## Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES, 30 May 2017

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

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page <i>or</i> Written QoN	Comment	Date answer received
	Australian War Memorial						
1	AWM (National Collections)	BACK	Collections	CHAIR: No. I am beyond Albany. Albany is going tremendously well. No, it is the last of the first three ASLAVs that went to Baghdad in 2003. I am just wondering if there are any plans yet for it to be brought back and placed at the War Memorial.  Dr Nelson: We do have the ASLAV prototype permanently on display now, alongside the Bushmaster and the Centurion tank, but I will have to ask either the assistant director or Gen. Dawson in relation to one of those three ASLAVs.  Mr Sullivan: We have a regular meeting with the ADF around objects that have been identified by curators, as well as deployed personnel, for return to Australia because of their heritage significance. I cannot swear that the particular ASLAV that you are talking about is one of those items that has been identified but we do have quite a number of objects, large technology objects, identified to be returned to Australia so I can find out. If you can provide the specific details of the one that you are considering I can give you advice on whether that is on our radar.	92	SQ17-000065	21/07/17
	AWM	FARRELL	Market Research	For the 2016-17 financial year, what was the total amount spent by the Department/agency on market research (either as a whole contract or as part of a contract)?  For each contract for market research in 2016/2017, can you please provide:  a. The subject of the market research;  b. The supplier;  c. Whether the supplier has been engaged previously and if so, for which contracts;  d. The total value of the contract;  e. The term of the contract (time);  f. The date that the decision was taken to seek market research on the topic;  g. The date the contract was opened to tender or selection process;  h. The date the supplier was engaged;  i. Whether the contract was subject to a tender process, including whether there was a full, partial or closed tender process;  j. Does the supplier exist on a pre-approved supplier list, if so, when were they added to that list;  k. Whether the Minister, or the Minister's Office, requested that the research be conducted;  l. Whether the Minister approved the decision to conduct market research;  m. Whether the Minister approved the contract with the supplier;  n. Whether the Minister or the Minister's office was consulted on questions asked;  o. Whether the Minister or the Minister's office received a copy of the market research;  p. If the decision to conduct research was initiated by the department or agency, was the Minister or their office consulted before the decision was taken to conduct research, if so – in what form did that consultation take (written, verbal other);  q. If the decision to conduct research was initiated by the department or agency, did Minister or their office make any amendments or changes to the Department's proposal for market research to be conducted, if so, what changes and to what aspects were they made;  r. At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research were other	written	SQ17-000116	21/07/17

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				<ul> <li>departments or agencies consulted?</li> <li>s. At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research were other Ministers, or the Prime Minister consulted?</li> <li>t. At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research did the expected cost change, if so how?</li> <li>u. At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research did the scope, questions or supplier of the research change?</li> <li>v. Have any topics or questions of market research been conducted and subsequently conducted again by the same or different supplier?</li> </ul>			
49	AWM	BILYK	Departmental Functions	In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio since 1 March 2017, can the following please be provided:  a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.	Written	SQ17-000122	21/07/17
51	AWM	BILYK	Credit Cards	<ul> <li>a. How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff in the Department and agencies within the portfolio? If possible, please provide a break-down of this information by APS/ SES level.</li> <li>b. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in calendar year 2016 and what was it for?</li> <li>c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>e. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in calendar year 2016 and what was the card holder's APS/ SES level?</li> <li>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in calendar year 2016 and what was the cost of their replacement?</li> <li>g. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy in calendar year 2016? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in calendar year 2016 and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</li> <li>h. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid in calendar year 2016, and what was the cardholder's APS/ SES level? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</li> <li>i. Are any credit cards currently on issue in the Department or agencies within the portfolio connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</li> <li>j. Can a copy of the Department's staff credit card policy please be provided?</li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000124	21/07/17

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page <i>or</i> Written QoN	Comment	Date answer received
52	AWM	BILYK	Laptops	<ul> <li>a. How many laptops are currently on issue to staff of the Department and agencies in the portfolio?</li> <li>b. Can an itemised list showing make and model please be provided?</li> <li>c. How many new laptops were purchased by the Department and agencies in the portfolio in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>d. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of purchasing laptops for staff of the Department and agencies in the portfolio in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>e. How many laptops did the Department and agencies in the portfolio have to be replace due to damage in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST <u>inclusive</u>)?</li> <li>f. How many laptops were reported lost or stolen in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST <u>inclusive</u>)?</li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000125	21/07/17
	DVA						
2	DALAS	BILYK	FOI	My office has been contacted by a Mr Peter Cairns and Mrs Roslyn Cairns of Woodbridge, Tasmania. Mrs Cairns recently made a Freedom of Information application to the Department of Veterans' Affairs to have her payslips returned. The Department refused her request on the grounds that, although they were satisfied that the documents in question were in the Department's possession, the documents could not be found.  a. Why has the Department been unable to find Mrs Cairns's payslips?  b. Are efforts continuing to be made by the Department to locate these documents? If not, why not?  c. In searching for the documents, has the Department identified any deficiencies in their filing or archiving procedures? What action is being taken to correct these deficiencies?  d. What steps is the Department taking to avoid further instances of misplacing clients' documents?	written	SQ17-000064	21/07/17
3	Corporate	KITCHING	VCR – ICT Systems	Senator KITCHING: Of the 200-odd systems, there were 15 or 18 systems— Mr Geary: 18.  Senator KITCHING: So there were 18 systems that were very old. What are the other categories? Mr Geary: I think it is fair to say that most of our IT systems are reasonably old. The income support system itself, which pays service pensions et cetera, would be around 15 years old, as well, and a lot on the help ICT systems are quite old. The systems that were identified at catastrophic risk were the compensation systems.  Senator KITCHING: But were there other categories? Were some of them okay or satisfactory?  Ms Cosson: Some of them probably need some attention earlier than others. I would not be able to give you the names of all systems, but we identified a lot of them. Last year, when we received in the budget the \$23.9 million to address the rehabilitation and compensation systems, that was dealing with the immediate risk of those systems, as Mr Geary pointed out. Through this process with Veteran Centric Reform we also identified, particularly, that income support needed some attention, because of the legacy system supporting that. With rehabilitation, we probably have a little bit more time. Also, with the health and aged care	95	SQ17-000066	21/07/17

