

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Additional Estimates 2015
Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio
Questions on Notice

	Department/ Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Responsible Division/ Agency	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
1.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Prime Minister's Press Conference – 9 February 2015	PMO	<p>Senator WONG: Senator Abetz, the Prime Minister in his press conference of 9 February said a number of things. One of the things he said was, 'I've listened, I've learnt and I've changed, and the government will change with me.' Can you tell me how the Prime Minister has changed?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: The Prime Minister is an exceptionally capable and good individual. Sometimes the good gets even better, and that is what the Prime Minister has committed himself to doing—to be, as he said publicly, more consultative with the backbench and with the community.</p> <p>Senator WONG: So is the 'I've changed' being more consultative with the backbench and the community?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: Amongst many other things, I am sure.</p> <p>Senator WONG: What are the other things?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I will take that on notice, and I am sure we will be able to provide you with a detailed list.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 45		
2.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Collins	Cabinet Handbook	Cabinet Division	<p>Senator JACINTA COLLINS: What are the other significant changes since the handbook was first established, back in 2012, relating to the current workings of the cabinet?</p> <p>Mr Fox: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 49		
3.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Access to cabinet-in-confidence by backbenchers	PMO	<p>Senator WONG: In relation to my cabinet-in-confidence question about backbench chairs, you said, I think, 'Not to my knowledge,' or, 'Not that I'm aware of.' I do not want to put words in your mouth, but I think you were not sure. Can you take that on notice as to whether or not they will have access to cabinet-in-confidence material. I am just</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 50 & 51		

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					<p>asking you to take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Fox: I can certainly say that we in the Cabinet Secretariat have not been asked to make available any such documents to backbench chairs, so the answer to the question is no, not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator WONG: You do not want to take it on notice? All right, I will ask the minister. Could you take on notice whether or not the backbench chairs will have access to any cabinet-in-confidence material. I understand Mr Fox to be saying, from the department's perspective, the answer is no. Is that right?</p> <p>Mr Fox: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: Happy to take it on notice.</p>			
4.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Cabinet Handbook	Cabinet Division	<p>Senator WONG: Can you tell me why the <i>Cabinet Handbook</i> has not been updated?</p> <p>Mr Fox: No, I do not have any particular answer. We have provided a draft—</p> <p>Senator WONG: It is your responsibility.</p> <p>Mr Fox: We have made some revisions to the draft, but it has not been finalised.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When did you make those?</p> <p>Mr Fox: I cannot give you a precise date. I will have to take that on notice.....</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can you tell me: was any draft provided by the department prior to that draft being provided post-September 2013?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I will have to take that on notice and check for you.....</p> <p>Senator WONG: Mr Fox, can I just ask you to take something on notice? Can you give me the date on which</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 51		

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					<p>the draft was provided to the Prime Minister's office? Mr Fox: I would have to take that on notice. Senator WONG: I appreciate that. I assume it has only been provided once, or has it been provided and redrafted and provided again? Mr Fox: We have only provided it once, although there may well have been a couple of drafting changes in the meantime as well. Senator WONG: On notice, I would like to understand the dates on which a draft was provided and any subsequent redraft was received and then re-provided. Mr Fox: I will take that on notice.</p>			
5.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Staff appointments	PMO	<p>Senator WONG: The Prime Minister announced that there would be changes to staff appointments. I am asking what those changes are. Senator ABETZ: The changes are that positions of adviser and above need to go through the staff committee, whereas before it was also below that category. Minister Andrews chairs that committee, and the Special Minister of State is a member. Senator WONG: Is that a change? Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Surely that is not a change. Senator Abetz: I will take that on notice.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 53		
6.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Public service travel	Government Division/ PMO	<p>Senator WONG: Public service travel—what is the arrangement for authorisation as to public service travel? Who authorises travel? Senator Abetz: I think the departmental secretary—correct me if I am wrong—up to \$20,000 and the relevant minister for anything above. I am going from memory.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 54 & 55		

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					<p>Senator WONG: Is that right?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: Is that in relation to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet or in relation to the rest of government?</p> <p>Senator WONG: Let's do both.</p> <p>Ms Kelly: The Prime Minister wrote to all ministers on 18 November 2013 setting out the approval requirements. As the minister has indicated, travel under \$20,000 is approved by secretaries or agency heads and delegated below that level. Travel between \$20,000 and \$50,000 is approved by cabinet ministers. Travel over \$50,000 is approved by cabinet ministers after consulting the Prime Minister in writing.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Those figures include accommodation and airfares? Is that a global cost?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Have there been any changes to that since the government changed?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: Yes, there has been a recent change where the Prime Minister advised cabinet ministers that it will no longer be necessary for ministers to consult the Prime Minister on officials' overseas travel.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Officials' overseas travel; so not their own but yours?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: Officials' overseas travel.</p> <p>Senator WONG: No matter what the cost?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: There is no longer a requirement to consult.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When did that change come into place?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: It is a recent change. I am sorry but I do not have the exact date—but it is a recent change.</p>			

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					<p>Senator WONG: This year?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Was it before or after—</p> <p>Ms Kelly: It may well be that the guidelines on the Department of Finance website will give you the date. I can have that date checked for you.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I would appreciate that. Was this before or after Mr Fraser expressed his concern about micromanagement from the hill and, in particular, the requirement that international travel for a public service delegation costing more than \$50,000 had to be approved by the Prime Minister's office?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: As I have indicated, I do not know the exact date, but I will get that information.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Was Mr Fraser's concern raised with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: Not with me—not that I am aware of.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Were you asked to provide advice about the change prior to it occurring?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: In relation to the changes to the guidelines, I do believe that, following the Prime Minister's announcement, staff consulted with the Department of Finance about making the change to guidelines.</p> <p>Senator WONG: PM&C staff?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: Yes, my staff would have worked with the Department of Finance in order to change the guidelines.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Were your staff advised of this before the announcement? I understand that you had to give effect to it, but were you advised before it was made?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I would have to take that on notice. I do not</p>			

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					<p>know the exact dates.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Do you know if Mr Fraser raised the concerns which have been reported with Mr Thawley?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: Not to my knowledge—not that I am aware of.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Please take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I will.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Senator Abetz, do you know if Mr Fraser raised it with the Prime Minister's office or the Prime Minister?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: No, I do not.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I will.</p>			
7.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Smith	Officials travel	Government Division	<p>Senator SMITH: How many officials have travelled first class this year?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I do not have that to hand, but I can take it on notice to provide that for you.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: Yes, and perhaps you could also let me know how that compares with previous years.</p> <p>Ms Kelly: Yes, I can do that.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 56		
8.					A question was not allocated to this number.			
9.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Knighthood of Prince Philip	Government Division	<p>Senator WONG: But presumably prior to dispatching the actual decision making documents and amendments to the letters patent somebody checks out whether he actually wants to be a knight.</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I can take that on notice, but I cannot assist.</p> <p>Senator WONG: What does that mean, you cannot assist?</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 59 & 60		

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					<p>Ms Kelly: I think I said that the department was not involved in the communication, if there was any communication, with the palace, prior to the announcement.</p> <p>Senator WONG: So when you were preparing this did the department say, 'Look, you might want to check whether he wants it before we do all this. That would be sensible.'</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I can make that inquiry.</p> <hr/> <p>Senator WONG: Did anyone else in the department have any knowledge that they communicated to you about whether the palace had agreed to this?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Thank you. You cannot tell me, though?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: As I said, I cannot add to my previous answers; but I can make that inquiry and take it on notice.</p>			
10.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Knighthood of Prince Philip	Government Division	<p>Senator WONG: Was there a response from Buckingham Palace at all to that letter—other than the decision to approve?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: The palace wrote to the Official Secretary to the Governor-General on 9 January 2015.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Could you take on notice the provision of that, please—of that letter and the original letter of 19 December?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: Yes.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 61		
11.					A question was not allocated to this number.			
12.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Knighthood of Prince Philip	Government Division/	Senator WONG: I will not press it. When was Mr Thawley appointed?	FPA Monday 23 February 2015,		

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				PMO	<p>Ms Cross: He commenced on 1 December, I think.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Was he asked his advice prior to the decision being made on these issues?</p> <p>Ms Cross: I cannot answer that. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: You do not know?</p> <p>Ms Cross: No.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Senator Abetz, did Mr Abbott seek the advice of his chief of staff?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: That I do not know, but once again he has accepted full responsibility for the appointment.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I will ask you to take that on notice. I will also ask whether any backbenchers were consulted and, if so, who and when.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: All right. I will take that on notice.</p>	page 63		
13.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Knighthood of Prince Philip	Government Division	<p>Senator WONG: Was Prince Philip asked if he would accept this honour prior to the Prime Minister signing the letter on 19 December?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: That I do not know, but I can take that on notice.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 63		
14.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Smith/ Wong	Order of Australia	Government Division	<p>Senator SMITH: I just want to confirm. What was the total number of non-citizens that received honorary awards in the Order of Australia classification over the previous seven years?</p> <p>Mr Rush: I would need to take that on notice. The numbers vary.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: Really? With all due respect, with all of the media that has been available, you would have to take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Rush: I do. I am sorry; I do not have those figures</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 66		

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					<p>available.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: Is it close to one? Is it close to 10? Is it closer to 30? Is it closer to 45?</p> <p>Mr Rush: It probably runs to the order of 10 to 20 honorary appointments each year.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: Each year. I am looking for information over the last seven years.</p> <p>Mr Rush: So it would be in the order of 100.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: The point is that there were other non-citizens appointed to the Order of Australia honours system at senior levels in excess of 10 or 20.</p> <p>Mr Rush: Yes, certainly.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: I suspect it is close to 45, but you will be able to clarify that.</p> <p>Mr Rush: It is certainly in excess of 10 or 20. I think it would be more than 40 or 50 across the whole range of levels over that period.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I do not know why, but the figure of 46 jumps to mind. I do not know why.</p> <p>Mr Rush: It might be 45 plus one.</p> <p>Senator WONG: May I just ask on notice, if the same number can be provided for the 1996 to 2007 period.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I think that was only in the Gillard period—the 46.</p>			
15.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Smith	Companion of the Order of Australia 1988	Government Division	<p>Senator SMITH: Could you also inquire about this for me. When Prime Minister Bob Hawke made the appointment of Prince Phillip to the Companion of the Order of Australia in 1988—I understand at that time it was the highest category in the Order of Australia—what communications were undertaken between the Prime</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 66		

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					Minister, the Governor-General and Buckingham Palace and when they were undertaken? Ms Kelly: We can endeavour to do that, to the extent that our files will disclose that. I cannot guarantee the extent to which that will be outlined in the files. But we will make that inquiry. I know that we have those documents—those files—to hand.			
16.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Opening statement	Ministerial Support Division	Senator WONG: I go now to the process for the appointment of the secretary. No-one made an opening statement indicating to the committee the appointment of the new secretary. I just wondered why that was? Senator Abetz: We knew that you people had read News Ltd very thoroughly. Senator WONG: It is a matter of accountability to parliament. It would be usual for a department to indicate a change of personnel of that nature. Ms Cross: I am happy to take that on notice. It was not an intentional omission.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 72		
17.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Appointment of the Secretary of PM&C	Government Division	Senator WONG: Before the recommendation goes to the Governor-General that a person be appointed Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, a report must be received by the Prime Minister from the Public Service Commissioner. I asked a question about the timing of this report and that has not been answered. Can you tell me—given that this is statutory requirement—when the Prime Minister received a report about the appointment from the Public Service Commissioner? Ms Kelly: I do not have the exact date, but it was a very short time before the appointment was made. I can get the exact date for you.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 72		

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18.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Answer to 1067	Government Division	<p>Senator WONG: Did you prepare this answer? It is 1067. I asked Senator Abetz.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: Answers are normally ministerial answers. The department provides advice, but the nature of the advice is not disclosed.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That is not what I am asking. I did not ask that question. There is a statutory requirement about a report from the PSC for the appointment of a secretary. I asked—a pretty reasonable question—you on notice, question 1067. The answer you provided is, 'The Prime Minister has regular conversations with senior officials in his portfolio on a range of matters, including significant appointments.' With respect, Minister, it reads like some smart-alec response from a ministerial adviser. It is a legitimate question about the compliance with the statutory process.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: It is.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I do not know whether it was drafted in your office or in the department, but it is really not an appropriate way to respond to a legitimate question.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: It is not as responsive as it might be. I would concede that, but I think you are asking the department about whether they had drafted the answer.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Yes, I did. Did you prepare this answer?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: And that is what I was responding to. In fairness, what departments usually do is provide draft answers—but then, as we know especially from Senator Conroy's time in a certain portfolio, they can be changed in ministerial offices. But, as to how they are changed and what the changes are, ultimately the minister takes</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 72 & 73		

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					<p>responsibility.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I agree with that, but what has been asked and answered—and I know because I had to answer—was whether the answer had been changed, not the content but which answers had been changed.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: Whether there had been a change but not the nature of the change?</p> <p>Senator WONG: Yes. I wanted to know the date on which this was provided to the relevant minister's office—the Prime Minister and/or Senator Abetz—and whether the answer was changed subsequent to the first draft being provided.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can anyone tell me the answer to the primary question?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I am just hoping that there is an officer in the room looking for that.</p>			
19.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	APSC report	Government Division	<p>Senator WONG: Do we have the APSC date yet?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: Sorry, the APS?</p> <p>Senator WONG: APSC report.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: Look, I will have to take that on notice. I do not seem to have that information in the briefing folder.</p> <p>Senator WONG: We are still waiting for someone to provide Ms Kelly with some assistance.</p> <p>Ms Kelly: The way the question was asked was on what date did the Prime Minister seek a report from the Public Service Commissioner on the appointment of Mr Thawley, and my recollection of the events is that the department actually made that request of the Public Service Commission, and so—</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 73		

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20.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	APSC report	Government Division	<p>Senator WONG: Could you also give me the date on which you sought the report?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I can make that inquiry, and we will—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Thank you. Can I also ask at whose instigation was that?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: That was upon the request of the Prime Minister's office.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When was that request received and by whom?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I will make that inquiry and assist you if I am able to.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 74		
21.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Recruitment process	Government Division	<p>Senator WONG: So, if it was not managed by you or the department, who was it managed by?</p> <p>Ms Cross: We are not aware of any recruitment process.</p> <p>Senator WONG: So who managed it?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: As I said, I was advised of the appointment by the former secretary of the department, who was dealing with the matter directly with the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When were you advised by Dr Watt?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I will have to take it on notice to give you the date for that.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Well, presumably before he retired.</p> <p>Ms Kelly: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Well before?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I will have to make some inquiries. It was definitely before he retired.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 74 & 75		
22.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Media	PMO	<p>Senator WONG: Are members of staff permitted to background media negatively or positively—well, negativity—about a departmental secretary?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I would say they can positively but not—</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 75		

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					<p>Senator WONG: I am asking.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: You do not know? Is your chief of staff allowed to background against or for your departmental secretary?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: My chief of staff is a very good person, but we are not here talking about my portfolio. We are talking about Prime Minister and Cabinet. I will take that on notice for the Prime Minister's office.</p> <p>Senator WONG: But I am asking what the rules are. I am asking whether or not the rules are that ministerial staff can or cannot talk to the media about APS officials.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I will take that on notice as to what the official—</p>			
23.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Question 1411	PMO	<p>Senator WONG: I note that in response to a question of mine, question No. 1411 to you, Senator Abetz, the answer provided was: the comments referred to are not the view of the government. Have any members of the Prime Minister's staff been sanctioned over the negative backgrounding in relation to Dr Watt?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I can take that on notice but I would suspect not, because this is not a fact; it is an assertion. And one of the descriptors I would actually agree with—that Dr Watt is very ethical.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 75 & 76		
24.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Media leak	PMO	<p>Senator WONG: That is true, but the PM said this is a standard. Perhaps I can go back to the standard, then, in relation to Senator Sinodinos. Senator Sinodinos's resignation from the ministry was leaked to the media ahead of the timetable which had been agreed with the Prime Minister. Was any action taken as a result of that?</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 76		

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					<p>Senator Abetz: I will take that on notice. I am not sure whether in my briefs there are—</p> <p>Senator WONG: I have given you two goes at this, Senator, because I asked you in question time. I assume there has to be something, right?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I am without a brief on that matter. I will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: So you cannot tell me if anybody has been sanctioned, or any action has been taken, as a result of the leaking of Senator—</p> <p>Senator Abetz: No, I cannot. But I will find out.</p>			
25.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Order of the Senate	Ministerial Support Division/ PMO	<p>Senator WONG: You did; it was late. I am going to go to the content of it, but I first want to know why it was late.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I will have to go into the detail of that.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Okay. When did the department prepare the draft statement pursuant to the Senate order and when was it submitted to the Prime Minister's office or Senator Abetz's office?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: We will take that on notice as well.</p> <p>Senator WONG: The department does not know when it prepared it?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I think Senator Abetz has indicated that we will take it on notice. We can certainly find that date for you.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I am going to get another run-around answer, am I? So I will have to put more questions no notice. Will I get another non-answer to this question?</p> <p>Ms Cross: We have taken it on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Maybe you could answer it.</p> <p>Ms Kelly: We can get that information.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When was that draft statement prepared</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 81		

