

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES, 25 February 2015

Defence Portfolio/Department of Veterans' Affairs/Australian War Memorial

No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page & hearing date or Written Q	Date Received	Date Tabled
1	DVA General	Gallacher	Capability Review	<p><b>Ms Dotta:</b> Regarding the capability review, we have since tabled reports to the APSC on the actions that we have taken. There have been a range of actions against each of the findings. In particular, some of the earlier actions we have taken are to update our governance arrangements. That was one of the very early actions that we took. We have also updated our strategic plan, DVA towards 2020. We have undertaken some other reviews. I am able to provide more information as a question on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Can you give us an example of what you did in governance?</p> <p><b>Mr Lewis:</b> We have restructured our top-level governance structures across the whole department. It is not one committee. It is a suite of new committees, and a number of former committees have now been abolished. We have streamlined some arrangements. We have probably left more in the accountability of relevant line managers. We can provide a fair bit of detail about that if you want.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> If you have restructured your committee structure, perhaps just a table on that might be sufficient, a table of where bits lie. It is quite normal if you see a government structure of where things go to. What about your ICT?</p>	Proof Hansard 25 February 2015 p. 109	17/04/15	14/05/15
2	DVA General	Gallacher	Capability Review	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> So you are assuring me there is a system in place to address all the issues we have raised?</p> <p><b>Mr Lewis:</b> We are totally wedded to these changes. They are important to the department. It was a good review; I do not necessarily agree with every word used in the report, but it is their report. The recommendations for change across the department are very useful to the department, and the senior leadership group is very committed to driving the changes embedded in it. We would be very happy to give you regular updates.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Could you provide a snapshot of what you have just described?</p> <p><b>Mr Lewis:</b> Certainly, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Thank you. That concludes that item.</p>	Proof Hansard 25 February 2015 p. 110	17/04/15	14/05/15

3	Outcome 3	Gallacher	Vietnam Veterans' Education Centre	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Are these bodies made up of volunteers or paid staff? I am talking about the Vietnam Veterans Education Centre Advisory Panel and the Medicines Advice and Therapeutic Education Services. Are they paid or are they volunteers?</p> <p><b>Ms Daniel:</b> The MATES committee operates under the contract we have with the University of South Australia to run that program. There is a mix of professionals and veterans' representatives on that committee. The education one belongs to a colleague. I would have to get that for you. We will do so during a break.</p>	Proof Hansard 25 February 2015 p. 111	17/04/15	14/05/15
4	Outcome 1	Gallacher	Indexation of pensions	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> You do not have the disaggregation between veterans, war widows, orphans and the disabled?</p> <p><b>Ms Foreman:</b> I do not have that at hand.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> The total number is 220,000 in 2017-18?</p> <p><b>Ms Foreman:</b> That is right.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Are you able to provide a breakdown of the different payments affected by this change with the number of people?</p> <p><b>Ms Foreman:</b> We can give you an estimate for 2017-18. I can tell you the payments that are affected and then we will take on notice the number of people who we estimate receive those payments. The payments that will be affected are the income support payments, such as: service pension; the disability pension, war widower pension; the military rehabilitation and compensation assistance, wholly dependent partner; and special rate disability pension.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> That is five categories?</p> <p><b>Ms Foreman:</b> Yes. The income support payments cover a number of payments in that category.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> And you will, on notice, provide the detail for that?</p> <p><b>Ms Foreman:</b> We will.</p>	Proof Hansard 25 February 2015 p. 112	17/04/15	14/05/15
5	Outcome 3	Smith	French Legion of Honour	<p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> Do we have any sense of the time that it takes for a veteran to notify the French embassy, a decision to be taken and then the award be given? I am familiar with the award ceremony that coincided with the Albany commemorative events at the end of October and early November, with the minister was present. Is there a sense of the time line that it takes for an application to be processed and for a recipient to be notified?</p> <p><b>Major Gen. Chalmers:</b> It is a French process. Clearly, because it is an award of such significance, it does take some time because of the level of authorisation is very high. The President of the French Republic, in the end, is the delegate, I think you would say. Having said that, the French are very keen to ensure that—they</p>	Proof Hansard 25 February 2015 p. 114	17/04/15	14/05/15

