

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT (DESE) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-23

QoN No.	Program/Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Written/Hansard	Page (Hansard)	Portfolio Question Number
1	DESE	Sue Lines	Boarding school grants program	<p>Senator LINES: ...How many schools do you think will benefit from the grants program? Ms O'Connor: We estimate that between 40 and 50 boarding providers will benefit. Dr Baxter: Remember, Senator, these are boarding providers. Senator LINES: Yes. I'm wondering how many schools you think feed into those boarding providers and might benefit. Dr Baxter: I'm just noting that boarding providers are not the same as schools. Senator LINES: I absolutely understand that. It's not a trick question. Ms O'Connor: We'd obviously need to offer it both to boarding providers attached to schools and to boarding providers that are not attached to schools. Senator LINES: So you can't put a number on the number of schools? Ms O'Connor: No. Senator LINES: Alright. Dr Baxter: We could certainly come back to you on notice, if it would be useful, with how many schools benefited last time.</p>	Hansard	26	SQ22-000186
2	DESE	Sue Lines	Respectful relationships education material	<p>Senator LINES: In relation to looking at the new funding of \$6 million, which is, according to the budget papers, to support the continued delivery of evidence-based and age-appropriate respectful relationships education material for primary and secondary school students that aligns with the Australian curriculum, will the department of education be leading on the development of these materials? Dr Baxter: Yes, that's correct. I note that there is a separate and related consent measure that DSS are leading on under the national plan. But this one here, which is developing a respectful relationships education online platform, \$6 million—that one is ours. Senator LINES: Will it be the same team in the department that was responsible for the development of the 'respect matters' milkshake and taco videos? Dr Baxter: It's certainly the Schools and Youth group, which I now lead. I wasn't leading the group at that time, and Ms O'Connor I don't think—or only towards the very end of the previous process. We have had quite a number of changes in staff since then, not for any reason other than the changes of government. Senator LINES: But you're heading it up? Dr Baxter: That's correct. Senator LINES: Is it some of the same people, or a different group? Dr Baxter: I'd have to take on notice how many changes. It looks to me like quite a different group.</p>	Hansard	29	SQ22-000188
3	DESE	Sue Lines	Respectful relationships reference panel	<p>Senator LINES: Can you give us the membership of the panel? Dr Baxter: I can. We have a range of different types of organisations on there: some that represent schools and teachers; some that represent expert family and domestic violence organisations; some that represent youth organisations; and then some that represent our special interests. We have ACARA, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. We have ACSSO, the Australian Council of State School Organisations. We have ANROWS, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety. We have the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia. We have AITSL, our Australian institute for teaching and learning; the Australian Parents Council; the Australian Primary Principals Association—would you like me to put all these on notice? Senator LINES: Yes. ...</p>	Hansard	30	SQ22-000190
4	DESE	Sue Lines	Review of The Good Society website	<p>Senator LINES: Who is the educational lead on this? Ms O'Connor: I can provide you with the details of who is in the team and their expertise. Senator LINES: That would be terrific. ...</p> <p>Cont...</p> <p>Senator LINES: While Ms O'Connor checks, I want to go back. Dr Baxter, when we were talking about the Good Society website, you referred to a deep-dive review that had been done; you had done a rapid one and then the deep dive. Were more materials taken down or amended following that deep-dive review? Dr Baxter: If it would be useful, Senator, I can talk you through what, at each stage, was taken down or changed. I've got a list here. We did it in stages. We made sure that everything had a rapid review so we could get a quick assessment, and some changes happened then. Then we went through each of them more deeply, in partnership with Monash and the expert panel. I can either put it on notice or I have it all here—what was taken down at what point. There is quite a lot of shifting, changing, advice that was given—</p>	Hansard	31	SQ22-000192

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT (DESE) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-23

5	DESE	Sue Lines	Emerging priorities fund - average grant size	<p>Senator LINES: Are you able to tell us what, for the grants that are currently awaiting approval, the average grant size is?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: No, I don't have an average grant size with me. I could take that on notice but I wouldn't be able to get it in session. I know that a number I don't have is average grant size.</p> <p>Senator LINES: But you could take it on notice?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: Yes.</p>	Hansard	32	SQ22-000193
6	DESE	Louise Pratt	Cost Benefit Analysis of Different Brands	<p>Senator PRATT: Great. Was a cost-benefit analysis done?</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: In terms of the 50 brands versus one?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes-well, we did go through this previously in relation to the issue of having so many different brands. How did you work out that it was going to be more cost efficient to do this? You could have done a fairly simple cost-benefit analysis- was one done?</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: I'd have to take that question around a particular cost-benefit analysis on notice. I think we had the conversation last time about the market research that we had; I think I raised with you concerns about the 50 brands and that it was very confusing for a number of people-citizens in Australia. So we undertook a project to do some market research to really test how easy it was to recognise and find pathways in. We took the decision, and provided a recommendation to the minister, that we collapse those into one. Having gone through that and internal departmental processes, Workforce Australia was the recommendation that we put to the minister.</p>	Hansard	45	SQ22-000144
7	DESE	Louise Pratt	Variability in data projections	<p>Senator PRATT: But if we were to look at four years across the forwards to the last year of the forwards, historically how much variability has there been in that forecast?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: It always jumps around a bit. It's no different for any special appropriation I have ever worked with. You're always making a guess and calibrating and recalibrating.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I just want a general characterisation of how much it has jumped around by.</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I couldn't give you an answer. It does jump around, but let's take on notice over the last couple of four-year periods what kinds of shifts we've seen.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I imagine they might be greater than normal, but if you can add some flavour to that, that would be great.</p>	Hansard	43	SQ22-000210
8	DESE	Louise Pratt	Course Closure Requests - prior to COVID pandemic	<p>Senator PRATT: For this year. How many course closure requests were received affecting courses in the three years prior to the COVID pandemic? So that is 2017, 2018 and 2019?</p> <p>Mr Cook: I think we'd have to take that on notice. The information we gave you in our response was for 2020, 2021 and 2022.</p>	Hansard	45	SQ22-000182
9	DESE	Louise Pratt	VET Skills Campaign Timeline	<p>Senator PRATT: When did the minister sign off on the current campaign that has not yet commenced?</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: The campaign has commenced. My certification date would have been at some time last week. I would have certified the campaign, and then the minister would have approved the launch of the campaign.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Can we please get a copy of the expected expenditure attached to the time line of the campaign? If my recollection is correct, at the last estimates you helpfully shared with us a table-I think it was for this campaign-of ads and the different kinds of bookings that had taken place under the campaign.</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: We might be able to share that with you now.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes, if you're able to table that, that would be terrific.</p>	Hansard	46	SQ22-000145
10	DESE	Louise Pratt	Expenditure of Campaign Work	<p>Ms Stewart: It went live on 27 March with that \$7.5 million advertising buy. It's due to stay live until 30 June, pending caretaker arrangements.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Does the spend stay consistent across all platforms, or are there peaks and troughs?</p> <p>Ms Stewart: I can go through the spend for each of the components of the campaign if that would help. I'm not interested in the individual components. For example, when you buy Facebook advertising you can spend \$5 a ... day or you can spend \$5,000 a day. So I'm looking for the expenditure peaks and troughs, within weeks or days, across the line items that we've been given.</p> <p>Ms Stewart: I'd have to take that on notice as to the time frames. If I could go into detail on the buy, that would indicate the emphasis on television and the other components of the campaign.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes, okay.</p> <p>Ms Stewart: For television the spend is \$2,128,306.88.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you can just pause there-has that already commenced?</p> <p>Ms Stewart: Yes, it has. It went live on 27 March.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Are you able to tell me if that spend is consistent or if it peaks and troughs at various points in time?</p> <p>Ms Stewart: I'd have to get further detail on that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Is there anyone who's able to give us that detail now?</p> <p>Ms Stewart: No, I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	47	SQ22-000146

