

Portfolio Question No	Department Or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question Text	Written Hansard
SQ25-000817	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Penny Allman-Payne	Guidelines the department follows to pause or suspend mutual obligation and the financial impact	<p>1. Can you provide a full rundown of the internal processes and guidelines the Department follows that enables it to pause or suspend mutual obligations under the TCF?</p> <p>2. Can you provide modelling of what the financial impacts on the system as a whole, and providers administering it, would be if mutual obligations were paused for 12 months?</p> <p>3. Can you provide modelling of the financial impacts on participants if the mutual obligations system was paused for 12 months?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much income are participants losing each year because of suspensions, reductions and cancellations? 	Written
SQ25-000818	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Penny Allman-Payne	Legal processes DEWR must follow for pausing mutual obligations	<p>1. Can you provide a full rundown of the legal processes and considerations DEWR must follow when enacting a mutual obligations pause?</p> <p>2. What is the legal basis for DEWR determining that backpay is applicable for victims of the TCF issues?</p>	Written
SQ25-000819	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Penny Allman-Payne	Legislative changes required to abolish mutual obligations under the Act	As DEWR currently understands them, what legislative changes are required to abolish mutual obligations under the Act?	Written
SQ25-000820	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Penny Allman-Payne	Workforce Australia participants contacting NCSL/complaints line about payment suspension	<p>How many Workforce Australia participants have made contact with the NCSL/complaints line about payment suspensions?</p> <p>a) How many suspensions have been overturned because the reasons provided by participants resulted in it being overturned?</p> <p>b) Can you provide a breakdown of all the reasons that lead to overturning these decisions?</p>	Written
SQ25-000821	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Penny Allman-Payne	Did the Secretary file a conflict of interest when Deloitte was considered a contract for third party review of TCF	Given that the Secretary of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations was previously a partner at Deloitte, did the Secretary file a conflict of interest when Deloitte during the consideration of contracting a third party to review the program rules of the TCF?	Written

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When Deloitte was awarded a contract to review the program rules of the TCF who signed off on the contract? 	
SQ25-000822	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Penny Allman-Payne	Third party advice DEWR received in relation to drafting legislation to support TCF from January 2016 to June 2018	<p>1. Can you provide any contracted third party advice the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations received in relation to the necessary drafting of legislation to support the new Targeted Compliance Framework, from January 2016 to June 2018?</p> <p>2. Can DEWR provide a list of contracted groups that were consulted as a part of the development of the 'Targeted Compliance Framework' in the lead up to its implementation in 2018.</p>	Written
SQ25-000823	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Penny Allman-Payne	Provide all briefings and reports on quality assurance relating to TCF	<p>1. Can you provide all briefings and reports on quality assurance exercises relating to the TCF - including a copy of any review the Department conducted from July 2018 to March 2020 into the performance of the TCF?</p> <p>2. In testing of the TCF before its implementation, were there any issues that were raised regarding the implementation of program rules applying policy and law correctly?</p>	Written
SQ25-000825	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Penny Allman-Payne	Review of policies of providers for internal policies according to service agreement	<p>1. Has DEWR reviewed the policies of providers to see if their own internal policies, according to their servicing agreements, are in line with the government's own policies and the legislation?</p> <p>2. If so, how many providers have had their internal policies and servicing agreements reviewed by DEWR?</p>	Written
SQ25-000826	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Penny Allman-Payne	Concerns raised over conduct of public servants in handling employment services	On how many occasions has there been concerns raised about the conduct of public servants in the handling of employment services contracts or policies	Written
SQ25-000827	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Penny Allman-Payne	Complaints or legal concerns received from providers	<p>How many complaints or legal concerns has DEWR has received from providers re: DEWR's administration of Workforce Australia and the Targeted Compliance Framework?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you provide those complaints broken down by FY since the implementation of the program. 	Written
SQ25-000828	Department of Employment and	Penny Allman-Payne	Incorrect provider applied demerits DEWR has identified	How many incorrect provider-applied demerits has DEWR's compliance teams identified and subsequently removed under the TCF?	Written