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				payment systems, I believe we have a bit more time with the health systems. There are a number of systems that sit beneath those major outcomes that we deliver and part of that risk assessment is looking at where we should be investing up-front with the \$23.9 million for improved processing systems. Also, with Department of Human Services, with WPIT we are seeing if we can bring anything forward as part of that to address some of the risk. Similarly, from within the department we are having a look at our own capital funding that might be available to invest today to hold those systems over until Veteran Centric Reform can deliver.  Senator KITCHING: How much of your own capital funding would you possibly use to do that?  Ms Cosson: We have an information committee meeting tomorrow, so I will take that on notice, because I will probably have a better answer after we have had that conversation.			
4	Transformation	BACK	VCR – ICT Systems	Ms Pope: And we will be starting with a pilot in students. The student payments will be the first one that we trial with WPIT. There are about 2,500 student payments, so it is a very small program. They are educational support payments to the children of veterans. We are going to test and work with this system first. That will give us a guide and a sense of how successful we can be, then looking at income support payments more broadly.  CHAIR: What is the platform? Is it a Microsoft platform? It is not a bespoke platform?  Ms Pope: The DHS platform is SAP based.  CHAIR: So it is immeasurably able over time to be expanded, changed and integrated.  Ms Pope: Yes.  CHAIR: In 10 years' time we will not be there saying we have to spend \$1 billion this time because the 2017 versions are SAP based? By whom is it fully supported?  Ms Pope: By SAP.  CHAIR: They are not outsourcing either the hardware or software support? Are they taking responsibility for both of those?  Ms Pope: You might need to us some of those questions of DHS, in terms of the detail of their arrangements.  CHAIR: I would like to ask you to take it on notice and ask DHS.  Ms Pope: Certainly.  CHAIR: I am particularly keen to know who is undertaking software support and hardware maintenance and what the terms of the contracts are. If you can alert us to that it would be appreciated.	98	SQ17-000067	21/07/17
5	Transformation	KITCHING	VCR – ICT Systems	Senator KITCHING: Are the improvements going to be done in-house? Are they going to be done by contract? Do you have an idea about the value of the contracts? Will they go to open tender?  Mr Lewis: It will be a bit of all those things, and of course it will be done through DHS. If you wanted us to address any particular questions, we would be delighted to take that on notice. We would need to refer to our colleagues in Human Services and come back to you.  Senator KITCHING: If I could put those on notice. What is the value of the contracts? Will they go to open tender? What are the KPIs going to be for the contracts? Are there any KPIs or milestones in place to ensure system improvements are delivered on time and within budget? I was going to ask you about cybersecurity risks; I will put that on notice as well. Was there a cybersecurity risk assessment conducted on DVA's systems and what were the results? How many systems were at risk? I will give you a list.  Mr Lewis: We will wait for the list to come through and we will tackle them diligently.	101	SQ17-000068	21/07/17

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				<ul> <li>b. Are they going to be done by contract?</li> <li>c. Do you have an idea about the value of the contracts?</li> <li>d. Will they go to open tender?</li> <li>e. What are the KPIs going to be for the contracts?</li> <li>f. Are there any KPIs or milestones in place to ensure system improvements are delivered on time and within budget?</li> </ul>			
6	Transformation	KITCHING	VCR – ICT Systems (Cybersecurity)	Senator KITCHING: I was going to ask you about cybersecurity risks; I will put that on notice as well. Was there a cybersecurity risk assessment conducted on DVA's systems and what were the results? How many systems were at risk? I will give you a list.  a. Was there a cybersecurity risk assessment conducted on DVA's systems and what were the results?  b. How many systems were at risk?	101	SQ17-000069	21/07/17
7	RMA	FAWCETT	RMA SOPs	Ms Foreman: The Repatriation Medical Authority has responsibility for the SOP and it bases those statements on sound scientific medical evidence. People are able to ask the RMA to review SOPs and the RMA is able to take an own motion and review the SOP on its own, if it decides to do so. That is the way the SOPs are presented. They would have looked at evidence that has come in from various scientific and medical studies to amend that particular SOP.  Senator FAWCETT: Sure, but as I understand—and tell me if I am wrong—the chronology of this, an issue or a concern was raised by veterans during a Senate inquiry. As I understand it, DVA was the agency at the table. As a result of that I am assuming you have then gone to the RMA for them to review the SOP.  Mr Lewis: I might need to take on notice the precise chronology there. To some extent I think we all would have been watching the proceedings of the Senate hearing quite closely. Whether we need to directly approach Professor Saunders about that issue or whether he already had it under advisement, I could not give you a concrete answer, but we would be very happy to take it on notice to explain the chronology to you.	101 - 102	SQ17-000072	21/07/17
8	RMA	FAWCETT	RMA SOPs	Senator FAWCETT: I am conscious that I am asking you and it is them who do this, but do you know whether they have a regular schedule of reviewing to update their understanding around the medical evidence they have used?  Mr Lewis: I am not sure if there is a regular schedule.  Ms Foreman: But, as the secretary just said, they are able to initiate their own reviews, and they do that. I will take on notice whether it is a regular schedule. But I know that they do review their own SOPs. I am not sure how regularly they review each SOP.  Ms Spiers: To add to Ms Foreman's comments, mental health conditions are clearly a focus not only of Australian research but of international research. We will check with the Repatriation Medical Authority, but I suspect they are closely monitoring these areas because these are clearly areas of growth development in research. And we will look at the time frames appropriate to each condition. I think you referred to the two and five years, which would link to different mental health conditions. That is something they would be drawing from the research and would best placed to explain—not a common garden-variety lawyer, I am afraid!  Ms Foreman: We will take that on notice.	102	SQ17-000074	21/07/17