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					<p>and submitted either to the Prime Minister's office and/or to Senator Abetz's office? Can you tell me who in the department prepared it?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: That was prepared under my authority by my staff.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Were there any changes either in the Prime Minister's office or Senator Abetz's office? And can you explain to me why the statement provided does not comply with the order? Not only does it not comply in terms of time frame; it does not comply in terms of content.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I do not have the correspondence here.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Ms Kelly, did the draft you prepared comply with the Senate's order or not?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I think the minister has indicated we will take that on notice.</p>			
26.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Order of the Senate	Ministerial Support Division/ PMO	<p>Senator WONG: The first paragraph of the answers says answers were provided on a number of dates. Can the order be complied with and those answers be provided. The order states:</p> <p>... of those answers not provided to the committee by the due date, the dates on which answers were provided to the approving minister's office.</p> <p>Can I ask that you comply with the order.</p> <p>Ms Cross: I will take that on notice, Senator.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 82		
27.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	Question Time Briefs	PMO	<p>Senator LUDWIG: The question time brief for Thursday 12 February went to the disclosure of the contents of the briefing that the Prime Minister received that morning from the director-general of ASIO and the AFP. Was that an iterative process where the PMO requested that information be prepared by PM&C? Or was there a standing brief that</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 83		

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					<p>PM&C then provided as a consequence of that brief?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: Before we go there, we do not comment on the information that may or may not be provided. I do not know if you assert you have got a particular document in front of you or you have special knowledge of what the briefing may or may not have contained, but the information that is provided is clearly in the form of advice and we do not comment on it.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: I am not looking for what was in the advice. Let us be clear. I know that (a) you would not answer that and (b) I should not ask it in any event.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: All right, I am sorry; I may have misinterpreted your question. Can you ask it again?</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Was there a brief provided for the Prime Minister ahead of question time on Thursday, 12 February which went to the answer that he then gave—if I can put it that way?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: Whether or not a brief was provided on a certain topic you might be able to ask, but whether that then informed his answer in the parliament is not something that you can canvass.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Let us deal with the first issue then. Was there a brief that went to the issue?</p> <p>Ms Cross: We would take that on notice. We would not normally reveal what we included in the briefing pack, but we will take that on notice for you.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: In respect of that, which is a slightly ancillary matter, did the PMO ask for a brief to be prepared in relation to that issue?</p> <p>Ms Cross: Again, we would not normally reveal the nature</p>			

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					of— Senator LUDWIG: I am not looking for the content, just whether or not it was a question that was asked of the pack. Ms Cross: Again, I do not think we would normally reveal that, but I am happy to take that on notice.			
28.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	Contact between PMO, AFP & DPP	National Security Division	Senator LUDWIG: Was there any contact between PMO, or through PM&C, and the DPP—or if you are aware of any contact between the PMO and the DPP—prior to the statement being issued? I am just trying to cover— Ms Cross: Yes, understood. Senator LUDWIG: all of the questions that I could possibly ask on this issue so that you answer appropriately. Senator Abetz: I am sure there are more if you thought about. But I am not tempting you, be assured. Senator LUDWIG: No, no. It is just that earlier today I had to re-ask. There was an interesting question put in another portfolio where their answer was 'no', whereas quite plainly there was a document and it was produced. Upon reflection, the public servant indicated that it was not a mislead; the answer was not contemporaneous. I do not know what that means. It clearly— Senator Abetz: At the time the answer was given one assumes there was no document in existence. But one has since come into existence, I would imagine. Senator LUDWIG: Yes, it seems to be that. Did the PM&C communicate with the DPP or the CDPP in relation to the matter? This is without input from the Prime Minister or PMO. Ms Cross: We will check that for you.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 85		
29.	Prime Minister &	Ludwig	Comments by	National	Senator LUDWIG: There were also comments made by	FPA Monday 23		

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	Cabinet		Jane Needham	Security Division	<p>the president of the New South Wales Bar Association, Jane Needham SC, at the time, who then indicated that she believed that a court could find it would be impossible to have a jury empanelled who was not affected by the Prime Minister's comment. Has that matter been examined by PM&C?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: And one wonders whether her comment then might also have an impact on the empanelling of a jury. That is an interesting situation that the president of the bar association has got herself into. We will take that question on notice, as well, because we do not have an answer.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Surrounding that same issue is a question of whether or not PMO then contacted PM&C in relation to those comments by, I presume, Ms Needham and sought to provide a response.</p> <p>Ms Cross: We will take that on notice.</p>	February 2015, page 85		
30.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	Taskforce	UNFCCC Taskforce	<p>Senator LUDWIG: If I could I would—but that is an aside. I will come back to those. I was not aware of whether the questions had been answered or not, so I can clarify that. When did the department establish a task force to propose a new post-2020 emissions target for Australia to take to the Paris conference of the UNFCCC in December 2015?</p> <p>Ms Cross: The Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs announced the establishment of the task force on 10 December.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Who was on the task force?</p> <p>Ms Cross: The task force has a range of people from different departments on it. It is working within PM&C and</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 86		

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					<p>working closely with DFAT, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Industry and Science and the department of the Treasury.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Do they have a work schedule?</p> <p>Ms Cross: They certainly have a forward work plan; yes.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: They must have a date on which they will have to arrive at a decision point at.</p> <p>Ms Cross: The government has indicated that its post-2020 target will be announced in mid-2015.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: That is the date for the announcement. So is the work schedule available to the committee?</p> <p>Ms Cross: I will take that on notice. I do not think it has been publicly released.</p>			
31.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	Appointment of Mr Ciobo	PMO	<p>Senator LUDWIG: For the winners, then, was Ms Bishop consulted on the appointment of Mr Ciobo from Queensland as her new parliamentary secretary?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: That I do not know. These matters are usually determined by the leader.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: You could take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I could. I will see if the Prime Minister has anything further to add.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 87		
32.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	Project Office	The Project Office	<p>Senator LUDWIG: There is a project office on the PM&C organisational chart. What does that do?</p> <p>Ms Cross: The Project Office works on particular pieces of work that come up across the department where we need to put additional resources in. It gives us some flexibility. They have policy analytical capacity so, as different issues become priorities, we can use people from the Project Office to put teams together—for example, the climate change task force that we talked about. If we needed</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 91		

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					additional resources, we might use a team from the Project Office to work on that sort of task. It is our policy analytical capacity for different priorities as they emerge. Senator LUDWIG: What projects are they currently working on? I am happy for you to take that on notice. Ms Cross: I am happy to take that on notice. They have been involved in a range of projects across the department. It changes from week to week and month to month.			
33.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	Integration and Efficiency Taskforce	Integration and Efficiency Taskforce	Senator LUDWIG: The Integration and Efficiency Taskforce—how many people are employed in that? Ms Kelly: Between 150 and 180, approximately. That is substantially the finance and administration area of the department. Senator LUDWIG: So it has been renamed? Ms Kelly: It was named to reflect the fact that the department is currently integrating the new functions that were acquired in September 2013. We expect that integration to be complete by 30 June. That would be revisited then. It is 130 FTE. Senator LUDWIG: The efficiency part is obviously the bean counters. Ms Kelly: Yes, that is correct. It is the finance and administration area. Senator LUDWIG: You are putting the two bits together. There was always one bit; you have just renamed it. Ms Kelly: It is more than 'putting together'; we are integrating. Part of that integration is the corporate services improvement program. So, it was not just a question of adding bits together. We had 10 departments brought together, nine new and the existing PM&C. So we actually	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 92		

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					<p>had to create what the best systems were for us going forward as a department. That meant integrating rather than just bunging 10 together, so to speak. There is a substantial body of work that sits behind that task force, and the integration task will be completed by 30 June.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Are they on track to complete that by 30 June? I should be able to ask you in the budget round of estimates about that.</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I think it is fair to say that the department was somewhat preoccupied with the G20 for the last several months of last year. That did put some of the projects behind, but we have taken measures to bring them back on track, so we are hopeful that we will still complete that. But some of the measures are longer-term measures that are occurring across government, such as a whole-of-government grant system. So, some of them are contingent on developments occurring elsewhere in government.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Matters like a whole-of-government grants system: would I ask you those, or elsewhere?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: Those matters would be for the Department of Finance.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Is the work schedule that the integration efficiency task force has at the moment available? Do they have a document that you just described—maybe you could provide it on notice—to just outline the type of work they are currently working on and the deadlines they are going to meet by 30 June?</p> <hr/> <p>Senator LUDWIG: So, it is the integration part that you are then going to come back to me with more information</p>			

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					on. I am just confirming that you will take it on notice, and the scheduling. Ms Kelly: Yes, we can do that.			
34.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	Sections 37s	Corporate Services Division	Senator LUDWIG: Do redundancies also include early retirement—an incentive package to go early? Mr Neal: That applies only to the Senior Executive Service. It is a different part of the act that is used. Senator LUDWIG: What part of the act is used for that? Mr Neal: Section 37 of the Public Service Act deals with the ability of the Secretary to declare an SES officer excess. Under those requirements the person can elect to take a severance payment from the service. It is termed 'incentive to retire' under the act. Senator LUDWIG: Or, in short, a section 37. Mr Neal: A section 37, correct. Senator LUDWIG: How many section 37s were in effect for this term of the government? Mr Neal: I might need to take the actual number on notice.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 94 & 95		
35.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Moore	Office for Women projects	Social Policy Division	CHAIR: Have you got the answer to the other one—the ANROWS. Senator MOORE: Can I suggest that, because that is going to be a very detailed answers, we put that on notice? You have asked for the whole work plan of ANROWS. CHAIR: I have asked for how many projects form part of this program, what the value is and what the focus is on. I am not interested in the full detail but I do want to facilitate this. So I am happy for you to look at that while Senator Moore asks some questions, and then we can come back to it at the end, if that makes it easier for you. Ms Larkins: Thank you.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 98 & 99		

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					<p>Senator Cash: There are 20 programs that have been funded in this round of funding. I believe it is approximately \$3.5 million. Unless, Ms Larkins—</p> <p>CHAIR: And what is the general focus then?</p> <p>Ms Larkins: I have just been told I do not have the detail in my briefing, so we will have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator Cash: If it assists, we can put on notice for you a list of the 20 individual projects that have been funded and that, obviously, correlate with prevention and particular groups under the second action plan.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you for that, Minister.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: First of all, Minister, I just want to clarify some small anomalies between the budget papers and the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements. It is probably just a straightforward technical question. Page 31 of the budget has the Office for Women, and it has a line item across the out years for the funding for the Office for Women. Then page 28 of the PAES has the same line. Whilst 13-14 and 14-15 are the same, 15-16, 16-17 and 17-18 all have reductions—not massive reductions but all reductions. I just want to understand why.</p> <p>Ms Cross: There was a cut in the budget. I might ask the people in our financial area to see if we can find the source of that for you.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: I just want find out and quantify the amount.</p> <p>Ms Cross: Sometimes it can just be that indexation rates have changed, so we will just check that for you.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Two other lines did not change in the same area—not in Office for Women but in PM&C—but</p>			

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					two did. Senator Cash: We will check that for you, absolutely.			
36.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Moore	Office for Women alliances	Social Policy Division	<p>Senator MOORE: Thank you for those lines, because I have not seen them put out in that way. This is a question that I will ask Attorneys, or somebody else will. Has any community legal service been advised of cuts? I will just put that on record to make the whole thing link up. Then, I have a couple of questions about alliances. Can you tell me what the current budget is for the alliances? Also, the website gives me some background to the alliances, but it does not tell me what the budget is. I am just thinking it might be useful for the website to say what the budget is, and it does not.</p> <p>Ms Larkins: I do not have the budget with me, so I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: We asked questions at the last one and I want to acknowledge and thank the minister's office and the department for providing me with a briefing on the process. At that time there had been a budget for a multicultural women's alliance. We were given answers at the last hearing that work on issues to do with multicultural women was going to be given to the other alliances, and their focus would not be lost in the process. Can I have some information about the current work plans of all the alliances and whether there has been dedicated functions in those work plans to look at issues around multicultural women?</p> <p>Ms Larkins: Again, I could talk in a bit more detail about that, but it is probably better that I take it on notice and give you a comprehensive answer.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 99		

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37.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McKenzie	Australian Institute of Company Directors	Social Policy Division	<p>Senator McKENZIE: I want to get an understanding of the government's partnership with the Australian Institute of Company Directors—how that partnership is working to increase gender equality.</p> <p>Ms Cross: I apologise. The head of the Office for Women could not be here because her child is unwell. She would normally be here. If we seem slightly more disorganised than usual, it is because the expert on this is not here.</p> <p>Ms Larkins: I will have to take that on notice.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 102		
38.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McKenzie	59 th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women	Social Policy Division	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Fantastic. On international engagement—how many non-government delegates will be attending the 59th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.</p> <p>Ms Larkins: There will be two delegates paid for by the Australian government—two delegates who are part of the official Australian delegation and are paid for by the Australian government. There will be a number of alliances that are also—</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: So non-government delegates?</p> <p>Ms Larkins: There will be non-government delegates who will also be funded by the Australian government, but they are not part of the official Australian delegation.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Right. So how many non-government delegates who are not part of the official delegation are being funded by the government?</p> <p>Ms Larkins: I will take that on notice. I will confirm that.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 102		
39.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Moore	WLDS grants	Social Policy Division	<p>Senator MOORE: I would be expecting the same budget report after this meeting as I have had for the last one.</p> <p>Ms Cross: Yes, we are happy to provide that.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: I would like to ask about the WLDS</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 103		

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					<p>grants. The website says that the government has committed \$17.891 million from 2013 to 2018, so we are through the first year and the expenditure is \$1,722,486.20. I am just wanting to get an idea of how this process works in terms of how you budget across the years. With such a significant amount, which is wonderful, what is the process for determining across those five years how much money is given per year? How do you run the budget rounds? It actually says that all new grants will be published at the Department of Prime Minister of Cabinet's WLDS grant reporting page. I would like to know how they are actually advertised, what the process for decision is and who actually does make the decision. The range of organisations and the terms of the current grants that are on that reporting page are very varied, which is great, but when I divide \$17.891 billion by five it does not come up to \$1,722,486.20.</p> <p>Ms Larkins: I would have to take that on notice. I have not been involved in the process.</p>			
40.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Tender for Australia's future submarines	National Security Division	<p>Senator WONG: I am not playing word games. I am asking a very simple straightforward question. Did the Prime Minister promise Senator Edwards there would be an open tender for Australia's future submarines?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I have indicated to you what the answer is.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Which is: look at Sean Edwards's statement.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: Which I understand clarifies what was discussed between them.</p> <p>Senator WONG: As the Minister representing the Prime Minister, can you tell me what was discussed between</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 105		

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					them? Senator Abetz: I can take that on notice if you like. I do not have the full details as to what was said. But I understand—and I stand to be corrected on that—that Senator Edwards's statement to the Senate represents the position.			
41.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Future submarine program	National Security Division	Senator WONG: That is not quite correct. But we are talking about you and your government and the announcement on 20 February. Are you saying to me you do not want to tell us whether the cabinet or the National Security Committee met to determine the acquisition which was then announced by the defence minister? Dr McCarthy: There was a decision-making process but, as Ms Cross has pointed out, we do not normally confirm the exact details of the process. There was a decision-making process. Senator WONG: Was there a cabinet decision or not? Dr McCarthy: There was a government decision. As the media release from Minister Andrews points out, the government announced the acquisition strategy— Senator WONG: I am pressing—and I will press again in the Senate—to find out whether there was a cabinet decision on this process. Ms Cross: We are happy to take that on notice. As I said, we do not normally indicate that; it is normally a minister's decision. Senator WONG: Minister? Senator Abetz: We will take it on notice and determine our response in due course, keeping in mind that we inherited a blank sheet of paper in relation to this	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 107		

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					acquisition.			
42.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Future submarine program	National Security Division	<p>Senator WONG: The decision is to invite France, Germany and Japan to participate in the competitive evaluation process and not Sweden. When was the decision made to include France, Germany and Japan?</p> <p>Dr McCarthy: I do not have with me information about the time frame you are referring to.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can you get it so we can come back to it.</p> <p>Dr McCarthy: We can take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I would like to understand time frames. For example, when were the governments of those nations informed? Were they informed prior to the announcement of this? Were the Swedish government informed prior to the announcement? These are the things I would like to know.</p> <p>Dr McCarthy: I can take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: No, I would like to do it tonight. Can we get whoever knows about it.</p> <p>Dr McCarthy: We will see if we can get that information for you this evening.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I would appreciate that. Thank you.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 107		
43.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Future submarine program – delegation	National Security Division	<p>Senator WONG: Mr Sadleir, have you personally been involved in discussions with Japanese officials about these matters?</p> <p>Mr Sadleir: I have not.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Has anyone from Prime Minister and Cabinet? Have you, Dr McCarthy?</p> <p>Dr McCarthy: An officer from Mr Sadleir's division has accompanied Defence delegations to Japan, France,</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 108		

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					<p>Germany, Denmark and Sweden and has been an observer in the discussions held with those countries. In the case of Japan, those discussions went to not only possible cooperation on the future submarine program but also broader defence, science and technology cooperation. In the case of the visits to Europe, I think they were focused primarily on the matter of possible cooperation in the future submarine program.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Perhaps on notice because we are running out of time, can you give me more details about the France, Germany, Denmark and Sweden components? When were those delegations and who was on them? I want to turn to the visit to Japan. The PM&C official was an observer. Is that right? I think that was the phrase you used.</p> <p>Dr McCarthy: Yes.</p>			
44.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Travel – Mr Shearer	PMO	<p>Senator WONG: Senator Abetz, it is on the public record that Mr Shearer went to the United States in January 2015. Given that it appears that the Prime Minister does not always tell his own department when he is allowing his staff to travel independently—contrary to the ministerial guidelines—can you take on notice the number of occasions, and for which staff, the Prime Minister has authorised independent staff travel?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I will do that, but one assumes that independent staff travel would be picked up by the department. Who picks up the cost of the travel?</p> <p>Dr McCarthy: We did not have any role in any travel Mr Shearer did to the United States earlier this year.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: The Department of Finance picks that up.</p> <p>Senator WONG: But I am asking about the Prime</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 110		

