is available.</p> <p>Mr Cook: No. It's eight o'clock at night. We will not get that information in the next two hours, I'm sorry.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: In the next how many hours?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Two hours.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well, if you could endeavour to provide that as soon as possible—</p> <p>Mr Cook: We will do our best, but I've indicated we'll take it on notice and we will do so.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What else can you tell me about</p>			
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			<p>overenrolments and underenrolments? Do you have any recollection of the quantum of either places or moneys involved, Secretary or Mr Rimmer?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: No, not in the way that you've just framed the question.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Okay. So you don't have any other information at all that you can share now?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: We have lots of information, but I think you'd need to ask a more precise question to help us be able to help you enact that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm asking in relation to the indicative overenrolments. Do you have any recollection? Do you have any information?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Senator, we've taken it on notice. We've answered the question. We have nothing further to add.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I know you took on notice about the documents in relation—</p> <p>Mr Cook: No, you've asked us to take on notice any indicative overenrolments.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm now asking Mr Rimmer if he has any knowledge at all in relation to the overenrolments as showing.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: In order to provide a complete and reasonable and accurate position, we need to take that question on notice.</p>			
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SQ25-000044	Department of Education	Perin Davey	<p>Senator DAVEY: The only bit of information you haven't provided to us on the RUSHs—obviously you can't provide it to us on the SUSHs, because they're not operational yet—is the student numbers. Do you collect that data?</p> <p>Ms Morton: We do. Because it's a throughput model, it can be quite variable. I think what we could probably give you would be what it was established to service, but we can't necessarily tell you at any point in time what the throughput of that would look like. So we can tell you it's a facility that was funded to offer 60 places, but we don't yet have the rigorous data around who's coming and going.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Well, that's a shame, because, when I went out and visited what was then the regional university centre, they were so proud. They thought that they'd have 100 students in the first four years, and they had actually just graduated 140 after three years.</p> <p>Ms Morton: We'll have a look at what we can give you.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Okay.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Just on that, what data do you have, and are you able to provide any of that data now? If you've got students in study hubs and you've got no sense about how many students are there when you've got supervision, that is extraordinary to me. It is incredibly important that you need to know how many people are using the study hubs.</p> <p>Ms Morton: I do have data. I don't think my evidence was that I didn't know who was accessing it; I think my evidence was that we didn't have specific detail of the throughput on a daily basis or a fixed interim basis, so—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could we have the usage data, please?</p> <p>Ms Morton: I do have some data.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Surely you've got enrolments and—</p> <p>Ms Morton: No. You don't need to enrol; you need to register.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Okay. Yes. That's—</p> <p>Ms Morton: As of October-November, which is the latest program data, there were over 5,200—we think 5,270—students who were registered in the RUSHs. The SUSHs weren't operating at that time, so this is only RUSH data. Of those, we understand 44 per cent were identified as first-in-family and 12 per cent of those identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.</p>	Hansard	107-108	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000045	Department of Education	Slade Brockman	<p>Ms Morton: There were two parts to the FEE-FREE Uni Ready process for 2025. One part was an allocation at two universities, and that was an allocation of 8,211 FFUR places, and providers were notified about that on 27 November. That was the first component. Then there was a competitive allocation process for 454 places, and successful providers were notified about that on 7 February 2025.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Firstly, the initial allocation of just over 8,000—was that allocated based on enrolment numbers? What was that allocation based on?</p> <p>Ms Morton: That was based on actual delivery levels.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: How were the delivery levels measured?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: In 2022.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Measured the year before?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Measured in 2022. The previous funding arrangements for the scheme were quite messy. I don't think you have time to hear about them. The safest source of a baseline for the program was what universities actually delivered in 2022, and I believe that was reflected in the initial funding agreements that went out. The thing that was not reflected in the initial funding agreements was the 454 competitive places, and they were added to funding agreements that were circulated last week, I believe.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Sorry, how many was that again?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: 454.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: Sorry, it's getting late!</p> <p>Ms Morton: As Mr Rimmer said, that was then included in updated funding agreements that went out, I think, last week or the week before. They're due back to the department on 6 March.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: So 8,211 allocated, and then 454 were tendered for?</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: Yes.</p> <p>Senator BROCKMAN: What was the evaluation process for that?</p> <p>Ms Morton: There was an assessment undertaken through that process. Providers had to respond to, essentially, a request to apply. There were three selection criteria for that process. They were assessed on how the proposed courses used evidence based strategies and how the institution has proven results in the student success in these programs. That was criterion 1. Criterion 2 was to detail the expected levels of unmet demand from students, what the</p>	Hansard	109	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000046	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: I've asked for the copies of each draft of the Universities Accord final report</p> <p>Mr Cook: And comments, feedback or advice on each of those drafts. You've asked for that.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes, that's correct—and so it's confined</p> <p>Mr Cook: There are literally hundreds of copies and versions of the draft report over six months.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Well you could provide those in a zip file, easily.</p> <p>Mr Cook: No, Senator, we can't.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: You could, Secretary.</p> <p>Mr Cook: We could, but it would take us time to do so because we have to go through and actually make sure that we have redacted information that's not relevant to your request, which is our normal process.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: So, when you say not relevant, I'm just simply seeking each draft of the Universities Accord final report. I imagine, if it's electronic, the comments or the advice provided by the department may be in the comments box. You can turn those off or you can provide versions very easily without putting the comments on. I would imagine that, when each draft of the agreement is presented, there would be officials in your department who would assess and review that draft and make comments in relation to that draft that would be in separate correspondence.</p> <p>Mr Cook: There would also be hundreds of emails that we have to go through from panel members because comments on those drafts sometimes came through emails from panel members, so I'm just outlining—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I'm not seeking those emails.</p> <p>Mr Cook: But you are because you've asked for comments on the draft provided by the department—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No. Those provided by the department and the minister only, not by the panel members.</p> <p>Mr Cook: So we'd have to redact all comments that panel members have on each draft if they're actually on the draft documents.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I don't know the form of the draft. I understand there is some work involved, but it's been a very, very longstanding issue, Secretary, and I think it's a really poor reflection on this</p>	Hansard	111	27/02/2025
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			<p>government's commitment to transparency.</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: My understanding is that the minister has sought an extension to the deadline to respond to the OPD.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Look, I'm pretty hot under the collar about this, Minister, because this has been dragging on for a very long period of time. I know that you weren't in all the committee hearings. We've had various different committee hearings where I've sought this information, and, to date, I have not received one page. So, Minister, thank you for that advice. Are you able to tell me how much more time the minister will need to comply with the OPD?</p> <p>Senator Chisholm: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>			
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SQ25-000047	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: I want to ask some questions on behalf of Senator Henderson. She may ask some supplementaries, in case I don't cover them all for her while she's absent from the committee for a moment. In relation to Professor Coaldrake stepping down as TEQSA chief commissioner on 10 May, can you update the committee on the acting arrangements since the previous questions on this matter?</p> <p>Dr Russell: After Professor Coaldrake stepped down, Ms Adrienne Nieuwenhuis, who is online this evening, was appointed as acting chief commissioner and will continue to hold that role until Professor Kerri-Lee Krause, who has recently been appointed as incoming chief commissioner, commences on 8 April.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Okay. Did it take quite some time to do the recruitment?</p> <p>Dr Russell: TEQSA doesn't manage the recruitment. That's managed at arm's length from TEQSA by the department of behalf of the minister.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: How was the recruitment successfully finalised?</p> <p>Dr Russell: That would be a question for the department.</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I can try to be of assistance, if you like. There was a merit based selection process. There was an interview panel; the secretary chaired the interview panel. The process was finalised in the December-January period and was in accordance with the Cabinet Handbook.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Thank you. And did you say she will commence in April?</p> <p>Dr Russell: Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: What date?</p> <p>Dr Russell: If memory serves, it's 8 April.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Have you had any meetings with the minister?</p> <p>Dr Russell: I haven't had an in-office meeting with the minister but I have met with the minister in the context of our roundtables following on from process related activities.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you please provide us with the dates of those meetings.</p> <p>Dr Russell: Yes, certainly</p>	Hansard	120-121	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000048	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: showing the most appalling weakness in leadership, saying nothing about the encampments, nothing about the building invasions, nothing about the two Israeli academics who were barricaded into a room and nothing about the classroom invasions. I could go on and on. The government would not support our bill to establish a commission of inquiry and had to be forced into conducting a parliamentary inquiry by the human rights joint parliamentary committee. Even that committee has said, 'Well, if nothing changes, then we need a judicial commission of inquiry.' So, Dr Russell, on notice, could you please provide us with documentation, the letters, that you've sent to universities as well as any other related correspondence, their responses and the other related correspondence in relation to this compliance activity?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Mr Rimmer, I would respectfully disagree with you. One of the powers or functions of TEQSA is that it has the power to advise and make recommendations to the minister about the quality or regulation of higher education providers—it's a very broad remit, and it's in the legislation—either if requested by the minister or on its own initiative. Frankly, Mr Rimmer, that should have happened. If TEQSA didn't have the appropriate powers, TEQSA should have been out of the blocks in a flash to say: 'We need to do more. We need better powers. We need to throw the book at the universities who are making the lives of Jewish students and staff hell on campus, because we're not going to sit here and do nothing.' I'd suggest that you be fully appraised—</p> <p>Mr Rimmer: I don't think the evidence in front of the committee is that TEQSA have done nothing.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: What I'm saying is that I think they have done far too little, far too late, Mr Rimmer, and there are very important powers in the legislation that TEQSA could have used if it had turned its mind to it. Anyway—</p> <p>CHAIR: How are we going for time? I appreciate you may want to ask further questions, but—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If I could, please, I'd ask for all that information in relation to your compliance activity and the work that you're doing examining the potential conditions that may be imposed on providers.</p>	Hansard	122-124	27/02/2025
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			<p>Dr Russell: Senator, if I may, we'll frame that in terms of the scope and types of concerns, because it's premature to give you information about conditions—but we'll be as fulsome as we can in that information.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Sorry, Dr Russell; I'm asking for all the information. This is Senate estimates and I'm seeking that information.</p> <p>Dr Russell: I'm saying that we don't have information at this stage of our inquiries about conditions that may or may not be imposed at the conclusion of our inquiries.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I understand that, but if you could provide all relevant correspondence, any briefings and any other advice in relation to that matter, I would be grateful.</p> <p>Dr Russell: Yes.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Sorry, Dr Russell; I'm asking for all the information. This is Senate estimates and I'm seeking that information.</p> <p>Dr Russell: I'm saying that we don't have information at this stage of our inquiries about conditions that may or may not be imposed at the conclusion of our inquiries.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: I understand that, but if you could provide all relevant correspondence, any briefings and any other advice in relation to that matter, I would be grateful.</p> <p>Dr Russell: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: And I'm talking about all relevant correspondence, please. Thanks very much, Dr Russell.</p> <p>CHAIR: Dr Russell, if there are any matters—because there was quite a bit in there; I was trying to keep track myself, as well, of these questions, which the Senator has a right to ask, of course—where you didn't feel that you had an opportunity to answer some of those questions, then you are welcome to take on notice any matters that you wish to respond to, as well, but I shall leave that to your consideration.</p> <p>Dr Russell: Given the nature of the questions, I'd very much like to respond on notice with a summary of activity that we've undertaken at</p>			
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			a sector level, and, at a high level, provide an indication of the ongoing casework and the nature and types of concerns and follow-up.			
