

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Inquiry into Coronavirus Economic Response Package Amendment (Ending Jobkeeper Profiteering) Bill 2021

Division: Labour Market Policy Division
Topic: JobKeeper advice to Treasurer's Office
Reference: Spoken (10 September 2021)
Senator: Anthony Chisholm

Question:

Senator CHISHOLM: In terms of the analysis that's been reported on in the Australian today, can you provide that analysis to the committee?

Ms Wilkinson: I'm happy to take that on notice.

Senator CHISHOLM: Did the Treasurer's office request this analysis, or did Treasury recommend it?

Ms Wilkinson: Treasury has been doing ongoing analysis of the JobKeeper program as part of the ongoing analysis of the program, and, as I have discussed at other hearings, the early work on the review of the JobKeeper program, which we are undertaking. We had discussions. There is to-ing and fro-ing around this. We do analysis ourselves off our own bat, and we work with the Treasurer's office and discuss analysis they're particularly interested in receiving as well.

Senator CHISHOLM: Sure, but I asked about this particular analysis referenced in the Australian today. Did the Treasurer's office request that analysis or did Treasury recommend it?

Ms Wilkinson: There are a number of pieces of analysis which have been referred to here. There is analysis for Single Touch Payroll data, analysis for turnover data overall, analysis of the distribution of businesses receiving different payments under the program. So there are a number of different pieces of analysis which are referred to here.

Senator CHISHOLM: Was it asked for by the Treasurer's office?

Ms Wilkinson: I'm happy to take that on notice. As I say, we have ongoing discussions with the Treasurer's office around our work. I don't recall particularly—we work closely with the Treasurer's office, of course, but we have undertaken analysis over the course of the JobKeeper program within Treasury, and there is analysis that has been undertaken within the ATO. I'm happy to take the specific range of analysis here on notice.

Answer:

1. Treasury published an *Insights from the first six months of JobKeeper* report on 11 October 2021. This report includes analysis that was reported in the Australian on Friday 10 September 2021. It can be found on the following webpage:.

<https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2021-211978>

2. Treasury has been doing ongoing analysis of the JobKeeper Payment as part of ongoing monitoring of the program since its establishment. This analysis is regularly shared with the Treasurer's office.