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					Minister's authorisation. This is not permitted under the guidelines other than with his authorisation— Senator Abetz: That is right. Senator WONG: so I am asking you as the minister representing him: how many authorisations and in relation to whom? Senator Abetz: I am taking that on notice, but I think we can assume that it was authorised.			
45.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Future submarine program – media announcement	National Security Division	Senator WONG: Dr McCarthy, before I go to the next point, you said you had something. Dr McCarthy: Mr Sadleir has some information for you. Mr Sadleir: I am advised that our embassy in Sweden notified the Swedish authorities before the Minister for Defence's media statement on 20 February 2015, and the embassy notified the Swedes that they would not be invited to participate in the evaluation process. Senator WONG: What does that mean—'before'? A week before? Minutes before? Days before? Mr Sadleir: I believe it was the night before. Senator WONG: Was there any contact made with other governments advising them of the content of the announcement? Ms Cross: I think we will have to take that on notice.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 110		
46.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Travel – Mr Shearer	PMO	Senator WONG: Can I just come back to Mr Shearer, who is reported as having travelled to the United States in January. I understand that the fact of the exemption from the guidelines is being taken on notice. But can I ask: what was the purpose of the Prime Minister's staffer's visit? Dr McCarthy: PM&C was not involved in Mr Shearer's visit, so we do not have that information. We were not	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 112		

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					involved in any of the preparations. Senator WONG: Are you able to assist, Senator Abetz? What was the purpose of this— Senator Abetz: I can take it on notice.			
47.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	PMO	Senator WONG: The question I asked was: was Mr Shearer authorised to provide background material and/or on-the-record comment about intelligence briefings he had received and, if so, who provided that authorisation? Was Mr Shearer authorised to provide any on-the-record comments, whilst in Washington, about the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank? Senator Abetz: I will take that on notice.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 113		
48.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Ms Credlin's comments	PMO	Senator WONG: I am going to ask a question about the relationship with the US, and obviously there is a strong bipartisan commitment to the alliance and a strong relationship with the US. Can you explain to me, Senator Abetz. Ms Credlin is reported as telling a group of journalists that the President of the United States is 'the lamest of lame ducks'. Could you explain to me how that is consistent with a position that recognises the importance of maintaining a strong relationship with the United States? Senator Abetz: I do not know whether she said that or not. I will take that on notice. It is an assertion that is made.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 114		
49.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Mr Gupta	Cabinet Division	Senator WONG: Did you prepare a brief in relation to Mr Gupta. Senator Abetz: That then answers the question, doesn't it—whether it went to cabinet or not? Senator WONG: Are you really going to avoid answering a question about whether the appointment of a co-chair of Liberal Friends of India as the chair of SBS did or did not	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 115		

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					<p>go to cabinet? Do you really want that to be the story? Senator ABETZ: I do not think they are holding the front pages for it. Senator Abetz: Did you prepare a brief in relation to Mr Gupta? Ms Cross: I think I indicated earlier that ministers may choose to disclose whether something goes to cabinet or not, but we do not normally volunteer that information at a Senate estimates. Senator WONG: I am just asking whether there was a brief prepared in the Cabinet Division. Ms Cross: That would mean we were confirming whether it had been to cabinet or not. As I said earlier, we do not normally indicate what has or has not gone to cabinet. Senator WONG: Mr Fox, you are refusing to answer whether a brief was prepared by your division in relation to Mr Gupta? Mr Fox: No, I do not recall the answer, so I will take that on notice.</p>			
50.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Visit to Australia by the Prime Minister of Japan	Ministerial Support Division	<p>Senator WONG: I am moving on. Can you tell me the total cost to taxpayers of the visit by the Prime Minister of Japan in June last year and can you please break down those costs? Is that available now or do we have to wait? On notice, please identify the relevant contracts published on AusTender that relate to the visit. Ms Cross: We will take all that on notice.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 116		
51.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Northern Australia white paper	Northern Australia Taskforce	<p>Senator McLUCAS: What are the costs of preparing the Northern Australia white paper to this period of time? Mr Williamson: All the costs are met from existing departmental resources, but I think that as at end of</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 120		

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					<p>December that was about \$2.3 million.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: That does exclude seconded staff costs.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: That is PM&C costs not seconded staff from other departments?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Williamson: We have had a couple of staff from the environment department, Foreign Affairs and Trade and so on. It includes PM&C costs and Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development costs.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: At \$2.3 million. If you would like to take on notice and ascertain an evaluation of what the costs of the other secondees would be, that would be useful.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: That might be extremely difficult. We gave you that other information for fullness. We will take it on notice and do our best, but I think it could be difficult.</p>			
52.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Northern Australia Strategic Partnership	Northern Australia Taskforce	<p>Senator McLUCAS: How often have the Northern Australia Strategic Partnership met?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: They have met twice.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Where have they met?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: In Canberra.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: How many of those meetings were attended by the Prime Minister?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: Both.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Can we have information on any planned meetings of the strategic partnership; any future meetings and locations.</p> <p>Mr Williamson: I can take that on notice. I do not have that with me.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 121		
53.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Northern Australia	Northern Australia	<p>Senator McLUCAS: How often has the advisory group met and where have those meetings occurred?</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015,		

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			Advisory Group	Taskforce	<p>Mr Williamson: They have met four times—in Townsville, Canberra, Darwin and Broome.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Can you tell me about future planned meetings of the advisory group.</p> <p>Mr Williamson: There is not a meeting planned at this stage but I am happy to take that on notice and confirm that.</p>	page 121		
54.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Advisory group budget	Northern Australia Taskforce	<p>Senator McLUCAS: What is the budget allocation for the advisory group and how much has been spent?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: I do not have a budget allocation with me. Their expenses to date are \$79,000. I think that is as at the end of December. I will double-check that for you.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 122		
55.	Northern Land Council	Smith	Financial Management	Northern Land Council	<p>Senator SMITH: The financial accounts for 2012–13 were due on 15 October 2014 but were provided in February 2015.</p> <p>Mr Morrison: Yes.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: The accounts for 2012–13, when were they provided to the department?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: I do not have the exact date on me. I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: You can provide that to me on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: Mr Morrison, you mentioned that the last two years' accounts were lodged late. Am I to presume by that that previous accounts were lodged on time?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: Again, I do not have that exact detail at hand. But I can take that on notice.</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 5		
56.	Northern Land Council	Smith	Financial Management	Northern Land Council	<p>Senator SMITH: Mr Morrison, who is on the audit committee that you refer to in your earlier evidence?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: There are two executive members, Mr John Christopherson, Ms Helen Lee, and Susan Archiball from</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 7		

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					<p>an accounting firm. There is one position vacant that we are currently looking to fill.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: How long has that position been vacant for?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: I cannot say, sorry. I do not think it has been that long. It is in the order of six months, but I would have to clarify that.</p> <p>CHAIR: Not for your entire team. It is your chief executive officer.</p> <p>Mr Morrison: No.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: How many times has the audit committee met in the last 12 months?</p> <p>CHAIR: Mr Morrison, if someone is available to provide more detailed information, you are more than welcome for them to join us at the table.</p> <p>Ms Liddle: I have been with the organisation since October. It has met on a needs basis. To my knowledge, I believe that they have met on two occasions since I have been with the NLC.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: Audit committees meeting on a needs basis I doubt very strongly is best practice for audit committees of any organisation. In your governance framework, do you have a requirement that the audit committee meets a minimum number of times per year, Mr Morrison?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: I would have to take that on notice. The audit committee meets when the audit accounts are finalised to approve those and any other issues arising out of session. There are regular meetings that I'm aware of, but I do not know what that number is off the top of my</p>			

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					head.			
57.	Northern Land Council	Smith	Financial Management	Northern Land Council	<p>Senator SMITH: Obviously being a CEO you knew that there would be a heavy requirement to be abreast of financial matters. I understand from the evidence that the previous annual report was late as well. When did you discover that the previous annual report had been lodged late?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: On arrival in the position.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: On arrival. But over the course of that 12 months, knowing that the previous annual report had been lodged late, the next annual report under your leadership was still lodged late?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: Yes. Can I just say that the previous annual report was delayed, as we understand and maintain, because the staff of the local auditing firm, Merit Partners, had gone on recreation leave.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: Mr Morrison, it is not my place to encourage you about how you should do your job, but that is not an excuse when it comes to the expenditure of money. That is not an excuse. Mr Morrison, can you confirm to me that the other members of the audit committee were aware of this Australian National Audit Office report?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: Is anyone else able to confirm that other members of the audit committee did?</p> <p>Ms Liddle: I am unable to answer that question.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: Is the governing council of the Northern Land Council, which you described in your opening evidence, aware of this report?</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 7		

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					Mr Morrison: Again, we would have to take that on notice.			
58.	Northern Land Council	McKenzie	NLC Staff Numbers and Turnover	Northern Land Council	<p>Senator McKENZIE: I had some questions about staffing arrangements within the NLC. Can you outline the number of staff in your organisation including by branch?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: Across the organisation we have 210 employees. By branch, I would have to take on notice.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Apparently there are reports that there has been quite a significant turnover of staff at the land council.</p> <p>Mr Morrison: That is correct. I think their turnover is a little above 20 per cent.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Is any specific branch higher than others?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: I might put some questions on notice around that issue.</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 15		
59.	Northern Land Council	Smith	NLC Audit Committee	Northern Land Council	<p>Senator SMITH: Can you remind me who the members are of the audit committee at present, when they were appointed and for what terms audit committee members are appointed?</p> <p>Ms Liddle: I will have to take on notice some of those other details. There is Helen Lee, John Christophersen, Susan Archibald, and the one vacancy.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: How long have the previous three been on the committee?</p> <p>Ms Liddle: I will have to take that on notice. I do not have that in front of me.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: How long has the fourth position been vacant?</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 15		

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					<p>Ms Liddle: Again, I think Mr Morrison alluded to that. We would have to take that matter on notice as well.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: I thought someone said six months or it might be more than six months.</p> <p>Mr Morrison: That is a guess. I would prefer to take it on notice to give you the details.</p>			
60.	Northern Land Council	Smith	NLC ANAO Review	Northern Land Council	<p>Senator SMITH: The recommendations of the review came out in October 2014. What is the status of those recommendations? Have they been implemented?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: A number of recommendations have been provided.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: How many recommendations?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: There are at least 15. I do not have the exact number at hand, but I do have the recommendations in front of me.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: How many had been implemented?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: It has been coded according to the priority in terms of the recommendations, and I am confident that most of the high priority or the most urgent matters are being dealt with or have already been dealt with internally. Some of the things associated with dealing with conflicts of interest, gifts and other registers and credit card policies.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: Is that the report there?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: That is not the report. I do not have the report.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: Could you provide us with the report? Could you then, against each of the recommendations, provide us with information about whether they have been fully implemented, initiated but not yet completed or not yet initiated?</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 16		

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61.	Northern Land Council	McKenzie	COAG Land Investigation – Indigenous working group	Northern Land Council	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Have you discussed your concerns with Mr Yunupingu?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: I leave those conversations to my chairman and the other members of the council.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Has your chair had those discussions with Mr Yunupingu?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: I believe he has had conversations with Mr Yunupingu. There is a meeting with Mr Yunupingu coming up in the near future.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: When is that meeting?</p> <p>Mr Morrison: I cannot tell you the date off the top of my head. I am sorry.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Can you take that on notice?</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 18		
62.	ORIC	Siewert Bernardi	ORIC Investigations	ORIC	<p>Mr Beven: Our process is that if we conduct a criminal investigation that is not public, but any outcome from our investigation is public and we do publish it on the website.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: How many of those have you carried out over the last two years?</p> <p>Mr Beven: In terms of investigations or outcomes?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Investigations first and then we will go to outcomes.</p> <p>Mr Beven: I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>CHAIR: I should take the advice that I gave to Senator Peris before and not discuss state things. Mr Beven, in conclusion, Senator Peris asked you about how many corporations you administer, and the new ones coming on board. How many investigations have you undertaken over the last 12 months and what have been the results? How many have resulted in organisations getting into</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 24 & 27		

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					<p>administration or other external authority?</p> <p>Mr Beven: Senator Siewert asked that question and I said I would take that on notice. In terms of outcomes, last financial year was quite a big one for our office. We had 32 prosecutions just in relation to minor offences, but we had some very significant criminal and civil matters come before the courts that were finalised. Probably the largest one we had was on 5 February 2014. We had a former CEO of an Aboriginal and Torres Islander corporation in New South Wales. He was fined \$500,000 and ordered to pay compensation of \$705,000 and he was disqualified from being associated with any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation for 15 years. This \$1.2 million in fines and compensation with disqualification for 15 years is the most significant result my office has achieved in just under 40 years of operation. We are sending a very strong message in terms of ensuring that CEOs and directors do the right thing.</p> <p>CHAIR: I presume you are taking the question on notice from Senator Siewert and you will table a list of the inquiries, the actions and the results?</p> <p>Mr Beven: That is right.</p>			
63.	ORIC	Peris	Registration with ORIC	ORIC	<p>Senator PERIS: How many Indigenous businesses are registered with ORIC now? Can you give me the breakdown from 2013-14 and 2015, where you are at now?</p> <p>Mr Beven: As of today there are 2,670 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations registered with my office, and each year there are approximately 100 to 200 new corporations registered.</p> <p>Senator PERIS: So, since the announcement of the</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 25		

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					<p>Indigenous Advancement Strategy made it almost compulsory that organisations are registered, what has been the uptake? Can you give me a figure of where you were at, say, at the beginning of last year?</p> <p>Mr Beven: I can take that on notice, but to answer your question, no, we have not seen a substantial increase in the number of new incorporations, and in this financial year we have only seen four entities transferring their registration from a state based scheme across to the legislation that I administer. So, no, we have not seen a major influx of registrations.</p>			
64.	Indigenous Business Australia	McLucas	Home Loans	Indigenous Business Australia	<p>Senator McLUCAS: I am pleased to hear that. I want to go to home loan figures. Mr Fry, can you give the committee an update on the latest home loan figures that have been released in the annual report?</p> <p>Mr Fry: In summary, for the 12 months to the end of last financial year, IBA, in that particular 12-month period, did 556 home loans to a value of approximately \$142 million. Subsequent to that, in the last six months to 31 December 2014, we have done 251 home loans to a value of approximately \$66 million. Noting your previous interest in regard to remote community home loans, at this point in time we have settled on 34 home loans in remote communities, broken up into 18 in the Northern Territory and 16 in Far North Queensland. At this particular point we are assessing a further 36 home loans in remote communities. I can give you a breakup if you wish to have further details of where they are located.</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 29		
65.	Indigenous Business	MacDonal d	Palm Island Land Tenure	Indigenous Business	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Perhaps this is not the right place to ask this question. I should ask the former</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015,		

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	Australia			Australia	Queensland government. Is land on Palm Island unrestrictedly transferable? Do you know that? You may not know that. Mr Fry: I am not across those levels of detail but we can certainly provide them on notice.	page 33		
66.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Questions on Notice	Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs	Senator McLUCAS: My first question goes to questions on notice. Answers to questions on notice from our last estimates round were due by 31 December 2014. The answers were provided to the committee on 15 February. That is problematic to the committee. We put questions on notice to receive information in order to prepare for the next round of estimates. That is too late. Can you advise why they were that late? Ms Carroll: We are aware that the questions were late. It was part of the process of getting them all cleared. Senator McLUCAS: On what date were the answers provided to the minister's office? Ms Carroll: They were provided to the office on 19 November 2014. Senator McLUCAS: Now, let us get to it. Minister, on 19 November they appeared in your office and then it took until 15 February to come to the committee. Can you explain why that took so long? Senator Scullion: No, I cannot but I am more than happy to take that on notice. I was not aware of that. Ms Carroll: I can clarify that there were two groups of questions on notice. There was one group that was the general PM&C questions and there were also questions from our portfolio bodies with which we had some internal problems relating to where there was a nil answer or a no	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 34		

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					<p>answer and that was not picked up properly in the answers so they were later.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: So, 19 November was when the PM&C answers went to the minister's office for clearance?</p> <p>Ms Carroll: That is right.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Minister, you were seeking some advice about why that took so long in your office.</p> <p>Senator Scullion: I glared at someone in the back of the room. I am not sure if that constitutes seeking advice. I have no idea. In fact, I checked yesterday that we were all up to scratch on this. I really appreciate the importance of providing timely advice to the committee. I was not aware that this was the case. I have received two pieces of advice. On one set I have been advised that I cannot say.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: That is—</p> <p>Senator Scullion: That is how long the process took but I have had advice that it is not going to take that long in the future and I can assure the committee that it will not happen again. I do have a broader understanding but, because it involves other departments, I am not prepared to go there. I will seek a more comprehensive answer to that. I do respect that that is the case. As I said, the questions should not normally take that long. I know, because I have signed off on the questions, that most of them were fairly basic questions which I do not think were particularly complex. I will have to find out myself. As you can see, I am not exactly aware of what the shortcomings were and where the delays were. I deal with my briefs in a very timely way and I am disappointed that that is the case.</p>			
67.	Prime Minister &	Siewert	Indigenous	Programme	Senator SIEWERT: I understand what you have just said	FPA Friday 27		