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SQ25-000049	Australian Research Council	Mehreen Faruqi	<p>Prof. Shergold: Simply, if a significant allegation that money is being misused is brought to my attention, the first thing I will do is to have an investigation. In this case, it is through Macquarie University, who had that. I haven't prejudged this case. What I do know is that, in many other instances during every year, we talk to universities about where the grants are being spent for the purposes that were intended under the conditions that were set and are being managed by the university. It is not unusual.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: What are the terms of reference of this investigation?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I wrote to Macquarie University on 12 February issuing a notice of suspension, and in that letter—which is in confidence, but I'm okay to give evidence—there are four areas where we seek assurances, evidence and information from Macquarie about how they are administering the grant. One goes to the administration and use of the funds—we did direct them to engage an independent audit capability to do that— one goes to questions of research integrity, one goes to potential conflicts of interest and the management thereof by the university, and one goes to potential variations of the grant undertaken, potentially without notice to the ARC, and any other matter that may arise that's relevant.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Are you able to table the terms of reference for the committee?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: It's not a term of reference; it's a direction regarding—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Are you able to table that for the committee?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I can take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	126-127	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000050	Australian Research Council	Mehreen Faruqi	<p>Senator FARUQI:Has the ARC received any communications about Dr Abdel-Fattah and her future fellowship from the Executive Council of Australian Jewry?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I'm not aware of any correspondence.</p> <p>Prof. Shergold: Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: The Jewish Board of Deputies?</p> <p>Prof. Shergold: Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: The Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I'm not aware of that.</p> <p>Prof. Shergold: I will check, but I certainly haven't—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Could you check and find out.</p> <p>Prof. Shergold: Yes, willingly.</p>	Hansard	127	27/02/2025
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SQ25-000051	Australian Research Council	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Macquarie subsequently advised that there was no case to answer, which it didn't do particularly publicly because it's not before this committee; I understand that. I'm going to ask you the same questions: have you found any breaches of the grant; have there been any breaches of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research; and are there any other breaches in relation to other matters insofar as your agreement with Macquarie University is concerned?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We haven't reached a formal finding on any of those. We need to let the course of the investigation play out, but our prima facie view was that there were significant risks that may not have been managed appropriately and, therefore, we suspended the grant. That furnishes Macquarie University with appropriate time to follow the process, and we will follow the facts to where they take us; that's where we'll go, but we will make sure we afford everyone in this situation fairness and due process.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Thank you very much. You've told me—</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Henderson, I didn't want to interrupt your question, but I'll need to go back to Senator Faruqi shortly.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Sure. Okay. You've indicated you've not—</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Formally found anything at this point. That would be premature—</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Have you made—</p> <p>Dr Johnson: and it would be in front of the process that we've established with Macquarie. We would not be finding something where we've asked them to investigate significant lines of investigation. We would not be reaching a finding in starting that process; that would be completely inappropriate.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Sorry, Dr Johnson, have you made any informal or preliminary findings in relation to any breaches at all?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: No, we have not.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: How long will this investigation take, and have you got all the information you need from Macquarie University now?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: No, we haven't, because part of the direction was for them to provide us with preliminary advice on how long each of these lines of investigation will take them, including commissioning independent audits. It's very important to afford them that because they are the people we contract with. It's with Macquarie University.</p>	Hansard	130	27/02/2025
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			<p>We're still working through the timeline with them, but these processes do take time.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Dr Johnson, do you have copies of the correspondence between the ARC and Macquarie?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I've already taken that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: You haven't got anything with you here right now?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I do not, no.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: You've got nothing in your folders?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Do you mean do I have the letter I wrote to Macquarie University?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: That's right.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: No, I do not have it.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Could we have a copy of that on notice.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We'll take that on notice.</p>			
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SQ25-000052	Australian Research Council	Mehreen Faruqi	<p>Senator FARUQI: Dr Johnson, the ARC planned for the outcomes of the 2025 discovery projects to be announced as late as 29 November last year. They were announced only three days before that. The ARC opened applications for the next round a month before the deadline of 13 December, and that barely gave two weeks after the 2025 outcomes were announced for researchers. This overlap between rounds meant that 1,132 teams of researchers were having to prepare applications for the 2026 round because they didn't know the outcome of the 2025 round. Why did the ARC plan this overlap between rounds?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I think we provided evidence along this line to you last year as well. As you'll be aware, when the amended act was introduced and commenced on 1 July last year, it had a range of quite complicated changes to the way grant guidelines were authorised. For the first time, it introduced a parliamentary process. We had to remake the grant guidelines for all of the grants going forward, and that meant there was a parliamentary process, including a disallowance. It was not a trivial exercise to implement that change, and it meant there would need to be, out of necessity, a truncation of some of the timeframes between ending and commencing. We did communicate that very clearly to the sector, and we explained very clearly that it's arisen as a fact that we're now required to follow this process because the parliament itself has passed this legislation. So it was really just a function of that change.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: But obviously you control the schedule. You could have changed that to have less of an overlap. It is in your control. Why I'm asking this is that having thousands of researchers preparing applications for grants, half of which might have already won them, is obviously a huge waste. You've spoken tonight a lot about public resources. Have you actually calculated how much time and, ultimately, how much of taxpayers' money this overlap between rounds costs?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I'm not aware that we've done any calculation or modelling on that. We were clearly cognisant that this would be a one-off situation and we did explain ourselves. We went for the best case solution because, from memory, working through the way the calendar would work under this new process we were managing a number of risks. You need to remember that there was a potential that</p>	Hansard	131-132	27/02/2025
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			<p>the parliament could disallow any of those guidelines, so there was a risk there as well. We put forward a calendar and explained the reasoning for it. It was a one-off related to that change process. It's not unusual, when you undergo complicated changes, for those sorts of things to happen, but we had anticipated it and communicated it. It's unfortunate, but it was unavoidable in that instance.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: I don't agree with that. My back-of-the-envelope calculations show that it could have been \$4.6 million worth of money that was wasted. Obviously, what you choose to agree to waste and what you say is taxpayers' money wasted is a choice that you make. In some instances you can waste that money and in others you say it shouldn't be wasted.</p> <p>Universities have their own internal deadlines for researchers to meet when preparing ARC applications as well, and often these are at least a month before your deadline, I think—much longer than the two weeks you left them. You said you told the universities that this was coming, but did you consult the universities about this overlap and try to figure out better ways of dealing with it?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Yes. We communicated with the sector about this. I think we made it very clear that it was an unavoidable consequence of a rather significant change to the way our grants operate. I'm not sure that all universities have the same processes in terms of their own deadlines; that's very much a matter for each individual deadline. But I do take your point that there were disruptions, and that's not unusual. It's an unfortunate consequence, but it's not always an unusual one when you do implement significant legislative change.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: You did communicate but not consult with universities?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I'll take that on notice. I can't remember whether we consulted.</p>			
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SQ25-000053	Department of Education	Penny Allman-Payne	<p>I refer to the Department's answer to Question on Notice No. SQ24-000759, Budget Estimates 2024 – 2025.</p> <p>The answer did not provide the total funding or enrolment figures for several disadvantage loadings as requested. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-economic disadvantage loading for the lowest quartile. • Socio-economic disadvantage loading for the second lowest quartile. • Student with extensive disability loading. • Student with substantial disability loading. • Student with supplementary disability loading. • Inner regional school loading. • Outer regional school loading. • Remote school loading. • Very remote school loading. • Primary school size loading. • Secondary school size loading. <p>Instead of providing these figures the Department provided aggregated funding for socio-economic disadvantage, disability, location and size loadings.</p> <p>1. Please provide details of the loadings and provide reasons if unable to do so.</p> <p>2. Please update the answer to SQ24-000759 to provide the following:</p> <p>a. The total funding for the following disadvantage loadings for each school sector by state and territory and for each sector for Australia in 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Socio-economic disadvantage loading for the lowest quartile. ii. Socio-economic disadvantage loading for the second lowest quartile. iii. Student with extensive disability loading. iv. Student with substantial disability loading. v. Student with supplementary disability loading. vi. Inner regional school loading. vii. Outer regional school loading. 	Written		27/02/2025
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			<p>viii. Remote school loading.</p> <p>ix. Very remote school loading.</p> <p>x. Primary school size loading:</p> <p>a. Very small schools</p> <p>b. Small schools</p> <p>c. Medium schools</p> <p>xi. Secondary school size loading:</p> <p>a. Very small schools</p> <p>b. Small schools</p> <p>c. Medium schools</p> <p>b. he FTE funded enrolments for each of the following disadvantage loadings in 2023, in each school sector, by state, territory and for each sector for Australia:</p> <p>i. The lowest quartile of socio-economic disadvantage</p> <p>ii. The second lowest quartile of socio-economic disadvantage</p> <p>iii. Student with extensive disability</p> <p>iv. Student with substantial disability</p> <p>v. Student with supplementary disability</p> <p>vi. Inner regional schools</p> <p>vii. Outer regional schools</p> <p>viii. Remote schools</p> <p>ix. Very remote schools</p> <p>c. The number of schools receiving size funding loadings in each school sector, by state, territory and for each sector for Australia:</p> <p>i. Primary school size loading:</p> <p>a. Very small schools</p> <p>b. Small schools</p> <p>c. Medium schools</p> <p>ii. Secondary school size loading:</p> <p>a. Very small schools</p> <p>b. Small schools</p> <p>c. Medium schools</p>			
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			<p>3. Please provide the distribution of payments made and due to Catholic and Independent schools under the Choice and Affordability Fund for each state and territory for each year 2020 to 2029.</p> <p>4. Please update Department of Education Question No. SQ23-001123 to show predicted allocations from the Non-Government Schools Capital Grants Program to schools in each state and territory over the period 2025-2028 or to the predicted end of the program.</p> <p>5. Please provide the list of Non-Government Schools Capital Grants Program 2025 approved projects including state or territory, sector, School name, location, Project description and Commonwealth CGP grant amount.</p>			
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SQ25-000054	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Penny Allman-Payne	<p>1. Please explain the difference in aggregate figures for state/territory income per student in public schools reported by ACARA when compared to those published in the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services. The significant divergence does not appear to be explainable by the fact that the MySchool figures are compiled by calendar year and the ROGS figures by financial year.</p> <p>2. Please provide a detailed accounting of the differences in the two sources of funding data for public schools.</p> <p>Please note that this question has been asked of both ACARA and the Productivity Commission - any joint answer is welcome.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000055	Department of Education	Tammy Tyrrell	<p>There are challenges reported in the implementation of the Worker Retention Payment for childcare workers, including the low uptake by services. I would like to know what steps the Government is taking to simplify the application process and enhance support for childcare services seeking to apply for this payment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many providers have applied for the payment to date; 2. How many providers have been successful (please provide a state-by-state breakdown of successful applications); 3. How many providers have been denied and reasons why they were denied; 4. Did the department do modelling on the expected take-up of these payments; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If yes: what was the number of services expected to take up the payment? And what was the number of workers expected to be covered by the payments? 5. What is the expected timeline to complete all current applications; 6. What additional budget is required to complete these applications; 7. Which child-care organisations have had the most successful applications; 8. Break down of number of workers covered by each application; and 9. If only 60% of all eligible services have applied, that covers 74% of all eligible workers, it suggests that it's the smaller services that are yet to apply. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What support is being given to these smaller providers to access the scheme? b. Why does the Department believe are barriers to small services applying for these payments? 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000056	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. Who made the decision to transfer the responsibility of assessing early childhood teachers (skilled migration) from the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership to the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority?</p> <p>2. Since 7 December 2024, how many applications has ACECQA processed?</p> <p>a) How many have been approved / denied?</p> <p>3. Why was the decision taken to review and update the requirements for individual qualification assessment applications under the NQF?</p> <p>4. Will these updated requirements support an increase of overseas educators into the sector - or will they make it harder for skilled migration in Australia?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000057	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. How many providers are required to report their financial information by 1 May? Please provide a list of those providers.</p> <p>2. How many are required to report their financial information by 1 Nov? Please provide a list of those providers</p> <p>3. In response to SQ24-001318 it was noted that 9 large providers had not yet reported their financial information. Can you provide an update on whether they have now reported, and the reasons why they hadn't reported by the deadline?</p> <p>4. What is the rationale behind the decision to publish only large for-profit providers' financial information in February 2024? Did the Minister provide a reason to the Department?</p> <p>5. Did any providers lobby the Government to make this decision?</p> <p>6. When did the Department communicate to large providers that only for-profit providers would have their financial information published and how was that communicated?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000058	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. In response to SQ24-001308, the Department advised that medium term costings were not available for the child care subsidy. Is that normal practice across all Department of Education costings?</p> <p>2. When did it become the Department's position to not provide medium term costings when asked?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000059	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the \$1,815,043 that has been spent since 2020 on the development and implementation of the National Workforce Strategy?</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000060	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. To date, how many applications has the Government received for the Practicum Exchange Living Allowance?</p> <p>2. How many of those applications have been approved?</p> <p>3. What is the standard rate paid for the living allowance?</p> <p>4. Is there a limit on how much can pay for the PELA / number of successful applicants?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000061	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. The Government has set aside \$10.4 million to develop an Early Education Service Delivery Price. Who is developing that and when will it start?</p> <p>2. What will be looked at as part of the development of that Service Delivery Price? Will you be looking at all types of services, comparing those who offer the basics and those who offer above and beyond?</p> <p>3. How does the Government envision the delivery price will work?</p> <p>4. What is the point of developing a delivery price?</p> <p>5. How many applications for alternative fee caps has the Department received, and how many have been approved? Please provide the most up to date data, as we know it was 16 at 20 Nov</p> <p>6. Can you please clarify if services have to apply before 30 June 2025 to receive back payment, or if the application has to be executed by 30 June 2025?</p> <p>7. How many people are employed to manage the helpline?</p> <p>8. How many departmental staff are assigned/primary role is it to manage the "Child Care Subsidy approved providers and services" Facebook page?</p> <p>a. And are those Departmental employees in the communications team or are they part of the help desk team?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000062	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. When will the Department commence the business case into the Commonwealth owning services, and do you plan to involve third party contractors, such as consultants to undertake that work?</p> <p>2. Are there any plans for the Building Fund to replace the Community Child Care Fund?</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000063	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. Do you have updated figures on Fee-Free TAFE enrolments from January 2023 - December 2024?</p> <p>2. Can we also have the most recent completion data - we already have 2023 data, we would like the most up to date data.</p> <p>3. Can we have the same data - January 2023 to December 2024 enrolment and completion data through Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)?</p> <p>4. On 17 February 2025, Minister Conroy announced 14 early childhood educators from PNG had arrived to work / train in the Northern Territory through the PALM scheme. What was the Department of Education's role in this round of the PALM scheme?</p> <p>5. Does the Department know if they are training to become educators, or if they are already accredited at a particular level and training to increase that eg Cert III to Diploma?</p> <p>a) If they are already somewhat accredited, were they approved by ACECQA?</p> <p>6. Will they be working in National Quality Framework approved services?</p> <p>7. Was the Department involved in the decision to send them to the NT or the selection of the services they will be training / working at?</p> <p>8. Can you provide an update on the progress by the Department of Education in response to the 41 recommendations made by Jobs and Skills Australia in their Early Childhood Education and Care Study report?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000064	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. In the last round of estimates, the Department tabled the 430 services that received funding under the most recent \$80 million CCCF grant round. Several services who received funding were located in metro areas, including in the PM's electorate (Canterbury OSHC Centre - Grayndler / Marrickville Occasional Care - Grayndler). Why was funding provided to services in metro and outer suburban services at the expense of regional and rural services, some of which have had to close their doors due to lack of funding?</p> <p>2. In the last round of estimates, Ms Tywman advised that: "In terms of the same process, the guidelines were different this time, so it was a different program. I think we had the conversation previously. The previous round was around new services. This round had quite different guidelines in the sense of the streamlining of the capital and sustainability elements."</p> <p>a) What was changed in the Guidelines for that \$80 million round, and who made the decision to change the Guidelines for that round?</p> <p>3. How many applications has the Department received through the Special Circumstances Grant from flood affected services in QLD?</p> <p>a) How much has been paid out</p> <p>4. How much of the \$16 million Limited Supply Grant has been paid to services?</p> <p>5. How many of those services have now opened their doors, and can we get an updated list, and can you please include the locations of those services?</p> <p>6. In response to SQ24-001050, the Department noted new services established under this grant opportunity have a 'designated use period'. To clarify, does that mean services can close their doors once the designated use period ends?</p> <p>7. With regards to the Restricted and Restricted Expansion grant rounds, how does the Government select who is invited to apply for those grants?</p> <p>8. How much of the \$614 million allocated to the Community Child</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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			Care Fund over the FEs in the most 24-25 budget is uncommitted? We would like a breakdown by each stream. If that isn't possible, a total figure please.			
