

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee:
Answers to written Questions on Notice Additional Budget Estimates 2013–14
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio
February 2014**

Department	Parliamentary Budget Office
Topic	Senate estimates briefings
Senator	Senator Ludwig
Question reference number	103
Type of question	Written

Question

- 1 How many officers were responsible for preparing the department, agency, Minister or representing Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of senate estimates?
- 2 How many officer hours were spent on preparing that information?
 - a Please break down the hours by officer APS classification
- 3 Were drafts shown to the Minister or their office before senate estimates?
 - a If so, when did this occur?
 - b How many versions of this information were shown to the minister or their office?
- 4 Did the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?
 - a If so, when did this occur?
 - b What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.
 - c When were the changes made?
- 5 Provide each of the contents page of the Department/Minister/representing Minister's Senate Estimates folder prepared by the department for the Additional Estimates hearings in February 2014.

Answer

- 1 A wide range of Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) staff provide input into the Parliamentary Budget Officer's briefing pack.
- 2 The PBO does not keep a record of time spent on preparing the briefing pack for the Parliamentary Budget Officer and time spent on compiling briefs is kept to a minimum.
- 3 Not applicable.
- 4 Not applicable.

5 The Parliamentary Budget Officer's contents page is provided at attachment A.

**2013-14 Additional Budget Estimates Hearings
Monday 24 February 2014**

Statistical report

- 1 Report to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee on the PBO Activity and Staffing Data

General issues

- 2 Corporate Issues
- 3 National Commission of Audit

PBO costings: general issues

- 4 Reliability of PBO Costings
- 5 Access to Information (including automatic updates agreements)
- 6 Costings for items in the MYEFO Contingency Reserve
- 7 PBO's Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness - 2013 Election Period
- 8 ANAO Performance Audit

PBO costings: issues before Parliament

Carbon Tax Package

- 9 Comparison of PBO and Government estimates/assumptions - Carbon Tax
- 10 CEFC - November 2013 - Question on Notice Response
- 11 Differences Between Underlying Cash Balance, Fiscal Balance, Headline Cash and Net Worth

Mining Tax Package

- 12 Comparison of PBO and Government estimates/assumptions - Mining Tax

IMAs

- 13 Border Protection - Provision of Tents on Nauru - Difference Between Costings for Coalition and Greens

PBO costings: PER/MYEFO comparison

- 14 Reconciliation of Military Superannuation Schemes Costings
- 15 Differences Between PBO PER costings and MYEFO Estimates
- 16 Reduction of 12,000 in Public Sector Headcount by Natural Attrition

PBO Self-initiated work program

- 17 Self-Initiated Work Plan
- 18 Australian Government Spending Part 1