

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES, 15 FEBRUARY 2012
Veterans' Affairs portfolio

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page & hearing date or Written Q	Date rec'd	Date tabled
1	General	Ronaldson	Military Culture and Mental Health – Training	<p>Senator RONALDSON: So you have someone who has been doing this as part of their job since 2009. They have done 150 people. How long was the training session between this gentleman, who has been doing it since 2009, and these 13 people?</p> <p>Mr Winzenberg: He had a good half day to take them through what he does.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: When was that?</p> <p>Mr Winzenberg: It was prior to Christmas.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: What date was it?</p> <p>Mr Winzenberg: I do not have the exact date. I would have to get that.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: Can you get me the exact date, the exact times and the exact location? Also, can you tell me what the content of that presentation was?</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: Right. Well, you are five hundred people too late, but I accept that you are going to do it. Could I make a request of you that will need to go through the official channels, Parliamentary Secretary. I would be very interested in attending one of these sessions. I am not asking you for an answer tonight, but I would ask you to take that on notice.</p>	97 & 98 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	10/5/2012

2	General	Ronaldson	Staffing Figure Breakdown	<p>Senator RONALDSON: I will finish off on the staff. I am sure there is a very sensible answer to this: as to question on notice No. 8, with the breakdown of staff by location and position, you indicate that, as at 30 September, there were 2,070 staff working in the department, but on page 324 of the annual report you say that, as of 30 June, there were 2,051 staff. Is it too simplistic to say that there has been an increase—and I am not talking about ASLs, obviously—of 19 people over that three-month period?</p> <p>Mr I Campbell: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: Where did they go, Mr Winzenberg? Where were they deployed to?</p> <p>Mr Winzenberg: The figures include not only full-time staff but also non-ongoing staff. As the secretary mentioned, there are a number of non-ongoings in the department. At the end of January we had 107, and typically they have short-term contracts; they could be here for three weeks or three months. So there are ebbs and flows. At any point in time there are up to 30 people on leave who come back into the workforce. So there is churn all the time.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: But we acknowledge that there are an extra 19 staff?</p> <p>Mr Winzenberg: I do not know where the extra 19 are. We would have to do—</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr I Campbell: We will take that on notice. My guess is that a lot of it is particular project work. We are doing some quite substantial IT development at the moment. We will take that on notice and come back to you.</p>	102 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	
3	General	Ronaldson	Staffing Figure Breakdown	Will the Department provide a breakdown of staff as at 15 February 2012 including a full breakdown of staff by classification and location, including a list of staff by location and classification who are on leave including long service leave, maternity leave, leave without pay, extended sick leave and other types of leave. Can the Department indicate when staff on these leave are due to resume duties?	Written 23/02/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
4	General	Ronaldson	Contracts	Will the Department provide a breakdown of all staff employed on contracts, including location of employment, duration of employment and nature of contracted work?	Written 23/2/2012	20/4/2012	10/5/2012
5	General	Humphries	Contractors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many contractors are currently employed in the department/agency? 2. How many contractors have been under contract for a period of more than 2 years? 3. How many contractors have been under contract for a period of more than 5 years? 4. How many contractors have been under contract for a period of more than 10 years? 5. Does the department/agency make a habit of employing contractors to fill positions on a permanent basis? 	Written 22/2/2012	30/3/2012 Revised answer received 13/4/2012	10/5/2012