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	Cabinet		Advancement Strategy costs	Implementa tion Taskforce	<p>about probity, but how much have you spent to date?</p> <p>Ms Black: On probity?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: No, overall.</p> <p>Ms Black: I might need to take that on notice. My guess would be about \$1 million to \$1.2 million. I do not want to mislead you so I would prefer to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: This will have to happen on notice as well. What is the total cost of undertaking the whole IAS administration process?</p> <p>Ms Carroll: We will see what we can provide for you on notice.</p> <p>Ms Black: We did it as business as usual for our staff as a key part of their role but we will take that on notice.</p>	February 2015, page 38		
68.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Indigenous Advancement Strategy Funding	Programme Implementa tion Taskforce	<p>Senator SIEWERT: The total, through that process, is the \$2.3 billion still the amount that will be allocated?</p> <p>Ms Carroll: It has been reduced from the \$2.3 billion already because we did the contract extensions for the six months. The funding was available so we would have expected that to occur because of some of those existing service providers. I think it is about \$2 billion now. Obviously, through the process with the minister, we will be looking at what is decided out of that \$2 billion because we need to leave some available for the demand-driven and for some of the gaps that we just spoke about before. We need to think about how much needs to be put aside.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: I understand that. Do you have a nominal allocation against those two provisions?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: Not at this stage. That is something that the minister will consider when we put our recommendations forward.</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, pages 38-39		

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					<p>Senator McLUCAS: I do not understand the process. You will make a series of recommendations to the minister that will cost a certain amount of money.</p> <p>Mr Eccles: Yes, but we are in the process of—</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: You do not have a notional figure for that yet?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: We have not finished that piece of work yet. We are finishing that in the next few days and we will get that to the minister for his consideration, so it is probably not appropriate for us to go into that level of detail about the advice that we will be providing to the minister.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: We would know now what the demand-driven ones will cost?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: Broadly, yes.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: How much is that?</p> <p>Ms Croft: We would have to take that on notice.</p>			
69.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Indigenous Advancement Strategy Grant Round	Programme Implementa tion Taskforce	<p>Senator McLUCAS: It has been published in the media that there are 75 of those organisations that have had to be assisted in this way. Is that number correct?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: I do not know that number.</p> <p>Ms Carroll: We are double checking if there have been any more that have come to light since that particular announcement. We just do not have that with us at the moment.</p> <p>Ms Black: It would depend on what they are currently contracted for as well. It could have been a one-off activity that naturally ceased so they would not have anticipated reapplying as well. We will take that on notice and come back to you on that.</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 40		
70.	Prime Minister &	MacDonal	Cape York	Community	Senator IAN MACDONALD: The other thing—and	FPA Friday 27		

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	Cabinet	d	Partnerships Funding	Safety and Policy	perhaps this could be taken on notice—is the Cape York Institute, which I know does a lot of work in the Cape. I am wondering if it is possible to get me a list of what projects, grants and funding operations are currently available with the Cape York Institute? They are a good body. Ms Carroll: Yes. Senator IAN MACDONALD: I am just wondering if it is possible to do that? Ms Carroll: We can provide that on notice of the current funding that they have. Just on your first point about engagement, certainly we are moving to a regional manager model of which one is based in Cairns and will continue to be and that person I know already engages somewhat with the Cape York mayors.	February 2015, page 41		
71.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Peris	Youth Corps	Jobs and the Economy	Senator PERIS: You have just spoken about the school-based traineeships. Is it the Youth Corps placements? Do you have a breakdown of those numbers? Ms Williams: The Youth Corps is part of the RJCP program. We may not have those numbers on us— Mr Bulman: We do not have the Youth Corps breakdown. Ms Williams: Perhaps we could take that on notice?	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 45		
72.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Peris	RJCP service providers by jurisdiction	Jobs and the Economy	Senator PERIS: And how many current service providers are there for the RJCP? Ms Williams: There are 54 at present across 60 regions. Senator PERIS: Are we able to get that broken down into jurisdictions?	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 46		
73.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Work for the Dole – geographical application	Jobs and the Economy	Senator SIEWERT: Thank you. Where is it going to apply? Mr Eccles: In the RJCP regions, which is essentially for remote Australia.	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 46 - 47		

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					<p>Senator SIEWERT: Just to Aboriginal people.</p> <p>Mr Eccles: No.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Anyone who lives in a region is going to be—</p> <p>Mr Eccles: Yes, absolutely.</p> <p>Senator Scullion: In an RJCP footprint rather than region. It is a specifically defined area.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes, I understood that, the 60—</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Which are Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>Senator Scullion: No, there are a number of RJCP areas that are certainly not only Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Which ones are they?</p> <p>Senator Scullion: I would need to get some advice on that, but I know that—</p> <p>Mr Bulman: It is quite a large area—it is 76 per cent of the geographical space of Australia. We have areas like Cocos Island where there is no Indigenous population. We have town centres and remote communities. It is certainly not just discrete Aboriginal communities or Torres Strait Islander communities. It is a lot broader than that.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Are you are going to give that list to us—to provide some clarity?</p> <p>Mr Bulman: Absolutely, and it is published online, but we will provide it on notice.</p>			
74.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Siewert	Work for the Dole – costs	Jobs and the Economy	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Thank you. I have a few more questions here, and I do realise that we are going to be tight for time. In terms of the evaluation process, are you putting that in from the word go, in terms of the usefulness and effectiveness of the program?</p> <p>Ms Williams: Certainly, Senator. That is part of the design</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 48 – 49		

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					<p>process that we are working through now, but the intention is that the evaluation will be built in now, early, and that it will be very rigorous.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Thank you. Will you be able to table that—how soon will those documents be available? Presumably, if this is starting in July, which is the not-too-distant future, are you able to take on notice to table those to this committee?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: When they are complete, yes, absolutely.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: How many people are in scope?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: About 37,000—is that right?</p> <p>Mr Bulman: It is 37,000 in the RJCP footprint at the moment.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: What proportion of those are Aboriginal people?</p> <p>Mr Bulman: I do not have a breakdown of 'Aboriginal', but I do have a breakdown of Indigenous—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander—which is around 83 percent of our caseload.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: What is the cost for administration for this?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: What do you mean by—</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: To run it.</p> <p>Mr Eccles: From the department's point of view, or including the providers?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Can I have both providers and for the department?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: I think we would need to take on board the departmental costs. It is a team in Ms Williams area but it is also our network. That is going to be an estimate only,</p>			

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					<p>because all of our network staff are going to be involved in some way in working with communities, and it might be one-third or half of their day some days, and other times full days. So why don't we give you a bit of an estimate of the departmental approach we are taking to resource it—if not a dollar amount—and we can provide you with some numbers about the amount of money that has been appropriated for this.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Thank you, that would be appreciated.</p>			
75.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	AHL/PMC funding to Bloodwood Tree Assoc.	Community Safety and Policy	<p>Ms Edwards: Senator, the decision-making process in relation to that organisation was part of a cluster of organisations, and it took time to work through each of them. So the particular representations in relation to that organisation did not affect the timing, no.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: So what other organisations were advised of their funding yesterday at three o'clock?</p> <p>Ms Edwards: There was a range of organisations who had previously been funded by AHL and were considered in the same batch. Those that had sort interim funding were advised yesterday or the day before.</p> <p>Mr Matthews: Yes, and I think that some will be going through the process of being advised that the network will be—for those that were successful— is going through the process of contacting those organisations. I am just not 100 percent sure whether all of them, successful or not, have been advised of that process. I would probably just want to take it on notice just to confirm. I would not want to name them now in case there are some discussions going on at this stage.</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 49 – 50		

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76.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Corporate and Community Partnerships Programme	Community Safety and Policy	<p>Senator McLUCAS: Can I get a list on notice of all of the organisations that were previously funded under the Corporate and Community Partnerships Program?</p> <p>Ms Carroll: We will ask AHL for that.</p> <p>Senator Scullion: We will make sure they know, but it would be useful if the committee could direct that question to AHL, because we may not have the same processes of compulsion for the answer that you may have.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Do they not do what you ask them, Minister?</p> <p>Senator Scullion: They are an independent body.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: I realise that. We will get a list of all of those organisations that are in the same boat as Bloodwood Tree, then we will go from there.</p> <p>Ms Edwards: We will give you a list of the organisations who have approached us for interim funding, and who have been provided it. Not all of them may be in the same boat because we may not be aware of them, as the Minister says, or they may not have sought funding, but we will certainly provide you with the decisions that have been made, as soon as we have ascertained they have all been informed.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Are we talking about two separate lists, Ms Edwards?</p> <p>Ms Edwards: There will be two lists.</p> <p>Ms Carroll: There will be one from AHL, and one from the ones we have had contact with.</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 51		
77.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Peris	Remote School Attendance Strategy – transport	Schools, Information and Evaluation	<p>Mr James: In December, the attendance data for 2014 was published for all schools in Australia, including the split for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. So yes, that data was published in December on MySchool.</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 56		

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					<p>Senator PERIS: Okay. I think I asked the minister a question once before about providing funding for transportation. A lot of communities raised a concern about wanting kids to get to school but they were borrowing buses. Where are we at with that? Can you give a figure of how much or what you have done in terms of providing that?</p> <p>Senator Scullion: There is a process in place.</p> <p>Mr Fordham: I would have to take that on notice as to the exact figures that we have spent on buses. But we set aside a figure of about \$2 million for those logistics type activities. So it was buses, vehicles, support for those RSAS teams on the ground, office space and all of the other bits and pieces. We are quite happy to break that down and table that for you.</p>			
78.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Siewert / McLucas	Remote School Attendance Strategy – staff turnover	Schools, Information and Evaluation	<p>Senator SIEWERT: I missed if you told us the figure on what the turnover rate of truancy officers is. Does that make sense? It is not a very good way of putting it, but the number of people that are coming in and then leaving?</p> <p>Mr Fordham: We do not have that information. There is a turnover rate. Obviously there are quite large numbers of people spread across those various schools and communities. We could provide you with that information but it would be quite a detailed spreadsheet of information. We would need to pick a point in time as to what you are wanting. But just to revise, there are 115 supervisors, 430 student attendance officers, 65 in the pipeline, and about 90 to 100 vacant. So that gives you a flavour for the scope of it.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: That is why I was asking if you had</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, pages 56 – 57		

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					<p>some more detail on that. So has there ever been a time when you have had all of them filled?</p> <p>Mr Fordham: No.</p> <p>Ms Carroll: And the reason for that is that what we have had is a number of our school attendance officers and supervisors actually move on to other jobs. In particular the Department of Human Services has picked up some of our staff. A lot of the schools pick up the staff over time. I understand what you mean by turnover rate. I think the difficulty for us is working out what they have gone on to. But we can have a look at what might be possible.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Question No. 54, Mr Fordham, you completed it for me and I thank you for that. That was the breakdown by state of the number of SASs and SAOs. I wonder if you could update that to current figures—the figures that you have given Senator Peris—but also if you could identify the number of people in the pipeline that you identified by state as well?</p> <p>Mr Fordham: Sure.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Thank you. With the turnover, is there an average length of service or some easy figure that you know—I do not want you to go to work—that you are not collecting already?</p> <p>Ms Hefren-Webb: It is worth saying the program has only been operational since term 1, 2014, so we are in a fairly early stage of the program that has been rolled out in two phases and the recruitment has taken place over that time. It is a bit early to measure a turnover rate and to have it be indicative of where we might get to, because often when you are starting a program there are issues recruiting</p>			

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					<p>enough trained people. There have been delays, as Mr Fordham and the minister said, in relation to people receiving the appropriate cheques, so a position might sit vacant for three months because of reasons outside the control of the employer which are not an indication of people being dissatisfied with the work. There is an element where people take that work—</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: I am not trying to extrapolate that turnover equals dissatisfaction—it often does, but I am not extrapolating that today. If there is a measure of length of employment, I think that would be helpful.</p> <p>Ms Carroll: We will have a look at that, at what is possible.</p>			
79.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Peris	Alcohol Licences	Community Safety and Policy	<p>Senator PERIS: Minister, as you would probably very well know, the police crime statistics have confirmed that 2013 and 2014 were the most violent years in the history of the Northern Territory, with 65 per cent of assaults being alcohol-related domestic violence. Earlier this week Rosie Batty talked about the link between alcohol and family violence, and all the research shows that the amount of alcohol violence is linked to the number of alcohol outlets—and the Northern Territory has both the highest rate of alcohol outlets and the highest rates of violence. The previous Labor government in Canberra had bought back several alcohol licences in the Northern Territory; however, the current Northern Territory government has said that they are looking at increasing the number of licences and increasing the hours that they operate. Are you concerned by this and would your government consider a buyback scheme to reduce alcohol violence?</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 58		

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					<p>Senator Scullion: First of all I agree with the sentiment that there is a very close connection between alcohol and violence particularly in environments like the Northern Territory. As you would be aware, there are some significant changes in the environment in places like Alice Springs since those statistics came around. We have had significant reductions—and I have had quoted to me in the last few days a reduction of 70 per cent in reportable incidences of alcohol-related violence in places like Alice Springs, and this is down to the process of having a police officer outside all of the takeaways. That has had a significant impact. I am not sure of the buybacks you are speaking of but if they were the buybacks that I think you are talking about—you can perhaps provide further information—we actually purchased I think through the ILC two liquor outlets and by my best recollection they were purchased on behalf of Lhere Artepe through the ILC.</p> <p>Ms Edwards: I have not brought the material in relation to that buyback scheme with me this time as it was some time ago but there was a program several years ago—either in the initial days of the emergency response or shortly thereafter—where we bought back a couple of licences under an amount set aside. There were negotiations for a third which did not proceed. That program happened then in relation to particularly targeted licences and the money was expended and those licences as I recall were purchased and surrendered but we have not been doing business like that now for several years.</p> <p>Senator Scullion: I think one of them was Piggly Wiggly's—anyway it does not matter where they were but</p>			

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					<p>there were others bought subsequently where we made an assumption that the liquor licence would disappear because the ILC had purchased it. That was an understanding I think of the board at the time. That did not happen for different reasons but I think we should be continuing to look at any options to reduce supply. I am not sure how acute the connectivity is between the number of outlets and violence—certainly you could not fall over without hitting your head on an outlet in Alice Springs years ago. Certainly we are more than happy to take perhaps part of that advice on notice because I am not sure which particular element you are referring to unless you have some more information around the question.</p> <p>Ms Edwards: Just to clarify, the minister is talking about a particular liquor licence but I think he was meaning to refer to the ABA funding rather than the ILC.</p> <p>Senator Scullion: Yes, sorry, it was the ABA funding and the board had made some assumptions that on purchase the licences would go. I cannot really recall the details but they did not end up going because of some technical transactional thing—they remained with the store.</p>			
80.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Peris	Alice Springs Women's Shelter funding	Community Safety and Policy	<p>Senator PERIS: The minister could possibly give a very short yes or no answer to this question. Last week I visited the Alice Springs Women's Shelter crisis accommodation, and I just want to read out a couple of statistics. In 2014, 413 children and 561 women provided with a 24/7 crisis response service. The women and children were from 86 towns and five communities across five states, with the majority being from Alice Springs. There were 7,026 bed nights provided, with an average length stay of 5.9 days.</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 58 – 59		

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					<p>This equals 1,265 accommodation stays in the shelter. As the Alice Springs Women's Shelter accepts referrals directly, 3,111 risk assessments were completed, averaging almost 10 referrals a day. The service was not able to support 1,700 individual women and children on 2,336 occasions, which averages to almost seven people being turned away a day. Thirty per cent of children who stayed in that shelter last year were under two, and 30 per cent of the women accommodated were between 20 and 34. In the discussions that I had with the lady who runs the shelter, the chief executive officer, she actually did mention the fact that police officers outside bottle shops had seen a reduction. But, as we all know, the police outside the bottle shops have been deemed discriminatory and the community certainly has made it clear. Predominantly, 90 per cent of the people that go through the shelter are Aboriginal women. As of 30 June this year this service is without funding. I know that this does not fit in your portfolio,—it is DSS—but as the Minister for Indigenous Affairs—and we are talking about violence, women and alcohol—I am asking: what is your commitment towards this?</p> <p>CHAIR: Can I just make this point: You have just acknowledged, Senator Peris, that this does not fall within the minister's portfolio. We are pushed for time and there is an inquiry into domestic violence by the references committee, which is going to Darwin in a couple of weeks time. You will understand why I think that the question is not in order. It does not fit within the minister's portfolio, by your own admission.</p>			

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					<p>Senator PERIS: Well, not really. It is the only domestic violence shelter which caters predominantly for Aboriginal women.</p> <p>Senator Scullion: Thank you for bringing it to my attention, Senator. I am more than happy to have a side discussion with you. I am not sure of the details, but it would obviously be a good service to maintain.</p> <p>Senator PERIS: Okay, thank you.</p> <p>Ms Carroll: Can I just quickly add—and we can give further details on notice—that this service actually might be funded through the Stronger Futures funding rather than through the DSS funding for which there was some additional funds provided to keep the service maintained.</p> <p>Ms Edwards: This is the same funding we discussed last time, Senator Peris. There was a sliding scale of money under the Stronger Futures agreement, which were agreed in 2011. There has been a reduction in funding, but we have actually provided additional funding at \$1.3 million this year to cover up some of that drop, and then a further \$6 million to the Northern Territory for domestic violence. So we share an enthusiasm to make sure that women's shelters are up and running and effective, and it is one of our ongoing discussions with the Northern Territory. We have had a great injection of funds in the area and will certainly take away and investigate concerns with Alice Springs. It is on my list of one of the ones that we support the funding of, so we will take it away, and we can provide more information on notice.</p> <p>Senator PERIS: I just wanted to put it on record because of the anxiety levels of staff who are not sure about the</p>			