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT (DESE) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-23

11	DESE	Louise Pratt	Key Regional Locations on VET Skills Campaign	<p>Senator PRATT: In addition to the peaks and troughs of the spend, do you have a geographical breakdown of the spend on the VET Skills campaign, please?</p> <p>Ms Stewart: What I can tell you is that it's live in key regional locations.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What are they?</p> <p>Ms Stewart: I can provide you with more detail on that, I think. It's covering all states and locations. If you want further detail on that, I'll need to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What's the information that you've got in front of you? What are the locations that are written down in front of you?</p> <p>Ms Stewart: Just key regional locations.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: And what are those locations?</p> <p>Ms Stewart: I'll have to take that on notice. I don't have further detail.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Just to be clear: do your papers just say, 'key regional locations', or do you have the locations listed?</p> <p>Ms Stewart: I don't have locations listed.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What's the balance between regional and metro then?</p> <p>Ms Stewart: Once again, I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: 'Key regional locations' is not particularly meaningful. What does that mean, do you think?</p> <p>Ms Stewart: I'll have to take it on notice in terms of getting that specific detail to you. I don't have that in front of me.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Why have a briefing note in front of you at all if all it says is 'key regional locations'?</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: I think one of the reasons is that this is a national campaign on the status of VET. We'll take it on notice, and if we can come back we'll do that in a timely way for you.</p>	Hansard	47	SQ22-000147
12	DESE	Louise Pratt	VET Skills Campaign	<p>Senator PRATT: Committed but not yet spent. Do you have the breakdown and the phasing of that campaign? Is that what was tabled last time, where we saw the phasing of it over time?</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: Yes, I'm sure that it is.</p>	Hansard	56	SQ22-000206
13	DESE	Louise Pratt	VET Skills Campaign expenditure	<p>Senator PRATT: But there's a context for JobTrainer because it was agreed with the states and territories. We now have this importance of VET campaign, which I haven't seen yet. Essentially, you say that it's been planned for a number of years, but why wasn't it planned for in last year's budget for expenditure?</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: I'll go back and check for you. We might have had some research done in previous years. I probably need a bit of help from my corporate colleagues on that. We started to do research in earlier years, and there was some expenditure around that in earlier years.</p>	Hansard	56	SQ22-000207
14	DESE	Louise Pratt	JobTrainer Campaign – Phase 2	<p>Senator PRATT: What is the cost of phase 2 in JobTrainer?</p> <p>Ms Williams: I don't know that I have that with me. Again, we can provide a breakdown of that, and we'll endeavour to do that over the course of this afternoon.</p>	Hansard	57	SQ22-000208
15	DESE	Louise Pratt	Environmental Geoscience Courses	<p>Dr Bruniges: No, it was Macquarie. We also saw a major in environmental geoscience at Macquarie under, not a Bachelor of Science, but a Bachelor of Environment. So-this is something we would have to be careful of-maybe within their Bachelor of Science you are able to do environmental geoscience; we would have to check.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes. I guess that would be consistent with the way the fee structures were changed as well, science degrees having a different weighting.</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: It may well be. But it may also be that you can pick up environmental geoscience through a Bachelor of Science.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes. I do seem to recall that environmental science did not attract as high a Commonwealth subsidy, so it could mean that unis are tweaking the profile of the course.</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: I would have to check that for you, Senator.</p>	Hansard	58	SQ22-000185
16	DESE	Louise Pratt	NESM Rollout	<p>Senator PRATT: Is it correct that in 31 regions, slightly more than 60 per cent, there was a significant disruption of local providers-that is, about 80 per cent of them, or five out of six providers, changed?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I'd need to take that on notice because obviously that analysis cuts the data in a particular way.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you can do that, that would be great.</p>	Hansard	58	SQ22-000189
17	AITSL	Louise Pratt	AITSL Number of teachers with HALT status	<p>Senator PRATT: What's the number of teachers with HALT status for each year since the initiative was implemented?</p> <p>Mr Misson: I'm not sure that I have that in the brief here. We could certainly provide it on notice.</p>	Hansard	65	SQ22-000175
18	AITSL	Louise Pratt	AITSL HALT teachers in rural and regional areas	<p>Senator PRATT: Do you also have a breakdown of HALT teachers in rural and regional areas versus-if you don't, you can take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Misson: I think we can provide that on notice, based on the survey. It won't be comprehensive, but it will give a sense of where the distribution is.</p>	Hansard	65	SQ22-000177

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT (DESE) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-23

