

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Question No: 57

Topic: Meetings with the Treasurer or ministers regarding the Census

Reference: Hansard page Page 115 (19 October 2016)

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

Senator KETTER: How many meetings or briefings did you, Mr Kalisch, or your senior people have with the Treasurer or the minister with administrative responsibilities for the ABS regarding the census?

Mr Kalisch: Over what period, Senator?

Senator KETTER: Since 2014.

Mr Kalisch: I will have to take that on notice, Senator. I do have some other information on other engagements with ministers, but I do not have a record of the meetings.

Senator KETTER: I would be interested in the dates on which those meetings occurred as well.

Mr Kalisch: Okay.

Senator KETTER: This is a fairly significant part of the exercise. I would have thought that you might have that information at your disposal here tonight. The position of Chief Statistician was left vacant for nearly a year before you took the role, Mr Kalisch. Did a temporary head have meetings or briefings with the Treasurer or minister with responsibility for the ABS?

Mr Kalisch: Perhaps I can ask Mr Palmer. He was the acting statistician over that period.

Mr Palmer: Yes, I had some meetings with Minister Ciobo. I would have to take on notice the dates and times.

Senator KETTER: How many meetings?

Mr Palmer: I would have to take that on notice, Senator.

Answer:

1. The following number of meetings took place between the Australian Statistician/Acting Australian Statistician and the Treasurer or the minister with administrative responsibilities for the ABS regarding the 2016 Census since 1 January 2014 until 25 October 2016.

Meetings with the Treasurer	Dates of Meetings	Number of meetings
The Hon. Scott Morrison, MP	12/08/2016	2
From 21/09/15 to 25/10/2016	15/08//2016	
The Hon. Joe Hockey, MP	24/09/2014	2
From 01/01/14 to 21/09/2015	20/01/2015	
Total		4

Meetings with the Minister	Dates of Meetings	Number of meetings
The Hon. Michael McCormack, MP From 19/07/16 to 25/10/2016	25/07/2016 08/08/2016 10/08/2016 15/08/2016 11/08/2016 24/08/2016 10/10/2016 18/10/2016	9
The Hon. Alex Hawke, MP 21/09/15 to 19/07/16	22/10/2015 09/11/2015 18/11/2015 11/12/2015 28/01/2016 16/02/2016 17/03/2016 15/04/2016	8
The Hon. Kelly O'Dwyer, MP 23/12/14 to 21/09/15	14/01/2015 02/02/2015 18/02/2015 23/02/2015 24/02/2015 03/03/2015 12/03/2016 24/03/2016 07/04/2016 21/04/2015 06/05/2016 02/07/2015 21/07/2015 29/07/2015 09/08/2015 13/08/2015 07/09/2015	17
The Hon. Steven Ciobo, MP	03/03/2014	7

From 01/01/14 to 23/12/14	25/03/2014 02/06/2014 25/08/2014 30/09/2014 01/10/2014 25/11/2014	
Total		41