6	General	Humphries	Efficiency Dividend	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the effect of the efficiency dividend increase from 1.5 percent to 4 percent on the department/agency's budget bottom line during financial years 2012/13, 13/14, 14/15? 2. What percentage of the department/agency's budget is designated to staffing? 3. What is the size of the department/agency's staffing establishment? Include figures for FTE, PT, casual, contractors, and consultants. 4. What specific strategies will the department/agency adopt to ensure continued operation within budget? 5. Will or has consideration been made to reducing staffing compliment including contractors, and consultants? 	Written 22/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
7	1.4	Wright	DVA Funded ESO Advocacy and Welfare Services Final Report	<p>Senator WRIGHT: Did every ex-service organisations involved in the BEST program submit figures to the department to be considered as part of the 2010 report?</p> <p>Ms Stevenson: No, they did not.</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: Which ESOs did submit figures?</p> <p>Ms Stevenson: By figures, do you mean their actual workload?</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: Yes, in terms of the review.</p> <p>Ms Stevenson: None were formally invited to do so and none that I can recall provided that information. I can check the information we gathered during the consultations around the country, but they were not part of the report or part of the information provided to the independent review team.</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: Please take that on notice and check how you went about that, whether or not they were invited and how you ascertained figures for the ESOs involved in it, whether you had figures for some and not for others.</p> <p>Ms Stevenson: I can advise tonight that the review team did produce a number of tables and graphs taken from departmental data, not by ex-service organisation or BEST grant recipients by recipient. However, they did provide a range of tables on where the clients were populated across the country, where the concentrations of veterans were, where the concentrations of veterans centres were by local government area. Quite a significant amount of information was made available during the consultations and at the end of each round of consultations, and much of that material was published on the website as part of the report when it was made available in February 2011.</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: Am I correct in understanding what you are saying is that it was based on population?</p> <p>Ms Stevenson: Population and workloads, that information was there. It was made available to ex-service organisations for their review. But it is not down to the level you have asked for.</p>	89 & 90 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	10/5/2012

8	1.4	Wright	BEST New Funding Arrangements	<p>Senator WRIGHT: Are there any organisations that experienced an increase in claims in the past one to two years?</p> <p>Mr Farrelly: If we could take that question on notice. I should say that, while workload is a factor and it has been a factor in every round for the last four or five, there is not a funding formula along the lines that one VA claim equals one unit of work or one advocacy claim handled equals two units of work. It is not a fee-for-service arrangement, simply because different ESOs face different funding structures.</p> <p>Senator WRIGHT: I want to come back to the question on whether you have data which would indicate which organisations have experienced an increase in claims. You said you would take that on notice. Thank you for that. What I would like to follow up on is whether those organisations which have experienced an increase in claims, if there are any, are receiving more funding under the BEST program in order to respond to the increase in claims or their funding has been cut under the funding arrangements that took effect on 1 July 2011. I would like to know for each of those organisations. So there is a bit of cross-analysis there. Finally, what proportion of claims are being handled by volunteers working for ex-service organisations compared with the proportion of claims that are being handled by paid employees?</p> <p>Ms Stevenson: Those figures are available and I can provide them.</p>	90 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
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9	1.4	Ludlam	Provision of Gold Cards to all Defence Personnel Participants in BNT in Australia	<p>Senator LUDLAM: I might table this later for the benefit of the committee, if that is appropriate, so that you can see what I am reading from. There are a couple of assumptions: it is assumed that everybody in the cohort claims the entitlement and that they do so on commencement of the policy. I was a bit surprised that we needed to take this to the finance minister for costing, because I figured the numbers that we were given in the chamber, when Senator Xenophon and I were asking about this, must have been costed already. Moving on from that, do you concede that radiation injuries can effectively be life-shortening? They do not automatically manifest as cancer—they do not automatically manifest as anything—but they can in fact for this cohort manifest as a whole range of different debilitating conditions.</p> <p>Senator Feeney: To be fair, that is probably a question for me rather than a question for an officer of the department, because it is obviously a policy decision of government as to whether that gets extended.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: If you like, Senator Feeney.</p> <p>Senator Feeney: Having volunteered for that, my response will not give you any joy. That is that I will take the matter up before the minister, but I do not believe the government has made a decision at this time.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: It is not about giving me joy; it is about people on whose behalf I am advocating. I do not know how to gauge these figures or where they have come from. Their mortality profile, according to this paper, is similar to that of the Korean War veteran cohort. Do you agree that these figures effectively represent unmet need and that, if they are not brought into the gold card system, these veterans and their families and dependents will be paying these costs? Do we think that is appropriate?</p> <p>Senator Feeney: From my cursory understanding, I do not know if I would characterises it as unmet need. Perhaps the need is being met, but the burden in money terms is falling upon the veterans and their families. Notwithstanding that I appreciate the point you are making, I have nothing further to add.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Where does that leave us? Is this under active consideration as you are putting the 2012-13 budget together?</p> <p>Senator Feeney: I will have to take that on notice; I do not know the answer.</p>	103 & 104 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
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10	1.4	Ronaldson	BEST Funding Grants	<p>Senator RONALDSON:Can I now go to the BEST funding issue. Mr Farrelly, are you aware of the dramatic financial situation facing a number of centres in Victoria in particular but not exclusively as a result of the slashing of the BEST funding grants?</p> <p>Mr Farrelly: We are aware of three centres that are talking about closure. One is the Ballarat RSL. There is another in Central Queensland and another in South Australia. The latter two have been talking about their sustainability for some three or four years. So there are three that we know of that are talking of closing. None have closed yet.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: I do not think that is necessarily an indication that the reduction in funding is not an issue, Mr Farrelly, and I am sure that you were not suggesting that. Have you got a list of centres or organisations that have written to you complaining about the slashing of funds and the potential impact on the services they provide?</p> <p>Mr Farrelly: A number of organisations have written to us, yes.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: Will you table those, please.</p> <p>Mr Farrelly: I do not have them here, but we could—</p>	109 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
11	1.4	Ronaldson	Advocacy Funding	<p>Will the Department provide a breakdown of the total value and number of funding request for BEST funding received in each round since 2005-06? Will the Department provide a list of organisations which have requested funds, the amount requested and the amount paid under the Grant?</p>	Written 23/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
12	1.4	Ronaldson	BEST Funding – Transition Funds	<p>Senator RONALDSON: On page 29 of the portfolio additional estimates statements it says the payments to ESO in 2012 will be greater than last year. But my reading of all these figures is that the increase in funding is actually transferred funds from last year. Mr Rochow, is that right?</p> <p>Mr Rochow: That is correct. There was a carryover of funds of \$1.5 million.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: We are now rapidly approaching the May budget. Where has that \$1.5 million been spent or paid to?</p> <p>Mr Farrelly: Last estimates we talked of a transition fund. That is the \$1.5 million that you are referring to, and \$800,000 was allocated to ESOs on top of the allocation they got through the \$2.67 million. The balance is being used for integration grants, which we can give you an update on if you like.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: What is the balance figure?</p> <p>Mr Farrelly: \$700,000</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: That was originally going to be \$900,000, wasn't it?</p> <p>Mr Farrelly: No.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: I might be terribly wrong but I thought the integrated centres spend was going to be \$900,000. Am I mistaken?</p> <p>Mr Farrelly: I can take that on notice.</p>	110 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	10/5/2012