19	DESE	Louise Pratt	Employment Services Procurement probity briefings for contracted staff	<p>Senator PRATT: What probity briefings were given to contracted staff and how were the tender bids provided to assessors?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I'd have to take on notice the detail of the probity briefings.</p>	Hansard	66	SQ22-000194
20	DESE	Louise Pratt	Teacher shortages in each year	<p>Dr Baxter: That 4,000 is a cumulative total over the four years to 2025...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Is the cumulative total for each year-</p> <p>Dr Baxter: Yes, adding what there was in a particular year to the next year.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What's the overall shortage in each year over those four or five years?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I have seen a little table, Senator. I'm sorry, I don't have that here with me. But I can give it to you on notice.</p>	Hansard	67	SQ22-000180
21	DESE	Louise Pratt	Local Jobs Program - expenditure to date	<p>Senator PRATT: the Local Jobs Program. How much has been spent on the Local Jobs Program since 2021-22? Is it fully operational in each of the initial 25 employment regions, and does each region have a facilitator, a task force, a plan and a recovery fund?</p> <p>Ms Kidd: Yes, the Local Jobs Program has been rolled out in the 51 employment regions. It was done in two tranches. The first was 25 regions, followed by 26 regions. The rollout has included engaging employment facilitators and support staff. It's involved developing local jobs plans, which are data-rich plans. We work with the National Skills Commission to have local data, which we then develop, and we work with the task forces to identify priorities in the area. Each area has a task force established. They're highly successful and very engaged. They meet monthly, and, to date, we've averaged at least 80 per cent membership at each of the task force meetings. From time to time a facilitator may leave, and then we do a gap-filling exercise, but I think we have permanent facilitators in all of the regions right now.</p> <p>In terms of funding across the program-unfortunately I have to disaggregated it, but I guess the key message on the funding is it's in four main elements. We have the Local Recovery Fund. That was tracking a little bit behind in terms of expenditure, due to initial implementation lags and COVID impacts with rollout. We also found that, with the Local Recovery Fund, we really need to build our stakeholder connections before we can establish projects, so its expenditure is skewed towards later in the year.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Overall, how much has been spent to date? Perhaps you could take on notice how much has been spent in each region to date.</p> <p>Ms Kidd: Yes, certainly.</p>	Hansard	69	SQ22-000195
22	DESE	Mehreen Faruqi	Enrolments in Public Schools	<p>Senator FARUQI: When Senator Pratt was asking for the number of enrolments over the next years, you said it's very hard to predict what those might be, but you have predicted them to come up with the budgetary figures, right?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: That's right. I did say to you that we will have some figures in the machine that are predicting those forward to reach these numbers.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: You will provide those figures to us?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I've mentioned that we will look at what we can provide on notice. In real-time, having conversations here, there's nothing we can give you, but, because of the characteristics, I am really loath to give you any suggestion that it's a simple formula between number and dollars.</p>	Hansard	70	SQ22-000154
23	TEQSA	Louise Pratt	TEQSA Regulator Tertiary Higher Education Website Information	<p>Senator PRATT: Do all of your regulator tertiary higher education entities have that information on their website?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Maclean: I'd would have to take that on notice. So do all of them have information available on their websites?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What proportion of entities that you regulate have that information accessible on their website? I would assume that you would be able to gather that answer, given that TEQSA undertook back in 2019 that it would be part of the registration process for renewal?</p> <p>Mr Maclean: I will take that on notice. I don't have the information in front of me or with me today, but I'm confident that a majority of providers would have that information on their websites and available, partly because of the number of re-registrations that we've undertaken over the last 4 1/2 to five years. But we would have to respond to you on notice.</p>	Hansard	71	SQ22-000172
24	TEQSA	Louise Pratt	TEQSA Registration Assessment in Universities for each Financial Year Since 2017	<p>Senator PRATT: You provided information on a number of registration-related sexual assault and sexual harassment assessments that you've undertaken. Can you please provide an update on how many registration-related assessments TEQSA has undertaken, in relation to universities specifically, in each financial year since 2017?</p> <p>Mr Maclean: May I take that on notice? I don't have that information, specifically, to hand.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Do you have an overview of the information that you could give us now? I appreciate you might need to correct it, but I'm just interested in whether you regularly assess sexual assault and harassment, as often as, for example, other parameters that you assess a university for.</p> <p>Mr Maclean: A simple mathematical approach on one level is that, of the 188 providers who get reregistered, on average-well, the requirement is at least every seven years, but the average is probably more like five, so we would be reregistering</p>	Hansard	73	SQ22-000173

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT (DESE) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-23

				<p>approximately 30 providers each year. That tends to fluctuate somewhat because of the cycle. So, in reregistering providers, we would be looking at around-30 a year, Peter?</p> <p>Prof. Coaldrake: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Maclean: And standards 2.3, 2.4 and standard 6, in relation to student wellbeing, grievance procedures and governance, cover off, in each of those reregistration processes, the issue of SASH. That gives a rough indication, but I would like to take that on notice and give you a more complete and accurate response as well.</p>			
25	ACARA	Louise Pratt	ACARA NAPLAN Test	<p>Senator PRATT: No, I understand it. Can you please list all subjects and year levels where the gap has widened between 2016 and 2021? Do you have any of that information?</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho: Other than what's in the media release at the time, I haven't got that, but we can take it on notice unless Peter has got it in front of him.</p> <p>Mr Titmanis: There's quite a bit of data there. There's years 3, 5, 7 and 9. There's reading, numeracy and writing. It would be easier to do it on notice if we could.</p>	Hansard	77	SQ22-000174
26	ACARA	Louise Pratt	ACARA NAPLAN National Minimum Standard Gaps	<p>Mr Titmanis: The national minimum standard is located at the end of a normal distribution, if you like. At the end of a normal distribution, whether it's looking at the very high performers or the less able students, the size of the measurement area is very large. Because the national minimum standard sits quite close to the end of the continuum, it's probably not the best measure to be looking at when comparing year on year. Sure, that's what the data actually does say, but when we look over time, those figures do [inaudible] on whether it's 2019 to 2021 or whether it's previous years. So it's probably not the most insightful measure.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Do gaps like that occur across other strands, domains or year levels of the data?</p> <p>Mr Titmanis: I'd have to go back and look at the data. I don't have it at hand. I might take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	78	SQ22-000176
27	DESE	Louise Pratt	Townsville VET Projects	<p>Senator PRATT: How do those metrics compare to other hubs in terms of the deepness and the value and the relevance of the engagement?</p> <p>Ms Sharp: I think the really detailed comparative assessment will occur as part of the evaluation.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay. Am I correct that there have been four projects funded in Townsville in 14 months, and the reason behind that is that they have submitted just four? Do they have any more under consideration currently?</p> <p>Ms Sharp: I would need to take that on notice and find out.</p>	Hansard	95	SQ22-000157
28	DESE	Janet Rice	Suspension of Mutual Obligation	<p>Senator RICE: I want to ask about the suspension of mutual obligations in flood affected areas. On both 17 and 31 March the suspension of mutual obligation in flood affected areas was set to end, and on each of these days it was announced right at the very end, at the eleventh hour, that they were extended. It was good that they were extended, but why did the department wait until the final day of the original suspension period to announce this extension?</p> <p>Ms Gordon: When we make decisions about the suspension of mutual obligations, a range of factors are taken into account. When things are changing on the ground, we also consult with our state and territory network and the officers that we have on the ground to assess whether or not mutual obligations need to be extended. In some of the cases, we were waiting to see the extent of impact and to get intelligence from the providers and others on the ground. In some of the areas, the impact was more extensive and warranted the extension. In other areas, we didn't extend. In those areas there was still the opportunity, where there were individuals that were impacted, for mutual obligations to be suspended at an individual level. So there's still that flexibility to suspend for individuals that are impacted and can't meet the requirements under the mutual obligation requirements.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Do you acknowledge that it adds to people's stress when they're dealing with floods to not know until the very last day that they don't have to continue to comply with their mutual obligations?</p> <p>Ms Gordon: I think I would need to go back and look at the exact timing of the communication because I don't think it was on the day that it was suspended. I would need to check when they were notified.</p> <p>Senator Stoker: Perhaps you could take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Gordon: I would be happy to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	97	SQ22-000158
29	DESE	Janet Rice	Communication to Providers in Flood Affected Areas	<p>Senator RICE: And how far in advance were providers informed about the suspension of mutual obligations in those flood affected areas?</p> <p>Ms Gordon: I would need to take that on notice as well. We obviously send a communication to the providers but we then also follow-up with text messages to individuals as well.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Does the text message specify? Does it say, 'Your mutual obligation is currently suspended' or is it suspended for a specific period of time? If it was suspended for a week, you would think, 'I don't have any appointments with my provider for the next week, but I have one on the Monday so I know I still need to go,' or does the message just say that it's suspended? But then it is unsuspended and the appointment is tomorrow, but you are nowhere near going because you weren't aware that it can be unsuspended. How does that work?</p> <p>Ms Gordon: I would need to take on notice the exact wording of the text messages that were sent on this occasion. There are obviously text limits for SMSs and often we will point people to the website for more information so that they can log on and</p>	Hansard	97	SQ22-000159

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT (DESE) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-23