				<p>understand that the veterans they are honouring are, for the most part, in their 90s—time is of the essence. This is not an award that can be made posthumously. When a veteran is to be honoured, then they need to work through the process fairly quickly and do so.</p> <p><b>Senator SMITH:</b> That is a very important point, because the veterans are very aged now. Certainly, those that I have met—people like Doug Groome and Eddie Davis, for example—are well and truly into their 90s. They are very fit and spritely; I will add that. In correspondence that I have received from yourselves, dated 12 January, in response to a letter that I sent to the department identifying 12 to 16 veterans or their families that had made their presence known to me as a result of some media activity, a commitment was given to me that the department will notify each of the veterans or their family member who enquired about eligibility on behalf of a veteran. Was that undertaken?</p> <p><b>Major Gen. Chalmers:</b> I am not aware, so I will have to take that on notice for you.</p>			
6	Outcome 1	Fawcett	TTTP	<p><b>Ms Foreman:</b> As in the annual report that was released last October for the 2013-14 year, under the Veterans' Entitlements Act we have a target of 75 days for compensation processing, and I am pleased to say that we met that target of 75 days. Under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act, our outcome was 144 days, which was an improvement of 11 days on the year before, but is still above the target of 120.</p> <p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> So that is clearly an average figure?</p> <p>Ms Foreman: Yes, that is right.</p> <p><b>Senator FAWCETT:</b> In terms of your outliers, how quick are your quickest and how long are your most complicated?</p> <p><b>Ms Foreman:</b> I think I should take that on notice—to get the accurate answer to you—rather than attempt to answer tonight. There are two other targets that we have. In relation to the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act, the outcome last year was 160 days, with the target of 120. In our income support area, we have a target of 32 days and we were at 34 days, which was a seven-day reduction on the previous year. What I can say is that we are getting better, but we still have a way to go.</p>	Proof Hansard 25 February 2015 p. 115	17/04/15	14/05/15

7	DVA General	Gallacher	Veterans' Access Network KPIs	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> I suppose if you are reviewing the efficacy of your service provision including internet and phone, is that ongoing review published anywhere? Do you have KPIs or service standards?</p> <p><b>Mr Carmody:</b> We have KPIs for telephone answering, for example—call waiting time and all those sorts of things. I would have to check: I am not sure how public they are, but they are certainly available.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Perhaps you could take that on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard 25 February 2015 p. 120	17/04/15	14/05/15
8	DVA General	Gallacher	On Base Advisory Service	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> The on-base advisory service: is there a number of staff employed in that area?</p> <p><b>Mr Carmody:</b> I do not have the number in front of me.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Maybe I will put those on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Carmody:</b> I think it is about 35, but I can confirm the number.</p> <p><b>Mr Lewis:</b> We have 38 bases.</p> <p><b>Mr Gerrick:</b> The Secretary is correct. It is around about 38 bases where we have representation.</p>	Proof Hansard 25 February 2015 p. 121	17/04/15	14/05/15
9	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Homelessness	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> I accept the difficulty you would find, but I suppose if someone turns up in Adelaide at a homeless shelter and indicates that they are former service personnel there is a mechanism to deal with that, isn't there?</p> <p><b>Mr Lewis:</b> There is. The ex-service organisations will often come to help. And remember, from what the minister just said, that if that is a younger vet, the chances are that only one in five of those will actually be clients of DVA. We will not even know about the other four in five, if they are younger vets, just because of the way in which transitioning members make choices about whether or not they want to access the services of DVA.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> I think that to do justice to this we should put this on notice and get a considered response from the department.</p> <p><b>Ms Daniel:</b> I might just add very quickly—you talked about homeless organisations and identifying veterans—certainly I know from my conversations, for example with the RSL in Victoria, that they work very closely with the homeless organisations in Melbourne and actively encourage those organisations to encourage people who are homeless and who they become aware of to identify whether they are former serving members so that they can direct them towards the services that the ex-service community can offer and also make sure that their DVA entitlements are in order. That is the sort of thing that happens at the local level from our regional and state offices.</p> <p><b>Senator Ronaldson:</b> Senator, we are going to take this on notice, because it is a</p>	Proof Hansard 25 February 2015 p. 122	17/04/15	14/05/15