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					<p>funding.</p> <p>Ms Edwards: They had different sources of funding, but certainly it is one of ours that we at least contribute to, and we can provide more information on notice.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Is that tied up with that hostel funding as well?</p> <p>Ms Edwards: No.</p>			
81.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Smith	Indigenous Advancement Strategy – Safety and Wellbeing Stream – Protective Behaviours	Community Safety and Policy	<p>Senator SMITH: In regard to the Safety and Wellbeing Programme, how many applications were received under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy specifically for that stream?</p> <p>Ms Carroll: We would have to take that on notice because a number of providers will have applied across a range of streams, but we could take that away and see what is possible.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: So, in the same way that the evidence was provided at the beginning: the number of projects that have been applied for; the number of organisations that represents.</p> <p>Ms Edwards: Can I just add that people might have applied for activities which would be viewed as falling under the Safety and Wellbeing Program, but we would not have assessed them as particularly for that stream, because that stream is now encompassed in the whole. It would be able to tell you what providers it used to provide—social and emotional wellbeing activities are again funded—but we will not be able to tell you which ones applied for social and emotional wellbeing, because there is no such category under the new program structure.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: Right. I want to get a sense, starting</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 59 – 60		

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					<p>from the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, of how many projects were put forward in the scope of the safety and wellbeing—</p> <p>Ms Edwards: To provide the activities that used to be provided under the social—yes.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: Yes; the number of projects that have been applied for, and what that represents in terms of organisations as well. What is the scope of the Safety and Wellbeing Program, and does it include protective behaviours?</p> <p>Ms Edwards: You might have to explain to me exactly what you mean by 'protective behaviours'?</p> <p>Senator SMITH: 'Protective behaviours' is the term that has been used with me from various stakeholders who engage in, unfortunately, having to teach young Indigenous people how to protect themselves from sexual abuse.</p> <p>Ms Edwards: That is an activity which could be included within the scope of the Safety and Wellbeing Program.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: I would like to know how many projects were applied for in regard to protective behaviour initiatives.</p> <p>Ms Carroll: We will take that on notice. Broadly, the kinds of things that fit within 2.3, Safety and wellbeing, are, for example, the family violence legal services; alcohol and other drug services; a range of what you would consider a safety or a wellbeing frame. Before, we have given broad categories, but we can have a look at what has been provided before.</p>			
82.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Siewert	Kimberley Youth Services	Community Safety and	Senator SIEWERT: Are you able to table the Kimberley Youth Services Network report that was done? Can we get	FPA Friday 27 February 2015,		

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			Network report	Policy	a copy of the report? Ms Carroll: If we have it. We will let you know before the end of the session.	page 60		
83.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Moore	Australia's Response to the Beijing +20	Social Policy Division	Can you provide an update on Australia's response to the Beijing +20? Will our response be tabled in parliament? Will the response be published on the Office for Women website? Can information on consultation on the development of our response be provided which organisations and when? Will briefings on this response be made available to parliamentarians?	Written	6 March 2015	
84.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Moore	Gender balance on Government Boards	Social Policy Division	Why was the 2013/14 report on gender balance on Government boards not published until 23 December 2014 while the previous year's report was published in August 2013? The proportion of women appointed to boards in the 2013/14 financial year was 36.5% down from 47.6 in the previous financial year; what were the reasons for the reduction in women appointees? Could you provide a copy of the current guidelines for departments and agency on achieving the 40% women on boards? What advice or guidance has the Office for Women given to departments and agencies on encouraging the appointment of women to boards since 2012?	Written	6 March 2015	
85.	ORIC	Xenophon	Legal counsel expenditure	ORIC	How much has the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations spent on all legal counsel since the introduction of the The Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (CATSI Act), broken down by financial year?	Written	10 March 2015	

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					a. Of this, how much was spent on engaging the Australian Government Solicitor and also how much was spent on engaging other legal counsel? Can you provide a breakdown by financial year?			
86.	ORIC	Xenophon	Special Administrators	ORIC	With regard to the appointment of "Special Administrators" is this done by call on public tender or select tender? What are the total amounts spent on engaging "Special Administrator's" broken down by financial year since the introduction of The The Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (CATSI Act)?	Written	10 March 2015	
87.	ORIC	Xenophon	Registrar of Indigenous Corporations	ORIC	How many cases have been successfully prosecuted by the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations since The Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (CATSI Act) detailing both "civil" and "criminal" and at what cost to the Australian Government for each of these cases?	Written	10 March 2015	
88.	ORIC	Xenophon	Registrar of Indigenous Corporations	ORIC	Does the Registrar of Indigenous Corporation's receive legal advice from a Barrister (as per the "Jawoyn case") and/or the AGS regarding whether or not to pursue each individual case? Who ultimately decides whether to prosecute through a civil case and or a criminal case?	Written	10 March 2015	
89.	ANAO	Xenophon	Government Advertising	ANAO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government has previously announced it will re-establish the Independent Communications Committee to oversee government spending on advertising. How will such a committee interact with the ANAO? 2. Has the ANAO provided any advice to the Government regarding the establishment, structure or duties of such a committee? 3. When will the next performance audit of government spending on advertising take place? 	Written	10 March 2015	
90.	IGIS	Xenophon	Use of weapons and self-defence	IGIS	I refer to the 2013 Inquiry into the use of weapons and self-defence techniques in ASIS which identified key areas of	Written	10 March 2015	

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			techniques in ASIS		<p>concerns relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in providing oleoresin capsicum spray and batons to some overseas stations after this had been approved by the Minister on the basis that weapons were necessary for the safety of staff • The consumption of alcohol – the inquiry found that ASIS did not have adequate controls to provide assurance that there was compliance with this requirement. <p>I understand six recommendations were made as a result of this inquiry - all of which were accepted by ASIS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have all of these recommendations now been implemented by ASIS? 2. Can this report, or parts of this report, be made public? If not, why not? 3. With regards to the delays in providing oleoresin capsicum spray and batons, did IGIS view that this may have left personnel safety at risk? <p>I also note the more serious incident in ‘December 2013’ where a Special Forces soldier allegedly threatened a female Australian spy with a handgun during a drinking session in Afghanistan in December. I note a further inquiry was instigated in June 2014 into the management of weapons to investigate these issues and review the findings of the 2013 Report.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. I note the investigation by ASIS into this incident raised “systemic issues” – can you elaborate on this? 5. What is the status of this investigation? Is it still ongoing? 			

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					<p>6. When is it expected to be completed? Will the results be made public?</p> <p>I note your statement in the annual report <i>“I was advised by the Director-General of ASIS that the investigation also revealed that there were inaccuracies in the information provided to me during the course of my 2013 inquiry. My review of the ASIS investigation report and interviews indicated substantial discrepancies”</i></p> <p>As you would be aware, I have previously raised concerns that this incident showed the IGIS needs additional powers and that there seems to be no real penalty for lying to the Inspector-General by intelligence services.</p> <p>I thank you for your letter to me of 23 October 2014 wherein you advise me that <i>“if a person provided false or misleading information or documents during an IGIS inquiry then division 137 of the Criminal Code would apply. The relevant penalty is imprisonment for 12 months”</i>.</p> <p><i>“If I had evidence that a person had, for example, lied to me under oath I would refer the matter to the Australian Federal Police for investigation”</i>.</p> <p>7. What action has been taken by IGIS to address the inaccuracies in the information provided during the 2013 Inquiry?</p> <p>8. What do you believe is the cause of these “inaccuracies” and “substantial discrepancies”?</p> <p>9. Has the matter been referred to the AFP for investigation?</p> <p>10. Can you advise of how many referrals you have made to the AFP for investigation under this</p>			

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					division? Are you aware of referrals made by your predecessor? 11. Are you aware if any person has been imprisoned under the Criminal Code for providing false or misleading information or documents during an IGIS inquiry?			
91.	IGIS	Leyonhjelm	Annual Report and Budget Statement - agencies	IGIS	Do you review any annual report or budget statement from the six agencies you supervise? If so, which documents do you review, for which agencies, and to whom do you report?	Written	10 March 2015	
92.	IGIS	Leyonhjelm	Staffing	IGIS	How many of your staff worked previously in any of the six agencies you supervise? What are the levels of the staff members who have previously worked in any of those six agencies? Which agencies did they work in?	Written	10 March 2015	
93.	IGIS	Leyonhjelm	Staffing	IGIS	How many of your staff worked previously in journalism, academia, or 'human rights' advocacy? What are the levels of the staff members who have previously worked in any of those three areas? Which of the three areas did they work in?	Written	10 March 2015	
94.	APSC	Collins	Enterprise Bargaining Agreements	APSC	<u>Bargaining Process</u> 1. How many APS Agencies have approval from the APSC and the Department of Finance to put offers before their employees? a. Can you provide a list of these agencies? 2. How many APS agencies have had their offers rejected by the APSC and the Department of Finance? a. Can you provide a list of these agencies? 3. How many APS agency offers are currently with the APSC and the Department of Finance for assessment?	Written	6 March 2015	

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					<p>a. Can you provide a list of these agencies?</p> <p>4. How many agencies are expected to make an offer to their employees before the end of the Financial Year?</p> <p>a. Can you provide a list of these agencies?</p> <p>5. Are there still agencies that have yet to commence bargaining?</p> <p>a. Is there a deadline for those agencies to issue their Notice of Employee Representational Rights so that bargaining can commence?</p> <p>6. What are the main issues/sticking points in getting offers through the APSC and Department of Finance process?</p> <p>7. Has the Minister or the new Commissioner met with the CPSU or any other employee representative organisations</p> <p><u>Superannuation</u></p> <p>8. Can you confirm that agencies are being instructed by the APSC to remove reference to 15.4% employer superannuation contribution from agreements?</p> <p>9. Which agencies have sought to remove 15.4% from draft enterprise agreements?</p> <p>10. Are agencies able to retain the current clause regarding 15.4% superannuation no matter which fund the employee has chosen?</p> <p>11. Has the APSC formulated this policy position, or are they acting on instruction from the Government?</p> <p><u>Other Conditions</u></p> <p>12. Has the APSC provided information to Agencies on how they can lift productivity?</p>			

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What kind of productivity gains would satisfy the APSC? b. Would extending the work day by nine minutes satisfy the APSC? c. What productivity gains have been submitted to the APSC by agencies that haven't been accepted? <p>13. According to the CPSU, agencies are asking employees to give up rights and entitlements that have a very low cost like consultation, the right to representation, and clauses that promote diversity to fund possible pay offers. Is this at the direction of the APSC?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How does the APSC quantify these entitlements? <p>14. Is there any standard/consistent advice being provided to agencies by the APSC on any of the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The quantum of pay offers that will be approved b. Consultation c. Representational rights d. What might constitute an "enhancement" under the bargaining policy and therefore not be permitted e. Can copies of these APSC advices be provided? 			
95.	APSC	Collins	Relocation of APS Agencies	APSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the APSC been consulted on any Government plans to move APS agencies outside Canberra? 2. So far how many public service positions have been moved out of Canberra and into the regions? 	Written	6 March 2015	
96.	ANAO	Collins	Amendments to the Auditors-General Act	ANAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You are aware of the proposed amendments to the <i>Auditor-General Act 1997</i> in the Public Governance and Resources Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2015 which relate to expand the exemption from 	Written	6 March 2015	

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					<p>disclosing information?</p> <p>a. Can you explain to the committee what the rationale for this amendment is?</p> <p>b. Are you aware of any breaches in previous audit processes that would justify applying the 2 year imprisonment penalty on people?</p> <p>c. If so are you able to outline these to the committee, and what the implications were in terms of the audit process?</p> <p>d. Have you consulted with other Commonwealth departments and agencies on the practical and operational effect of further constraining disclosure of information relating to drafts and extracts of reports?</p> <p>e. If so, have there been any indications that such an exemption would place restrictions on how they would be able to best respond as part of audit processes?</p> <p>f. If not [i.e. no consultation], why not?</p>			
97.	ANAO	Collins	ANAO Resourcing	ANAO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the current staffing profile of the ANAO? 2. How many graduate positions were available in 2015? 3. How many graduates have the ANAO accepted over the past five years? 4. What other measures have the ANAO considered to reduce costs? 5. Will the ANAO still be able to deliver on its forward work program it published in July? 	Written	10 March 2015	
98.	ORIC	Siewert	Allegations raised in Fairfax media	ORIC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Last year there were a number of allegations raised in the Fairfax media regarding governance failings on the part of WDLAC directors and senior executives, 	Written	10 March 2014	

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					<p>allegations of conflicts of interest on the part of WDLAC senior executives and allegations of misuse of native title funds received by WDLAC. I understand that, since that time, a number of additional complaints relating to WDLAC have been forwarded to ORIC. I am also told that the Martu people, who are represented by WDLAC, feel that complaints made to ORIC in the past have not been adequately addressed by ORIC and that they have lost faith in ORIC as the regulator of indigenous corporations. How have you responded to these concerns?</p> <p>2. Will ORIC thoroughly investigate all the issues and complaints that have been raised and ensure that any breaches of regulations or breaches of fiduciary duty on behalf of WDLAC directors and staff are fully identified, so that Aboriginal people can have confidence that ORIC will ensure the integrity of the corporations that represent them?</p> <p>3. If such breaches are identified in relation to WDLAC, will ORIC take appropriate action against the individuals involved?</p>			
99.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Siewert	Indigenous Employment Program	Jobs and the Economy	<p>There seems to have been minimal spending on the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) business support over the last two years.</p> <p>1. Can you please provide a comparative expenditure (broken-down external vs dept costs) for IEP Business Support in calendar and financial years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015?</p>	Written	10 March 2014	
100.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Siewert	Closing the Gap	Community Safety &	Will the Minister consider recognising the importance of water rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Written	10 March 2014	

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				Policy	People in the Closing the Gap strategy?			
101.					A question was not allocated to this number.			
102.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Siewert	Aboriginal Medical Service	Community Safety & Policy	<p>1. With regard to the Funding Agreement for all the Department's funded not-for-profit Aboriginal Medical Services (AMSS) how can any of the Department's Funding Agreement's be legally binding considering the <i>High Court of Australia Koompahtoo Local Aboriginal Land Council V Sanapine Pty Limited</i> decision?</p> <p>2. Has the Department ever been approached by anyone (including any Community/Board Members, and or Members of Parliament) and or any Aboriginal Medical Service with regard to any possible class action's regarding the Department's Funding Agreement's? If so, please provide full details.</p>	Written	10 March 2015	
103.	ANAO	Collins	ANAO processes	ANAO	<p>Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Senator Abetz, can I ask if you are aware of that process?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: The difficulty is that I think Mr McPhee is irreplaceable. But, more seriously, I do not think I have a brief on where we are at.</p> <p>Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Could I ask that you take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: Yes, of course I will.</p> <p>Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Who will be involved in the process? And, if the position is not filled by the time Mr McPhee retires, what processes are in place to ensure that the ANAO continues its very excellent work?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I have just had confirmed that it is possible to appoint an acting Auditor-General, but of course we would want a permanent replacement.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 125		

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					Senator JACINTA COLLINS: As soon as possible. Senator Abetz: Yes. I will provide you with information on notice as to where we are at.			
104.	ANAO	Xenophon	C-27J acquisitions	ANAO	Senator XENOPHON: At paragraph 17 of the audit, it states, it: ... underlines the importance of ... fair and transparent dealings with potential suppliers by government agencies when undertaking procurements. Could you on notice summarise what the ANAO's concerns were about the government with the C-27J acquisition in so far as that it is not contained in your report. If you say it is fully contained in your report, I do not want anything further, but if you can take that on notice.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 127		
105.	ANAO	Xenophon	Risks – selecting a single partner	ANAO	Senator XENOPHON: I will put some questions on notice, but can you tell me what risks are associated with selecting a single partner after a request-for-proposals stage—which I understand to be quite loose, noncommittal and subject to future changes from both supplier and purchaser? Mr McPhee: I do not think I can do justice to that question. Senator XENOPHON: Perhaps you can take that on notice. Mr McPhee: Yes.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 128		
106.	APSC	Lundy	Submission to the Advisory Group on Reform of Australian Government	APSC	Senator LUNDY: Do you recall the submission you made to the Advisory Group on Reform of Australian Government Administration Processes in 2009? Mr Lloyd: I recall I made a submission. It was in 2009, you say? Senator LUNDY: That is my reference, yes.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 134-135		

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			Administration Processes in 2009		<p>Mr Lloyd: I will have to check on that.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: What were you doing five or six years ago?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd: I was then the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner. I am not sure. You make so many submissions over the years.</p> <p>Senator LUNDY: I can prompt you. In that submission you said: The best long term employment outcomes are generally achieved when an employer has considerable discretion over the remuneration and conditions of its employees. Is that still your view?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd: I would like to see that quote in the context it was made in. I do not have that submission in front of me.</p> <p>Senator LUNDY: I am happy for you to take that on notice. You also said in that submission: Any move to introduce rigidities into APS employment would inevitably result in mediocre outcomes. Rigidities that are sometimes proposed include: a. monolithic classification structures; b. centrally mandated caps on pay increases; c. limits on agency level agreement negotiation agendas; d. common terms and expiry dates for agreements; and e. mandating relationships with unions and their delegates. Is that still your view?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd: Again, I would have to look at the context of the quotation. There are a lot of items quoted there, so I need to consider that.</p> <p>Senator LUNDY: Could you take that on notice, please. One more: Disparity in the remuneration and conditions employers offer</p>			