				<p>get the specific information that is relevant to them. They are notified about any suspension that impacts on them. If there is a decision to extend, they would be notified of that as well.</p> <p>Senator RICE: I was told on both of those occasions it was the final day of the original suspension period that it was announced that the mutual obligation suspension was being extended. Would the providers have been told earlier than that before a public announcement?</p> <p>Ms Gordon: Possibly, I just don't have the exact date of the notification, but I'm very happy to take it on notice. Ideally, we would want to give people as much notice as possible for those kinds of things.</p> <p>Senator RICE: You obviously weren't in this instance. Also, what material was provided to the providers to anticipate the changes? When were they told that they were not going to have the interviews with people, that mutual obligation of the extension has been extended? What is given to the providers?</p>			
30	DESE	Janet Rice	Correspondences to Providers and Peak bodies of Suspension of Mutual Obligation Suspended	<p>Ms Gordon: They will be notified that the mutual obligation requirements are suspended for a particular period of time and that would be information that is provided to them. There is no detailed instructions on how to give effect to that. That is part of their usual business to implement suspensions. Obviously, all through Covid there were a number of-</p> <p>Senator RICE: It would be through an email?</p> <p>Ms Gordon: Generally it's a direction letter from me as deputy secretary to the CEOs of each of the providers. Senator RICE: Can you take on notice tabling that letter as to what information is given to those providers? Ms Gordon: Yes.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Were there any stakeholders other than the job providers who were alerted earlier than the day it was publicly announced that mutual obligations would be-</p> <p>Ms Gordon: We would generally also notify peak bodies as well about any decisions like that so they are aware of those.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Which peak bodies?</p> <p>Ms Gordon: NESA and Jobs Australia. I would need to take on notice exactly who on these particular occasions were part of that communication.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Any advocacy or community organisations?</p> <p>Ms Gordon: I would need to take that on notice and check.</p>	Hansard	98	SQ22-000160
31	DESE	Janet Rice	Jobseeker Suspended their Mutual Obligation	<p>Senator RICE: What's the process then for a jobseeker? Basically, rather than having the suspension extended across an area, does an individual jobseeker then have to say, 'I'm being badly affected by floods; I can't meet my mutual obligation'? They've got to make contact with their job provider to request that?</p> <p>Ms Gordon: The contact could be instigated either way, either by the provider or by the jobseeker, depending on the particular circumstances.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Can you take on notice what proportion of jobseekers in those other LGAs have sought that and had their mutual obligations then suspended because of it?</p>	Hansard	99	SQ22-000161
32	DESE	Janet Rice	Outstanding Complaints Made on National Customer Service Line	<p>Senator RICE: You provided me with some data that said that complaints were made against 171 unique providers. Can you tell me how many complaints each of those providers had over that period?</p> <p>Ms Ryan: I'm going to have to take that one on notice because I don't have that breakdown here tonight, I'm afraid.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Okay. There were 12,700 complaints received, of which only 4,231 were resolved. What's the status of the other 8,000 or so?</p> <p>Ms Ryan: I'll just go back to your question on notice so I can have a look at that. I might have to follow up and get some supplementary advice on that one, if that's all right.</p> <p>Mr Smyth: I think, in response to that question, it says that they were resolved by an NCSL facilitated transfer. That was just one of the aspects of how they were resolved. It was a transfer. That was a transfer, potentially, from one provider to another.</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: I think the senator's asking what happened to the remainder.</p> <p>Senator RICE: That's right.</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: We might have to take it on notice to see what they were resolved by.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Smyth: We'll take on notice how they were resolved. But, in the vast majority of cases, we have resolved all of the complaints-</p> <p>Senator RICE: But that's not what your statistics-</p> <p>Mr Smyth: But I'll have to get that to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator RICE: The statistics show that you're actually only resolving about a third of them.</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: I think that's only one component. I think that's what the staff are saying. That's only one component-</p> <p>Mr Smyth: Yes, that's only one component.</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: and that's the component of the NCSL.</p> <p>Senator RICE: It might have been useful to have a more expansive information in response to my question on notice, then.</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: Yes. It might've been in our best interests to show that more than that many were resolved.</p>	Hansard	101	SQ22-000162
33	DESE	Janet Rice	Results of Quality of Job Plans	<p>Senator RICE: Are you able to provide me with the results of those audits?</p>	Hansard	102	SQ22-000163

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT (DESE) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-23

				<p>Ms Shannon: I'd need to take that on notice. There may be some commercially sensitive information in there. But we can certainly give you aggregate data about the proportion of providers who meet the requirements, and we can give you information about the quantum of administration fees that we will seek to raise.</p> <p>Senator RICE: How about the percentage of satisfactory plans per provider?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I think we can do that. I'll take that on notice, if that's okay.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Alright.</p> <p>Ms Shannon: I think some transparency around this is useful, to drive stronger provider compliance.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Shannon: So, I will certainly take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator RICE: I look forward to receiving some expansive information, then. Thank you, Ms Shannon.</p>			
34	DESE	Janet Rice	Mutual Obligation - 8 November Communication to Jobactive providers	<p>Senator RICE: ...The other one in my question on notice was about outlining the communication to jobactive providers about mutual obligations, and you talk about a formal direction that went to them on 8 November. Can I get a copy of that formal direction, please.</p> <p>Mr Smyth: We can take that on notice, certainly.</p>	Hansard	102	SQ22-000199
35	DESE	Matthew O'Sullivan	New Target for Job Placements	<p>Senator O'SULLIVAN: Excellent. I now want to go to the new employment services. Just looking through the portfolio budget statement. On page 79, you have got the performance measures. There is a performance measure for the proportion of job placements sustained to 26 weeks with a target of 30 per cent or higher. I understand that that would be in the current program. I can't see what the equivalent target is under the new model. Is there a similar target or are we expecting improved outcomes?</p> <p>Mr Smyth: Can I take that on notice, Senator? I do have a recollection of where I can find that information, but at the moment I don't have it on me.</p>	Hansard	104	SQ22-000164
36	DESE	Louise Pratt	51 Employment Regions	<p>Senator PRATT: Of the 51 employment regions, how many have seen contracts awarded to new providers who were not present in those regions prior?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: Again I think that goes to my first answer. In many employment regions there may be one or two continuing providers and one or two new providers, so we couldn't-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes, I understand that. Nevertheless, I'd like to know how many have seen contracts awarded to new providers.</p> <p>Mr Smyth: We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Will you be able to, please, provide a table of the 51 regions with the existing providers and the new providers and their predicted case loads? I understand the model has changed-</p>	Hansard	107	SQ22-000165
37	DESE	Louise Pratt	Turn Over of Providers	<p>Senator PRATT: How many regions had at least one provider turned over? Was that all of them?</p> <p>Ms Shannon: It would be the vast majority; I think that would be fair to say. I think there are some ERs where all of the current providers are continuing providers.</p> <p>Mr Smyth: I'm just trying to look through my list here. Can we take that on notice and come back to you, please, Senator? I would generally say that it is the vast majority, if not all areas, did have some turnover of providers.</p>	Hansard	111	SQ22-000166
38	DESE	Louise Pratt	Improvement of Employment	<p>Senator PRATT: Thank you. Which regions in Australia haven't seen the same level of improvement in employment? What's the variation across Australian regions like at the moment? Use, if you like, the 51 regions you've got. I'd be keen to know which regions have not done as well as others.</p> <p>Mr Smyth: That might well be a question for the National Skills Commissioner. But the- Senator PRATT: But you would see it in your case loads in those regions.</p> <p>Mr Smyth: And it varies enormously, because there are geographical and skills mismatches that are occurring, and different labour demands for different sectors and the like, all across the economy.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I understand that being a jobactive participant is not the same as the unemployment profile. Mr Smyth: That's correct. Because 28 per cent of the case load are working at any point in time.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I understand that. But I'm still interested in which regions, of these 51 regions, based on the jobactive cohort- therefore those that are dependent on social security payments for at least some of their income- have the highest rates of unemployment.</p> <p>Mr Smyth: I'd honestly have to take that on notice. I don't have that with me at the moment. I normally have it in an electronic format that I can access. But I don't have my laptop here to be able to do that. The one thing though is that our National Skills Commissioner will look at labour force across different regions across Australia, but he generally won't break it down by employment region as per the employment services case load. He will look at SA4s [inaudible]</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes. I was looking at that data today, and I really wanted to be to translate it into these regions.</p> <p>Mr Smyth: I'll see what I can do to provide you with a list, if I can, of the 51 employment regions and the unemployment rates across each of those different regions.</p>	Hansard	113	SQ22-000167