13	1.4	Ronaldson	Defective Administration Payments	<p>Senator RONALDSON: Under program 1.4, for defective administration payments, the PAES shows a \$590,000 increase in expected expenditure for defective administration. What is the explanation for that? I note that in 2010-11 the actual amount was \$109,000, down from an anticipated \$249,000. So why the dramatic increase?</p> <p>Ms Spiers: I do not have information before me that could specifically address the increase. I have got overall numbers of cases that have been determined, and there has been a level of consistency in terms of the numbers so I would speculate to say obviously the difference here is the value of the individual claims. If I can take it on notice I will clarify it for you further.</p>	112 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
14	1.4	Ronaldson	Defective Administration Payments	In addition to the matters already taken on notice, will the Department provide a breakdown of payments made under the Defective Administration programme since 2005-06?	Written 23/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
15	1.4	Xenophon	Maralinga Victims Access to Gold Cards	<p>Has there been any further action on the issue of providing Maralinga veterans access to the Gold card?</p> <p>a) Is the Government planning a review in the near future?</p> <p>b) Does the Government understand that time is of the essence here?</p>	Written 22/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
16	1.4	Xenophon	Maralinga Victims Access to Gold Cards	<p>Has the Government been in communication with the British Government on this subject?</p> <p>a) Has the British Government indicated that they will be providing any further compensation?</p> <p>b) Has the Australian Government ever been able to account for the compensation already paid by the British Government, which was never passed on to victims?</p> <p>c) Has the British Government accepted the Government's explanation?</p>	Written 22/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
17	2.1	Ronaldson	Funding of Services by Dental Hygienist	<p>Senator RONALDSON:Can I just briefly, please, go back to the dental hygienist issue. I do not think I actually got an answer from the advice given in <i>Truce</i> as to when the department released that advice. Could you take that on notice for me, please.</p> <p>Mr Campbell: We will do so.</p>	118 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
18	2.1	Ronaldson	Dental Health	When did the Department of Veterans' Affairs first become aware of the DHS Audit of dental services? When was advice which was printed in the <i>Truce</i> magazine released and to which other organisations was it released?	Written 23/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
19	2.3	Ronaldson	Veterans Pharmaceutical Reimbursement Scheme	Senator RONALDSON: Perhaps I could just turn to the Veterans Pharmaceutical Reimbursement Scheme, which I understand has been enacted effectively through regulation. I find that interesting, and I presume you have had some legal advice to do that by way of regulation. If you have that I would be grateful to receive it, please, if you could take that on notice. I assume that this still excludes 1,500 TPI veterans without qualifying service from coverage. Is that correct?	114 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	10/5/2012