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					<p>their employees is an inherent feature of a competitive labour market. Disparity in the APS labour market should not be a cause for concern.</p> <p>Is that still your view?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd: I would repeat the answer to the previous questions. I would need to see it.</p> <p>Senator LUNDY: That one sums it up, but I do understand you would like to see it in the context in which you wrote it.</p> <p>Mr Lloyd: Yes.</p>			
107.	APSC	Lundy	Public servant positions	APSC	<p>Senator LUNDY: How many public servant positions have been moved out of Canberra and into the regions to date, and how many are programmed to do so?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd: We will take that on notice, but you will have to give us some dates. Since when?</p> <p>Senator LUNDY: Let's say since this government came into power.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 136		
108.	APSC	Lundy	Immigration and Customs merge	APSC	<p>Senator LUNDY: Is the APSC providing advice on the merger of Immigration and Customs?</p> <p>Ms Foster: Yes, we have been working with the department and Customs on a range of issues relating to their arrangements.</p> <p>Senator LUNDY: Can you take on notice to provide a list of the issues that you are in discussion about and what the time frame for decision making from the APSC's point of view is around those issues?</p> <p>Ms Foster: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator LUNDY: Thank you Senator LUNDY: Is the APSC providing advice on the merger of Immigration and Customs?</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 136		

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					<p>Ms Foster: Yes, we have been working with the department and Customs on a range of issues relating to their arrangements.</p> <p>Senator LUNDY: Can you take on notice to provide a list of the issues that you are in discussion about and what the time frame for decision making from the APSC's point of view is around those issues?</p> <p>Ms Foster: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator LUNDY: Thank you</p>			
109.	PM&C	Lundy	Location of agencies	APSC	<p>Senator LUNDY: I want to ask what role does the APSC play in determining the best location for agencies, but I think I need to ask you in the first instance whether you play any role at all.</p> <p>Ms Foster: No, we do not.</p> <p>Senator LUNDY: What about the department, as opposed to the APSC? Does the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet—</p> <p>Ms Foster: I think Ms Kelly would need to answer that question.</p> <p>Senator LUNDY: or indeed the Minister assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: I would have to take that on notice. It is not my area.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 136		
110.	OOSGG	Ludwig	Staff changes	OOSGG	<p>Senator LUDWIG: You might like to take this on notice, but perhaps you wouldn't mind providing staff changes since the Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, has been appointed.</p> <p>Mr Fraser: In terms of commencements and separations?</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Yes, and the role that they play.</p> <p>Mr Fraser: I would be happy to take that on notice for</p>	FPA Tuesday 24 February 2015, page 8		

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					you. Senator LUDWIG: Thank you.			
111.	OOSGG	Ludwig	Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption Report	OOSGG	Senator LUDWIG: So the report [on Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption] was received on that day. Mr Fraser: I was not present at that particular meeting; I would have to actually check what was physically conveyed. But that is normally the purpose. It can be an interim report or a final report on various royal commissions in the normal course of the Governor-General's role. Senator LUDWIG: Can you let the committee know what the circumstances are then? Mr Fraser: Certainly.	FPA Tuesday 24 February 2015, page 8		
112.	OOSGG	Ludwig	Kitchen consultant	OOSGG	Senator LUDWIG: What was the cost of the kitchen consultant? Mr Fraser: I do not have that cost available, but I could happily take that on notice for you.	FPA Tuesday 24 February 2015, page 9		
113.	OOSGG	Ludwig	Staff travel	OOSGG	Mr Fraser: A small number of staff do travel with the Governor-General overseas to support the official conduct of visits. Senator LUDWIG: Perhaps you would not mind detailing—you can take this on notice—which country and who would go. Perhaps you can tell me of the last couple of visits that occurred.	FPA Tuesday 24 February 2015, page 9		
114.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Contact with funded organisation	Community Safety and Policy	Senator McLUCAS: Ms Edwards, what happened on 24 December? You did not invite them to apply. I just want some clarification of that. Mr Matthews: I do not know. I assume contact would have been probably through our network staff. We would	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 52		

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					need to get the exact details, but I assume there probably would have been contact with Bloodwood. They may have contacted the department. It may have been through staff going out on the ground talking to them that there was a problem. They probably would have known about the IAS round or they would have been informed about the IAS process and then there would have been some contact. They probably would have provided some further information about how to go through the demand process.			
115.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Work for the Dole programme guidelines	Jobs and the Economy	<p>Ms Williams: The [Work for the Dole] program will be commencing from 1 July, so in advance of that we will have all of those details settled including the program guidelines.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: And will they be on the website then? Will they be published?</p> <p>Ms Williams: I believe they will be.</p> <p>Mr Bulman: Yes, they will be published.</p> <p>Ms Williams: And if they are not, we are happy to table them.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Thank you.</p>	FPA Friday 27 February 2015, page 54		
116.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Cabinet Process	Cabinet Division	<p>Senator WONG: Senator Abetz, the Prime Minister went on to say there have been 'significant internal changes with cabinet processes'. What are the changes to which the Prime Minister referred?</p> <p>Senator Abetz: The way that cabinet operates is largely a matter for the Prime Minister and cabinet. I am willing to take that on notice just to see how much the Prime Minister is willing to divulge as to what has changed in that regard.</p> <p>Senator WONG: The issue there is that it is the Prime Minister who has divulged this. The Prime Minister stood</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 46		

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					up in front of the nation— Senator Abetz: That is right— Senator WONG: And he announced with great fanfare that he is a changed man, his government is a changed entity and the cabinet process has changed. So he has chosen to put that into the public arena. I am simply asking what those changes are? Senator Abetz: I will take that on notice to ensure that you get the appropriate response.			
117.	This question is no longer applicable. The response was provided later in the transcript (Page 61)	Wong	Correspondence	Government Division	Senator WONG: There was correspondence that was I think released under FOI from Ms Credlin to the private secretary to Her Majesty the Queen—I did that for you, Dean!— Senator SMITH: Thank you, Senator Wong. Senator WONG: whose name I do not know how to pronounce—Sir Christopher Geidt. Is this in relation to the original letters patent? Or is this in relation to the amendment you are talking about? Ms Kelly: I do not have that document in front of me, so I am not able to assist. Senator WONG: I think it is your FOI. I assume this is the original knights and dames letters patent. Ms Kelly: A date might assist. Senator WONG: Sorry—19 March 2014, and then a response from the chief clerk on 2 April 2014. Ms Kelly: The dates would indicate that is the— Senator WONG: Was a similar letter sent by Ms Credlin to the private secretary in relation to the subsequent amendment? Ms Kelly: I do not have that letter. I cannot assist, but I can	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 58	Answered p. 61	N/A

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					take it on notice and make that inquiry.			
118.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Position title	Cyber Policy & Intelligence Division	Senator WONG: What is the position title of the other person you mentioned? Ms Connick: I think Mr Gilding's position is Senior Adviser, Security and Defence. I would have to check the actual details.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 77		
119.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Public Service Commissioners report	Government Division	Senator WONG: No. You refused to answer the question on notice when I asked you whether the Prime Minister requested the Public Service Commissioner's report because you said it was the department's request. So you can at least give me the date of that. Don't run me around in circles like this! Ms Kelly: I can give you the date the department had those discussions, but in terms of the date that the brief went to the Prime Minister, that would be a matter that you could take up with the Public Service Commissioner tonight. Senator WONG: I am happy to do that, but were you not copied in? Ms Kelly: No. Senator WONG: What was the date you requested it? Ms Kelly: I can obtain that date for you.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 79		
120.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	Question Time Briefs	PMO	Senator LUDWIG: Did the Prime Minister seek advice from the department about the content of the question? In providing the answer to the House, prior to the Prime Minister making that statement, did the Prime Minister seek advice from PM&C about whether or not he could, or should—or can make that statement? Ms Cross: Again, I do not think we normally reveal the nature of advice that is sought from the department by the	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 83-84		

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					<p>Prime Minister, but I am happy to take that on notice and check.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: I am not asking for content, just whether or not the—</p> <p>Ms Cross: I understand.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: request was made.</p> <p>Ms Cross: I think the longstanding protocol is—</p> <p>Senator Abetz: Yes, you are, because you are asking whether he could say whether he should not say et cetera. Clearly you are going to the content of the advice. We will take it on notice and that which we can provide we will.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: In an expansive way I suspect you are correct, but in the more narrow sense, whether advice was requested, I could perhaps stop at that point. But you have indicated that you will take that notice. I would encourage you to provide what can given in the general way these things are answered.</p> <p>Senator Abetz: Thank you for your encouragement</p>			
121.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	Question Time Brief	National Security Division	<p>Senator LUDWIG: I could chance my hand on this one. Could you tell me whether the Prime Minister watched the video prior to—</p> <p>Senator Abetz: I have got no idea. We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Then there was a translation in respect of that matter. Was PM&C requested to provide a translation?</p> <p>Ms Cross: Again, I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: There was a quote; it was quoted by the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Ms Cross: Sorry, Senator, I missed that?</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 84		

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					<p>Senator LUDWIG: It was a question of whether the Prime Minister asked the department to check the translation.</p> <p>Ms Cross: I will take that on notice.</p>			
122.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	Prime Minister's statement	National Security Division	<p>Senator LUDWIG: I was going to go across there tomorrow and ask them the same thing. But what I wanted to do was not to at least close the loop where they would then say, 'We advised. We can't tell you who we advised.' Or they might say, 'We advised. You should go and talk to PM&C because they would be the ones that could answer that question.' If you do not think it happens, can I assure you it does happen. I wanted to make sure that I can then respond to Mr Colvin tomorrow and say, 'PM&C has said X.'</p> <p>Senator Abetz: You tell Mr Colvin that PM&C said, 'Go to AFP.'</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Yes. So you cannot say whether or not, or you do not know whether or not, you sought subsequent permission from the AFP in relation to the statement made by the Prime Minister?</p> <p>Ms Cross: I do not know, and I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: So no-one in this room knows whether or not permission was—</p> <p>Ms Cross: I do not know, but I think we would take that on notice anyway.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: All right. You could not find out today, before tomorrow? It would be helpful. We are here until 11 o'clock, as I understand it.</p> <p>Ms Cross: We will see what we can do.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 85		

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					<p>Senator LUDWIG: The DPP, which also ask tomorrow, issued a statement. Do you know whether or not PM&C asked the DPP to issue a statement on the matter?</p> <p>Ms Cross: Whether the PM&C did? I will take that on notice and see if I can get that answer for you, as well.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Or whether the request came from the Prime Minister's office through PM&C to ask the DPP to issue a statement in relation to the matter?</p> <p>Ms Cross: We will see what we can find out for you.</p>			
123.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	UNFCCC Taskforce	UNFCCC Taskforce	<p>Senator LUDWIG: And you will come back to me on notice as to who is actually on the task force from the department.</p> <p>Ms Cross: I should be able to get that for you pretty quickly.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: Will that include the targets? You might want to take that on notice too.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 87		
124.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	Machinery of Government costs	Corporate Services Division	<p>Senator LUDWIG: I could say they have skinned it down enough for you, but I will not. So when these decisions are made PM&C do not provide advice to government about the cost impact?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: PM&C's role is to enact the machinery of government changes, so our role is to put the administrative procedures in place in order to bring about the change. It is then a matter to be negotiated bilaterally between each department.</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG: So if people were to make significant changes, you would not provide advice on the cost implications of that?</p> <p>Ms Kelly: Whilst I think it is common sense to be aware that any change involves costs—</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 89		

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					<p>Senator LUDWIG: That is why I asked the question. Ms Kelly: I would have to take on notice whether any specific advice was provided in relation to cost, but the quantum of costs would not be known in advance.</p>			
125.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	Administrative Arrangements	Government Division	<p>Senator LUDWIG: So did the Prime Minister write to the departments impacted and ask them to do it by such and such a date? Is there correspondence that the Prime Minister sent to the departments? Ms Kelly: I understand that the secretary corresponded with the relevant departmental heads in relation to that and set a time frame—and I will get you the exact time frame set—so there could be absolutely clear expectations about when all of those negotiations would be completed. Senator LUDWIG: And that correspondence will be available to the committee? Ms Kelly: I will just make those inquiries now. Senator LUDWIG: Thank you very much</p> <hr/> <p>Senator LUDWIG: So the information I was after in relation to that letter was—it may be on the face of the record—who wrote the letter, when it was sent, whether it was drafted by PM&C, whether it was an instruction from the Prime Minister to the secretary to prepare the letter, who received the letter, obviously whether the deadlines were met by the various departments and, if not, whether there was follow-up by the secretary for the other secretaries not meeting the deadline? Presumably if they did they wrote back saying that they did. That</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 89-90		

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					correspondence would be helpful too. Is that clear? Ms Kelly: Yes. I am not sure I will be able to get all of that, but I will use my best endeavour to get as much as I can. Senator LUDWIG: Thank you			
126.					This question was added to 125			
127.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	PQoN 1501	Government Division	Senator Abetz: Minister Bishop wrote to the Prime Minister's office on 20 May 2014, so one assumes it was relatively soon thereafter. But we can take that on notice for you. Senator LUDWIG: We could deal with this another way. You do have 1501. Do you want to have an opportunity of relooking at 1501 and seeing what information you can provide? Ms Kelly: I do not have that in front of me. Senator LUDWIG: No, not now. Senator Abetz: Not now, but on notice. Senator LUDWIG: It was put on notice. Senator Abetz: It is a parliamentary question. Senator LUDWIG: It is some months overdue. I thought I will raise it now and we will come back to it later in the evening. That will give you an opportunity between now and, say, after dinner to look at the question and decide how much you can provide to me rather than me in seriatim going through it and you then saying— Senator Abetz: I am sure somebody is listening in and that best endeavours will be entered into.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 90 & 105 Partly answered on pp 104-105		

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					Page 105 Senator LUDWIG: So, the remaining question you are taking on notice and will provide an answer? There were 14 in all. Senator Abetz: Yes, and some of the information is still not at hand.			
128.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Ludwig	Acting Appointments	Corporate Service Division	Senator LUDWIG: ... The organisational chart currently includes 20 acting appointments. Has that changed? Has that gone up or down? It is a very recent examination by me. I just want to make sure that I was correct about that. Ms Cross: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have that data in front of me. Senator LUDWIG: It seems a high level of acting positions. Is there a reason why you have so many acting positions in your organisational chart? Ms Cross: I would have to look at the individual positions—for example, Ms Pearce, who came to the table earlier, is working on the climate change task force, so there would be someone acting in her job. In some cases it is just that people are off-line. In other cases it will be that we are recruiting to fill positions. Sometimes the person gets promoted and we have acting behind it, so we would have to look at each one. Senator LUDWIG: So there is no sense of instability in the senior ranks—leaving the ship and creating acting positions? Ms Cross: No, Senator. Senator LUDWIG: Maybe you could provide a bit of an analysis of those 20 as you have described.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 91		

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					Ms Cross: I will check how many there are at the moment and certainly we can give some sense of—			
129.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Moore	Alliance Funding	Social Policy Division	<p>Senator MOORE: So that will come in the detailed list with the alliance funding I will get—</p> <p>Ms Cross: And then there will be a range of other projects.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: But they are not listed on the grants page. If someone is trying to trace this—</p> <p>Ms Cross: They may have been listed the previous year when the grants were made. I would have to check that for you.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: There is a lot of interest in these grants because they are so varied. It would be useful to have the absolute list. We have the 2013 to 2018 statement. It would be useful to have a historic record if there are more. This was all I could find.</p> <p>Ms Cross: We will see what we can find for you.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: That would be really useful.</p> <p>Ms Cross: I suspect over estimates hearings we have given you the historical information, but we will see what we can pull together for you.</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 103		
130.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Moore	Women's Breakfast funding	Social Policy Division	<p>Senator MOORE: When you are doing your follow-up, Ms Larkins, can I find out how many of these were advertised? People have asked me: how does it work? There is so much money here for projects to advance women. How does it work? Are some recurrent in the sense that, if the UN women's breakfast is there for however much money that was—\$5,500 I think—</p> <p>Ms Cross: I do not think that is recurrent, as in it is not guaranteed ongoing, but it is something that each year we</p>	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 104		

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					are likely to fund. Senator MOORE: So if we can actually find that out so there is more detail			
131.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Future Submarine Program	National Security Division	Dr McCarthy: We did have interactions with Defence in relation to that statement. I recall that there were general discussions, but as to the exact nature of the consultation, we might just need to check our records. But there were discussions with Defence. Senator WONG: I am going to want to traverse this. Is there somebody who can check this? I will move to another area and come back to it. This has been an issue of some controversy, so I assume it would not be a surprise that there would be questions asked. Dr McCarthy: Certainly we have been in discussions with Defence on matters related to the Future Submarine program both prior to and after the statement was made. As to the exact nature of the consultation on the statement itself, we would need to refresh our memories. But we have certainly been in discussions with Defence on an ongoing basis on the matter of the Future Submarine program for some time.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 106		
132.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Travel Exceptions	Government Division	Ms Kelly: The decision is one for the Prime Minister. When the department is aware of it, the department reports it, but I cannot guarantee that this is a comprehensive list. Senator WONG: I would appreciate if you could provide that list. Are you able to table that, or a version thereof if it has things on it that you do not want me to see? Senator Abetz: Aren't these things tabled in parliament on a six-monthly basis in any event? Senator WONG: No, this is independent travel.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 110		

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					Ms Kelly: Can I consider the other information that is in the table? Senator WONG: Sure			
133.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Travel – Mr Shearer	PMO	Senator WONG: Was Mr Shearer authorised to provide background material and on-the-record comments about intelligence briefings he had received and, if so, who provided that authorisation? Dr McCarthy: As I have said, PM&C did not have any involvement in the— Senator Abetz: I will take that on notice. Senator WONG: Okay	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 112		
134.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Ms Credlin – meeting with journalist	PMO	Senator WONG: It is on the public record that Ms Credlin spent two hours in her office last week talking to a journalist. That was reported in the <i>Weekend Australian</i> of 21 February. Did the Prime Minister authorise that interview? Senator Abetz: I will take that on notice.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 114		
135.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Mr Gupta	Cabinet Division	Senator WONG: Did it [Mr Gupta's appointment] go to cabinet? You will not even tell us if it went to cabinet. Senator Abetz: What does that have to do— Senator WONG: Liberal Friends of India and a political donor—you made him chair of the SBS. Senator Abetz: And you appointed trade union officials that donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the ALP to the Fair Work Commission. Senator WONG: And employers. We appointed employers too. That is not an answer. Senator Abetz: Oh, really— Senator WONG: Could you take on notice—	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 116		
136.					A question was not allocated to this number.			