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT (DESE) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-23

39	DESE	Louise Pratt	Labour Hire Staff	<p>Ms Shannon: The staff ranged from the APS 3 level to the EL 2 level. The vast majority of them would have been at the APS 3 or 4 level because the largest contingent were our assessors.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you could take on notice what documentation you have for that contract approval type process. There might be existing documentation in relation to that.</p> <p>Ms Shannon: We use an existing panel arrangement.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you could refer me to what that panel arrangement is.</p>	Hansard	115	SQ22-000168
40	DESE	Louise Pratt	Employment Fund	<p>Senator PRATT: How much is allocated to the employment fund under enhanced services funding, year by year, over the forward estimates?</p> <p>Mr Smyth: Could we take that on notice? I'm not sure of the actual allocation because it depends very much on the inflow of caseload that comes into the system. So it will depend on the numbers that we have forecast and it would be allocated across that.</p>	Hansard	116	SQ22-000169
41	DESE	Louise Pratt	Skills and Training Incentive in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to date	<p>Senator PRATT: How many people accessed the Skills and Training Incentive in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to date?</p> <p>Ms Gordon: I've got the number of participants and the incentives committed. In 2021-22 we had 2,093 registered participants in the Skills and Training Incentive, with 2,011 incentives committed.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: And in the previous year?</p> <p>Ms Gordon: In 2020-21 we had 3,552 registered participants, with 3,472 incentives committed. Obviously the 2021-22 figures are as at 28 February.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Based on those figures they'll probably reach about the same level, by the look of it. What is the take-up of non-accredited courses compared to the overall program?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Gordon: I'm not sure I have that information. I'm sorry, Senator, I don't have that breakdown. I can take that on notice for you.</p>	Hansard	119	SQ22-000171
42	DESE	Louise Pratt	Australian Future Leaders Program	<p>Senator PRATT:I want to now ask about the Australian Future Leaders Program.</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: That would be the Australian Public Service Commission or one you are referring to with-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I think it's from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. We heard in Senate estimates earlier in the week that money would go to a foundation called the Australian Future Leaders Foundation-that is, \$18 million over five years and \$4 million for the Australian Future Leaders Program.</p> <p>Senator Reynolds: I think that might be PM&C, not DESE.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator PRATT: This is \$18 million over five years and \$4 million per year after that?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I wouldn't normally talk to programs from other agencies. That is a PM&C measure; we would refer that to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, but I will see what work we have done with PM&C. I'll get someone to get that to us in session if I can; otherwise we'll include it in our answer for you on notice.</p> <p>cont page 25</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I'm simply trying to find out how the consultation and engagement that the Youth Policy Framework and the work led by Dr Baxter has with the young people involved in those program and their organisations intersects with the work of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, which has been taken on notice.</p> <p>Senator Reynolds: Dr Baxter has taken that on notice several times.</p>	Hansard	23-25	SQ22-000197
43	DESE	Sue Lines	Commonwealth regional scholarships program	<p>Senator LINES: So you're currently looking at whether the department will administer it or whether you'll use an outside organisation? Is that what you are working through?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: They are two options in a range of options. The secretary also has an Indigenous education consultation mechanism that we use in the department. It's one of our commitments to partnership in the department. So we expect to have discussions not just with our coalition of peaks partners but also with our education specific group. But they have some very clear views, often about how this piece should be done and the right ways to work in partnership. It is difficult sometimes to strike a balance between needing to move as fast as we can to get this money out and our commitment to partnership, but we expect to have discussions with those groups as we develop the right approach.</p> <p>Senator LINES: When do you expect to be in a position to make that decision?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I might come back to you on that one. I would say to you that, on each of these and particularly on measures that have a school year start date, we are moving with haste, as quickly as we can, and that's why we've started to get letters out and make sure our stakeholders know. I pre-briefed the secretaries group of Indigenous partners and I've also talked to other Indigenous stakeholders about it, so we're getting poised. But we do need to make sure we get the model right and we don't</p>	Hansard	27-28	SQ22-000187

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT (DESE) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-23

				want to assume. Sometimes the preferred approach is actually not to go through a third-party provider but to have the department administer it. We need to have those discussions.			
44	DESE	Louise Pratt	Research and Development Investment	<p>Senator PRATT:..... The department has previously advised in relation to advice on research and development investment as a proportion of GDP. Are you able to provide the committee with an update on that data? What's the proportion of GDP in the most recent year that you have data for?</p> <p>Mr Cook: Off the top of my head, I think it's 1.76 per cent. I might have to take that on notice. That's my recollection, unless Mr English has more detail around it.</p> <p>Mr English: No. That's not one that updates particularly regularly because it's dependent on the ABS survey which is conducted every two years. I'll be able to dig that out. I'd be surprised if that number is much different to the one you have.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: We haven't asked for this for a while, as I understand it, so I'm looking for the four years prior and the trend over the last eight years.</p> <p>Mr Cook: I am happy to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	45-46	SQ22-000181
45	DESE	Mehreen Faruqi	Trends of Growth in the Sector	<p>Senator FARUQI: So it is not the Commonwealth number of student places that is reducing?</p> <p>Mr English: No, it's not. It was the resources per student to reflect the data we had on the cost of delivery and then we put in growth. We used that dividend to put greater growth in student funding over time. It takes a few years for that to build up over time, especially when you have to take into account the interaction between the grandfathered students, who are still in the system and their coming out over time, and the new students coming into the system who are funded under the new model. Over time, there is a period of this three-year funding agreement while that is being resolved. The result of that is a substantially increased rate of growth for the sector beyond this funding agreement that was made possible by harvesting and efficiency, and turning that into additional places at a better level of indexation going forward for the sector.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Could you provide us, on notice, the trends after that? Have you estimated what the trends will be?</p> <p>Mr English: We have answered that on notice in the past.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Do you remember for how many years-the next five or 10 years?</p> <p>Mr English: I'll check.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: If you could, that would be good. Even though Commonwealth places are increasing, obviously funding for universities is decreasing. It makes no sense to me.</p> <p>Mr English: The other thing you have to remember is-apologies for the point-you're only looking at the Commonwealth contribution side. Obviously, there are the student contributions which need to be factored in as well.</p>	Hansard	51-52	SQ22-000148
46	DESE	Mehreen Faruqi	Student Loan Debt	<p>Senator FARUQI: The average debt now is about \$24,000 per person, and the number of people with debts is about 50,000. It has continued to grow. I think there were 278,000 people last year who had debts above \$50,000. And, obviously, this debt is indexed every year. With the quite high rates of inflation and low wages growth, do you expect the average level of debt to increase in the coming years?</p> <p>Mr English: We don't model the trajectory of outstanding debt in that fashion. We have estimates of the debt that students will accrue each year, for the purposes of the budget forecasts, but not the actual outstanding debt per student. It's likely I could extract something from the AGA modelling to provide to you.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: It has been increasing, though, over the years. The average debt has been increasing.</p> <p>Mr English: It has simply been a matter of more students taking more study per person on average over time, indexation and raising the value of the loan that a student takes out at any given point in time compared to the past, a whole range of different career pathways that people face when they leave university, and the arrangements in the loan system itself that mean that they don't pay that loan back until they are in what has been defined as a position that is better than they were in when they started studying generally. So there's a whole range of reasons why the debt per person will vary over time. We will happily see what we can extract from the AGA analysis, because there is inherently built into that some assessment that they bring when they-</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: If you could, that would be great.</p>	Hansard	52-53	SQ22-000149
47	DESE	Louise Pratt	Taskforce to Monitor Universities Responses to Assault on Campus	<p>Senator PRATT: Had the former education minister Simon Birmingham prepared terms of reference for a task force?</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: He is no longer the minister for education, so I don't think he'd be preparing terms for a task force.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Did he previously? This issue of sexual harassment on campus has been around quite a long time. Did the former minister ever prepare terms of reference, not in response to this report but in response to the issue of sexual harassment and assault on campuses?</p> <p>Dr Bruniges: I'd have to go back in time and check the records.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: That's fine, but what I actually wanted was whether the government had prepared terms of reference previously. Mr Cook or Mr English, are you aware?</p>	Hansard	54-55	SQ22-000150