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9	RSD	GALLACHER	NLHC	Senator GALLAGHER: Perhaps if I work sequentially through the questions we will preempt some of the additional answers you are providing. Could you provide a breakdown of the estimated cost per patient? I understand that it is estimated.  Mr Brown: I would probably have to take that on notice. We have an average cost for a white card but we might have adjusted that to reflect that we are talking only about mental health treatment for this costing. I do not have the model with me—sorry.	104	SQ17-000075	21/07/17
10	HCSD	KAKOSCHKE -MOORE	Suicide prevention trials (Assistance animals)	Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Something has struck me tonight, just listening to some of the evidence that we heard earlier and based on the questions that I put during last estimates about assistance animals that have been picked up tonight. Hearing what you said just then, and reading what was in the Budget Paper about these pilots, the aim is to provide a more holistic treatment service for veterans who are suffering from chronic mental health conditions. Would it be possible for some sort of trial around assistance animals to be included as part of this funding?  Ms Campion: As Ms Foreman mentioned, there is already work occurring in DVA to look at what we might be able to do to not repeat or duplicate what others are doing in that area but to add to that body of evidence. I think we would probably need to take that on notice and get more information and more certainty about what the other plans might be.	108	SQ17-000070	21/07/17
11	Transformation	KAKOSCHKE -MOORE	Transition/Medical Assessment	Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: As a result of measures announced in the budget, will each of those people who are being discharged on a medical basis now be receiving a higher level of support?  Ms Cosson: There are a couple of things, Senator. In relation to those who are being medically discharged, one thing we are exploring as part of our transition task force is to look at how we can leverage Defence rehabilitation contracts so that we can look at that continuity of care for ADF personnel. We are running a proof of concept—which is not a budget measure; we are doing it without any additional resources—with our special forces colleagues. They have about 50 members who discharge per year, so we are looking at how we can learn from their experience in the transition area. As Ms Foreman mentioned earlier about the rehabilitation, we are looking at 100 members who are in the process of transitioning to get them into early rehabilitation. Also, as part of veteran-centric reform, we have, as part of that \$166 million measure over four years, some funding to look at that proactive intervention. So we have identified different categories of veterans who will be transitioning or have transitioned to see how we can connect with them early to make sure that we are getting them into treatment early and, as Ms Pope mentioned as well, that we are being proactive rather than reactive in reaching out to them. So there are a range of different activities underway. Some are pilots and some are learning from that experience to inform a report that we will give to government in response to the transition task force. It was one of the election commitments that we establish this task force.  There is one other thing—and I heard the Vice Chief mention it as well in the questioning—about how we are looking at the experience for those who have to go to multiple medical providers. They go to a provider, a doctor, when they are in Defence, then DVA requires them to go to a medical practitioner, and then the Commonwealth Superannuation Corpo	112 - 113	SQ17-000078	21/07/17

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12	RSD	KITCHING	VEP	Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Would that single medical assessment process include assessment of any potential psychological conditions?  Ms Cosson: Defence has mental health screening arrangements in place, which are quite separate to that single process, but that screening will inform the process.  Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: You mentioned that there was a report that will be compiled outlining the results of these various initiatives. When do you anticipate that report will be ready for release?  Ms Cosson: At this stage, I do not know. I will have to take that on notice. But, certainly, we are required to report back to the minister on a number of the initiatives, particularly the single medical assessment process. He is seeking advice by the end of June on what we are doing there. Regarding the transition task force, I am hoping that we will be able to have a report that outlines what improvements we need in transition in the next couple of months.  Senator KITCHING: Is the \$100,000 in the third and fourth years administrative costs of running the awards?  Mr Brown: I do not think it would be. I will have to take it on notice. My guess would be it is a capital cost associated with maintaining the website in the out years. I will take that on notice and come back to you on that.	115	SQ17-000080	21/07/17
13	Transformation	KITCHING	VCR (Female Veterans and Families Forum)	Ms Pope: Yes. Some people told stories in other contexts as well about going with their male mates so that they had the protection of their group and so they would be recognised as part of that wider group rather than isolated on their own for that reason. They talked very much about families and the fact that a serving officer is very strongly supported by their family and helping the family and recognising that what the family can do is a really important part of supporting the veteran. That was the really important underlying message out of this, that support the family and you support the veteran. Often the family will know when a veteran is struggling before the veteran might recognise it themselves. Then, the dual issues of many female veterans who are married to veterans themselves. So, they have two family members, whereas that was not so common in the past, say in the Vietnam era. The man had served, but the woman had not. Now, the families are trying to manage with both parents having those experiences and how does that impact the family and when they are deployed, the impact that has. Those were the sorts of issues that they talked through. Senator KITCHING: Are you able table or take on notice so that you can give us a list? Is that possible?  Ms Pope: Yes.  Ms Cosson: We have released a report on the outcomes of the forum, so we can make sure that we send you the link to that.  Senator KITCHING: I think everyone would be interested.	116	SQ17-000081	21/07/17
14	Transformation	KITCHING	VCR (Female Veterans and Families Forum)	Senator KITCHING: Was the forum held in Canberra?  Ms Pope: Yes, it was.  Senator KITCHING: What was the cost of the forum?  Ms Pope: I would have to take the exact cost on notice, but there were approximately 50 delegates. Twenty-five were veterans and 25 were family of veterans, although there was quite a bit of crossover between them as well because some were both veterans and family members.  Senator KITCHING: Could you take that on notice. Was it from existing resources?	116 - 117	SQ17-000082	21/07/17
15	HCSD	KITCHING	Coordinated Veterans Care program	Senator KITCHING: Has any evaluation been done on the CVC Program?  Ms Campion: Yes, an evaluation has been undertaken. We would have to provide you that	117	SQ17-000083	21/07/17

