

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: SBT 920-928

Topic: Productivity Commission

Written: 28 November 2013

Senator WONG asked:

920. Please outline who is currently on the Commission (as a Full or Part-time Commissioner), when they were appointed, when their term expires.
921. Are there currently any vacancies on the Commission?
922. Are there enough resources at the PC to support the workload the Government is providing the PC?
923. How many inquiries did the PC have underway before 7 September?
924. How many references has the current Government given the PC? What is the resourcing and staff requirements for each of these?
925. How many more references is the PC expecting given the Government's election commitments?
926. What additional resources will the PC be given for this significant increase in workload?
927. Are any officials from the PC on secondment to the Commission of Audit?
928. Can you provide an update on progress with the reference the Government has given to you on the car industry?

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Answer:

920.	<i>Current period of appointment</i>	
	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
Mr P Harris AO (Chairman)	11 Mar 2013	10 Mar 2018
Mr M C Woods (Deputy Chairman)	17 Apr 2011	16 Apr 2016
Ms K Chester	12 Dec 2013	11 Dec 2018
Mr J Coppel	28 Jul 2011	27 Jul 2016
Dr W Craik AM (p/t)	4 Jun 2009	3 Jun 2014
Mr R Fitzgerald AM*	27 Jan 2009	26 Jan 2014
Ms A McClelland (p/t)	8 Dec 2010	7 Dec 2015
Ms A MacRae (p/t)	8 Dec 2010	7 Dec 2015
Ms S McKenna (p/t)*	4 Jun 2009	3 Jun 2014
Dr W Mundy (p/t)	8 Dec 2010	7 Dec 2015
Ms P Scott	7 Sep 2009	6 Sep 2014
Mr P Weickhardt (p/t)	12 Dec 2013	11 Dec 2014

(p/t) denotes part-time *Commissioners Fitzgerald and McKenna on long term leave

921. No (the *Productivity Commission Act 1998* provides that the Commission will consist of a Chair and not fewer than 4 nor more than 11 other Commissioners).
922. Yes.
923. Seven - see response at the Committee hearings (Hansard 20 November 2013 page 22).
924. See response to SBT 40.
925. The Government's election commitments included Productivity Commission inquiries into automotive manufacturing; childcare and early childhood learning; Tasmanian shipping and freight; infrastructure costs; and workplace relations.
926. The Commission is required to undertake inquiries and research from within its existing annual budget appropriations.
927. No.
928. A preliminary findings report was issued on 20 December 2013. Other key documents and dates are published on the Commission's website.