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SQ25-000065	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. In December 2024, the Department announced qualification changes for In Home Care educators working in remote and very remote areas. Who made that decision, and why was that decision made?</p> <p>2. Have you seen an increase in IHC educators since that came into effect earlier this year, or do you have any modelling to suggest it would increase IHC educators?</p> <p>3. What progress has been made with the sector regarding including In Home Care educators in the Worker Retention Payment program - or offering a similar grant to those educators?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000066	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. In December 2023, ACECQA released a safety review into the ECE sector. That review included a number of recommendations. How many of those recommendations have been accepted by Education Ministers, and how many have been implemented, and which ones?</p> <p>2. In response to QoN SQ24-001055 the Department advised that the personal devices policy, which was a recommendation of that review, was not mandatory for services, but was optional. Are there plans to make that mandatory and a part of the National Quality Framework?</p> <p>a) If not, why not?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000067	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. Who made the decision to increase the Youth Advisory Groups from 8 members to 9/10 members in 2025, and why was that decision made?</p> <p>2. How many applications did the Department receive for the 2025 advisory groups?</p> <p>3. Almost 50% of 2025 Youth Advisory Members were members in 2024, is there a reason so many members had had their position renewed for a second year, rather than offering the spot to a new young person?</p> <p>4. Who decides on the topics for the youth advisory groups?</p> <p>5. Please provide a copy of the Youth Steering Committee Evaluation.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000068	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. Please provide a status update on how the Government is tracking on the six action items within the Engage! Youth Engagement Strategy. We would like to know the status for each individual action item.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000069	Department of Education	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>1. What was the cost to create the Digital Youth Hub and Engagement Toolkit, and is there an ongoing cost to update and maintain that information on the website?</p> <p>2. Have any additional staff been allocated to the Office for Youth to maintain and update that information?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000070	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Department?</p> <p>b. Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a. the previous turnaround requirement; and</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Department provided to each Minister in its portfolio?</p> <p>4. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>5. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft?</p> <p>6. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many briefs has the Department provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000071	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000072	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since November 2024.</p> <p>2. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since November 2024.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000073	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000074	Department of Education	Jane Hume	How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000075	Department of Education	Jane Hume	1. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers. 2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000076	Department of Education	Jane Hume	1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since November 2024. 2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since November 2024. 3. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide: a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000077	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses and the subsequent 2024-25 Budget measure, Savings from External Labour – extension:</p> <p>1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 years, in aggregate and broken down across those years?</p> <p>2. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses <p>3. 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?</p> <p>4. 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?</p> <p>5. 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses <p>6. 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 identification of the contracts.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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			<div>a. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target? b. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target? c. If so, why and was it approved?</div>			
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SQ25-000078	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000079	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000080	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. 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 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2024/25 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000081	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000082	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2024/25 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

			b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.			
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SQ25-000083	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2024/25 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2024/25 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? d. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof? 8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2024/25 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid? 9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes? 	Written		27/02/2025
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			<div>10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency’s staff credit card policy. a. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since November 2024.</div>			
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SQ25-000084	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to the department:</p> <p>1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim.</p> <p>2. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims?</p> <p>3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?</p> <p>4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? a. 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.</p> <p>5. Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency appeared in any proceeding before the Fair Work Commission? If so, on what date(s)?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000085	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed. <p>2. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office. <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review. 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000086	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000087	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>Since 1 July 2024, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000088	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. The number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. The number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000089	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000090	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the department received since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned. <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff in the department are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000091	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue. 	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000092	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</p> <p>2. 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.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000093	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <p>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</p> <p>b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</p> <p>c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</p> <p>d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</p> <p>e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p> <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff of the department/agency had approved work from home arrangements in cities where the department/agency does not hold any office space?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000094	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network? If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>2. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000095	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Department/agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Has the Department/agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister's office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>3. Does the Department/Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</p> <p>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Department/Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 24-28 February 2025.</p> <p>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the number of the Question on Notice; the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister's office; the date the Minister's office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; the date the Question on Notice was provided to the Committee; <p>and</p> <p>f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff in the department/agency are responsible for the management of the responses to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice? Please provide a breakdown of the number by APS level.</p> <p>7. On what date did the department/agency provide briefing material to the relevant Ministerial office to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 24 to 29 February 2025?</p> <p>8. Did the department/agency meet with any Minister or staff of any</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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			<p>Minister in order to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 24 to 29 February 2025?</p> <p>9. Is the department/agency aware that questions asked at Senate Estimates and questions asked in writing following the Senate Estimates hearing are to be treated in the same manner?</p>			
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SQ25-000096	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Department/agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>b. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000097	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Secretary/Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</p> <p>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000098	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Please provide a list of dates the Secretary/Agency head took leave since 1 July 2024, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000099	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions are currently vacant within the department/agency? Please provide a list of the positions by APS level.</p> <p>2. How many positions within the Department/Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2024?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>4. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Department/Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>5. As at 1 July 2024, what is the current turnover rate for staff within the Department/Agency?</p> <p>6. Since 1 July 2024, how many SES members of the department/agency have left the department/agency?</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many APS members of the department/agency have left the department/agency?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000100	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Department/Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Department/agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2025. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Department/Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000101	Department of Education	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Department/Agency?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000102	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000103	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how much has the Department/Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Department/Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000104	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, how many times in the current financial year has the Department/Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000105	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Department/Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000106	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000107	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000108	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, how many official international visits have been taken by staff?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000109	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000110	Department of Education	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, how many staff work in the communications / media team of the Department/agency? Please provide a breakdown of positions by APS level.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000111	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, since 1 July 2024, on what dates has the department/agency received any guidance from the Prime Minister's Office or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in relation to answering questions on notice?</p> <p>a. Who made the contact with the department/agency? b. How was the communication made? c. Did the department/agency provide a copy to the department/agency's Ministerial office? d. Did the department/agency receive a copy from the department/agency's Ministerial office? e. Did the department/agency use the document in order to respond to questions asked at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, has the department/agency sought advice from the Australian Public Service Commission in relation to the use of centralised guidance for answering questions from the Parliament, in particular where the department/agency could provide the information?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000112	Department of Education	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, how many work stations/desks/terminals does the department/agency provide for staff?	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000113	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has any portfolio Minister sought any variation to a determination issues by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, has the Remuneration Tribunal altered any determination in respect of an officer or employee of the department/agency? If so, on what date(s)?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000114	Department of Education	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, has the department/agency been the subject of any claim under the Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration? If so, how many claims has the department been the subject of?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000115	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Under the Legal Services Directions, how does the department consider reasonable prospects of success for an appeal?</p> <p>2. Would the department use a third party lawyer, that is separate to the first case, to do a sense check prior to launching an appeal?</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000116	Department of Education	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the department had or will have any staff attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia? Please provide:</p> <p>a. The number of staff, broken down by APS classification;</p> <p>b. The expected cost of travel, broken down by the cost of flights and accommodation;</p> <p>c. The first date of travel for department/agency staff; and</p> <p>d. The last date of travel for department/agency staff.</p> <p>2. Has any Minister or Assistant Minister of the department/agency been approved to attend or has attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of which Ministers or Assistant Ministers have been approved to attend or have attended.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000117	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Agency?</p> <p>b. Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a. the previous turnaround requirement; and</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio?</p> <p>4. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>5. How many briefs have been returned to the agency for redraft?</p> <p>6. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Agency.</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many briefs has the Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000118	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, have there been any amendments to the Agency's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000119	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since November 2024.</p> <p>2. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since November 2024.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000120	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000121	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	How many New Policy Proposals has the Agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000122	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000123	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since November 2024.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since November 2024.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the Agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose. 	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000124	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses and the subsequent 2024-25 Budget measure, Savings from External Labour – extension:</p> <p>1. What was the value of savings that the Agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 years, in aggregate and broken down across those years?</p> <p>2. Has the Agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> External labour hire Consultancy Advertising campaigns Travel Legal expenses <p>3. Can the 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?</p> <p>4. Has the 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?</p> <p>5. Can the 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> External labour hire Consultancy Advertising campaigns Travel Legal expenses <p>6. 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 identification of the contracts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Is the Agency on track to meet the saving target? Has the Agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the 	Written		27/02/2025
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			savings target? c. If so, why and was it approved?			