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page <i>or</i> Written QoN	Comment	Date answer received
16	VVCS	GALLACHER	VVCS eligibility	on notice. It was recent but not in the last couple of years.  Senator KITCHING: I might ask some questions, and it is fine if you take them on notice.  Who conducted the evaluation? When was this evaluation provided to government? What findings of the evaluation can you share with the committee? Will you consider releasing the evaluation? Are you aware of any consideration to expand the CVC Program? How will veterans who participate in the CVC Program interact with practices participating in Health's Health Care Homes trial? If you could take all those on notice, that would be great.  Ms Campion: I can answer the one about expansion. A component of our new budget measure around suicide prevention pilots, as I mentioned before, is looking to add mental health as one of the conditions to the current five physical conditions that are the focus of CVC. That would be a pilot to look at how we incorporate mental health into that program.  Dr Hodson: Because of our duty-of-care ability, if member of the veteran community contacted us in distress, we normally provide an episode of care to facilitate referral. We	117	SQ17-000086	21/07/17
				have been able to initiate this immediately. As soon as it was announced, we let our centres know that the eligibility was changed and that people were being seen under a duty of care until the instrument comes into effect probably on 1 July.  Senator GALLACHER: How many people are expected to benefit from this change?  Dr Hodson: I would have to take that question on notice. We did actually do the calculations in looking at usage of the service, but I could not tell you tonight.			
17	VVCS	GALLACHER	VVCS eligibility	Dr Hodson: In 2011 we had 10,000 actual clients seen by the service. We have a number of things for people. We have group programs. Counselling was about 10,000. That has increased now to 15,000 in 2015, so there is a gradual and increasing need which we are meeting through these initiatives.  Senator GALLACHER: Prior to the increase in funding, what was the cost for a year?  Dr Hodson: We would need to take that on notice.  Senator GALLACHER: Can you take it on notice for one year and two years?  Mr Lewis: We can give you client numbers and dollars if you like.	118	SQ17-000087	21/07/17
18	Corporate	MOORE	Younger Veterans Forum	Senator MOORE: One is the Younger Veterans Forum and one is Younger Veterans Grants. On the Younger Veterans Forum, there is a website that lists the membership of the forum. I am really interested to know whether the ages of those members can be provided?  Major Gen. Kelly: Off the top of my head, I would have to take that one on notice.  Senator MOORE: I would be surprised if you could just run them off, Major General Kelly. Is there any problem about getting the ages of those—  Major Gen. Kelly: There would be some privacy issues. I would have to consult with the membership if they want their ages to be known.	119	SQ17-000088	21/07/17
19	Corporate	MOORE	Younger Veterans Forum	Major Gen. Kelly: Yes, and the organisation of our national consultative forum has just recently been through its three-year review process. The results of that are being finalised and the membership will be refined and organisations and presidents will be again asked to nominate. We will see a refresh of the membership—the Young Veterans Forum and indeed the other national consultative fora of the department's engagement with the exservice organisation community and stakeholders.  Senator MOORE: Who issues the invitation? Is that from the minister? Is it from the department?  Major Gen. Kelly: It is from the minister through the secretary to the national presidents and the other organisations that we identify as emerging and could be of great benefit to us engaging with the wider younger community, as well as the older cohort, to ensure that we can actually connect and get our message out, and also to find out any issues that they are	119	SQ17-000089	21/07/17

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				facing that we need to address.  Senator MOORE: On notice, can we have some indication of the age of the people who have been appointed?  Major Gen. Kelly: The standard committee or the new committee?  Senator MOORE: The one that is actually now operational.  Major Gen. Kelly: I will have to have a look at that with the membership.			
20	RSD	GALLACHER	Rehab providers	Senator GALLACHER: I was just checking to see if the officials are on their game and up to speed. So there is one in the Northern Territory. How are the services provided by this single rehabilitation provider? Do they have branches? Where are they located? It is 1,000 miles from Alice Springs to Darwin, with a few points in between—and I do know a couple of veterans in Alice Springs. So how are services provided? Are there branches in different places?  Mr Lewis: We may need to take this on notice.  Ms Foreman: Yes. I do not have the right people here to answer that question. I would need to go back to some other people to find the answer. We do the overall policy.  Mr Lewis: We would be happy to provide you the details.  Senator GALLACHER: Geographically, the ACT is very small and there are eight there.  Ms Foreman: Yes.  Senator GALLACHER: And the Northern Territory is much larger geographically and there is a single provider. How do you provide the range of services?  Mr Orme: From Alice Springs there may be providers coming out of Adelaide, which is quite common in that part of the Northern Territory-South Australia corridor, or they may come out of Queensland. I do not know the answer.  Mr Lewis: We will give you the correct answer on notice.	122 - 123	SQ17-000090	21/07/17
21	RSD	GALLACHER	Rehab providers	Senator GALLACHER: That would also impact on the next question which is: is their choice in terms of rehab providers?  Ms Foreman: Yes. We try and match the client with the most appropriate rehabilitation provider. If for some reason the client is not satisfied with that provider, we would respond to that and move them to another provider where appropriate. Yes, we do that.  Senator GALLACHER: But if you only have one and they are in the Northern Territory, that is going to be a little bit problematic, isn't it?  Ms Foreman: I need to talk to my staff, who actually implement this, but I think that they use—  Senator GALLACHER: So the question of choice will come up if there is only one provider.  Ms Foreman: No, they use providers from other states, as I understand it, but we will take that on notice and get back to you and let you know how that works.  Senator GALLACHER: We asked the question on notice and you provided a very complete answer, so then we provided simple questions based on your answer. Are you saying your initial answer is incorrect, that, whilst there might be one in the Northern Territory, it is supplemented by Queensland and South Australia, and therefore the questions about choice and availability are misdirected?  Ms Foreman: No, I know that a number of the organisations that might be registered in Victoria actually have providers located in other states. I will get to the bottom of that for you.	123	SQ17-000021	21/07/17
22	RSD	GALLACHER	Rehab providers	Senator GALLACHER: So, in respect of the Northern Territory, could you give us the detail of how many clients this provider treats in 12 months and what the cost of those services is?  Ms Foreman: Yes, we can.	123	SQ17-000092	21/07/17