				really, really important issue. As you appreciate, homelessness is dealt with under Commonwealth-state partnerships. But if DVA finds out that one of our clients is in this position, then we do move very quickly. We contact organisations that are providing immediate accommodation, crisis accommodation. We get in touch with Centrelink to make sure they are getting their benefits. So, I think to do justice to your question, which is a very good one, we will take it on notice and give you a detailed response. <b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Thank you.			
10	Outcome 2	Sinodinos	Mental Health	<p><b>Senator SINODINOS:</b> That is understandable. Just on mental health issues more generally, you are expanding what you do—is that right?—and trying to find new ways of dealing with these issues. There has been talk about the role of the internet and technology in delivering support and services and working more closely with the medical profession to improve primary mental health care. Is that right?</p> <p><b>Ms Daniel:</b> The department has a range of activities underway. In terms of the medical profession, we have developed a number of resources to increase mental health professionals' understanding of the military experience and their knowledge of best practice intervention. The minister launched in December a new online training program for GPs that we did in conjunction with ACPMH and the College of General Practitioners. We have also made available a veteran mental health consultation companion as a supplement to our veterans' mental health advice book. In terms of other activities, our At Ease website is a key initiative. The minister mentioned previously the phone apps that we produce—the PTSD app. So, there is a range of initiatives there. We are continuing to work in that space, looking at some resilience products and some suicide prevention tools.</p> <p><b>Senator Ronaldson:</b> We will give you a detailed response to this, because an enormous amount of work is being done. Thank you for your question, Senator. It is a really important one.</p>	Proof Hansard 25 February 2015 p. 123	17/04/15	14/05/15
11	Outcome 1	Xenophon	DLA Piper	<p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Dr Gary Rumble led the DLA Piper review, which of course had a very key role in triggering the formation of DART and the Senate inquiries. What resources would you need, and are you considering analysing your own file information from claims indicating patterns of abuse over decades, such as common patterns of conduct, the types of assault, the locations and the like? That could be important in issues of the credibility of allegations and to get those clusters of claims.</p> <p><b>Senator Ronaldson:</b> Senator, the secretary touched on this before.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> Yes. I am elaborating on that, Minister.</p>	Proof Hansard 25 February 2015 p. 124	17/04/15	14/05/15

				<p><b>Mr Lewis:</b> It may be better for us to respond on notice to some of this, Senator. Just to give you a sense, we process 50,000 claims a year. Some of the cases we are talking about obviously go back four decades or more, and we are talking about paper records which probably would be archived in some places distant from the department and not easy to return to the department. I am guessing that in many cases there is an absence of the key records we would need in order to substantiate a case. That is why we are trying to work out other ways to get some evidence that might help with some of these cases.</p> <p><b>Senator XENOPHON:</b> If you could take that on notice, especially in the context of that evidence and the recommendations by the DLA Piper review and Dr Rumble and his evidence before two inquiries. Thank you very much.</p>			
12	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Homelessness	<p>1. Can the Department provide figures in relation to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of homeless veterans,</li> <li>The number of homeless veterans with dependants,</li> <li>The number of homeless veterans under 30,</li> <li>The number of veterans at risk of homelessness,</li> <li>The number of veterans under 30 at risk of homelessness</li> </ol>	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
13	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Homelessness	1. Has there been an increase or decrease in the number of homeless veterans over the last 2/5/10 years?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
14	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Homelessness	1. Can the Department provide details of the key causes of homelessness amongst veterans?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
15	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Homelessness	1. Are the causes of homelessness amongst young veterans different from the causes of homelessness amongst older veterans?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
16	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Homelessness	1. What factors contribute to putting veterans <i>at risk</i> of homelessness?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
17	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Homelessness	<p>1. Can the Department provide details of all programs/services aimed at reducing the risk of homelessness and providing services to homeless veterans? Including details relating to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group the program/service is aimed at,</li> <li>The cost of the program/service,</li> <li>Whether the program/service is run in cooperation/in consultation with ex-service organisation,</li> <li>How many veterans have utilised these programs/service</li> <li>Ant details relating to program/service outcomes</li> </ol>	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15