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SQ25-000125	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000126	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Agency's premises upgraded in financial year 2024/25 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000127	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for Agency employees in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000128	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. What was the Agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2024/25 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000129	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2024/25 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2024/25 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? d. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof? 8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2024/25 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid? 9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes? 	Written		27/02/2025
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			<div>10. Please provide a copy of the agency’s staff credit card policy. a. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since November 2024.</div>			
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SQ25-000130	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to the Agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 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. 5. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency appeared in any proceeding before the Fair Work Commission? If so, on what date(s)? 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000131	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the Agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed. <p>2. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the Agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office. <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the Agency has completed since 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review. 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000132	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000133	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000134	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the Agency as at 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. The number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the Agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. The number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the Agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000135	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>Has the Agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000136	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the agency received since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned. <p>2. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue. <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff in the agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000137	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</p> <p>2. 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.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000138	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <p>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</p> <p>b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</p> <p>c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</p> <p>d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</p> <p>e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p> <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the Agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff of the department/agency had approved work from home arrangements in cities where the Agency does not hold any office space?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000139	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Does the Agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network? If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>2. Please provide the Agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000140	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Has the Agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister's office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>3. Does the Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</p> <p>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 24-28 February 2025.</p> <p>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the number of the Question on Notice; the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister's office; the date the Minister's office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; the date the Question on Notice was provided to the Committee; <p>and</p> <p>f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff in the Agency are responsible for the management of the responses to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice? Please provide a breakdown of the number by APS level.</p> <p>7. On what date did the Agency provide briefing material to the relevant Ministerial office to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 24 to 29 February 2025?</p> <p>8. Did the Agency meet with any Minister or staff of any Minister in order to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 24 to 29 February 2025?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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			<p>9. Is the Agency aware that questions asked at Senate Estimates and questions asked in writing following the Senate Estimates hearing are to be treated in the same manner?</p>			
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SQ25-000141	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>b. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000142	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</p> <p>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000143	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	Please provide a list of dates the Agency head took leave since 1 July 2024, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000144	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions are currently vacant within the Agency? Please provide a list of the positions by APS level.</p> <p>2. How many positions within the Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2024?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>4. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>5. As at 1 July 2024, what is the current turnover rate for staff within the Agency?</p> <p>6. Since 1 July 2024, how many SES members of the Agency have left the Agency?</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many APS members of the Agency have left the Agency?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000145	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2025. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000146	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Agency?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000147	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000148	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how much has the Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000149	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, how many times in the current financial year has the Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000150	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Department/Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000151	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000152	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000153	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, how many official international visits have been taken by staff?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000154	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000155	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, how many staff work in the communications / media team of the Department/agency? Please provide a breakdown of positions by APS level.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000156	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, since 1 July 2024, on what dates has the department/agency received any guidance from the Prime Minister's Office or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in relation to answering questions on notice?</p> <p>a. Who made the contact with the agency? b. How was the communication made? c. Did the agency provide a copy to the department/agency's Ministerial office? d. Did the agency receive a copy from the department/agency's Ministerial office? e. Did the agency use the document in order to respond to questions asked at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, has the department/agency sought advice from the Australian Public Service Commission in relation to the use of centralised guidance for answering questions from the Parliament, in particular where the department/agency could provide the information?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000157	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, how many work stations/desks/terminals does the department/agency provide for staff?	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000158	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the agency sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has any portfolio Minister sought any variation to a determination issues by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, has the Remuneration Tribunal altered any determination in respect of an officer or employee of the agency? If so, on what date(s)?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000159	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>Since 1 July 2024, has the agency been the subject of any claim under the Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration? If so, how many claims has the agency been the subject of?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000160	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Under the Legal Services Directions, how does the agency consider reasonable prospects of success for an appeal?</p> <p>2. Would the agency use a third party lawyer, that is separate to the first case, to do a sense check prior to launching an appeal?</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000161	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the agency had or will have any staff attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia? Please provide:</p> <p>a. The number of staff, broken down by APS classification;</p> <p>b. The expected cost of travel, broken down by the cost of flights and accommodation;</p> <p>c. The first date of travel for department/agency staff; and</p> <p>d. The last date of travel for department/agency staff.</p> <p>2. Has any Minister or Assistant Minister of the department/agency been approved to attend or has attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of which Ministers or Assistant Ministers have been approved to attend or have attended.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000162	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Agency?</p> <p>b. Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a. the previous turnaround requirement; and</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio?</p> <p>4. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>5. How many briefs have been returned to the Agency for redraft?</p> <p>6. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Agency.</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many briefs has the Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000163	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, have there been any amendments to the Agency's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000164	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since November 2024.</p> <p>2. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since November 2024.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000165	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000166	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	How many New Policy Proposals has the Agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000167	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000168	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since November 2024.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since November 2024.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the Agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose. 	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000169	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses and the subsequent 2024-25 Budget measure, Savings from External Labour – extension:</p> <p>1. What was the value of savings that the Agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 years, in aggregate and broken down across those years?</p> <p>2. Has the Agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses <p>3. Can the 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?</p> <p>4. Has the 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?</p> <p>5. Can the 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses <p>6. 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 identification of the contracts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is the Agency on track to meet the saving target? b. Has the Agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the 	Written		27/02/2025
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			savings target? c. If so, why and was it approved?			
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SQ25-000170	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000171	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Agency's premises upgraded in financial year 2024/25 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000172	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for Agency employees in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000173	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. What was the Agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2024/25 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000174	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2024/25 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2024/25 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? d. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof? 8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2024/25 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid? 9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes? 	Written		27/02/2025
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			<div>10. Please provide a copy of the agency’s staff credit card policy. a. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since November 2024.</div>			
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SQ25-000175	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to the Agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 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. 5. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency appeared in any proceeding before the Fair Work Commission? If so, on what date(s)? 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000176	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the Agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed. <p>2. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the Agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office. <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the Agency has completed since 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review. 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000177	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000178	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000179	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the Agency as at 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. The number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the Agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. The number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the Agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000180	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>Has the Agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000181	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the agency received since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned. <p>2. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue. <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff in the agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000182	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</p> <p>2. 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.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000183	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <p>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</p> <p>b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</p> <p>c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</p> <p>d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</p> <p>e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p> <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the Agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff of the department/agency had approved work from home arrangements in cities where the Agency does not hold any office space?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000184	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Does the Agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network? If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>2. Please provide the Agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000185	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Has the Agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister's office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>3. Does the Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</p> <p>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 24-28 February 2025.</p> <p>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the number of the Question on Notice; the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister's office; the date the Minister's office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; the date the Question on Notice was provided to the Committee; <p>and</p> <p>f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff in the Agency are responsible for the management of the responses to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice? Please provide a breakdown of the number by APS level.</p> <p>7. On what date did the Agency provide briefing material to the relevant Ministerial office to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 24 to 29 February 2025?</p> <p>8. Did the Agency meet with any Minister or staff of any Minister in order to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 24 to 29 February 2025?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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			<p>9. Is the Agency aware that questions asked at Senate Estimates and questions asked in writing following the Senate Estimates hearing are to be treated in the same manner?</p>			
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SQ25-000186	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>b. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000187	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</p> <p>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000188	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	Please provide a list of dates the Agency head took leave since 1 July 2024, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000189	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions are currently vacant within the Agency? Please provide a list of the positions by APS level.</p> <p>2. How many positions within the Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2024?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>4. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>5. As at 1 July 2024, what is the current turnover rate for staff within the Agency?</p> <p>6. Since 1 July 2024, how many SES members of the Agency have left the Agency?</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many APS members of the Agency have left the Agency?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000190	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2025. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000191	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Agency?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000192	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000193	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how much has the Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000194	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, how many times in the current financial year has the Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000195	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000196	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000197	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000198	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, how many official international visits have been taken by staff?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000199	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000200	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, how many staff work in the communications / media team of the agency? Please provide a breakdown of positions by APS level.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000201	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, since 1 July 2024, on what dates has the department/agency received any guidance from the Prime Minister's Office or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in relation to answering questions on notice?</p> <p>a. Who made the contact with the agency? b. How was the communication made? c. Did the agency provide a copy to the department/agency's Ministerial office? d. Did the agency receive a copy from the department/agency's Ministerial office? e. Did the agency use the document in order to respond to questions asked at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, has the department/agency sought advice from the Australian Public Service Commission in relation to the use of centralised guidance for answering questions from the Parliament, in particular where the department/agency could provide the information?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000202	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, how many work stations/desks/terminals does the agency provide for staff?	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000203	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the agency sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has any portfolio Minister sought any variation to a determination issues by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, has the Remuneration Tribunal altered any determination in respect of an officer or employee of the agency? If so, on what date(s)?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000204	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, has the agency been the subject of any claim under the Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration? If so, how many claims has the agency been the subject of?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000205	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Under the Legal Services Directions, how does the agency consider reasonable prospects of success for an appeal?</p> <p>2. Would the agency use a third party lawyer, that is separate to the first case, to do a sense check prior to launching an appeal?</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000206	Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Limited	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the agency had or will have any staff attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia? Please provide:</p> <p>a. The number of staff, broken down by APS classification;</p> <p>b. The expected cost of travel, broken down by the cost of flights and accommodation;</p> <p>c. The first date of travel for department/agency staff; and</p> <p>d. The last date of travel for department/agency staff.</p> <p>2. Has any Minister or Assistant Minister of the department/agency been approved to attend or has attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of which Ministers or Assistant Ministers have been approved to attend or have attended.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000207	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Agency?</p> <p>b. Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a. the previous turnaround requirement; and</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio?</p> <p>4. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>5. How many briefs have been returned to the Agency for redraft?</p> <p>6. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Agency.</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many briefs has the Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000208	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, have there been any amendments to the Agency's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000209	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since November 2024.</p> <p>2. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since November 2024.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000210	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many meetings has the agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000211	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	How many New Policy Proposals has the Agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000212	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000213	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since November 2024.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since November 2024.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the Agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose. 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000214	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses and the subsequent 2024-25 Budget measure, Savings from External Labour – extension:</p> <p>1. What was the value of savings that the Agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 years, in aggregate and broken down across those years?</p> <p>2. Has the Agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses <p>3. Can the 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?</p> <p>4. Has the 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?</p> <p>5. Can the 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses <p>6. 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 identification of the contracts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is the Agency on track to meet the saving target? b. Has the Agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the 	Written		27/02/2025
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			savings target? c. If so, why and was it approved?			