20	2.4	Ronaldson	Health Tele-monitoring Initiative	<p>Senator RONALDSON: I want to ask some questions about the health telemonitoring initiative. I am happy for this to be taken on notice. The minister said in his statement: Overseas experience has shown that telemonitoring can have significant health benefits for those involved, including more responsive management of chronic conditions. Would you take on notice which countries, do they have similar NBN-style internet provider relationships, have they been used for veterans specifically or has it been across a different demographic, and can any additional information be provided on notice. I presume that all this is premised on the NBN providing a reliable, high-speed and high-capacity service—is that right? That is what underpins the delivery?</p> <p>Ms Daniel: The technology that will underpin the telemonitoring initiative is linked to the NBN rollout. In terms of your question about overseas experience, we will take that on notice so that we can comprehensively respond.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: But part of the NBN aspect of this is providing a reliable high-speed and high-capacity service. That was in the minister's statement, so that must underpin the delivery. What are you going to do when, some would say cynically, the inevitable happens and we actually do not have a reliable high-speed and high-capacity service? When you look at the roll-out of the NBN and the appalling amount of money that has been spent to deliver very few connections, what gives you any confidence, in light of what you have said, that you will be able to deliver this to the 300 veterans—</p> <p>Senator Feeney: That is not a question for the officers. You are inviting an official to speculate on a world of policy that is a long way from DVA.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: I am sure the point has been made. Does the department cover the internet costs during the trial?</p> <p>Ms Daniel: The costs associated with the service are part of the funding we have for the trial.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: So the answer is yes. Do you undertake to pay the internet connection and usage costs of people who take this up after the trial?</p> <p>Ms Daniel: An important part of the trial, the pilot, is obviously assessing what might be a long-term model for such a service but that will be part of the lesson we can gain from the trial. Before the trial I do not think I can speculate on that.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: So there is a possibility that they will not be paid, and there is a possibility, presumably, that they will be paid—but you cannot guarantee that they will be, can you?</p> <p>Ms Daniel: The pilot is there to explore those sorts of questions.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: But you cannot guarantee, can you, that they going to be paid?</p> <p>Ms Daniel: No.</p>	113 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
21	2.4	Ronaldson	Tele-monitoring Initiative	<p>In addition to the matters already taken on notice about 'overseas examples' of tele-monitoring, can the Department advise which countries have trialled such a programme, whether the internet infrastructure arrangement is similar in scope to the National Broadband Network, whether the international examples have been veteran-specific as well as any other useful information relevant to the discussion.</p>	Written 23/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012

22	2.4	Ronaldson	Tele-monitoring Initiative	Other than being part of the CVC programme, what additional eligibility requirements are there for a veteran to access this programme? Will DVA meet the costs of connecting the veterans' property to the NBN? If so, has NBN given an indication that all trial-participants will be connected by the 1 July 2012 start date?	Written 23/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
23	2.4	Ronaldson	Tele-monitoring Initiative	Will the Department meet the costs of connecting the General Practitioners practice to the NBN? If not, will the GP be able to claim costs of treating veterans to the Department? If yes, what mechanisms are in place to ensure ease of claiming by the GP?	Written 23/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
24	2.4	Ronaldson	VCES State Boards	Senator RONALDSON: Parliamentary secretary, I acknowledge that I have not been involved in this portfolio for long—it is getting on towards a year and a half or a couple of years; I cannot remember. In that period of time, the clear message to me from the veteran community is that they do not like this arrangement under which they are potentially accessing multiple agencies. There is an enormous amount of angst in the veteran community when you potentially start moving things—which this will—out of the Department of Veterans' Affairs into other agencies. That move will take place as a result of DVA writing to clients suggesting that they do that. When is the message going to get through that dealing with multiple agencies caused enormous angst—and in my view quite rightly? When will the message get through? Why wasn't this on the web site on the VCES fact sheet dated November 2011? If it was there, for example, that would have given people the chance to apply to Centrelink. Is it right that that the Veterans' Children Education Scheme state boards were not advised that DVA would be writing to clients to tell them to contact Centrelink? If so, why didn't that happen? Mr Farrelly: I will take that on notice.	115 & 116 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	10/5/2012