18	DVA General	Gallacher	Write Way Research Services Ltd	1. What was the exact date when the Department transferred responsibility to undertake research and compile reports from the Army History Unit to Write Way? a. Under what circumstances would Write Way be asked to compile a report? b. What percentage of cases required the production of a report by Write Way? c. How were these reports used?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
19	DVA General	Gallacher	Write Way Research Services Ltd	1. Can the Department confirm that they have stopped using Write Way? a. What was the exact date when the Department stopped using Write Way to undertake research and compile reports? b. What was the reason Department stopped using Write Way? c. Was the decision to stop using Write Way a result of allegations that they relied on a forged document to compile a report? d. Were there any other incidents or reasons that influenced the decision to stop using Write Way? e. How long after the Department became aware of the allegation that Write Way relied on a forged document did the Department stop using Write Way?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
20	DVA General	Gallacher	Write Way Research Services Ltd	1. Did a system of procedures or oversight exits to ensure Write Way complied with all Department regulations and completed work to the highest standard?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
21	DVA General	Gallacher	Write Way Research Services Ltd	1. Can the Department confirm that they have commenced an investigation into Write Way?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
22	DVA General	Gallacher	Write Way Research Services Ltd	1. Can the Department provide details of the investigation into Write Way in relation to: a. The date when the investigation was initiated, b. The reason the investigation was initiated, c. The scope of the investigation, and d. Who is undertaking the investigation?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
23	DVA General	Gallacher	Write Way Research Services Ltd	1. Can the Department confirm whether the investigation is still ongoing? a. Can the Department provide an update on the progress on the investigation? b. When does the Department expect to conclude the investigation? c. Will any findings of the investigation be made public?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15

24	DVA General	Gallacher	Write Way Research Services Ltd	<p>1. Have there been any legal challenges/appeals to the AAT of Departmental decisions, in relation to veteran's entitlements, involving the Department's use of a Write Way reports?</p> <p>a. How many?</p> <p>b. How many have been decided?</p> <p>c. How many cases resulted in overturning a Departmental decision?</p> <p>d. In cases where the decision was overturned, what part did the Write Way report play in that decision?</p> <p>e. How much have these legal challenges/appeals cost the Department?</p>	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
25	DVA General	Gallacher	Write Way Research Services Ltd	<p>1. Can the Department provide details regarding who is currently responsible for the tasks previously undertaken by Write Way?</p> <p>a. How they were chosen? Open tender?</p> <p>b. Their qualifications?</p> <p>c. Professional standards they must comply with?</p>	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
26	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Veterans' hearing aid entitlements for Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) accepted conditions	<p>1. Can the Department explain the fundamental differences between the way veteran's hearing aid devices for SRCA accepted conditions were funded before and after 10 December 2013?</p> <p>a. What was the purpose of making this change?</p> <p>b. What are the benefits of this change?</p> <p>c. Does the Department expect any savings as a result of this change in arrangements? Have any savings been projected? How much?</p>	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
27	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Veterans' hearing aid entitlements for Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA)	<p>1. Are 'free to client' hearing devices sufficient to meet the clinical needs of all levels of hearing loss?</p> <p>a. Does the consideration of 'clinical need' take into consideration how the hearing device will operate in situations like in the car, in restaurants or on the phone?</p> <p>b. When assessing the clinical need of a veteran, is that veterans lifestyle taken into account i.e. will they need to hear in a noisy environment, do they use the phone a lot?</p> <p>c. Who makes the decision whether or not a particular hearing device will be included in the 'free to client' list of hearing devices?</p>	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15

			accepted conditions	d. What criteria do they use to make that decision?			
28	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Veterans' hearing aid entitlements for Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) accepted conditions	1. Has the new arrangement resulted in any disparity between the quality of devices available to veterans and devices available to other people covered by the SRCA?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
29	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Veterans' hearing aid entitlements for Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) accepted conditions	1. Prior to the change in funding arrangements: a. What was the most the most expensive hearing device available to veterans with SRCA accepted conditions? b. What was the least expensive hearing device available to veterans with SRCA accepted conditions? c. What was the average cost of providing hearing device to veterans with SRCA accepted conditions?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
30	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Veterans' hearing aid entitlements for Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation	1. After the change in funding arrangements: a. What is the most expensive 'free to client' hearing device available to veterans with SRCA accepted conditions?? b. What is the least expensive free to client' hearing device available to veterans with SRCA accepted conditions? c. What has been the average cost to the Department for hearing devices provided to veterans with SRCA accepted conditions?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15