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SQ25-000215	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the agency in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000216	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Agency's premises upgraded in financial year 2024/25 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000217	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for Agency employees in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000218	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. What was the Agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2024/25 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000219	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to agency use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2024/25 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2024/25 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? d. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof? 8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2024/25 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid? 9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes? 	Written		27/02/2025
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			<div>10. Please provide a copy of the agency’s staff credit card policy. a. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since November 2024.</div>			
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SQ25-000220	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to the Agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? a. 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. 5. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency appeared in any proceeding before the Fair Work Commission? If so, on what date(s)? 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000221	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the Agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed. <p>2. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the Agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office. <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the Agency has completed since 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review. 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000222	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000223	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000224	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the Agency as at 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. The number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the Agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. The number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the Agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000225	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>Has the Agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000226	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the agency received since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned. <p>2. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue. <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff in the agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000227	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</p> <p>2. 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.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000228	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <p>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</p> <p>b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</p> <p>c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</p> <p>d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</p> <p>e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p> <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the Agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff of the department/agency had approved work from home arrangements in cities where the Agency does not hold any office space?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000229	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Does the Agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network? If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>2. Please provide the Agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000230	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Has the Agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister's office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>3. Does the Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</p> <p>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 24-28 February 2025.</p> <p>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the number of the Question on Notice; the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister's office; the date the Minister's office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; the date the Question on Notice was provided to the Committee; <p>and</p> <p>f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff in the Agency are responsible for the management of the responses to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice? Please provide a breakdown of the number by APS level.</p> <p>7. On what date did the Agency provide briefing material to the relevant Ministerial office to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 24 to 29 February 2025?</p> <p>8. Did the Agency meet with any Minister or staff of any Minister in order to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 24 to 29 February 2025?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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			<p>9. Is the Agency aware that questions asked at Senate Estimates and questions asked in writing following the Senate Estimates hearing are to be treated in the same manner?</p>			
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SQ25-000231	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>b. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000232	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</p> <p>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000233	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	Please provide a list of dates the Agency head took leave since 1 July 2024, and which officer of the Department/Agency acted for the Secretary during this time.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000234	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions are currently vacant within the Agency? Please provide a list of the positions by APS level.</p> <p>2. How many positions within the Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2024?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>4. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>5. As at 1 July 2024, what is the current turnover rate for staff within the Agency?</p> <p>6. Since 1 July 2024, how many SES members of the Agency have left the Agency?</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many APS members of the Agency have left the Agency?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000235	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2025. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000236	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Agency?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000237	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000238	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how much has the Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000239	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, how many times in the current financial year has the Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000240	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000241	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000242	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000243	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, how many official international visits have been taken by staff?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000244	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000245	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, how many staff work in the communications / media team of the Department/agency? Please provide a breakdown of positions by APS level.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000246	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, since 1 July 2024, on what dates has the agency received any guidance from the Prime Minister's Office or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in relation to answering questions on notice?</p> <p>a. Who made the contact with the agency?</p> <p>b. How was the communication made?</p> <p>c. Did the agency provide a copy to the department/agency's Ministerial office?</p> <p>d. Did the agency receive a copy from the department/agency's Ministerial office?</p> <p>e. Did the agency use the document in order to respond to questions asked at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, has the department/agency sought advice from the Australian Public Service Commission in relation to the use of centralised guidance for answering questions from the Parliament, in particular where the department/agency could provide the information?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000247	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, how many work stations/desks/terminals does the agency provide for staff?	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000248	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the agency sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has any portfolio Minister sought any variation to a determination issues by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, has the Remuneration Tribunal altered any determination in respect of an officer or employee of the agency? If so, on what date(s)?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000249	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>Since 1 July 2024, has the agency been the subject of any claim under the Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration? If so, how many claims has the agency been the subject of?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000250	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Under the Legal Services Directions, how does the agency consider reasonable prospects of success for an appeal?</p> <p>2. Would the agency use a third party lawyer, that is separate to the first case, to do a sense check prior to launching an appeal?</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000251	Australian Research Council	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the agency had or will have any staff attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia? Please provide:</p> <p>a. The number of staff, broken down by APS classification;</p> <p>b. The expected cost of travel, broken down by the cost of flights and accommodation;</p> <p>c. The first date of travel for department/agency staff; and</p> <p>d. The last date of travel for department/agency staff.</p> <p>2. Has any Minister or Assistant Minister of the department/agency been approved to attend or has attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of which Ministers or Assistant Ministers have been approved to attend or have attended.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000252	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this advice provided to the Agency?</p> <p>b. Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>2. If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <p>a. the previous turnaround requirement; and</p> <p>b. the date the change was requested.</p> <p>3. How many briefs has the Agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio?</p> <p>4. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>5. How many briefs have been returned to the Agency for redraft?</p> <p>6. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Agency.</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many briefs has the Agency provided to the Minister on potential overseas Ministerial visits?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000253	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the agency provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000254	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since November 2024.</p> <p>2. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please denote any change in this allocation since November 2024.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000255	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many meetings has the agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p> <p>2. How many meetings has the agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000256	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	How many New Policy Proposals has the Agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal.	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000257	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000258	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since November 2024.</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Agency has membership. Please specify where there are changes to the list since November 2024.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the Agency participates in or provides representation to. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the interdepartmental committee; b. a list of the membership; c. the date it was established; and d. its purpose. 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000259	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses and the subsequent 2024-25 Budget measure, Savings from External Labour – extension:</p> <p>1. What was the value of savings that the Agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 years, in aggregate and broken down across those years?</p> <p>2. Has the Agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses <p>3. Can the 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?</p> <p>4. Has the 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?</p> <p>5. Can the 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses <p>6. 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 identification of the contracts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is the Agency on track to meet the saving target? b. Has the Agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the 	Written		27/02/2025
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			savings target? c. If so, why and was it approved?			
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SQ25-000260	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the agency in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. <p>2. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2024/25 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000261	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p> <p>2. Were the facilities of any of the Agency's premises upgraded in financial year 2024/25 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>b. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000262	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Agency head's travel for financial year 2024/25 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of staff travel for Agency employees in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000263	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. What was the Agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>2. What was the Agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2024/25 to date? Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p> <p>3. What was the Agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2024/25 to date?</p> <p>a. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>b. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000264	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to agency use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2024/25 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2024/25 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2024/25 to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2024/25 to date and what was the total value thereof? c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? d. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof? 8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2024/25 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid? 9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes? 	Written		27/02/2025
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			<p>10. Please provide a copy of the agency's staff credit card policy.</p> <p>a. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since November 2024.</p>			