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page or Written QoN	Comment	Date answer received
				Senator GALLACHER: How many DVA clients has this provider treated over the last 24 months and what was the cost? Has the department received complaints about this rehabilitation provider?  Ms Foreman: We will take that on notice too.			
23	Corporate	GALLACHER	DVA and NSW RSL officials on overseas trip	<ul> <li>a. Have DVA Officials travelled overseas with representatives of RSL NSW?</li> <li>b. What was the purpose of this overseas travel?</li> <li>c. How often have DVA Officials travelled overseas with representatives of RSL NSW?</li> <li>d. Who funded the overseas travel, NSW RSL or DVA?</li> <li>e. How much has the DVA spent of overseas trips?</li> <li>f. What level were officers that went on these trips?</li> <li>g. Who from DVA and Who from NSW RSL went on these trips?</li> <li>h. Did anyone from NSW RSL take part in these trips?</li> <li>i. Was Chris Perrin or Darren McManus-Smith from NSW RSL on any of these trips?</li> <li>j. Is it normal for DVA officials to attend trips overseas with RSL branch representatives?</li> <li>k. Have any overseas trips taken place with other RSL state branches?</li> <li>l. What class of travel do DVA officials typically fly on overseas trips (E.g. economy, business)?</li> <li>m. How much has the Department spent on overseas travel for officials traveling with members of the NSW RSL?</li> </ul>	127 – 128 / Written	SQ17-000095	21/07/17
24	Deputy President	GALLACHER	DC NSW Overseas Travel with RSL NSW	<ul> <li>a. Did Ms Jennifer Collins, NSW Deputy Commissioner take overseas trips with NSW RSL senior staff and state councillors?</li> <li>b. What was Ms Collins' role in the Department?</li> <li>c. When did these trips take place?</li> <li>d. Where did these trips go?</li> <li>e. Did any other DVA officials accompany Ms Collins on these trips?</li> <li>f. How were the trips funded?</li> <li>g. Did Mr Hayden White attend any overseas travel with Ms Collins or NSW RSL?</li> <li>h. What is Mr White's role in the Department and what is his level?</li> <li>i. What was his role on these trips?</li> <li>j. How were these trips funded?</li> </ul>	128 / Written	SQ17-000096	21/07/17
25	Transformation	FARRELL	Market Research	For the 2016-17 financial year, what was the total amount spent by the Department/agency on market research (either as a whole contract or as part of a contract)?  For each contract for market research in 2016/2017, can you please provide:  a. The subject of the market research;  b. The supplier;  c. Whether the supplier has been engaged previously and if so, for which contracts;  d. The total value of the contract;  e. The term of the contract (time);  f. The date that the decision was taken to seek market research on the topic;  g. The date the contract was opened to tender or selection process;  h. The date the supplier was engaged;	written	SQ17-000097	21/07/17

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page or Written QoN	Comment	Date answer received
26	R&S	KAKOSCHKE -MOORE	National Mental Health Commission	<ul> <li>i. Whether the contract was subject to a tender process, including whether there was a full, partial or closed tender process;</li> <li>j. Does the supplier exist on a pre-approved supplier list, if so, when were they added to that list;</li> <li>k. Whether the Minister, or the Minister's Office, requested that the research be conducted;</li> <li>l. Whether the Minister approved the decision to conduct market research;</li> <li>m. Whether the Minister or the Minister's office was consulted on questions asked;</li> <li>o. Whether the Minister or the Minister's office received a copy of the market research;</li> <li>p. If the decision to conduct research was initiated by the department or agency, was the Minister or their office consulted before the decision was taken to conduct research, if so – in what form did that consultation take (written, verbal other);</li> <li>q. If the decision to conduct research was initiated by the department or agency, did Minister or their office make any amendments or changes to the Department's proposal for market research to be conducted, if so, what changes and to what aspects were they made;</li> <li>r. At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research were other departments or agencies consulted?</li> <li>s. At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research were other Ministers, or the Prime Minister consulted?</li> <li>t. At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research did the expected cost change, if so how?</li> <li>u. At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research did the scope, questions or supplier of the research change?</li> <li>v. Have any topics or questions of market research been conducted and subsequently conducted again by the same or different supplier?</li> <li>The National Mental Health Commission Review into suicide prevention services for defence force members suggests that "the provision of services under the White Card for the</li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000098	21/07/17
		-MOORE	Health Commission Review	defence force members suggests that 'the provision of services under the White Card for the range of mental health conditions specified has been well received but that many people were not aware of it (and that) there would be benefit in wider promotion of the availability of this option'.  a. Has there been any increase in communication of this policy since this recommendation was made?  b. If so, what changes were made?			
27	RSD	KAKOSCHKE -MOORE	Time Taken To Process Claims	My office has been assisting a constituent with his matter with DVA, this constituent also has a separate DVA complaint with the Ombudsman. In May our office received notice that this veteran's matter had been delayed as his file was transferred to the Ministerial and Legal team for assessment. An email from the Client Liaison Unit within DVA noted that this was due to his complaint which had been submitted to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. I am concerned that by making a complaint regarding a separate claim, this	Written	SQ17-000099	21/07/17