			Veterans' hearing aid entitlements for Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) accepted conditions				
31	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Veterans' hearing aid entitlements for Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) accepted conditions	1. If there is a significant difference between the most expensive device and under the previous and current arrangements – a. Does the difference in cost of the higher range devices under the two arrangements signify a difference in quality/functions of the devices available?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
32	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Veterans' hearing aid entitlements for Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) accepted conditions	1. Has the Department received any complaints about the adequacy of 'free to client' devices? a. What sorts of reasons were given by veterans for these complaints? b. How were those complaints addressed? c. How many of those complaints resulted in the funding of a 'top up device'?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
33	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Veterans' hearing aid entitlements for Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation	1. What benefit is provided by 'top up' hearing aid devices? 2. In what way do they differ from the 'free to client' hearing devices?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15

			Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) accepted conditions				
34	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Veterans' hearing aid entitlements for Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) accepted conditions	<p>1. Under what circumstances would the Department consider funding 'top up' hearing devices?</p> <p>a. How does the Department define 'exceptional circumstance'?</p> <p>b. How would a veteran demonstrate 'exceptional circumstances'?</p> <p>c. Would it require a letter from a specialist audiologist?</p> <p>d. Would the cost of having a document prepared by a specialist audiologist in support of their application for funding of a top up device be covered by the Department?</p>	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
35	Outcome 2	Gallacher	Veterans' hearing aid entitlements for Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) accepted conditions	1. Approximately how many veterans have requested the funding of 'top up' devices?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
36	Outcome 2	Xenophon	Veteran Suicides	In response to questions on notice from Supplementary Estimates 2014 in relation to the suicide rate amongst veterans, DVA advised it had "commissioned the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to carry out a data matching exercise between deceased ADF personnel (specifically those who served from 1972 and who died on or after 1 January 1990) and the National Death Index and the States' Coroners' databases to establish both the number of suicides and the prevalence of suicide in the veteran population".	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15

				1. In relation to this data matching exercise can you please advise: a. How many deaths have been examined to date? b. How many deaths have been determined as suicide? c. What has been done with the information that has been gathered so far by DVA?			
37	Outcome 2	Xenophon	Veteran Suicides	2. I understand DVA offers online suicide awareness training through its Operation Life initiative. a. How long has this training been made available by DVA? b. Who is able to access this training? Defence personnel and civilian personnel? c. How many people have participated in this online training to date? d. How does DVA assess the effectiveness of this online training? e. How many face-to-face workshops have been conducted nationally under this initiative and how many people have participated in them? f. What has been the feedback from participants in relation to this the online training and face-to-face workshops?	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
38	Outcome 1	Xenophon	Compensation/DART	I refer to responses provided by DVA to questions on notice from Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-15 (Q 172). In response to one question, DVA advised that claimants who have received a reparation payment from DART "may not disclose the outcome of their DART reparation claim". 1. Can you please advise how many DVA claimants have disclosed they have been through the DART process? 2. How many DVA claimants have disclosed the outcome of their DART reparation claim? 3. In response to question 1(b) DVA stated the following were reasons as to why claims relating wholly or partly to sexual or physical abuse may have been unsuccessful: a. No diagnosed medical condition; b. Claimant's circumstances may not have met the relevant Statement of Principles for the diagnosed condition; c. Insufficient medical or other documentary evidence to support the claim; d. Inconsistent evidence resulting in the connection between the claimed events and the condition not meeting the relevant standard of proof; and e. Claimant not 'on duty' at the time of the alleged assault. 4. Can you please advise how many times each of the above reasons has been used	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15