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SQ25-000265	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>In relation to the Agency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 2. What has the Agency learned from past Comcare claims? 3. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence? 4. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 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. 5. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency appeared in any proceeding before the Fair Work Commission? If so, on what date(s)? 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000266	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the Agency is currently conducting. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed. <p>2. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the Agency has completed since 1 July 2022. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office. <p>3. Please provide a list of the number of internal reviews that the Agency has completed since 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. if the Minister or their office was made aware of the review. 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000267	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased, disbanded, or reconstituted as new bodies since 1 July 2024? Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000268	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate?</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000269	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the Agency as at 1 July 2024. Please provide:</p> <p>a. Total number of ASL;</p> <p>b. Total number of FTE by APS classification;</p> <p>c. The number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the Agency is responsible; and</p> <p>d. The number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the Agency is responsible; and</p> <p>e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000270	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>Has the Agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign? Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000271	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the agency received since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown of the number including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications withdrawn; b. the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; c. the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; d. the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; e. the number of applications subject to internal review; f. the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; g. the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; h. the number of applications subject to review by the Federal Court; and i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned. <p>2. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2024? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of applications by Minister, b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided; c. the number of applications refused; and d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue. <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff in the agency are allocated to the processing of Freedom of Information applications?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000272	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</p> <p>2. 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.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000273	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home? Please provide a breakdown including:</p> <p>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</p> <p>b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</p> <p>c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</p> <p>d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</p> <p>e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p> <p>2. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>3. Please provide a copy of the Agency's work from home policy.</p> <p>4. Please provide a list by APS level of the number of staff with working from home arrangements of three or more days per week.</p> <p>5. Please provide as a number and as a percentage the amount of staff who have working from home arrangements within the ACT.</p> <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff of the agency had approved work from home arrangements in cities where the Agency does not hold any office space?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000274	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Does the Agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network? If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>2. Please provide the Agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000275	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Agency engaged any external companies or individuals to provide training or advice to officials on the preparation for Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Has the Agency been provided with direction or instruction from the Minister's office on how to answer questions at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>3. Does the Agency adjust the quality of their responses to Questions on Notice based on the number of Questions on Notice received?</p> <p>4. Please provide a copy of the index of Senate Estimates briefs that were prepared for the Agency for the Senate Estimates hearings held 24-28 February 2025.</p> <p>5. Please provide a list of the questions on notice from the previous Senate Estimates hearings outlining the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of the Question on Notice; b. the Senator who asked the Question on Notice; c. the date the draft response to the Question on Notice was provided to the Minister's office; d. the date the Minister's office provided approval for the Question on Notice to be tabled; e. the date the Question on Notice was provided to the Committee; and f. whether the draft response was different to the tabled response. <p>6. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff in the Agency are responsible for the management of the responses to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice? Please provide a breakdown of the number by APS level.</p> <p>7. On what date did the Agency provide briefing material to the relevant Ministerial office to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 24 to 29 February 2025?</p> <p>8. Did the Agency meet with any Minister or staff of any Minister in order to prepare for Senate Estimates held between 24 to 29 February 2025?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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			<p>9. Is the Agency aware that questions asked at Senate Estimates and questions asked in writing following the Senate Estimates hearing are to be treated in the same manner?</p>			
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SQ25-000276	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Agency conducted any market research or research relating to a communications campaign?</p> <p>a. Has that research been provided to a Minister's office?</p> <p>b. Did the Minister's office provide any input on the development of the research?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency engaged any social media influencers to assist in any promotional or communications campaigns? Please provide a list of the individuals engaged.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000277	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the Agency Head provided a conflict of interest declaration?</p> <p>2. Has this declaration been updated since they took their position?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000278	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	Please provide a list of dates the Agency head took leave since 1 July 2024, and which officer of the Agency acted for the Agency Head during this time.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000279	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions are currently vacant within the Agency? Please provide a list of the positions by APS level.</p> <p>2. How many positions within the Agency have been filled without advertising externally to the public since 1 July 2024?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Agency have staff in acting positions where the acting arrangement has been longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>4. As at 1 July 2024, how many positions within the Agency have been vacant for longer than 90 days? Please provide a list of these positions by APS level.</p> <p>5. As at 1 July 2024, what is the current turnover rate for staff within the Agency?</p> <p>6. Since 1 July 2024, how many SES members of the Agency have left the Agency?</p> <p>7. Since 1 July 2024, how many APS members of the Agency have left the Agency?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000280	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, please provide a list of the office space leased by the Agency, with addresses and the accommodation capacity.</p> <p>2. Please provide an annual expenditure breakdown of the general expenses the Agency has for general property maintenance costs from 2018 until 2025. Please include gardening, utility bills, cleaning, building renovations, updates and repairs in the breakdown.</p> <p>3. Please provide a list of the contracts the Agency has for gardening, cleaning and building maintenance.</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000281	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, what is the number of years of service of the longest continuing serving member of the Agency?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000282	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have put in place agreements to work on Australia Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>2. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have put in place agreements to work on Anzac Day Public Holiday?</p> <p>3. As at 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have put in place agreements to work on The King's Birthday Public Holiday?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000283	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how much has the Agency spent on the provision of professional development training for staff from external providers?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff within the Agency have participated in courses, programmes or activities operated by the APS Academy?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000284	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, how many times in the current financial year has the Agency made a request for additional funding for operational expenditure?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000285	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency provided advice to the Minister in relation to the delivery of election commitments?</p> <p>2. Is the Agency tracking the implementation of relevant election commitments made by the Government at the 2022 election?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000286	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency engaged any external speakers to address staff? Please provide a list and the amount paid to the speaker.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000287	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, has the Agency held any organised external retreats for staff? Please provide a list including the number of staff who attended, the location of the retreat and the cost incurred by the Department/Agency.	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000288	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	Since 1 July 2024, how many official international visits have been taken by staff?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000289	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Agency have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, how many staff of the Department/Agency who have undertaken security clearance processes, or renewed security clearances, who are yet to receive their clearance?</p> <p>a. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 6 months?</p> <p>b. Of these staff, how many have been waiting for clearances for over 12 months?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000290	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, how many staff work in the communications / media team of the agency? Please provide a breakdown of positions by APS level.	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000291	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, since 1 July 2024, on what dates has the agency received any guidance from the Prime Minister's Office or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in relation to answering questions on notice?</p> <p>a. Who made the contact with the agency? b. How was the communication made? c. Did the agency provide a copy to the agency's Ministerial office? d. Did the agency receive a copy from the agency's Ministerial office? e. Did the agency use the document in order to respond to questions asked at Senate Estimates?</p> <p>2. Noting that the Clerk of the Senate has advised the Senate that preventing information being provided to the Senate or its committees, or dissuading the provision of information from witnesses that has been sought and is available may be a contempt of the Senate, has the agency sought advice from the Australian Public Service Commission in relation to the use of centralised guidance for answering questions from the Parliament, in particular where the agency could provide the information?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000292	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	As at 1 July 2024, how many work stations/desks/terminals does the agency provide for staff?	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000293	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Since 1 July 2024, has the agency sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2024, has any portfolio Minister sought any variation to a determination issued by the Remuneration Tribunal? If so, on what date(s) were variations sought?</p> <p>3. Since 1 July 2024, has the Remuneration Tribunal altered any determination in respect of an officer or employee of the agency? If so, on what date(s)?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000294	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>Since 1 July 2024, has the agency been the subject of any claim under the Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration? If so, how many claims has the agency been the subject of?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000295	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Under the Legal Services Directions, how does the agency consider reasonable prospects of success for an appeal?</p> <p>2. Would the agency use a third party lawyer, that is separate to the first case, to do a sense check prior to launching an appeal?</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000296	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency	Jane Hume	<p>1. Has the agency had or will have any staff attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia? Please provide:</p> <p>a. The number of staff, broken down by APS classification;</p> <p>b. The expected cost of travel, broken down by the cost of flights and accommodation;</p> <p>c. The first date of travel for agency staff; and</p> <p>d. The last date of travel for agency staff.</p> <p>2. Has any Minister or Assistant Minister of the agency been approved to attend or has attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), or associated events outside of Australia?</p> <p>a. Please provide a list of which Ministers or Assistant Ministers have been approved to attend or have attended.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000297	Department of Education	Steph Hodgins-May	<p>How many providers have requested an alternative fee growth cap?</p> <p>a. What reasons were given?</p> <p>b. How many have been approved?</p> <p>c. What percentage was granted?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000298	Department of Education	Steph Hodgins-May	<p>1. The Productivity Commission's report on universal early learning identified six priorities for immediate action from 2025, one of which is to increase subsidies provided by the Inclusion Support Program. What progress has the government made on this priority?</p> <p>2. How much do providers have to pay to cross-subsidise inclusion support workers?</p> <p>a. Why hasn't the funding rate been increased since 2016?</p> <p>3. The Government has started consultations with the sector about the application of the Disability Education Standards to ECEC. Have you done a costing on how much this will cost providers to meet? If not, why not?</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000299	Department of Education	Steph Hodgins-May	<p>1. How are the locations for approximately 160 new early learning centres (Building Early Education Fund) in outer metropolitan and regional Australia being decided?</p> <p>2. What data is being used to inform the distribution of these centres to help make sure they are built in communities with the poorest access to early childhood education and care and in communities where children would benefit most from early education and development support?</p> <p>3. What will be put in place to ensure long-term operational viability of these new centres?</p> <p>4. What is the status of the Preschool Reform agreement negotiations between Federal and State/Territory Governments?</p> <p>5. How will the challenges of early childhood education and care supply, and workforce gaps, be considered in these new agreements?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000300	Department of Education	Steph Hodgins-May	<p>1. Where is the Early Education Service Delivery Price project up to?</p> <p>2. Have terms of reference for the objectives of the project been developed? If so, can these be provided?</p> <p>3. Has the sector been engaged in the development of the terms of reference?</p> <p>4. What is the procurement process that the department has developed from this project?</p> <p>a. Will it be an open or select tender process?</p> <p>b. What technical experts are being considered for this project?</p> <p>5. The Aged Care service delivery cost projects were developed in very close consultation with the sector. What learnings has the Department had from the processes used in aged care in its processes?</p> <p>6. Is the intention of this project to develop and test a data collection process or to come up with an actual cost of delivery?</p> <p>a. How will this differ from the ACCC cost process and findings?</p> <p>7. What has the Government learned from the ACCC process that is helping inform this service delivery price project?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000301	Department of Education	Steph Hodgins-May	<p>1. In July 2025, the hourly rate cap will go up by 2.4% in 2025-26 based on the December CPI. If fees go up by 4.4%, how much will the affordability of child care decline in 2025-26?</p> <p>a. Can you take that on notice, say a family on 2 times Average Weekly Earnings?</p> <p>2. If fees continue to go up at 2% faster than CPI, when will the average fee be below the hourly fee cap?</p> <p>a. Can you take that on notice (NB: Answer is within two years).</p>	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000302	Department of Education	Steph Hodgins-May	<p>1. Can you outline how many families you expect will benefit from the Three Day Guarantee?</p> <p>a. How many children already enrolled in early learning will benefit from this change?</p> <p>b. How many children not currently participating are expected to benefit?</p> <p>2. Is a breakdown available by Federal Electorate?</p> <p>3. How many First Nations children will benefit from the increase in the base entitlement to 100 hours?</p> <p>a. What is the geographical breakdown of these children, across metro, regional, remote, etc? On Notice?</p> <p>4. Has the department identified those areas where there is not adequate supply to deliver the Three Day Guarantee?</p> <p>5. What is the timeframe to ramp up the Building Early Education Fund to plug those gaps in supply?</p> <p>6. Services Australia withholds five per cent of CCS entitlements until the end of financial year when they are then reconciled with actual household income. Under the Three Day Guarantee, from 1 January 2026 all families can access 72 hours of subsidised early childhood education and care and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children can access 100 hours of subsidised early childhood education and care per fortnight. How much do we expect the accumulation of debt by these families to reduce as a result of an easier to understand and more generous entitlement?