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT (DESE) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-23

				<p>Mr Cook: We'll take that on notice. I wasn't here. But what is important is that the regulator, TEQSA, has a specific role in relation to sexual harassment and sexual assault on university campuses. It is actually part of the regulatory requirement. Just to be very clear about it: TEQSA has a role to monitor and report on higher education</p> <p>...</p> <p>institution responses to incidents of sexual assault and sexual harassment. It is a core standard. It's in the Higher Education Standards Framework, section 2.3, 'Wellbeing and Safety', subpoints 4 and 5. TEQSA assesses all universities in relation to it. TEQSA also receives sexual assault and harassment complaints from students and investigates the response that higher education providers have made in relation to issues raised by those complaints. TEQSA has also done a good practice note. That note is available on the TEQSA website. TEQSA released a statement last week, when the Universities Australia National Student Safety Survey was released, again outlining that it was a requirement of the framework for all providers to have in place appropriate policies and procedures to prevent and respond to allegations, reports or incidents of sexual assault or sexual harassment involving their students. TEQSA is on next week, I think. There might be further questions for them, but I can assure you, having met with TEQSA, that they take this issue very, very seriously and that they do ask individual providers to provide documented evidence of the work they're doing in these areas.</p> <p>Page 58 Continues Senator PRATT: Senator Reynolds, I believe you now have a copy of this article? Senator Reynolds: Yes. Senator PRATT: Underneath Minister Birmingham's picture is a quote from said email: "... I have briefed the office, ... on where things were up to before recent developments and have passed on relevant documentation including the [terms of reference] and proposed composition of the taskforce." Are you now prepared to let Mr English answer whether he's aware of that documentation? Senator Reynolds: Having a look at this, it actually cites two previous ministers. Given that it was over three years ago that this story was published, as I said, we'll take it on notice and check to get the correct answer for you. Senator PRATT: I'm simply asking about Mr English's recollection, not about anything else. Senator Reynolds: We'll take it on notice-that's entirely appropriate.</p>			
48	DESE	Louise Pratt	JobTrainer and VET Skills Campaigns	<p>Senator PRATT: I'll now ask some questions about the VET skills campaigns, which we also touched on last week. I have some misunderstandings that I need to clarify. The portfolio budget statement for 2021-22, page 73, had \$11.27 million for a skills communication campaign for 2021-22. I think that's the money you said had already been spent. Can you remind me what that consisted of and what was being promoted?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>cont page 55</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So, in terms of the money that's still to be spent overall, it's the \$7.8 million plus the \$7.5 million that's to be spent this financial year. Dr Bruniges: The \$7.8 million is committed around the skills campaign. As I said, I think there's a little bit of residual around JobTrainer. Let me have a look. I'll try to get an amount for you over the break for that, just to be clear about it. Senator PRATT: Okay. Can you break down that \$7.8 million? If you need to refer to the \$2.97 million that's already been spent in order to do that, that's fine too. Dr Bruniges: Yes. Senator PRATT: Is the \$2.97 million for the development and the \$7.8 million for the rollout of it? Dr Bruniges: I think so. I think some of it would be developmental costs—the \$2.9 million—and the other is committed. I'm presuming that, but I will get clarity on that for you from the team. I assume that we'll have to do a single sheet for you on that breakdown.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>cont page 57</p> <p>Senator PRATT: In terms of the 2021-22 budget, \$11.27 million is largely for JobTrainer. The difference, which is decided at MYEFO, which brings it up to \$19.43 million, is the new VET skills campaign. Dr Bruniges: Yes. Senator PRATT: From what I understood, in the VET skills campaign, there's \$7.8 million to be spent that will largely cover the media buy. What was in the \$2.97 million that's already been spent? I assume that's mostly development, but I don't know; \$2 million seems like a lot of money. Dr Bruniges: I think we've said that before, but I can check that for you. It was \$2.9 million, I think, for development, and the \$7 million I referred to would be committed but not yet spent.</p>	Hansard	54-57	SQ22-000198
49	DESE	Louise Pratt	Australia's Economic Accelerator	<p>Senator PRATT: Thank you. Just quickly, regarding Australia's economic accelerator, which we've touched on briefly, the budget papers show that only \$500 million-less than a third of the funding in the Prime Minister's announcement-will be delivered in the next five years. Is that correct?</p>	Hansard	57-58	SQ22-000151

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT (DESE) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-23