25	2.4	Ronaldson	VCES and the FTB Bill	<p>Senator RONALDSON: Thank you. I appreciate, Parliamentary Secretary, that you cannot comment on other departments, but in the second reading speech in relation to this FTB bill and the increased amount—I think it was the increased amount—the minister said:</p> <p>The government recognises that families with older teenage children can face higher costs. The cost of groceries, clothes and family activities can all increase as children grow.</p> <p>She went on:</p> <p>Research shows that children from low-income families have lower levels of school completion. For example, in 2006, year 12 completion rates were at 59 per cent for low-income students compared with 78 per cent for higher income students.</p> <p>These findings indicate that the costs of educating teenage children are an important barrier for families on low incomes to support their child's education.</p> <p>Parliamentary Secretary, why has the government not increased the VCES payments to mirror changes to the family tax benefit part A allowance to make it easier for veterans to get the assistance they need to educate their children, and is there not a very real risk that, by referring people from the department to Centrelink, there will be X number of people who are not able to find their way through the maze, and they are the very people who need the support that the VCES provides?</p> <p>Senator Feeney: Senator, your point is noted, and I assure you I will raise it with the minister. Should I be advising the minister that you yourself, from opposition, are making a funding commitment in this area?</p>	118 (15/02/2012)	13/4/2012	10/5/2012
26	2.4	Ronaldson	VCES	<p>As at 1 January 2012, how many children eligible under the Veterans' Children's Education Scheme were aged 16 and over? How many children will turn 16 this year? If possible, please provide an age breakdown of students eligible under the scheme, as at 1 January 2012.</p>	Written 23/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012

27	2.5	Ronaldson	VVCS Underspend	<p>Senator RONALDSON: Looking at these various historical budget papers it would appear that VVCS constantly underspends on its budget amounts. So I presume an extension to these groups would not be a budgetary issue.</p> <p>Mr Carmody: It actually depends on the nature of the extension and the coverage of the groups. I could not say generally. It would depend on how many veterans or dependants or others came into the eligibility cycle and the estimates for how long they would remain in that cycle.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: Can you provide me on notice with the underspend in VVCS over the last four or five years, with budget figures, revised figures and actual figures, please.</p> <p>Mr Carmody: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: Am I right that there is a regular underspend in the service?</p> <p>Mr Penniall: The underspend in VVCS has not been as a result of direct services to clients—in other words, direct counselling, for example. The underspend has been associated with a range of other initiatives. We can certainly provide that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: Sorry, I do not quite understand. Initiatives usually cost something, not save something.</p> <p>Mr Carmody: It depends on what the uptake is of the particular initiative. You might make an estimate for a number of clients who would want to access a particular initiative and the access might not reach those expectations. We can provide those figures for you.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: In that situation, where is the underspend saving allocated to? Does it just go into the general department budget? What actually happens to it?</p> <p>Mr Carmody: It is just carried forward in the appropriation, I believe.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: So it is just carried forward?</p> <p>Mr Carmody: That is my understanding, but the CFO might be able to add more detail.</p> <p>Mr Rochow: Generally whatever is left of the annual administered appropriation lapses. So it does not normally carry over; it lapses.</p>	109 (15/02/2012)	13/4/2012	10/5/2012
28	2.5	Ronaldson	VVCS Eligibility Review	When does the Department expect the review of VVCS Access Eligibility to become available? Will the findings be released publicly?	Written 23/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
29	2.7	Ronaldson	Co-ordinated Veterans' Care Programme	As at 15 February 2012, how many veterans have signed up to participate in the Coordinated Veterans' Care programme? How many veterans in each of the trial locations for the telemonitoring initiative have signed up for the CVC programme?	Written 23/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012