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page or Written QoN	Comment	Date answer received
				veteran's ability to have his claim resolved was delayed. This veteran was also informed verbally that the reason for the delay was due to my office's involvement with his matter.  a. When a complaint is made to the Ombudsman, what process does the Department follow?  b. Is the matter instantly referred to the Ministerial and Legal Team within DVA?  c. If so, why?  d. When a Senator's or an MP's office makes inquiries on behalf of a constituent what is the process that is followed? Is that file referred to a particular part of DVA?  e. Does the involvement of a Senator or an MP result in a delay to the claim being processed?  f. Is this an issue that DVA aims to overcome with new funding to improve claims processing?			
28	RSD	KAKOSCHKE -MOORE	Gold Card Eligibility	A theme that was heard throughout the National Mental Health Commission's review, and throughout the suicide by veterans inquiry, was that the requirement to demonstrate a significant level of disability to achieve and maintain eligibility for the Gold Card appears to create the unintended consequence of incentivising people to remain unwell, with a focus on what they can't do and what they have lost, rather than encouraging them to access services that could otherwise improve their health and wellbeing'.  a. Has DVA received advice, or undertaken any work to rectify this matter?  b. If not, are there plans to do so in the future?  c. The review notes that there is a lack in the provision of trauma-informed care and a lack of a trauma informed care framework. Has DVA considered a trauma informed practice, and has DVA sought advice on implementing one?	Written	SQ17-000100	21/07/17
29	Corporate	XENOPHON	Limited Tender Contracts	<ul> <li>a. Across the department, please provide a list of all contracts in FY 2015/16 that involved a limited tender contract to an entity for services below \$80,000 followed by a limited tender contract (either in FY 15/16 or 16/17) to the same entity for services below \$80,000 or above \$80,000 (please list the two contracts by AUSTENDER number). Please provide the justification (and any documents relating thereto) for the limited tender of any second contract that was above the \$80,000 threshold.</li> <li>b. Across the department, please provide a list of all contracts in FY 2016/17 that involved a limited tender contract to an entity for services below \$80,000 followed by a limited tender contract to the same entity for services below \$80,000 or above \$80,000 (please list the two contracts by AUSTENDER number). Please provide the justification (and any documents relating thereto) for the limited tender of any second contract that was above the \$80,000 threshold.</li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000101	21/07/17
30	Corporate	BILYK	Ministerial Functions	In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio since 1 March 2017, can the following please be provided:  a. List of functions;  b. List of attendees including departmental officials, ministerial staff and if members of the Minister's immediate family attended – number of members (names not required);  c. Function venue;	Written	SQ17-000102	21/07/17

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page or Written QoN	Comment	Date answer received
				d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.			
31	Corporate	BILYK	Departmental Functions	In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio since 1 March 2017, can the following please be provided:  e. List of functions; f. List of attendees; g. Function venue; h. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); i. Details of any food served; j. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and k. Details of any entertainment provided.	Written	SQ17-000103	21/07/17
32	Corporate	BILYK	Laptops	<ul> <li>g. How many laptops are currently on issue to staff of the Department and agencies in the portfolio?</li> <li>h. Can an itemised list showing make and model please be provided?</li> <li>i. How many new laptops were purchased by the Department and agencies in the portfolio in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>j. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of purchasing laptops for staff of the Department and agencies in the portfolio in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>k. How many laptops did the Department and agencies in the portfolio have to be replace due to damage in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST <u>inclusive</u>)?</li> <li>l. How many laptops were reported lost or stolen in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST <u>inclusive</u>)?</li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000104	21/07/17
33	Corporate	BILYK	Executive Office Upgrades	a. Have the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, been upgraded since 1 March 2017? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST <u>inclusive</u> )?	Written	SQ17-000105	21/07/17
34	Corporate	BILYK	Facilitates Upgrades	<ul> <li>a. Have the facilities of any of the Department's premises, or the premises of any agencies in the portfolio, been upgraded since 1 March 2017, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</li> <li>b. If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade please be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? Can any photographs of the upgraded facilities please be provided?</li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000106	21/07/17
35	Corporate	BILYK	Vacancies	Please provide a list of all statutory, board and legislated office vacancies and other significant appointments vacancies within the portfolio, including length of time vacant and current acting arrangements.	Written	SQ17-000107	21/07/17
36	Corporate	BILYK	Credit Cards	a. How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff in the Department and agencies within the portfolio? If possible, please provide a break-down of this information by APS/ SES level.	Written	SQ17-000108	21/07/17