				<p>Mr Cook: Of the total \$2.2 billion, \$1.2 billion will be delivered over the next five years. Senator PRATT: So, you're saying it's just a little over half in the next five years? Mr Cook: For the total research commercialisation package, yes, that's correct. Senator Reynolds: But I would point out that it's a 10-year program, and you wouldn't expect a 10-year program's funding to be spent in the first five years. Senator PRATT: I'm just trying to work out where I got the \$500 million figure from. How much is that \$1 billion of funding back-ended outside the forward estimates, of the total project, from now? ... Mr Cook: As I indicated, of the \$2.2 billion over 10 years, \$1.2 billion is spent over the forward estimates, which- ... Senator PRATT: Okay. So, given all that, it's correct that \$500 million of that accelerator program is being spent in the next five years. Can you please provide a breakdown of the funding for the accelerator program over the medium term? Mr Cook: I'm happy to take that on notice.</p>			
50	DESE	Mehreen Faruqi	Child Care Hot Spots	<p>Dr Bruniges: Where the access is? There are clearly some hotspots, where people were seeking more child care. The government, with its announcement of 20 additional centres, will, indeed, fill some of that gap. With the other information that we have, we know through childcare subsidy where parents are. Mr Philips pointed out that ... it's not only within 10 minutes travel, as the report has suggested, but a lot of parents in a lot of areas will choose centres that are close to where they're working as opposed to where they're living. Senator FARUQI: Do you know how many of these parents choose that? Dr Bruniges: I'm happy to take that on notice. Senator FARUQI: If you could, I think it would be good to have a bit of a map. Dr Bruniges: We'll have a look through Services Australia data and see what we can do.</p>	Hansard	60-61	SQ22-000152
51	DESE	Louise Pratt	Providers working across a number of programs	<p>Senator PRATT: How many log-ons might there be in a week under the current system, and what are you expecting under the new one? Mr Smyth: Again, it's very hard to estimate that because the organisations that have contracts with us will be responsible for the workforce that they employ and devote to the service delivery. We don't have a say in that. We contract with them to deliver a service. How they then constitute themselves in relation to the number of staff, the frontline, the back end, is purely a decision for them. We don't dictate that at all. Senator PRATT: Are there 17½ thousand people in the employment services system, or just for NESM? Mr Smyth: No, that is across DES and CDP as well. Senator PRATT: Do you know how many are attached just to NESM? Mr Smyth: I don't have that detail on me, no. Senator PRATT: In my experience, there are some individuals that will work across a number of programs. Mr Smyth: There could well be. Senator PRATT: But in others, other providers, you'll only be interacting in one program rather than many, unless you're in a management role. Are you able to tell us how many individuals log into the NESM system currently? Mr Smyth: I'd have to take that on notice. Senator PRATT: Or the jobactive system currently? Mr Smyth: I'd have to take that on notice. Dr Bruniges: I imagine the beauty of having the nearly unique ID means that we're able to gain a line of sight to whether the one person is indeed, as you suggested, working across a number of programs.</p> <p>cont: page 62</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you want to say, 'Yes, we want to deliver on lower caseloads,' how are you going to prove that you've done that? Mr Smyth: We will certainly be working with our providers to better understand how they're servicing their caseload. As I said, we'll get the experience of participants in the caseload as well. We'll be talking to providers. Our account managers will be having those discussions with them. But we're not dictating how the provider constitutes their business to actually manage the caseload. We're managing performance. If they're not performing-that is, because they're not getting the outcomes and participants are feeling that they're not getting the tailored services that they require-then those providers won't continue in the current system. We will exit them and we will bring in new providers. Senator PRATT: Say that 16,000 of the 17½ thousand in the system are- Mr Smyth: I don't know how many people are working in DES or in CDP. Even for that figure alone, I wouldn't be able to verify that. Senator PRATT: Can you take that on notice so that we can find out how many log-ons exist in each? Mr Smyth: I took it on notice; we'll do our best.</p>	Hansard	60-62	SQ22-000191

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT (DESE) QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-23

52	DESE	Louise Pratt	Projected Data Enrolment	<p>Senator PRATT: Okay. Are you able to tell us, please, your numbers that you forecast for 2022, 2023 and 2024?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: No. I'd have to take those on notice, but I can give you a sense because it's based on backward projections, so we project looking at the numbers we've seen in the census to date and what the trend has been and we use that to project forward about what we expect increases to be. We still expect there to be increases. It's just that between budget 2021-22 and budget 2022-23 that trend shifted about the size of the increase. This is partly because of the shift that we've seen between the government and non-government sectors. It's also, as I've said, the result of the way that these loadings operate. I've just spoken to you about one-the disability loading, where we've seen quite different approaches from the government and non-government sectors-but, as you know, there are a range of other loadings relating to socioeconomic status, regionality and non-English-speaking backgrounds-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes.</p> <p>Dr Baxter: and each of them has a part to play as well. I've mentioned that-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: But each of your actuals for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 would have various breakdowns of that that you use in part to get to your assumptions for enrolments across all those different cohorts that then in turn contribute to the resourcing allocation. Surely you do have the actual figures with you.</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I do have them for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, but obviously we don't have the actuals yet for 2022.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I'm not asking for actuals; I'm asking for the estimation that takes into account those variations that you have talked about.</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I'm very happy to take the forward projections on notice, noting that the dollar figure, as I've said, that eventuates is not a simple matter of how many students there are. It's about those student characteristics.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I understand that.</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I could give you the ones for the past four years that are indicating the trend, because that actually shows you the trend of slowing increase in government schools. I can give you those. I can certainly take the others on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay. Could you tell us quickly what it-</p> <p>Dr Baxter: The high level is the number I've just given you, which shows that between 2020 and 2021 there was minus 1.6 per cent growth, but that's off the back of a trend over the last four years where that growth was slowing, so you saw, for example, between 2018 and 2019, 1Y2 per cent growth, then about 1Y2 per cent growth and then a one per cent decrease, which adds to a 1.6 per cent decrease.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you can't give us the figures, could you please provide the change in student enrolments, both as a percentage change and as a number of students?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I've just given you the percentages. Would you like me to give you the student numbers? These are obviously backward looking, because these are the actual-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: No, I'm looking for the projected change.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I have the backward projections that constitute the trend here and I can take the forward projections on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I guess what I'm really trying to do, Dr Baxter-and there has been media debate about this today-</p> <p>Dr Baxter: Yes.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you want to be able to correct it, we need to understand the projected enrolment data that it's based on, really other than, 'It's just the model.' We would like to be able to understand that today, either as a percentage or as a number of students-preferably both.</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I'm happy to see if we get that for you in session for the forward years. I'm not sure whether that's something that we would have. We can have a look at it.</p>	Hansard	68-69	SQ22-000153
53	DESE	Louise Pratt	National Priority Fund	<p>Ms Kidd: The minister's office doesn't have a role in any of the projects. The National Priority Fund is the \$50 million that you mentioned, and that is \$12.5 million per year. We've put out a request for tender. We've got a two-stage process there. We've received applications-in fact, way more than we anticipated-totalling around \$300 million. So it was quite a process to sift through those and find the best. We're in the process of receiving their proposals and we're about to fund those projects.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Are you able to tell us how much will be available for each region and for each project? I think you've just covered how many requests were lodged or expressions of interest came in for the National Priority Fund.</p> <p>Ms Kidd: The National Priority Fund is not regional, it is national. It targets the large structural barriers to work-things like accommodation and transport. It also has a job creation element to it. So that's quite a different fund. I think I mentioned that there were \$300 million worth of bids, and we had 241 applications.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: How many can you fund out of the \$50 million?</p> <p>Ms Kidd: It depends on value-and value for money as well.</p> <p>Mr Smyth: And it obviously depends on whether they meet the requirements under the tender.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: How many have been shortlisted?</p> <p>Ms Kidd: I think it's in the order of 30. I don't seem to have the figure here.</p> <p>Mr Smyth: We'll take that on notice and get back to you, Senator.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay. The second RTF was due on 24 March. How many were received, when will those outcomes be advised and how will they be assessed?</p> <p>Ms Kidd: Is this for the-</p>	Hansard	71-72	SQ22-000196