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137.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	National Security Statement	National Security Division	Senator WONG: Who made the decision that the Prime Minister's national security statement would occur outside parliament and not in parliament? Senator Abetz: I dare say the Prime Minister would have made that decision, but I will take that on notice. It stands to reason that he would have made that decision.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 116		
138.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Advisory Group	White Paper on NT Taskforce	Senator McLUCAS: Are agendas, minutes and documentation for the advisory group meetings published anywhere? Mr Williamson: No, they are not. Senator McLUCAS: Why not? Mr Williamson: There has not been a decision taken to publish them. I can take on notice what is available.	FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 122		
139.	This question is no longer applicable. Transferred to AGD 24 March 2015	Wong	Deregulation Costing Methodology	Government Division	a) Can the Department confirm the first Amending Acts Repeal Bill – Amending Acts 1901 to 1969 Repeal Bill 2014 – had \$210,000 in deregulatory savings attached to it? b) Can the Department explain how it calculates \$210,000 in deregulatory savings? c) What is the methodology for calculating a saving of \$210,000 as a result of repealing 1,120 acts that will not “substantially alter existing arrangements or make any change to the substance of the law”? Is it based on some costing method that can be described in detail? For example, what unit costs have been assumed in determining the final deregulatory saving amount? d) Similarly the second Amending Acts Repeal Bill – Amending Acts 1970 to 1979 Repeal Bill 2014 calculated \$100,000 in deregulatory savings through repealing over 656 amending and repeal acts. Can the	Written	17 March 2015	This question is no longer applicable. Transferred to AGD 24 March 2015

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					<p>Department describe how it has calculated that there will be \$100,000 in deregulatory savings?</p> <p>e) With reference to the repeal of Navigation Act 1970 which amended the Navigation Act 1912-1968. Under legal conventions, this amending act became redundant once the amendments passed into law. Were there any deregulatory savings attached to this repeal? If so, how does the Department calculate the amount of savings?</p> <p>f) With reference to the Statute Law Revision Bills from Autumn – there were \$350,000 in deregulatory savings involved. Can the Department explain where the deregulatory savings come from? How does the Department calculate \$350,000 from fixing up these technical issues? What is the methodology used to calculate \$350,000?</p> <p>g) With reference to the Statute Law Revision Bills from Spring , there were \$420,000 in deregulatory savings from correcting “technical errors in legislation” and repealing spent and obsolete legislation, and repealing three spent Acts. Can the Department outline the methodology it has used to calculate the \$420,000 saving?</p> <p>h) What type of benchmarking has the Department used to base its deregulatory savings costs on?</p>			
140.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Cuttingredtape.g ov.au website	Ministerial Support Division	<p>a) Can the Department please provide the costs of the ongoing maintenance of cuttingredtape.gov.au, year-by-year over the forward estimates?</p> <p>b) With reference to the answer provided to Senate Question on Notice 289 which stated that there were not any PM&C staff whose sole or predominant</p>	Written	17 March 2015	

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					<p>responsibility was to create content for the site, or to look at comments and submissions to the cuttingredtape.gov.au website: Has this arrangement changed at all?</p> <p>c) If no to b), how many staff are there in the Office of Best Practice Regulation and the Office of Deregulation? Can the Department confirm none of the staff members have any specific duties in relation to the cuttingredtape.gov.au website?</p> <p>d) If yes to b), can the Department advise how many staff are involved with the cuttingredtape.gov.au website?</p> <p>e) Referring to Senate Question on Notice 289, where it was stated that no MoP(S) Act staff are responsible for creating or approving content for the website – has this arrangement changed at all?</p> <p>f) Is the Prime Minister, or the Parliamentary Secretary responsible for creating or approving content for the website?</p> <p>g) Did the Prime Minister, or the then Parliamentary Secretary, or either of their offices, provide input into the design of the website?</p> <p>h) Has there been any change to the deregulation policy agenda, or guidelines, or any other operations in relation to deregulation, including the cuttingredtape.gov.au website, as a result of a new Parliamentary Secretary coming in?</p> <p>i) Given that the website quotes a \$2 billion savings figure which includes a number of regulatory savings that are either no longer Government policy or will no longer provide the savings originally claimed, when</p>			

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					will the website be updated?			
141.	Prime Minister and Cabinet/ Aboriginal Hostels Limited	McLucas	Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL)	Community Safety and Policy Division	<p>1. AHL provides temporary accommodation throughout Australia via two streams; community operated hostels (otherwise known as Corporate and Community Partnerships Program by AHL) and hostels directly operated by AHL.</p> <p>a. In the 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements, funding for the community operated hostels was reduced by approximately \$2,358,000</p> <p>i. Why was the funding for this program reduced?</p> <p>ii. What consultation has taken place with AHL and/or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about the impact on temporary accommodation options for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as a result of the funding reduction? Please provide details of any consultation.</p> <p>iii. Bloodwood Tree Hostel was almost forced to close as a result of the reduction in funding to AHL. Can you advise if any other hostels were also left with no funding certainty as a result of the reduction in funding, and if any longer term funding is available to these organisations?</p> <p>2. Provide a list of all the organisations that were previously funded under the [AHL] Corporate and Community Partnerships Program?</p> <p>3. When was the decision made to move away from the Corporate and Community Partnerships program? What was the reason for this decision?</p>	Written	17 March 2015	

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142.	Indigenous Business Australia	McLucas	Indigenous Business Australia	IBA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) Chief Executive Officer, Mr Chris Fry, stated at p.29 that IBA had changed internal policies to drive further home ownership outcomes, particularly in relation to client assessment criteria for a home loan. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are these internal policy changes? b. In what ways have assessment criteria for home loans been changed? 2. Did any person or authorised officer from Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) communicate with any person involved in the conduct of the Forrest Review, while the Review was being undertaken? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, who were the persons involved? b. What was the method and purpose of the communication? Was it a written or a verbal communication? c. When did this communication take place? d. Was IBA approached by any person involved in the conduct of the Forrest Review? e. If so, who was this person and when was IBA first approached? What was the purpose and outcome of this communication? 3. When did Indigenous Business Australia first meet with major banks to discuss acceptance of private capital and the capacity of IBA to sell off mortgages? What has been the outcome of these discussions? 4. What is the effect of Indigenous Business Australia being able to sell off its mortgages for clients who have taken out the loan? Would those clients be subject to conditions of the finance body or bank that acquires the 	Written	17 March 2015	

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					loan? 5. What has been the rationale for not allowing Indigenous Business Australia to accept private capital?			
143.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Questions on Notice	MO	1. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet sent one of two batches of questions on notice to the Minister's Office on 19 November 2014. This batch related to general questions of the department. Can you advise when you received the second batch of questions on notice relating to agencies was received in the Minister's office? 2. On what date did the Minister clear and sign off each batch of questions on notice? 3. Can the Minister confirm his statement on p.35 that not a single answer to a question on notice was changed in his office? 4. What was the reason for the three month delay between receiving the answers to questions on notice from the department in November 2014 and clearing the Minister's office in February 2015?	Written	17 March 2015	
144.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Indigenous Advancement Strategy	Programme Implementa tion Taskforce	1. Provide a list of successful applicants and projects under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy by stream. 2. How many organisations had funding contracts with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet prior to the implementation of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy? Provide a list of all contracted organisations and the funding amount for the previous financial year for each organisation. 3. How many of the existing service providers had their contracts extended for six months when the Indigenous Advancement Strategy funding announcements were	Written	17 March 2015	

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					<p>delayed in November 2014? Provide a list of all organisations and the amount of funding each organisation received under the contract extension.</p> <p>4. What was the total value of existing contracts with service providers for each year over the past two financial years?</p> <p>5. How many of the existing service providers had their contracts extended for 12 months when the Indigenous Advancement Strategy funding announcements were delayed in November 2014? Provide a list of all organisations and the amount of funding each organisation received under the contract extension.</p> <p>6. How many organisations with existing contracts – prior to the announcement of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy outcomes – did not receive funding under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy? Provide a list of all organisations with contract extensions who did not receive funding under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.</p> <p>7. How many ‘non-compliant’ applications were successful in attracting funding under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy?</p> <p>8. How many successful applicants will be required to register under ORIC?</p> <p>9. How many of the successful applicants are Indigenous organisations?</p> <p>10. Did the Minister accept all department recommendations in determining the successful applicants under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy? If not, has the Minister written to the Finance</p>			

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					<p>Minister to advise of his reasons?</p> <p>11. Did the Minister approve any applications that were not put forward as recommendations from the department? If so, how many?</p> <p>12. How many organisations were awarded three year contracts?</p> <p>13. How many organisations were awarded two year contracts?</p> <p>14. How many organisations were awarded 12 or 18 month contracts?</p> <p>15. How many organisations with existing contracts did not submit an application for the Indigenous Advancement Strategy? Provide a list of organisations and the services and programs for which they were contracted to provide.</p> <p>a. When did the Department become aware that these organisations had not applied for funding?</p> <p>b. Were any applications submitted by organisations after this date?</p> <p>c. Did the department make contact with these organisations about submitting an application? If not, why not?</p> <p>16. Is there an internal review process being conducted on the process of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy?</p> <p>17. Has the department formalised a process for identifying service gaps now that the Indigenous Advancement Strategy outcomes have been finalised?</p> <p>a. What is this process? How will service gaps be identified?</p> <p>b. How will service gaps be filled? Will it be a demand</p>			

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					<p>driven application process?</p> <p>c. Has the analysis work referred to on p.44 of the transcript been undertaken in respect of filling service gaps left by organisations who did not apply through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy? If not, why not?</p> <p>18. How was the \$860 million funding amount for this round of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy arrived at?</p> <p>a. Describe the process through which this figure was determined.</p> <p>b. Was this a Ministerial determination?</p> <p>c. On what date was this figure agreed upon?</p> <p>19. Will there be another round of funding under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy?</p> <p>20. How much of the uncommitted funding from the advertised pool of \$2.3 billion is available after the determination of this funding round?</p> <p>21. Under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, \$2.5 billion is already committed. Provide a list of all services or programs which are recipients of this committed funding. Provide funding amounts for each program or service as well as contract lengths.</p> <p>22. Is there a feedback process for unsuccessful applicants? What is this process? Is it open to all unsuccessful applicants or only those who were not successful with the whole of their application?</p> <p>23. What is the process when an organisation has received inadequate funding to continue to deliver a service, and chooses not to take up the funding offer? Does this</p>			

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					<p>funding go back into the Indigenous Advancement Strategy?</p> <p>24. What is the process where an organisation's core funding from another department has not been successfully tendered, adversely affecting the capacity of an organisation to deliver services under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy?</p> <p>a. Who is the authorised decision maker in this instance – the Minister or a department official?</p> <p>b. Can the Minister or the Department withdraw an offer of funding under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy if an organisation's viability has been adversely affected by another funding process?</p> <p>25. When will negotiations be finalised and contracts completed for successful organisations?</p> <p>26. Will Indigenous organisations receiving more than \$500,000 per annum be required to have finalised registration under ORIC before the next financial year, when the funding period will begin? If not, what is the process in terms of incorporation and registration under ORIC? Will an organisation receive funding before this process is finalised?</p> <p>27. How many exemptions for the ORIC requirement have been lodged? How many have been approved?</p> <p>28. How many organisations and projects were approved under the demand driven process of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy? Provide a list of approved applicants and projects with their respective funding amounts.</p> <p>29. What was the total approved funding under the demand</p>			

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					<p>driven process of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy?</p> <p>30. How many community operated hostels previously funded through Aboriginal Hostels Ltd received interim funding from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet? Provide a list of these hostels.</p> <p>a. How many of these hostels received funding under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy? Provide a list of these hostels.</p> <p>b. The Bunara Maya Hostel in Port Hedland issued a formal notice of closure after incurring a significant debt due to delays with the Indigenous Advancement Strategy. Why were interim funding arrangements not put in place earlier, instead of two months into the interim funding period?</p> <p>31. When did the Minister become aware of Aboriginal Hostels Ltd's decision to move away from the Corporate and Community Partnerships Program?</p> <p>a. Has the Minister had discussions with Aboriginal Hostel Ltd since he was made aware of this decision concerning the decision about community operated hostels?</p> <p>b. What is the outcome of these discussions?</p> <p>32. Did Aboriginal Hostels Ltd or the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet notify community operated hostels funded through the AHL Corporate and Community Partnerships Program that they would be required to apply for funding under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy?</p> <p>33. On what date did the department notify Bloodwood</p>			

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					Tree Association of receipt of their demand driven application for interim funding? Was this written or verbal notification? 34. Did the department contact Bloodwood Tree Association in the six weeks between receiving and approving the organisation's interim funding for the Bunara Maya Hostel?			
145.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Work for the Dole	Jobs and Economy Division	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much will host organisations be paid to supervise work for the dole activities, and how will this payment be determined? 2. How will the Minister ensure that jobseekers are not undertaking work that would otherwise be a paid position? 3. Will providers be contractually obligated to report non-compliance for all participants? 4. What is the effect of a non-compliance report? Punitive measures such as welfare payments being docked? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is there any discretion to excuse non-compliance in limited circumstances (ie. illness, death in the family, other barriers) and who holds this discretion – providers or Centrelink? 5. What training activities are RJCP providers currently eligible to receive payments for? What training activities will no longer be supported under the Work for the Dole changes? 6. How will the Government determine what training will be supported? 7. Will existing payments to help job seekers buy clothing and equipment for training continue to be available? 	Written	17 March 2015	
146.	Prime Minister	McLucas	CDEP	Jobs and	1. How many jobseekers are currently grandfathered	Written	17 March	

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	and Cabinet			Economy Division	under the CDEP Wages Scheme? 2. How much money do participants under this scheme receive, and what are the participation requirements?		2015	
147.	Prime Minister and Cabinet	McLucas	Small Business	Jobs and Economy Division	1. You have made \$25 million available to establish local businesses. What criteria and program guidelines are in place for this funding? What is the application process? 2. Over how many years is this funding allocated? 3. Will funding be contingent on the employment of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?	Written	17 March 2015	
148.	Prime Minister and Cabinet	McLucas	Forrest Review	Jobs and Economy Division	1. In October 2014 the department indicated that it was working to organise stakeholder meetings as part of the feasibility assessment of the Forrest Review. How many meetings have been held to date and with whom? 2. Has the department been given a timeline to feed advice through to the Indigenous Advisory Council sub-committee? 3. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister has given a public guarantee that a Government response will be forthcoming before the year is out. Has the department has been given some indication of when this advice might need to be received? 4. Have any areas of assessment been completed? 5. The Government has been reported to be in talks with banks about the Healthy Welfare Card. Who is leading this process? Is this part of the feasibility assessment being conducted by the relevant departments? 6. What is the role of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs in this feasibility assessment process?	Written	17 March 2015	
149.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Housing	Housing, Land and	Provide the latest date for the breakdown across jurisdictions of the new homes built and refurbishments	Written	17 March 2015	

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				Community Capability Division	completed in the last financial year.			
150.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Housing jurisdictions	Housing, Land and Community Capability Division	Have any jurisdictions not met their agreed targets? If so, what percentage of that jurisdiction's capital works funding was reallocated?	Written	17 March 2015	
151.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	NPARIH	Housing, Land and Community Capability Division	What is the relationship of the municipal and essential services funding agreements reached with states last year and NPARIH?	Written	17 March 2015	
152.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	NPARIH	Housing, Land and Community Capability Division	What infrastructure or municipal services funding, if any, is built into NPARIH?	Written	17 March 2015	
153.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Infrastructure for essential services	Housing, Land and Community Capability Division	Where additional housing investment is scheduled, particularly where new subdivisions or upgraded infrastructure might be required to support new housing, who bears the responsibility and associated costs of providing this infrastructure for essential services?	Written	17 March 2015	
154.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Remote communities	Housing, Land and Community Capability Division	With the threat of closure of remote communities in WA, and no agreement in place with SA, can the Minister guarantee that scheduled housing investment will be supported by essential infrastructure and services?	Written	17 March 2015	
155.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Municipal and essential services	Housing, Land and	How are the negotiations progressing with South Australia regarding municipal and essential services funding?	Written	17 March 2015	