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page <i>or</i> Written QoN	Comment	Date answer received
				<ul> <li>b. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in calendar year 2016 and what was it for?</li> <li>c. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>d. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2016?</li> <li>e. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in calendar year 2016 and what was the card holder's APS/ SES level?</li> <li>f. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in calendar year 2016 and what was the cost of their replacement?</li> <li>g. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy in calendar year 2016? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in calendar year 2016 and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</li> <li>h. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid in calendar year 2016, and what was the cardholder's APS/ SES level? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</li> <li>i. Are any credit cards currently on issue in the Department or agencies within the portfolio connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</li> <li>j. Can a copy of the Department's staff credit card policy please be provided?</li> </ul>			
37	DALAS	GALLACHER	Privacy Impact Assesment	<ul><li>a. What is the cost to the Department of undertaking a Privacy Impact Assessment on proposed legislative reforms?</li><li>b. What is the cost if an external provider is engaged to undertake the PIA?</li></ul>	Written	SQ17-000109	21/07/17
38	HCS	GALLACHER	Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Mental Health	<ul> <li>a. How many positions are currently vacant on the Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Mental Health?</li> <li>b. How long have they been vacant for?</li> <li>c. How many positions are there on the council?</li> <li>d. How often does this advisory council meet?</li> <li>e. How are people appointed to the council?</li> <li>f. Who signs off on the board appointments?</li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000110	21/07/17
39	Transformation	GALLACHER	Client Satisfaction Survey	<ul> <li>a. How often are DVA client satisfaction surveys conducted?</li> <li>b. How was ORIMA Research engaged to undertake this research?</li> <li>c. What was the cost associated with running this survey?</li> <li>d. What is the methodology behind the scoring system?</li> <li>e. How are mixed results recorded?</li> <li>f. Who was interviewed in the survey; clients or people with applications pending?</li> <li>g. If it was only one of the above, does this represent an accurate picture? If so, how?</li> <li>h. Is this an accurate picture of satisfaction?</li> <li>i. What happens to the feedback from these surveys, is any action taken? If so, what action?</li> <li>j. Are these reported on? If so, where? If no, why not?</li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000111	21/07/17

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page or Written QoN	Comment	Date answer received
40	VVCS	GALLACHER	VVCS Expansion	<ul> <li>a. Can the department clarify what part of the requirements is changing in relation to the expansion of VVCS?</li> <li>b. When will this be operational from?</li> <li>c. Why is the 'Time-Out' respite program only available to Vietnam Veterans?</li> <li>d. Has any consideration been given to opening up access to other veterans?</li> <li>e. Does VVCS provide any other respite for veterans of other conflicts?</li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000112	21/07/17
41	HCS	GALLACHER	Suicide Prevention Trial Sites	<ul> <li>a. How do the suicide prevention trials which are a part of the 2017/18 DVA budget differ from the suicide prevention trials announced during the election period and on 5 subsequent occasions?</li> <li>b. The budget papers claim a robust evaluation framework will be developed to support future consideration for expansion of these sites, has this been developed yet?</li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000113	21/07/17
42	Transformation	GALLACHER	VAN Offices	Can the department please provide the following information in relation to VAN offices;  a. Location of each van office  b. Staff numbers  c. FTE allocation  d. Opening hours of each office  e. Cost PA of each site	Written	SQ17-000114	4/8/17
43	Corporate	GALLACHER	Staffing Levels	Can the department please provide the following information in relation to staffing numbers  a. Total number of staff, including a breakdown by state and of permanent, part-time and casual  b. Total number of clients, including breakdown by state  c. Total number of pending clients, including breakdown by state	Written	SQ17-000115	21/07/17
45	R&S	GALLACHER	Funding provided to NSW RSL	<ul> <li>a. Does the Department provide any money (via grants or other means) to NSW RSL?</li> <li>b. What is the purpose of the funding?</li> <li>c. Is the funding exclusively for the purpose of building or maintaining memorials or can it be used for other purposes?</li> <li>d. How does DVA acquit this funding to NSW RSL?</li> <li>e. Does the DVA monitor NSW RSL's spending of taxpayers' money and ensure that the money is being used for what it is intended?</li> <li>f. Has DVA ever found that the funding provided to NSW RSL was not used for the purpose it was intended?</li> <li>g. Does the DVA provide funding to any NSW RSL sub-branches?</li> <li>h. Do sub-branches have the same rigour of monitoring and acquittal from DVA as the state branch?</li> <li>i. In the wake of the current police investigation and allegations of misconduct and fraud, has the Department withheld any money from NSW RSL, or any of its state branches?</li> <li>j. Is the Department looking to improve the rigour of the monitoring it currently carries out?</li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000118	21/07/17
46	DC NSW	GALLACHER	DVA Attendance at Events with the Former State Council of NSW RSL	<ul> <li>a. Have any DVA officials attended any other events with the former State Council of NSW RSL (E.g. dinners or parties)?</li> <li>b. What was the purpose of such events?</li> <li>c. How was their attendance at such dinners funded? Was it funded by the RSL or by</li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000119	21/07/17