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				<p>Senator PRATT: Round 2. Mr Smyth: Round 2-second tranche. Ms Kidd: Round 2-okay. I'll take that on notice..</p> <p>cont page 72</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay. So how many have been approved but not yet announced? Ms Kidd: I think that's the eight I mentioned. Senator PRATT: And how many are you expecting in total? Ms Kidd: Again, it's not clear until we get out and realise exactly how much funding we've got. Senator PRATT: How much of the budget do those eight use? Ms Kidd: I'll have to take that one on notice.</p>			
54	DESE	Louise Pratt	Grant Clusters	<p>Ms Houston: Yes. The clusters are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification-the ANZSIC code, which groups clusters based on key business activities. It uses industry and leadership as its basis, and groups related sectors.</p> <p>...</p> <p>We went out with a model for a proposed nine clusters as a starting point for the grant opportunity. But, as Ms Williams has said, the onus was on industry to come back to us with how they would like to group themselves and a reason for why they would want to be grouped in that way. So it's just a starting point.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: How will you judge whether the grouping has merit? Ms Houston: That's part of the selection criteria. In a sense, people are asked to put forward a business case for why the groupings were the way they were-how they were grouped together, letters of support and that sort of side of things in terms of industries working together.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Are you able to give me an update, please, on stage 1 of the two-stage process? I understand that has just closed. Ms Houston: Yes. Senator PRATT: Are you able to tell us, as of tonight, how many were received? Ms Houston: I do not have that information. It did close just yesterday evening and I have not been provided with a briefing about how many applications were received as part of that process as yet. I imagine that the team has been going through that detail today. It closed yesterday evening. Senator PRATT: Okay, I understand that. Could you take notice how many were received, who made the applications and how many were from consortia? And are you able to give us an outline of how the clusters will be determined? Ms N Williams: With respect to your first question, we will see what we can do there. As you would appreciate, we are in the middle of an active grant assessment process, and there may be some limitations from the perspective of probity around what we can and can't say, but we will certainly go back and seek some advice around that and give you what we can. With respect to the assessment process itself, there may also be some limitations about that, but to the extent that we're able to talk to it- Ms Houston: The grant opportunity guidelines do outline the assessment criteria that we'll be using to judge the proposals, so we're happy to provide that.</p>	Hansard	92-93	SQ22-000156
55	DESE	Louise Pratt	Workforce Australia Serviced in Digital	<p>Senator PRATT: If the proportion of A, B and C changes over time, will that change these figures? Mr Smyth: It would require policy decisions by government to make those changes. We're estimating that around 60 per cent of people will go into the provider case load, I think, and around 40 per cent will go into the digital servicing case load. Senator PRATT: You expect that 40 to 60 proportion to stay fairly stable irrespective of- Mr Smyth: I couldn't say that with any certain degree of certainty- Ms Jensen: We'll take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	117	SQ22-000170
56	DESE	Larissa Waters	Results of the National Student Safety Survey	<p>What is the government doing in response to the results of the National Student Safety Survey showing sexual assault and harassment at universities remain unacceptably high?</p>	Written		SQ22-000200
57	TEQSA	Larissa Waters	TEQSA Additional safety for students in Universities	<p>What action is being taken to ensure universities are meeting minimum standards in terms of providing safe environments for students? Will any additional conditions be required to be met?</p>	Written		SQ22-000201
58	TEQSA	Larissa Waters	TEQSA Complaints process regarding sexual	<p>In Question on Notice SQ22-000074 TEQSA indicated that as at 28 February 2022, it had received 27 sexual assault and sexual harassment-related complaints / concerns since September 2017, and had finalised 21 matters at that time.</p> <p>1. Please provide an update detailing how many sexual assault and sexual harassment-related complaints / concerns TEQSA has received in each financial year since 2017, including in the current financial year, to date.</p>	Written		SQ22-000203

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			assault and harassment	<p>a) Please detail how many of these complaints / concerns have been in relation to universities each year</p> <p>2. Please provide an update on progress of these complaints / concerns involving universities:</p> <p>a) How many complaints / concerns involving universities since September 2017 have now been finalised?</p> <p>b) How many complaints / concerns involving universities remain outstanding?</p> <p>c) What is the average time taken to finalise complaints / concerns involving universities?</p> <p>d) Since September 2017?</p> <p>e) In current financial year?</p> <p>3. Please provide an update on the outcomes of these complaints / concerns involving universities:</p> <p>a) How many universities have been found non-compliant with the Threshold Standards since September 2017?</p> <p>b) How many universities have been subject to regulatory action in relation to sexual assault and sexual harassment-related complaints / concerns since September 2017?</p> <p>c) How many universities have been ‘subject to monitoring and annual reporting’ since September 2017?</p> <p>d) Please provide a list of universities ‘subject to monitoring and annual reporting’ since September 2017 and the periods they were subject to such monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>e) In Question on Notice SQ22-000075 TEQSA indicated that the University of the Sunshine Coast was no longer ‘subject to monitoring and annual reporting.’ What is the process for a university to be removed from this monitoring?</p> <p>4. In Question on Notice SQ22-000074 TEQSA indicated that three universities had been the subject of three complaints / concerns and four universities had been the subject of two complaints / concerns.</p> <p>a) Please provide an update on how many universities have been the subject of multiple complaints / concerns.</p> <p>b) Please provide a list of the universities subject to complaints / concerns and how many complaints / concerns have been made against each university.</p>			
59	TEQSA	Larissa Waters	TEQSA Approaching Higher Education Providers regarding sexual assault and sexual harassment matters	<p>TEQSA’s former CEO suggested in Supplementary Estimates in October 2018 that TEQSA had proactively approached higher education providers about sexual assault and sexual harassment-related matters raised in media reports.</p> <p>a) How many universities have been approached by TEQSA regarding sexual assault and sexual harassment-related matters raised in media reports since September 2017?</p> <p>b) Please specify which universities were approached and when.</p> <p>c) What was the outcome of each of these investigations?</p>	Written		SQ22-000204
60	TEQSA	Larissa Waters	TEQSA University notification to TEQSA of material changes	<p>1. Since 2017 how many universities have notified TEQSA of a material change in relation to a matter concerning sexual assault or sexual harassment under s.29?</p> <p>2. Since 2017, on how many occasions has TEQSA found – during its investigations arising from media reports, when investigating complaints / concerns, or during its registration-related sexual assault and sexual harassment assessments of universities – a breach of a Threshold Standard amounting to a material change in a university?</p> <p>a) Which universities has this involved, and when?</p> <p>3. What are the ramifications of a university failing to report an incident would be breach of a Threshold Standard amounting to a material change?</p> <p>a) What regulatory action is taken by TEQSA in such a situation?</p>	Written		SQ22-000205
61	DESE	Larissa Waters	New Curriculum for respectful relationships	<p>The Women’s Budget Statement commits \$6M to update the Commonwealth’s respectful relationships education online platform in line with the new curriculum “based on expert advice”.</p> <p>a) Which experts will be consulted?</p> <p>b) Is the \$6M being used for the development and roll out of the curriculum, or just updating the online platform once the curriculum is settled?</p> <p>c) If the \$6M is not for curriculum development, is any other funding allocated to that task?</p>	Written		SQ22-000209