30	3.1	Ronaldson	Anzac Centenary Planning	<p>Major Gen. Cosson: I will talk to the commemorative research. Colmar Brunton undertook the social research to inform the commission's report, which identified a range of key themes that Australians would like to see in our commemorative period. It particularly identified that they wanted to make sure that we focused on education, community awareness and that we could touch all Australians to help them gain a better appreciation of our history as Australians—some actually expressed some embarrassment that they did not really have a good understanding of our history—but also where we should concentrate on mobile exhibitions to go out, as I mentioned, to engage communities around Australia. So the social research actually informed a lot of the recommendations that sit within the commission's report.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: What consultation has taken place with the ex-service community? What has been the nature and extent of that?</p> <p>Major Gen. Cosson: I have certainly briefed at ESO roundtables and the operational working party that I chair, and I have briefed at PMAC, and RSL has been briefed in relation to—</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: Can you take on notice for me all consultation with the ex-service community in relation to these matters.</p> <p>Major Gen. Cosson: Certainly.</p>	117 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
31	3.1	Ronaldson	Anzac Centenary Advisory Board – Remuneration and Expenditure	<p>Senator RONALDSON: Can you please also take on notice how members of the Anzac Centenary Advisory Board are remunerated and what has been spent to date. There is another matter that I might discuss with you privately, in relation to CN450698. I think I will do that outside here.</p>	118 (15/02/2012)	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
32	3.1	Ronaldson	Market research	Please provide details of all contracts between the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Colmar Brunton which relate to market research for the Centenary of ANZAC.	Written 23/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
33	3.1	Ronaldson	Market research	Please provide details of all market research contracts between the Department of Veterans' Affairs and contracted providers relating to the Centenary of ANZAC.	Written 23/2/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES, 15 FEBRUARY 2012
Veterans' Affairs portfolio

34		Eggleston	Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many ongoing staff recruited this financial year to date? What classification are these staff? 2. How many non ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff? 3. This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period? 	Written 9/3/2012	19/4/2012	10/5/2012
35		Eggleston	Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many ongoing staff left in the year 2010-11? What classification were these staff? 2. How many non ongoing staff left in the year 2010-11? What classification were these staff? 	Written 9/3/2012	19/4/2012	10/5/2012
36		Eggleston	Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc. 2. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening. 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012
37		Eggleston	Efficiency dividend	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How will the efficiency dividend applied in the 2011-12 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook be implemented in your agency/department? 2. What percentage of your budget must be cut? 3. Will any staff position be cut to meet the efficiency dividend? If yes, provide details of where the positions are located, the classification, whether the position is ongoing or not. 4. Please list where and what spending has been reduced to meet the efficiency dividend 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012
38		Eggleston	Staffing	Please list the SES positions have you in your department/agency in the years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and financial year to date. Identify the different levels and how many are permanent positions.	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012
39		Eggleston	Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many graduates have been engaged this year? Where have they been placed in the department/agency? Were these empty positions or are they new positions? 2. List what training will be provided, the name of the provider and the cost. 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012

40		Eggleston	Government Advertising	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total cost of all advertising for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11? 2. For each of those years, list whether the advertising is campaign or non-campaign and details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services. 3. Did the Department of Finance and Deregulation provide any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item. 4. Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item. 5. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services. 6. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the Department/Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake? 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012
41		Eggleston	Hospitality and Entertainment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. 2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. 3. What is the Department's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. 4. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for this financial year to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. 5. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. 6. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. 7. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events. 8. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event. 	Written 9/3/2012	19/4/2012	10/5/2012
42		Eggleston	Board Appointments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List all of the boards within this portfolio, including: board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members. 2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio? 3. Please detail any board appointments for this financial year to date. 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012
43		Eggleston	Grants	Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012

44		Eggleston	Freedom of Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests? What was the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for 2009-10 and 2010-11? What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date? How many FOI requests did the Department receive for the financial year 2009-10 and 2010-11? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> For each financial year, how many requests were denied and how many were granted? Did the department fail to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date? 	Written 9/3/2012	13/4/2012	10/5/2012
45		Eggleston	Community Cabinets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this financial year to date? How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? What was the total cost of this travel? List travel type, accommodate and any other expenses. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for this financial year to date? 	Written 9/3/2012	19/4/2012 (revised answer received 5/7/2012)	10/5/2012
46		Eggleston	Reviews	<p>For this financial year to date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How many Reviews are being undertaken? What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded Which of these reviews has been provided to Government? When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed? What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews? What reviews are planned? When will each of these reviews be concluded? 	Written 9/3/2012	19/4/2012	10/5/2012