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page or Written QoN	Comment	Date answer received
				the taxpayer? d. How many events did officials attend? e. What was the cost to DVA for official attendance at these events?			
47	Deputy President	GALLACHER	RSL State Congresses	<ul> <li>a. Have senior executives of DVA attended RSL State Congresses around Australia?</li> <li>b. What was their role at such State Congresses?</li> <li>c. What travel class do DVA officials travel within Australia?</li> <li>d. Do DVA officials have any formal role at RSL State Congresses?</li> <li>e. Do DVA officials have any speaking role at RSL State Congresses?</li> <li>f. Does DVA regularly provide gifts or give-aways at RSL State Congresses?</li> <li>g. What has been the cost of such gifts and give-aways each year?</li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000120	21/07/17
48	C&WG	GALLACHER	St Mary's RSL Funding To Build Memorial In Pozieres, France	<ul> <li>a. Is DVA aware of a program by St Mary's RSL sub-Branch in NSW to fund and build a memorial in Pozieres, France?</li> <li>b. Has DVA been approached to help fund this program?</li> <li>c. Has DVA contributed to this program in any capacity?</li> <li>d. How are proposals for funding assessed by the Department?</li> <li>e. Who decides whether or not DVA will fund this particular project?</li> <li>f. Is the Department aware of any awards or honours being awarded to Australian officials (RSL or DVA) involved in this project? <ol> <li>i. If yes: What awards were received, and by whom?</li> <li>ii. Has the project been finished?</li> <li>iii. What were the awards for?</li> <li>iv. Have any other DVA or RSL officials received awards for their involvement in projects that are yet to be finished?</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	Written	SQ17-000121	21/07/17
50	HCS	LAMBIE	Mental Health of ADF Serving Personnel	Could the Department provide an update on the status of recommendations it agreed or partly agreed or noted or agreed in principle with respect to the report on Mental Health of ADF Serving Personnel by the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee, together with the Minority Recommendations, issued on 17 August 2016, which include the following:  a. Recommendation 1 - The committee recommends that Defence conduct annual screening for mental ill-health for all ADF members.  b. Recommendation 2 - The committee recommends that the Australian National Audit Office conduct an audit into the scope and accuracy of recordkeeping of relevant clinical information collected or recorded during deployment regarding mental ill-health or potentially traumatic incidents.  c. Recommendation 3 - The committee recommends that all veterans be issued with a universal identification number and identification card that can be linked to their service and medical record.  d. Recommendation 4 - The committee recommends that the Department of Health and the Department of Veterans' Affairs ensure that e-health records identify veterans and that GPs are encouraged to promote annual ADF Post-discharge GP	Written	SQ17-000123	4/8/17

	Question	Hansard, page or Written QoN	Date answer received
ADF members and veterans w (mefloquine) during their sever long-term side effects and that administered mefloquine durin assessment.  f. Recommendation 6 - The com General of the Australian Defi in military justice have occur mefloquine be published imm g. Recommendation 7 - The com ensure that medical officers as records of potentially traumati h. Recommendation 8 - The com Schedule of Fees be revised to National Schedule of Recomn number of hours or frequency best outcome and guaranteein, i. Recommendation 9 - The com the Veterans and Veterans Far and broadened to include all c Force (ADF) and their immed j. Recommendation 10 - The com members be eligible to access Service (VVCS) without refer ADF be limited to situations v health will compress their k. Recommendation 11 - The con awareness programs do more treatment of mental ill-health ADF members to plan beyond l. Recommendation 12 - The con and the Department of Vetera former ADF members, who he mental ill-health.  m. Recommendation 13 - The con Veterans' Affairs be adequated and modernisation of its ICT' single coherent system to proo. n. Recommendation 14 - The con work with ex-service organisa which will connect every vete community to assist and guide o. Recommendation 15 - The con	amittee recommends that Defence and DVA contact who have been administered mefloquine hydrochloride vice to advise them of the possible short-term and that all ADF members and veterans who have been ing their service be given access to neurological minister recommends that the report for the Inspector fence Force's inquiry to determine whether any failures red regarding the Australia Defence Force's use of rediately following the completion of the inquiry. In mittee recommends that the Department of Defence and mental health professionals have ready access to revent for members following their deployment. In mittee recommends that the DVA Psychologists of better reflect the Australian Psychological Societies' mended Fees and that any restrictions regarding the rof psychologist sessions are based on achieving the gethe safety of the veteran. In mittee recommends that eligibility requirements for milies Counselling Service (VVCS) be consolidated current and former members of the Australian Defence that families (partners, children, and carers). In mittee recommends that currently serving ADF of the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling rate and that the VVCS reporting obligations to the where the VVCS believes that a members' mental illustration of the safety of others. In ministee recommends that Defence mental health to emphasise the benefit of early identification and for an ADF members' long-term career and encourage at their next deployment. In mittee recommends that the Department of Defence in their next deployment. In the destignation for a program to engage current and ave successfully deployed after rehabilitation for a least the terminal that the Department of Defence in the program of the destignation of its records systems by 2020, including the introduction of a		

No	Lead Division	SENATOR	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page <i>or</i> Written QoN	Comment	Date answer received
				rehabilitation, education, and re-skilling based on their individual needs and abilities and regardless of rank.  p. Recommendation 16 - The committee recommends that the Department of Veterans' Affairs identify veterans who are receiving in-patient mental health care as at risk of homelessness and provide an ongoing psychosocial case manager to actively manage an 'at risk' veteran's care program until their mental health and living situation is stable.  q. Recommendation 17 - The committee recommends that the Department of Veterans' Affairs work together with the Department of Human Services and RSL Lifecare to develop a program to address veteran homelessness based on the Homes for Heroes 'housing first approach' and focus on ongoing psychosocial support.  r. Minority Recommendation 1 - That Defence and DVA report annually to the parliament on the 'state of mental health' of current and former ADF members including data on the rates of mental ill-health, homelessness, incarceration, suicidality, neurological conditions and any other issues or indicators relevant to instances of mental ill-health amongst defence personnel.  s. Minority Recommendation 6 - That funding for mental health support services for current and former ADF members are provided on the basis of need and not be subject to any arbitrary budget cap.			

## **LEGEND**

Division	No. of
	QoNs
R&S	9
HCS	5
CWG	1
Corporate	13
Transformation	9
AWM	5
DALAS	2
RMA	2
DC NSW	1
VVCS	3
Deputy President	2
TOTAL	52
Referred	