				to refuse a DVA claim made in relation to conditions resulting from sexual and/or physical assault?			
39	Outcome 1	Xenophon	Abuse	<p>DVA advises (Q 172 2014-15 Supplementary Estimates) that 259 claims submitted to DVA between 1 January 2011 and 31 July 2014 related wholly or partly to sexual or physical abuse. These claims involved 522 separate conditions.</p> <p>1. Is DVA analysing these claims (and ones made prior to 1 January 2011) to determine whether any patterns of abusive conduct has been reported to DVA over the years? If not, why not?</p> <p>2. What resources would DVA require in order to conduct a review of its own case files to analyse claims made relating to sexual and physical abuse with a view to determining whether patterns of abuse exist?</p> <p>3. How many claims relating to sexual or physical abuse have been submitted to DVA since 31 July 2014 to date?</p>	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
40	Outcome 1	Xenophon	Abuse/DART	<p>In response to questions put on notice during the FADT committee's inquiry into the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce DVA advised:</p> <p>The Chair of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission has formally requested information from the Chair of the DART regarding ADF bases and locations where clusters of abuse are known to have occurred (including timeframes and types of abuse), with a view to possibly using this information as part of the DVA claims assessment process to support abuse claims. The first tranche of the information has been received and is being analysed.</p> <p>1. Can you please provide an update as to the status of the analysis of this first tranche of information?</p> <p>2. Have any preliminary findings been made as to the possibility of 'clusters of abuse'?</p> <p>3. How many tranches of information are anticipated to be received?</p>	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15

41	Outcome 1	Xenophon	Abuse/DART	<p>Recommendation 6 in the FADT committee's report on the Government's response to the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce stated:</p> <p>The committee recommends that the Minister for Veterans' Affairs direct the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to commence consultation with veterans' representative organisations and to report back on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the legal and practical barriers there are to victims of abuse in the ADF succeeding in establishing the facts necessary to access entitlements to DVA benefits;</li> <li>• what Defence and DVA could do and what resources they will require to gather and share information which could assist such individuals to establish those facts to the satisfaction of DVA and tribunal decision-makers;</li> <li>• what can be done in liaison with veterans' groups, other Australian Government agencies and community groups, and what resources will be required to reach out to individuals affected by abuse who may be eligible for DVA benefits – including individuals who have previously applied and been rejected.</li> </ul> <p>1. Can DVA provide an update as to the status of the consultation process recommended by the FADT committee in recommendation 6? How many veterans groups have been consulted with to date?</p> <p>2. What legal and practical barriers have been identified to date to victims of abuse in the ADF succeeding in establishing the facts necessary to access entitlement to DVA benefits?</p> <p>3. Has DVA identified what resources would be required in order to gather and share information which could assist abuse victims to establish the facts of their case to the satisfaction of DVA? If not why not?</p> <p>4. Has DVA identified what resources will be required to reach out to individuals affected by abuse who may be eligible for DVA benefits? If not why not?</p> <p>5. Has DVA reached out to any individuals affected by abuse since the committee handed down its report in October 2014? If not why not?</p>	Written Q	17/04/15	14/05/15
42	AWM	Whish-Wilson		<p><b>Dr Nelson:</b> Anzac Hall, where the Lancaster, the miniature submarine, the First World War aircraft and the Sydney-Emden displays are, is the area that we use for events. It could be the glass manufacturers association's annual Christmas dinner, it could be the Northrop Grumman launch of its increased presence in Australia, it could be the Bomber Command annual dinner—it could be a whole range of things. That is the area that we use for these sorts of events.</p> <p>Going back to Senator Gallacher's questions about funding for things like travelling exhibitions, the revenue that we are able to derive from our commercial activities, which include allowing Anzac Hall to be used for these sorts of events, enables us to</p>	Proof Hansard 25 February 2015 p. 130	17/04/15	14/05/15

			<p>provide the kinds of offerings which mean so much to our Australian visitors and to our international visitors. It is a very important thing. For a number of those events that are held in Anzac Hall, we considerably discount the fees that we charge where it is a veterans' group. We will have a dinner there later this year for the families of the fallen from Afghanistan. Of course there will be no charge to them whatsoever. But when we have corporations come in, whether they are in defence or any other part of the corporate sector, it is not only an appropriate use for that area of the memorial but it is also an important part of our revenue raising.</p> <p><b>Senator WHISH-WILSON:</b> Could I ask about how many other defence companies have used that particular area for functions?</p> <p><b>Dr Nelson:</b> I would have to take that on notice. I have been at the memorial for two years and two months, and I certainly know that Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Northrop Grumman, as you quite rightly point out, have had functions there—</p>		
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