47		Eggleston	Consultancies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> How many consultancies were undertaken in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10? How many consultancies have been undertaken this financial year to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known. 	Written 9/3/2012	19/4/2012	10/5/2012
48		Eggleston	Media Monitoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11? What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for this financial year to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Which agency or agencies provided these services? What is the estimated budget to provide this same services for the year 2011-12? What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date? What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for this financial year to date? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Which agency or agencies provided these services? What is the estimated budget to provide this same services for the year 2011-12? What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date? 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012
49		Eggleston	Social Media	Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and usage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue. If no, please explain why not.	Written 9/3/2012	13/4/2012	10/5/2012

50		Eggleston	Contractors	<p>For this financial year to date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details. 2. Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details. 3. Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details. 4. Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details. 5. Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details. 6. Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details. 7. Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details. 8. Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details. 9. Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details. 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012
51		Eggleston	Discretionary Grants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for this financial year to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants. 2. Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants? 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012
52		Eggleston	Commissioned Reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many reports were commissioned by the government in your portfolio in 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11? 2. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level? b) What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports? 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012

53		Eggleston	Government payments of accounts	<p>1. For this financial year to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e.within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached)</p> <p>a) For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?</p> <p>b) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?</p>	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012
54		Eggleston	Government stationery requirements	How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) this financial year to date?	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012
55		Eggleston	Media subscriptions	<p>1. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)?</p> <p>a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.</p> <p>b) What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?</p> <p>c) What is the cost for this financial year to date?</p> <p>2. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to newspapers?</p> <p>a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.</p> <p>b) What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?</p> <p>c) What is the cost for this financial year to date?</p> <p>3. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to magazines?</p> <p>a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.</p> <p>b) What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?</p> <p>c) What is the cost for this financial year to date?</p>	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012

56		Eggleston	Travel costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel (itemised separately,) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses. 2. For the financial year to date, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff. 3. For the financial year to date, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff. 4. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses. 5. Are employees taking the most direct route when travelling? If not, please explain why. 6. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the cost per employee. 7. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as their Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel. 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012
57		Eggleston	Legal costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the department/agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs. 2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs. 3. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs. 4. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs. 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012 Revised answer received 28/5/2012	10/5/2012 Revised answer received 28/6/2012
58		Eggleston	Education expenses	For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant. Also include the reason for the study.	Written 9/3/2012	19/4/2012	10/5/2012

59		Eggleston	Executive Coaching and Leadership Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Total spending on these services b) The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification c) The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted d) The names of all service providers engaged 2. For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The name and nature of the service purchased b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification d) The total number of hours involved for all employees e) The total amount spent on the service f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package) 3. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The location used b) The number of employees who took part on each occasion c) The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part d) Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012
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60		Eggleston	Media Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Total spending on these services The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted The names of all service providers engaged For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The name and nature of the service purchased Whether the service is one-on-one or group based The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification The total number of hours involved for all employees The total amount spent on the service A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package) Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The location used The number of employees who took part on each occasion The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location 	Written 9/3/2012	30/3/2012	10/5/2012
61		Eggleston	Paid Parental Leave	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Please list how many staff in each portfolio department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? For this financial year to date list which department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff are in receipt of these payments. 	Written 9/3/2012	13/4/2012	10/5/2012
62		Eggleston	Training for Portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for staff of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for. For this financial year to date, how much has been spent on training for designed to better suit the needs of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for, and how many employees attended and their classification. 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012
63		Eggleston	Corporate cars	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> How cars are owned by each department and agency in your portfolio? Where is the car/s located? What is the car/s used for? What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date? How far did each car travel this financial year to date? 	Written 9/3/2012	16/4/2012	10/5/2012

64		Eggleston	Taxi costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis in 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency. 2. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency. 	Written 9/3/2012	13/4/2012	10/5/2012
65		Eggleston	Printing of Documents	Does the department/agency print any hard copies of reports/statements/papers they produce? If yes, please list how many copies, where they are delivered and the cost.	Written 9/3/2012	19/4/2012	10/5/2012
66		Eggleston	Provision of equipment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the department/agency provide their Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices with any electronic equipment? If yes, provide details of what is provided, the cost and to who it is provided. 2. What equipment is provided to department/agency staff? Please list what the equipment is, the cost, the classification of the staff receiving the equipment and the reason why. 	Written 9/3/2012	19/4/2012	10/5/2012