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	Department/ Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Responsible Division/ Agency	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			funding	Community Capability Division				
156.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	NPARIH Implementation Plans	Housing, Land and Community Capability Division	Have the NPARIH Implementation Plans been finalised with the states?	Written	17 March 2015	
157.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Implementation plans	Housing, Land and Community Capability Division	When will these Implementation Plans be available?	Written	17 March 2015	
158.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	NPARIH	Housing, Land and Community Capability Division	How many houses were built or refurbished in Victoria and Tasmania under NPARIH in the last financial year?	Written	17 March 2015	
159.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Funding for NPARIH	Housing, Land and Community Capability Division	How much funding did Victoria and Tasmania receive under NPARIH last financial year?	Written	17 March 2015	
160.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Forrest Review	Housing, Land and Community Capability Division	The Forrest Review recommends that new housing stock be built only on land that is subject to long-term leasing or freehold title. Has the Government adopted this recommendation? How are locations currently selected under NPARIH?	Written	17 March 2015	
161.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	McLucas	Forrest Review	Housing, Land and	The Forrest Review recommended priority allocation of housing stock for families who send their children to	Written	17 March 2015	

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				Community Capability Division	school. During previous Estimates the department indicated bilateral discussions were had with states on this issue. How has this recommendation progressed, and has it been incorporated into any of the Implementation Plans?			
162.	All Agency (except Indigenous portfolio bodies)	Wong	Staffing	Corporate Services Division	How many full-time equivalent staff are engaged at 16 March 2015? How many of these positions are (a) on-going and (b) non-ongoing? How many redundancies have occurred in 2014-15 to date? How many were (a) voluntary and (b) involuntary?	Written	17 March 2015	
163.	All Agency (except Indigenous portfolio bodies)	Wong	Consultants	Corporate Services Division	How many consultants have been engaged in 2014-15 to date?	Written	17 March 2015	
164.	All Agency (except Indigenous portfolio bodies)	Wong	Portraits of Her Majesty The Queen	Corporate Services Division	Have any portraits (including photographs) of Her Majesty The Queen been hung or re-hung in 2014-15 to date? If so, (a) in what locations (b) who directed the action and (c) what costs, if any, have been incurred?	Written	17 March 2015	
165.	All Agency (except Indigenous portfolio bodies & OOSGG)	Wong	Advertising	Ministerial Support Division	What is the total cost (GST inclusive) of campaign advertising in 2014-15 to date? What additional campaign advertising is planned? What is the estimated cost (GST inclusive) of planned campaign advertising? What is the total cost (GST inclusive) of non-campaign advertising since 18 September 2013? What additional non-campaign advertising is planned? What is the estimated cost (GST inclusive) of planned non-campaign advertising?	Written	17 March 2015	
166.	All Agency (except Indigenous)	Wong	Hospitality	Corporate Services Division	What is the total cost of hospitality in 2014-15 to date? For each hospitality event please advise (a) host (b) date (c) location (d) nature of event and (e) cost.	Written	17 March 2015	

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	portfolio bodies)							
167.	All Agency (except Indigenous portfolio bodies)	Wong	Media monitoring	Ministerial Support Division	What is the total cost of media monitoring services provided to the department/agency in 2014-15 to date? Please provide details of (a) the service provider and (b) the cost. Are media monitoring services purchased by the department/agency provided to the office of a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary? If so, please provide details of the service, including, if applicable, any additional costs incurred by the department/agency.	Written	17 March 2015	
168.	All Agency (except Indigenous portfolio bodies)	Wong	Stationery	Ministerial Support Division	What is the total cost expended on stationery in 2014-15 to date? Is stationery purchased by the department/agency provided to the office of a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary? If so, please provide details of the stationery, including the total cost by Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.	Written	17 March 2015	
169.	All Agency (except Indigenous portfolio bodies)	Wong	Subscription and streaming TV	Corporate Services Division	Please provide details of all current departmental/agency subscription and streaming TV services including (a) provider (b) channels and (c) costs in 2014-15 to date.	Written	17 March 2015	
170.	All Agency (except Indigenous portfolio bodies)	Wong	Newspaper and magazine subscriptions	Corporate Services Division	Please provide details of current departmental/agency newspaper and magazine subscription services including (a) title of newspaper/magazine (b) whether the subscription is hardcopy/online/both and (c) costs in 2014-15 to date.	Written	17 March 2015	
171.	All Agency (except Indigenous portfolio bodies)	Wong	Domestic travel and accommodation costs	Corporate Services Division	What total domestic travel and accommodation costs have been incurred in 2014-15 to date?	Written	17 March 2015	

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172.	All Agency (except OOSGG, OIGIS, OCO, Indigenous portfolio bodies)	Wong	Ministerial domestic travel and accommodation costs	Government Division	Has the department/agency met any travel or accommodation incurred costs associated with domestic travel by a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary or their staff in 2014-15 to date? If so, please provide details including (a) Minister or Parliamentary Secretary (b) date/s of travel (c) origin and destination and (d) breakdown of costs	Written	17 March 2015	
173.	All Agency (except OOSGG, OIGIS, OCO Indigenous portfolio bodies,)	Wong	Ministerial international travel and accommodation costs	Government Division	Has the department/agency met any travel or accommodation incurred costs associated with international travel by a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary or their staff in 2014-15 to date? If so, please provide details including (a) Minister or Parliamentary Secretary (b) date/s of travel (c) origin and destination and (d) breakdown of costs	Written	17 March 2015	
174.	All Agency (except Indigenous portfolio bodies)	Wong	Legal costs	Government Division	What total amount has been expended on legal services in 2014-15 to date? What amount was expended on services from providers other than the Australian Government Solicitor?	Written	17 March 2015	
175.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Government Staffing Committee	PMO	Who are the members of the Government Staffing Committee? What changes have been made to the membership of the committee in 2014-15 to date?	Written	17 March 2015	
176.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Termination of Dr Paul Grimes	Government Division	Did the Prime Minister advise Dr Grimes before he sought a report from the Secretary of PM&C about Dr Grimes' proposed termination?	Written	17 March 2015	
177.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Termination of Dr Paul Grimes	Government Division	On what date did the Prime Minister seek a report from the Secretary of PM&C about the proposed termination of Dr Paul Grimes as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture? In what form was the request made? On what date did drafting commence on the Secretary's report to the Prime Minister about the proposed termination? On what date/s did the Secretary consult with the Australian Public Service Commissioner on his report about the proposed	Written	17 March 2015	

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					<p>termination?</p> <p>How did the Secretary consult with the Australian Public Service Commissioner?</p> <p>Did the Secretary and Australian Public Service Commissioner disagree in relation to the proposed termination?</p> <p>On what date did the Secretary provide his report on the proposed termination to the Prime Minister?</p> <p>On what date did PM&C commence drafting a recommendation from the Prime Minister to the Governor-General on the proposed termination?</p> <p>On what date was a copy of draft recommendation to the Governor-General provided to the Prime Minister or his office?</p> <p>On what date was a final copy of recommendation to the Governor-General provided to the Prime Minister or his office?</p> <p>On what date was the Prime Minister's recommendation on the termination transmitted to Government House?</p>			
178.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Termination of Dr Paul Grimes	Government Division	<p>Was procedural fairness observed in relation to the termination of Dr Paul Grimes as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture?</p> <p>If so, how was Dr Grimes afforded procedural fairness?</p>	Written	17 March 2015	
179.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Termination of Dr Paul Grimes	Government Division	<p>Why did the Minister for Agriculture, and not the Prime Minister, announce the termination of Dr Paul Grimes as the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture?</p> <p>Was (a) the Prime Minister's Office and/or (b) the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet consulted on the content of the Minister for Agriculture's media statement relating to Dr Grimes' termination? If so, when and how. If not, why not?</p>	Written	17 March 2015	
180.	Prime Minister &	Wong	Termination of	Government	How many departmental secretaries have had their	Written	17 March	

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	Cabinet		departmental secretaries	Division	appointments terminated by the Prime Minister since his appointment to office on 18 September 2013?		2015	
181.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Order of precedence	Government Division	Can the current order of precedence be provided?	Written	17 March 2015	
182.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Cabinet meetings	Cabinet Division	Can figures for 2014-15 to date based on Figure 2.7 published on page 44 of the PM&C annual report for 2013-14 be provided?	Written	17 March 2015	
183.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Attendance at Cabinet	Cabinet Division	Has the Prime Minister's chief of staff ceased attending Cabinet? If so, when?	Written	17 March 2015	
184.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC	Ministerial Support Division	How many briefs has PM&C sent to the office of the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC since 18 September 2013?	Written	17 March 2015	
185.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	White Paper taskforces	Corporate Services Division	Can details of each White Paper taskforce in the department be provided, including: (a) current staffing, including numbers and classifications of staff In relation to each White Paper, can the following information be provided: (a) timeline for the publication of issues papers, Green Papers and White Papers (b) budget and cost to date (c) details of any external contracts, including costs	Written	17 March 2015	

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186.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Overseas ministerial travel	Government Division	With reference to the unanswered question no.218 from the Budget 2014-15 round and corresponding failure to make a claim of public interest immunity consistent with the order of the Senate agreed on 13 May 2009: Please provide details of all overseas ministerial visits approved by the Prime Minister since 28 February 2014 including, for each proposed visit: (a) the date approval was sought (b) the date travel was approved (c) the name of the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary (c) the countries to be visited (d) the purpose of the visit (d) the number of accompanying staff (e) whether accompanying spouse travel was sought (f) whether accompanying spouse travel was approved and (g) the estimated cost outlined in the visit proposal.	Written	17 March 2015	
187.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Travel approval	Government Division	What changes have been made to the role of the Prime Minister and Ministers in the approval of officials' travel? Why were the arrangements changed? Can the current arrangements be outlined?	Written	17 March 2015	
188.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Loyalty	PMO	Has the Prime Minister had "more consistency and loyalty from his frontbench than any other Liberal leader in our lifetime"?	Written	17 March 2015	
189.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Ministerial correspondence	Ministerial Support Division	Can the Department provide the current guide on the preparation of ministerial correspondence in the PM&C portfolio?	Written	17 March 2015	
190.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	FOI – requests for extensions	Ministerial Support Division	How many FOI requests has (a) the Department and (b) the Office of the Prime Minister received since 18 September 2013? Of these, how many extensions of time in relation to	Written	17 March 2015	

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					FOI processing have been sought from the Australian Information Commissioner since 18 September 2013 by (a) the Department and (b) the Office of the Prime Minister? How many have been granted?			
191.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Official functions	Ministerial Support Division	Can guest lists and menus for all official functions in 2014-15 to date be provided?	Written	17 March 2015	
192.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Alcohol	Ministerial Support Division	What amount has the department expended on alcohol in 2014-15 to date in connection with (a) the Prime Minister's official functions and (b) the Prime Minister's sustenance?	Written	17 March 2015	
193.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Private hospitality	Ministerial Support Division	What amount has been expended on hospitality provided by the Prime Minister in a non-official capacity in 2014-15 to date?	Written	17 March 2015	
194.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Expenditure on Office of the Prime Minister	Ministerial Support Division	What is the allocated budget for the operation of the Office of the Prime Minister in 2014-15? What amount has been expended on the operation of the Office of the Prime Minister in 2014-15 to date?	Written	17 March 2015	
195.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Prime Minister's temporary accommodation	Ministerial Support Division	What amount has been expended on the Prime Minister's temporary accommodation in Canberra since 18 September 2013?	Written	17 March 2015	
196.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Deregulation	Office of Deregulation	How many regulations have been made and repealed since 18 September 2013? Is SES remuneration linked to reductions in regulation? If not, when will Government's election policy be implemented? Who are the members of the department's Ministerial Advisory Committee on deregulation? What specific regulatory performance target has been set for the Secretary?	Written	17 March 2015	
197.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Guest of Government visits	Ministerial Support	Can details of all guest of government visits, including costs, be provided for 2014-15 to date?	Written	17 March 2015	

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	Department/ Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Responsible Division/ Agency	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
				Division				
198.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Interim Digital Transformation Office	Executive (David Hazlehurst)	On what date was the Interim Digital Transformation Office established? What are its functions? What are its reporting arrangements? What is its staffing profile, including numbers and classifications of staff?	Written	17 March 2015	
199.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Acting arrangements	Corporate Services Division	How many First Assistant and Assistant Secretary positions in the department are occupied on an acting basis at 16 March 2015?	Written	17 March 2015	
200.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Treasurer's legal action	PMO	Was the Prime Minister or his office consulted before the Treasurer launched defamation proceedings against Fairfax Media related to a story about the North Sydney Forum?	Written	17 March 2015	
201.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	PMO equipment	Ministerial Support Division	With reference to the answer to Senate question on notice no.157 which shows that between October 2013 and January 2014 PM&C spent more than \$15,000 buying photographic and video equipment for the use of staff in the Prime Minister's Office: Has any photographic or video equipment been purchased since the answer to question no.157 was prepared? Are all videos and photographs shot using this taxpayer-funded equipment published on the Prime Minister's website? Have any videos or photos produced using this equipment been provided to the Liberal Party?	Written	17 March 2015	
202.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Cabinet suite	PMO	Have any Liberal Party functions been held in the Cabinet suite since 18 September 2013? If so, can details be provided?	Written	17 March 2015	
203.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Secretary's removal, travel and temporary accommodation	Corporate Services Division	What costs have been incurred in relation to (a) removal (b) travel and (c) temporary accommodation for the Secretary, including temporary accommodations costs to 17 February	Written	17 March 2015	

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			costs		2015?			
204.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Renovations, refurbishments and repairs – Kirribilli House	Ministerial Support Division	Since 18 September 2013 what amount has been expended on renovations, refurbishments and repairs at Kirribilli House? Can a breakdown of costs per project be provided?	Written	17 March 2015	
205.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Kitchen equipment – Kirribilli House	Ministerial Support Division	Since 18 September 2013 what amount has been expended on kitchen equipment at Kirribilli House?	Written	17 March 2015	
206.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Furniture and furnishings – Kirribilli House	Ministerial Support Division	Since 18 March 2014 what amount has been expended on furniture and furnishings at Kirribilli House?	Written	17 March 2015	
207.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Staffing – Kirribilli House	Ministerial Support Division	What is the staffing profile at Kirribilli House, including position descriptions and classifications? How has this staffing profile changed since 18 September 2013?	Written	17 March 2015	
208.	Prime Minister & Cabinet	Wong	Acting Prime Minister	Ministerial Support Division	For what periods since 18 September 2013 has (a) the Deputy Prime Minister or (b) another specified Minister acted as Prime Minister? In each case can details be provided.	Written	17 March 2015	
209.	OOSGG	Wong	Termination of Dr Paul Grimes		On what day and at what time was advice recommending the termination of Dr Paul Grimes' appointment as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture received by the Official Secretary to the Governor General? How was the advice transmitted to the Official Secretary to the Governor General?	Written	17 March 2015	
210.	OOSGG	Wong	Renovations, refurbishments and repairs		Since 18 March 2014 what amount has been expended on renovations, refurbishments and repairs at (a) Government House and (b) Admiralty House? Can a breakdown of costs per project be provided?	Written	17 March 2015	
211.	OOSGG	Wong	Kitchen		Since 18 March 2014 what amount has been expended on	Written	17 March	

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	Department/ Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Responsible Division/ Agency	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
			equipment		kitchen equipment at (a) Government House and (b) Admiralty House?		2015	
212.	OOSGG	Wong	Furniture and furnishings		Since 18 March 2014 what amount has been expended on furniture and furnishings at (a) Government House and (b) Admiralty House?	Written	17 March 2015	
213.	APSC	Wong	Termination of Dr Paul Grimes		On what date/s was the Commissioner consulted by the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on a report about the proposed termination of Dr Paul Grimes as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture? How did the Secretary consult with the Australian Public Service Commissioner? Did the Secretary and Australian Public Service Commissioner disagree in relation to the proposed termination?	Written	17 March 2015	
214.	All Agency (except Indigenous portfolio bodies)	Wong	International travel and accommodation costs	Corporate Service Division	What total international travel and accommodation costs have been incurred in 2014-15 to date?	Written	17 March 2015	
215.	Prime Minister and Cabinet	Dastyari	Expenditure Review Committee	Cabinet Division	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did the Prime Minister chair every ERC meeting prior to the 2014-15 Budget? 2. When the Prime Minister is present in ERC, who from the PMO accompanies the Prime Minister in the meetings? 3. When the Prime Minister is not available to chair ERC, does the Treasurer chair meetings in his absence? 4. When the Prime Minister and the Treasurer are not available to attend, who chairs the meeting? 5. Have there been any instances where someone other than the Prime Minister, the Treasurer or the Minister 	Written	20 March 2015	

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					for Finance opened a discussion on an issue or an agenda item? Has that ever been someone who wasn't a Minister? 6. Have there been any instances where someone other than a Minister of this government has chaired an ERC meeting?			
216.	Prime Minister and Cabinet	Conroy	Dinner on 25 November 2014	PMO	Who attended the dinner in the Prime Minister's suite on 25 November 2014?	Written	23 March 2015	
217.	Prime Minister and Cabinet	Conroy	Future Submarine Program – PM's International Advisor	PMO	Has the Prime Minister's international advisor been to these shipyards yet, or been to these companies to discuss the possibility of building our new submarine fleet?	Written	23 March 2015	
218.	Prime Minister and Cabinet	Wong	G20	G20 Taskforce	1. How much was spent on catering in total for the G20? 2. How much was spent on venue hire in total for the G20? 3. How many contractors were used? 4. Can the department provide information including costs, location of events and invitees on entertaining private sector leaders as part of the G20 activities?	Written	24 March 2015	