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000303	Australian Research Council	Michaelia Cash	<p>With reference to contract notice CN4116396-A1, published by the Australian Research Council on the Austender website on 16th December 2024 relating to venue hire:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what event did this venue hire relate, and precisely where was the event held. 2. Can an itemised list of all costs relating to the event be provided. 3. Can a guest list for the event be provided, including, without limitation, details of any Ministers, ministerial staff or APS staff who attended. 4. Can an itemised list be provided for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. any food served; and b. any beverages served, including the names and vintages of any wines or champagnes. 5. Were any catering services procured for the purposes of the event, for example waiters, kitchenhands, or cleaning staff; if so, can full details be provided. 6. Was any entertainment provided at the event; if so, can full details be provided. 7. Was any audio visual equipment or were any services procured for the purposes of the event; if so, can full details be provided. 8. Were any decorations purchased for the purposes of the event; if so, can an itemised list be provided. 9. Can any photographs of the event be provided. 10. Can copies of any presentations delivered at the event be provided. 	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000304	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>1. Updated Budget in 2024-25 and across the forward estimates to include new school funding announced in January 2025 for the Commonwealth providing 25 per cent of the SRS.</p> <p>a. Please include breakdown of funding to each state</p> <p>b. Please include breakdown of funding to each states by non-government and government schools</p> <p>c. Please include per student average funding amount for 2024-25, broken down by</p> <p>2. The total growth in schools funding between 2013 and 2022.</p> <p>3. Please provide the annual growth and the annual growth on per student terms, including for children in non-government and government schooling between 2013 and 2022.</p> <p>4. When will each state or territory reach their commitment to 75 per cent of the SRS?</p> <p>5. A table of when each state and territory will reach their funding commitment to meet 100 per cent of the SRS.</p> <p>a. Please include if any states have shifted their commitments earlier or later depending on the updated bilateral arrangements.</p> <p>6. Can the Department outline what incentives or additional funding was offered to each state and territory for the purpose of signing a Bilateral Agreement?</p> <p>7. How many hours of free tutoring is the Commonwealth Government funding per school child under the new school funding agreements? Please include a breakdown by state and territory.</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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SQ25-000305	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>With respect to the Indigenous Boarding Design review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the Department's involvement in the Indigenous Boarding Design review? 2. Who is leading the review? 3. Has the Department participated in any meetings of the Review? 4. Has the Department provided any briefing to the Minister on the expected outcomes and implications of the Review? 5. When will the Review be finalised? 	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000307	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>Please provide an update on the progress of each school under the Studio Schools Project, including expected opening dates, enrolment numbers and staffing matters?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the purpose of additional funding provided in MYEFO. b. Please provide the total grant amounts in each year now provided to the Studio Schools Program. c. Please provide a copy of the audit undertaken into the operations of Studio Schools and their operations? 	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000308	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Please provide a copy of the communique or meeting outcomes for the Education Minister's meeting held in June 2024	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000309	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	Can the Department please provide an update on each of the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan items?	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000310	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>With respect to the Teacher Scholarships Round two, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Numbers of successful recipients by state and territory. 2. Breakdown of qualifying reason for each applicant 3. Breakdown between postgraduate and undergraduate recipients. 4. How many applications received in Round One were deemed ineligible? On what grounds? 5. Have any program changes been implemented ahead of Round Two? 	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000311	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>With respect to the National Consent Survey, originally announced on 6 March 2022:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the department please advise the status of the National Consent Survey. 2. At the last Estimates, you indicated that the survey would be rolling out in 2025. When will it be conducted? 3. How many participants will be surveyed? 4. How much funding has been spent on the development to date? 5. How many experts have been involved in the working group? 	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000312	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>With respect to fee-free uni places:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many universities applied for places? 2. How many places did universities apply for – was the program over or undersubscribed? 3. What proportion could be funded within the budget allocation? 4. How did the Department assess the applications against need? 	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000313	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>With respect to Commonwealth Prac Payments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are Prac Payment exempt income for the purpose of calculation of income support payments? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, does the Department know how much on average a student may be set to lose and what modelling has the Department undertaken for these students? b. If so, has the Department established a calculator for this purpose to help student understand how much Prac Payment they are likely to lose? 2. Are providers on track to implement these payments from 1 July 2025? 	Written		27/02/2025

SQ25-000314	Department of Education	Sarah Henderson	<p>With respect to the Start Up Loan Scheme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many applicants have there been? 2. How many applicants have been successful or unsuccessful? 3. Please provide a breakdown including by university and state or territory. 4. How much has the Department spent on advertising the Start Up Loan Scheme? 	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000316	Department of Education	Lidia Thorpe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much funding goes into Aboriginal Early Years Education and Development and who receives this? 2. How many of the 38 Aboriginal Child and Family Centres from the 2009 CTG targeted funding services are still in operation? 	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000317	Department of Education	Lidia Thorpe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much funding has the Department provided to The Y Australia / the YMCA and each of its state branches over the last two years? Please break this down down by State and/or Territory 2. Have any complaints been made against the YMCA that the Department is aware of; if so what is the nature of these complaints and what resolution processes were followed? 3. Is the department aware of any concerns regarding racial and discriminatory behaviour towards First Nations/Indigenous Australians within the YMCA, or any of its state or territory branches, or any of its programs, such as Youth Parliament? 	Written		27/02/2025
SQ25-000318	Department of Education	Michaelia Cash	<p>If they are working for NQF approved services – will they be eligible for wage increase if they work for an employer signed up to the Worker Retention Grant Program?</p>	Written		27/03/2025

AERO 2025-01	Australian Education Research Organisation	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: How did you decide on the three priorities that you have come to?</p> <p>Dr Donovan: It came from the ministers. I talk with the ministers and their heads of departments for this purpose at least annually to get a sense of what the relative priorities are across the country. I then bring them to the senior officers' meeting in the first instance to say: 'Here's a long list of things that people are really interested in. Help me prioritise the ones that we will be able to accommodate in our work plan for this year.' That happened, I think, in August of last year. There's been a process since then to refine the questions ready for the work plan to be sent around to ministers.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: In terms of short-listing it and reducing it down to the three that you've chosen, what goes into the decision to do that?</p> <p>Dr Donovan: We prepare a paper for the senior officers to consider that says, 'Of this long list, there are some that have a lot of backing and there is a lot of commonality across the jurisdictions to say these are important.' Then there might be a shorter list provided to them for their consideration. We will give them any advice about work that is currently in place that could form the foundation for future work and the directions that it could take. It's a conversation among them, representing their ministers, about what should be finally identified as the priorities for the work we do.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you provide us that paper that goes into informing it?</p> <p>Dr Donovan: I honestly don't know. I'll check with the deputy secretary.</p> <p>Ms Brighton: I suggest we take it on notice.</p> <p>Dr Donovan: Can we take it on notice?</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes, that's fine.</p>	Hansard	49	27/02/2025
AERO 2025-02	Australian Education Research Organisation	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you provide us with data on the usage of your resources? Are you fully utilising the resources you're provided with? What sort of data can you provide to us on that?</p> <p>Dr Donovan: I'll take it on notice, but I can provide information like hits on websites, downloads and those kinds of things. I'd caution, though, that I don't know that that necessarily gives a full picture of the extent of the use of the resources and the research that we're making available.</p>	Hansard	50	27/02/2025

AERO 2025-03	Australian Education Research Organisation	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: How many publications has AERO produced in 2024? You can take that on notice if you like.</p> <p>Dr Donovan: That is an excellent question. I will take it on notice.</p>	Hansard	50	27/02/2025
AERO 2025-04	Australian Education Research Organisation	Sarah Henderson	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Are you able to provide on notice some of your work that you're currently undertaking, including your analysis of the Portuguese and UK curricula?</p> <p>Dr Donovan: Yes, I can take it on notice. I can safely agree to provide the outline of the work that we undertook. The analysis itself is not at a stage that it's ready to be shared yet, but I'm very happy to let you know as soon as it is.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: To the extent that you can provide information and documents that you hold that would give an overview of the work that you've done to date, that would be very much appreciated.</p>	Hansard	51	27/02/2025
AERO 2025-05	Australian Education Research Organisation	Matthew O'Sullivan	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Yes. Just in relation to the research and looking at those other countries—the UK and Portugal—did you examine the impact on teacher workload and any difference in the workload of teachers that are applying knowledge rich?</p> <p>Dr Donovan: I'll have to take that on notice. We have certainly looked at the impact—</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Sorry to cut you off, but I've had some pushback when these matters are discussed. People say it's putting the burden on teachers.</p> <p>Dr Donovan: Yes, but in both cases what is evidence is the amount of professional learning that was provided. There was space and time and resourcing made available to make sure that the teachers knew what the changes were about.</p>	Hansard	52-53	27/02/2025

AEQ 25-001	Australian National University	Mehreen Faruqi	<p>Senator FARUQI: What is the ANU's current full-time equivalent number of staff? Prof. Bell: Headcount?</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Yes.</p> <p>Prof. Bell: Bearing in mind that this is a rolling number, at the end of January our full-time equivalent was 4,523. Of that, 1,753 were academics and 2,770 were professional.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Has this number fallen since the beginning of 2024?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: It has a little bit.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Can you give me those numbers if you have them on hand? If you don't, could you put them on notice?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: We can absolutely take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	114	27/02/2025
AEQ 25 - 002	Australian National University	Anthony Sheldon	<p>CHAIR: Yes. I just want to unpack something; I'm just quite interested. I know that, during 2019, 2020 and 2021, it was the full thrust of COVID and how we met that challenge. I, of course, recall, as many of you would recall, that JobKeeper was paid from 30 March 2020 to 28 March 2021. Did you ever do any calculations about what the consequences of not receiving JobKeeper were? I'm just intrigued. That's all</p> <p>Mr Lonergan: Not that I've seen. I was not there at the time but, yes, I'm aware the university did not receive any JobKeeper.</p> <p>CHAIR: Just take this on notice, or you might be able to give it to me quickly now. If it's not quick, take it on notice. I'm mindful of the time. What was the wages bill that covered that period of 30 March 2020 to 28 March 2021? I appreciate that you may have to flex it a little bit on either side to make it convenient to find. I'm going to ask you to do a more challenging thing. I would have thought there would have been some assessment made if there were a change of view about JobKeeper being paid to the universities, because it was one of the few sectors that missed out—in fact, my recollection is that it may be the only sector that missed out—and, of course, we're seeing those repercussions still reverberating. If you're able to, could you give me a ballpark figure about what you could have received from JobKeeper during that period, just so I have that in my head.</p>	Hansard	116	27/02/2025

AEQ 25 - 003	Australian National University	Anthony Sheldon	<p>CHAIR: Would you be able to provide me with a full list of contracts or other expenditure that the chancellor or any other entity in the university has engaged with Vinder Consulting on?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: We're happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: I would like the dollar figure of each engagement, what the engagement was for and, if possible, a copy of what Vinder actually produced.</p> <p>Prof. Bell: For the university—just for clarification? CHAIR: For the university in the contracts. I would say that 'university', in the very broadest context, includes not only the chancellor but also the university more broadly. At the same time, could you tell me whether Vinder is on any preferred tender list anywhere?</p> <p>Mr Lonergan: We'll take that on notice as well.</p> <p>CHAIR: Take that on notice as well. Of course I wouldn't expect you to be able to tell me straightaway. You can take that on notice as well—and under what circumstances they are on the preferred contractor list, and in what areas. Is Vinder Consulting on the university's preferred supplier list, which I appreciate you'll make available to me? For the engagements that Ms Bishop has entered into with her former chief of staff with the university's money, do you know if she obtained any quotes from any other consultants? You can take that on notice. Were those contracts put out for public tender, or did she just go directly to Mr Hansen? You can take that on notice as well.</p>	Hansard	117 - 118	27/02/2025
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AEQ 25 - 004	Australian National University	Anthony Sheldon	<p>CHAIR: I have further questions, going back to the procurement procedure document on the ANU website that we were discussing briefly earlier. Regarding conflicts of interest—I think I've written this down right, but if I've got it wrong please tell me—it says:</p> <p>7. Staff involved in University purchasing activities disclose all actual or perceived conflict of interest arising from purchasing activities in accordance with the University's Disclosure of Interest policy.</p> <p>8. Particular attention is given where potential suppliers: a. are current or past employee(s) of the University; and/or b. have a personal relationship with any ANU employees involved in the procurement process.</p> <p>Are you aware of whether Ms Bishop disclosed this clear conflict of interest to anyone at the university, and did she follow the disclosure-of-interest policy?</p> <p>Mr Lonergan: We'll take that on notice when we look at this vendor.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>CHAIR: Could you also give copies of where that was tabled or not tabled about Vinder—whatever was contained in those conflict of interest declarations. I appreciate there may be a request to the committee about how we deal with that, but it's certainly the evidence and information I require. Again, you're not aware that Ms Bishop declared any conflict of interest under the disclosure-of-interest policy?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: I have no knowledge of this particular matter.</p> <p>CHAIR: That article says that, as I mentioned before, Mr Hansen was a long-term employee and chief of staff for Ms Bishop for over a decade. Does that qualify as a sufficiently close relationship? Do you believe that should be disclosed? Again, I'm just saying that you're saying you're going to see the documents. You're going to look to see whether that's been disclosed. You're not aware of it being disclosed, or of whether it has or hasn't, because, if it's something that should be disclosed, Mr Lonergan, you've got responsibility here in this space.</p> <p>Prof. Bell: Senator, we'll take this matter on notice and go work out what we have got and what we haven't got and we'll get it to you in an appropriate manner.</p>	Hansard	118 - 119	27/02/2025