	Workplace Relations			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you provide those numbers broken down by provider and cause for removal. 	
SQ25-000829	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Penny Allman-Payne	How many providers have been identified as conducting inappropriate TCF applications for participation activities	<p>1. How many cases have DEWR's compliance teams identified where providers have conducted inappropriate TCF application of provider appointments, job referrals, evidence requests, and any other participation activities. Can you provide these cases broken down by provider and participation activity since the formation of the TCF in 2018?</p> <p>2. How many cases have DEWR identified or investigated of provider TCF applications that are potentially unlawful, or not in line with the legislation? Can you provide these broken down by provider and issue investigated?</p>	Written
SQ25-000830	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Penny Allman-Payne	Provide DEWR's Standard Operating Procedure documents relating to TCF	<p>In the February 26 estimates, the Secretary said that the Independent Assurance team reviewing the system told her that "the system and its processes is not documented end-to-end". In "many cases" she said DEWR don't understand the impact these errors are having on participants because there are "dead ends in the system" and the team has to wait for an adverse event to happen so they can "kind of reverse engineer it" and figure it out. Please provide details of every instance since the implementation of the TCF where DEWR has had to "reverse engineer" an understanding of a system issue in this way, and the process documents relating to reverse engineering TCF bugs.</p> <p>Can you provide all DEWR's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) documents relating to the TCF?</p>	Written
SQ25-000831	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Penny Allman-Payne	Provide risk management plan on IT delivery TCF and documents relating to acceptance testing of the TCF system	<p>1. Can you provide the risk management plan/s for the IT delivery of the TCF?</p> <p>2. Can you provide all documents relating to the acceptance testing of the TCF system when it was first implemented in 2018? And the list of acceptance criteria for successful delivery of the TCF as an IT system?</p> <p>3. Can you provide all reports and details of the cost of the IT</p>	Written

				development for the TCF and related IT processes, from January 2016 to July 2018?	
SQ25-000832	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Fatima Payman	First report of the CFMEU Administration	<p>In February, the first report of the CFMEU Administration was tabled. This report did not contain the "general purpose financial report" as required under section 323T(2)(c) of the FWRO Act. In a letter to the President of the Senate accompanying the report, the Minister attributed this to the fact that the report encompassed activity up to and including the date it was required to be presented.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the status of the general purpose financial report? 2. Why has this report, as of 27 March, still not been tabled? 3. As the FWRO Act requires a report containing a general purpose financial report to be given to the Minister no later than 6 months after the commencement of the administration, and this date has since passed with no report produced, does the government believe the administrator has acted in a manner consistent with the law? 4. What communication has the Minister, his office or the department had with the Administrator regarding the status of this report? 5. What is the total expenditure of the administration since its inception to date? 6. The administration was put in place to shine a light on corruption and criminality within the CFMEU. The lack of transparency and accountability surrounding this report, ironically, deepens the distrust that hardworking union members have of their leadership, rather than rebuilding it. What do you say to the workers who have had their representatives removed and now have an unaccountable bureaucracy running their union from the shadows? 	Written
SQ25-000833	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Fatima Payman	Report on 21 March on welfare payments and the effect of welfare recipients	<p>On the 21st of March, it was reported that the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations had reversed the decision to reduce or cancel welfare payments for more than 10,000 people. A release from the secretary of the department said the reversal came following the department having "identified examples where the system is not operating in alignment with the law".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How was this problem discovered? 	Written

				<p>2. How long did this issue affect welfare recipients before it was discovered?</p> <p>3. What figure is the department currently using for the number of people affected by this issue?</p> <p>a. On notice, could you provide a breakdown of that number by outcome type, that is, the number of people who had payments reduced as a result of this issue and the number of people who had payments cancelled as a result of this issue?</p> <p>4. This decision was made while legal and IT reviews into the employment services system are being undertaken. Could you please provide an update of the situation, and have any preliminary findings identified the cause or causes of this failure?</p> <p>5. In 2023, the Prime Minister described the Robodebt scheme as "a gross betrayal and a human tragedy". This, it clearly was, but how can the government rightly describe the scheme as a betrayal while failing to learn the lessons from it?</p> <p>6. Will the government initiate an independent review into the cause of this incident?</p> <p>a. IF YES, will the government commit to publishing such a review as soon as it is received?</p> <p>b. IF NO, Why not?</p>	
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