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AEQ 25 - 005	Australian National University	Anthony Sheldon	<p>CHAIR: It's not even just Mr Hansen; there are two other employees of the company Julie Bishop & Partners listed on their website. One of them is another long-term former political staffer for Ms Bishop. They are, as I understand it, employed by Ms Bishop in the chancellor's office and taking a salary from the university. Are you aware that that's true?</p> <p>Prof. Bell: Julie Bishop & Partners, the company, is a different thing to the chancellor.</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes. Julie Bishop & Partners, as listed on their website—</p> <p>Prof. Bell: The chancellor, yes.</p> <p>CHAIR: includes Mr Hansen, as I've just put to you. I understand that there are also other staff, employed by Ms Bishop in the chancellor's office and taking salaries from the university, who are actually working for both organisations.</p> <p>Prof. Bell: There are two staff members who support the chancellor's office. They report to the university secretary, and we manage it that way.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Chair, I'm just wanting an indication of how much time, given that we've got two more—</p> <p>CHAIR: I'll take a few minutes and then I'll try to wrap up.</p> <p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Thanks.</p> <p>CHAIR: Regarding those other employees, I put to you that, if there's a person working for two organisations, there may or may not be conflicts of interest between those two organisations but there are work challenges, because I understand those two staff members are in Julie Bishop & Partners' offices in Perth. What is the oversight of the work done by the chancellor where there are potentially conflicts of interest with prioritising work? Prof. Bell: Let me take a step back. As you know, we have had chancellors before the current chancellor. Our previous chancellor Gareth Evans also had office support staff for him. They staffed an office for him. We've used a similar structure here. The salaries for the employees that support the chancellor come from the budget for the office of the vice-chancellor. They report to the secretary of the university, who does their performance reviews as well as reviews their activities. We manage it quite structurally that way.</p> <p>CHAIR: I just want to be quite straight with you. I appreciate there are a number of things that you have taken on notice, but I am concerned</p>	Hansard	119 - 120	27/02/2025
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AEQ 25 - 006	Australian National University	Anthony Sheldon	<p>1. What are the total costs charged by NOUS Consulting Group for their contributions, across all contracts with NOUS, to the Renew ANU initiative or related projects?</p> <p>2. How many written quotes did ANU receive as part of the tender process?</p> <p>3. Was this project subjected to an open market tender process?</p> <p>4. Given the ANU's Procurement Procedure states "a procurement is not divided or split into separate parts to avoid a procurement threshold," did the initial costs charged by NOUS Consulting Group to the ANU reach the procurement threshold, and if not, do the costs charged NOUS Consulting Group to the ANU exceed that threshold currently?</p> <p>5. Beyond NOUS Consulting Group, have other consulting firms been engaged for tasks related to the Renew ANU initiative?</p> <p>6. If other consulting firms have been engaged for tasks related to Renew ANU, what firms and what is the cost of their services?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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AEQ 25 - 007	Australian National University	Anthony Sheldon	<p>1. What position or positions has Vice-Chancellor Professor Genevieve Bell held at Intel during her employment with the ANU?</p> <p>2. What is the total remuneration Professor Bell has received from Intel since commencing at the ANU?</p> <p>3. Were there any written approvals by the ANU Council for Professor Bell's role at Intel during her employment at the ANU?</p> <p>4. If there were any written approvals, please provide them to the committee?</p> <p>5. Did Professor Bell explicitly state to the ANU Council that this role was remunerated, if so, what form did this take, and please provide a copy?</p> <p>6. Did Professor Bell explicitly state to the ANU Council the amount of remuneration, if so, what form did this take, and does this accurately reflect the actual remuneration paid since?</p> <p>7. Given the ANU Council Charter states "the disclosure must include details of the nature and extent of the interest and how the interest relates to the affairs of the University," is the ANU Council confident that the nature and extent of the interest can be disclosed without stating whether Professor Bell's role at Intel is remunerated, or the extent of the remuneration?</p> <p>8. Has the ANU, Professor Bell, her office, or another staff member had contact with Intel since 1 January 2024, if yes, when?</p> <p>9. Did Professor Bell ever disclose her employment at Intel under ANU's Disclosure of Interest Framework?</p> <p>10. Has Professor Bell ever performed any other paid outside work during her employment with the ANU?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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AEQ 25 - 008	Australian National University	Anthony Sheldon	<p>1. What are the total costs charged by the individual Mr Murray Hansen, across all contracts, to the ANU?</p> <p>2. What are the total costs charged by Julie Bishop and Partners, across all contracts, to the ANU?</p> <p>3. In additional to questions taken on notice during the hearing, please advise has Mr Murray Hansen been engaged through Vinder or in any other capacity by the ANU since 1 January 2020? If yes, please detail each engagement or contact?</p> <p>4. In additional to questions taken on notice during the hearing, please advise has Julie Bishop and Partners Hansen been engaged through Vinder or in any other capacity by the ANU since 1 January 2020? If yes, please detail each engagement or contact?</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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AEQ 25 - 009	Australian National University	Anthony Sheldon	<p>1. At the hearing, when asked whether there are preferred consultants or panels of preferred consultants, Mr Lonergan answered: “yes”. Please advise what those consultancies are.</p> <p>2. Are there preferred providers or panels of preferred providers for services relating to speechwriting, communications, corporate affairs, public relations, marketing, or related services? If yes, please advise what those providers are.</p> <p>3. Do any of the providers referred to in questions 1 or 2, or any preferred providers of any other services or on any other panels, offer speechwriting services? If yes, please advise which.</p> <p>4. Does ANU employ any speechwriters, or any professionals in related services such as communications, corporate affairs, government relations, etc., that have drafted speeches for other ANU executives or officials? If yes, please advise how many people?</p> <p>5. Does ANU believe there is no-one employed by ANU that could appropriately draft speeches for the Chancellor, including the two people employed directly in the Chancellor’s office, or in the roles referred to in the previous question?</p> <p>6. Since 2019, has any other external provider been engaged for speechwriting services for the Chancellor? If yes, please advise the names of the providers, the dates of the contracts, and the quantum of the contracts.</p> <p>7. Following the hearing, ANU provided a statement published in The Australian and Canberra Times which said “the chancellor has never engaged Vinder Consulting to provide any service to ANU” but that the “ANU communications team has, on limited occasions, decided to engage the services of Vinder Consulting.”</p> <p>Please advise:</p> <p>a. Is ANU asserting that Ms Bishop, or her office, had absolutely no involvement in the procurement of Vinder Consulting?</p> <p>b. How did the ANU communications team become aware of Vinder Consulting’s services, given it appears to have no website or public profile?</p> <p>c. On what date did those in the ANU communications team involved in the decision to first commission Vinder Consulting, first become aware of Vinder Consulting?</p> <p>d. Was the ANU communications team first informed about the services of Vinder Consulting by Ms Bishop, or by one of Ms Bishop’s</p>	Written		27/02/2025
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		<p>staff?</p> <p>e. Has Ms Bishop, or one of Ms Bishop’s staff, mentioned Vinder Consulting to the ANU communications team, or to anyone else who may have had input into the decision to commission them? If yes, please advise the dates and context.</p> <p>8. At the hearing, ANU executives were unaware of Vinder Consulting, and unaware that it is run by Ms Bishop’s business partner and former Chief of Staff. Was anyone in the ANU communications team, or anyone else involved in the process to engage Vinder Consulting, aware of this connection? If yes, please advise:</p> <p>a. When they became aware, including whether they were made aware before engaging Vinder.</p> <p>b. How they became aware.</p> <p>c. Whether any consideration was given to the potential existence of a conflict of interest.</p> <p>9. The Canberra Times reported that Vinder Consulting has received 17 contracts for a total quantum of \$35,000. Please advise:</p> <p>a. Has each of these contracts solely been for the provision of speechwriting services? If not, please advise what other services have been provided.</p> <p>b. Was the cost of each of the 17 contracts determined on a lump sum basis, or charged at an hourly rate? If the latter, please advise the hourly rate charged, including any variations since 2019 or dependant on the nature of the work.</p> <p>10. The Canberra Times reported that ANU confirmed Vinder had been engaged on a consistent basis for the last 6 years (17 contracts since 2019) to perform a specific, repeated service (speechwriting), for a total sum of \$35,000. The ANU statement in The Australian says that “all contracts were well under the minor procurement \$5000 threshold with the ANU procurement policy.”</p> <p>Are contracts that do not meet the \$5,000 threshold still subject to the conflict of interest provisions set out in the procurement procedures document?</p> <p>a. If yes, please advise how the conflict of interest managed in relation to these 17 contracts?</p> <p>11. What steps are required to be taken under ANU’s procurement rules, for contracts less than \$5,000 in value? And how were they undertaken for these 17 contracts?</p>			
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AEQ 25 - 010	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	<p>1. How many ANU students or staff have died by suicide each year, for the past 5 years?</p> <p>2. How many of these suicides have occurred on campus?</p> <p>3. Can you please provide any further demographic information on these suicides, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How many were First Nations students ii. How many were International versus Domestic students iii. Age cohorts <p>4. Are suicides on ANU campus routinely reported anywhere? If so, where and how often?</p> <p>5. When a suicide occurs on campus, is there a standardised process that the University undertakes to understand any contributing factors and address any factors that relate to the University?</p>	Written		
AEQ 25 - 011	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	<p>1. Has Peter Yu ever been remunerated for his role with Rio Tinto? If so, how much was he paid?</p> <p>2. What was Peter Yu's involvement with securing the recently announced \$240 million partnership between ANU and Rio Tinto?</p> <p>3. What processes were in place to disclose any conflicts of interest relating to Peter Yu's roles with the ANU and Rio Tinto?</p>	Written		

AEQ 25 - 012	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	<p>1. In light of the ICJ's advisory opinion of 19 July 2024 (https://www.icj-cij.org/node/204176), which declared that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including areas in East Jerusalem, are illegal under international law, what implications does this have for ANU's exchange partnership with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem? What legal reviews has ANU conducted to ensure full compliance with international obligations?</p> <p>2. What due diligence and risk assessment processes has ANU undertaken to determine whether exchange programs require or encourage student visits to areas designated as illegal settlements? How does the university address the potential legal liabilities for students who may be exposed to these areas?</p> <p>3. Can ANU confirm the number of students and faculty who have been sent to Israel or any territories considered occupied under international law in the past five years?</p> <p>4. Specifically, how many ANU students have participated in exchange or study programs in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories in the past five years?</p> <p>5. How many First Nations students have participated in exchange or study programs in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories over the same period?</p> <p>6. What measures are in place to ensure that students are not placed in areas deemed illegal under international law, particularly in settlements or military-controlled regions?</p> <p>7. Does ANU provide specific guidance, warnings, or alternative study options for students considering programs in disputed territories?</p> <p>8. How does ANU plan to transparently communicate its policies on international exchanges in disputed territories to students? What steps will be taken to revise these agreements if they are found to contravene international legal standards?</p>	Written		
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AEQ 25 - 013	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	<p>1. In previous estimates, ANU confirmed that it has not sought any legal or ethical advice regarding whether ANU personnel could be complicit in genocide through its ties to weapons companies that sell and manufacture arms used by Israel in its ongoing actions against Palestinians. Does ANU plan to seek legal or ethical advice on whether its partnerships with these weapons manufacturers expose ANU personnel to liability under international law, including under the Genocide Convention and the Rome Statute and recent ICJ decisions?</p> <p>2. If not, why has ANU chosen not to conduct due diligence on this matter, given the serious allegations of genocide and the risks of complicity?</p> <p>3. Has ANU received any legal, academic, or diplomatic warnings regarding the risks of maintaining ties with weapons manufacturers supplying arms to Israel? If so, how has ANU responded?</p> <p>4. What processes, if any, does ANU have in place to review and reconsider institutional partnerships when they are linked to serious allegations of international crimes?</p>	Written		
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AEQ 25 - 014	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	<p>1. Given the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) 19 July advisory opinion on Israel's unlawful occupation of Palestinian territory, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's (CERD) reaffirmation of Israeli apartheid and racial segregation in August 2024, and the International Criminal Court's (ICC) arrest warrants for Israeli officials on war crimes charges, how does ANU expect its adoption of the national antisemitism definition to impact the teaching of international human rights law?</p> <p>2. How will ANU ensure that these rulings, including the ICJ's July 2024 advisory opinion and the ICERD August 2024 declarations, are taught with academic integrity and without institutional interference?</p> <p>3. Will ANU ensure that these binding international legal findings are able to be taught, even if their discussion leads to criticism of Israel?</p> <p>4. Does ANU recognize the distinction between Judaism (a 3000 year old religion), Zionism (a modern political ideology), and the actions of the Israeli state as outlined by Jewish academics, legal scholars, and civil rights organizations?</p> <p>a. If so, how does ANU ensure that this distinction is upheld in both academic discourse and policy enforcement, particularly regarding accusations of antisemitism?</p> <p>5. Given students and academics have been punished for speaking out on Palestine, what concrete steps is ANU taking to ensure that staff and students can express views on Israel, apartheid, and colonialism without fear of professional or academic consequences?</p> <p>6. What steps has ANU taken to integrate international legal standards into its policies on academic freedom, ensuring that universities remain spaces for open, critical inquiry rather than enforcers of political doctrine?</p> <p>7. Does ANU's anti-racism strategy explicitly recognize and protect advocacy for Palestinian self-determination which is protected at international law as a legitimate anti-racist position?</p> <p>8. How does ANU plan to clearly differentiate between legitimate academic critique of Israel's actions—including its occupation, apartheid policies, and alleged genocide against Palestinians—and actual antisemitism?</p> <p>9. What academic and legal safeguards will ANU implement to prevent misuse of the antisemitism definition as a tool to suppress academic discourse on colonialism, genocide, and apartheid?</p>	Written		
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AEQ 25 - 015	Australian National University	Lidia Thorpe	<p>1. Can ANU provide a breakdown of how many incidents of antisemitism have been reported in the past five years?</p> <p>2. How many incidents of Islamophobia have been reported in the same period?</p> <p>3. How many incidents of racial discrimination in general have been reported, and how has ANU responded to these cases?</p>	Written		