

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission
Outcome/Program: State of the Service Report
Topic: APS staff unplanned absences

Senator: Mason

Question reference number: 70

Type of question: Handsard, FPA, p. 113, 13 February 2012

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question: Senator MASON: [...]

Obviously 23.5 days median absence is a lot—it is almost five working weeks. When you combine that with the four weeks annual leave, you get more than nine weeks. It is a lot. Can you tell the committee what agencies you refer to when you talk about 'two small agencies having absent rates of 20.9 and 23.5 days per employee due to small numbers of employees taking substantial periods of leave'. Ms McGregor, do you know what those are?

Ms McGregor: No, I do not, Senator. I do not have the—

Senator MASON: Can you take it on notice?

Mr Sedgwick: We will take it on notice. I was trying to give you the updated data before, which is in this year's State of the Service report. It is on pages 49 to 51. That data will show you—the names are not there—the unplanned absences for every agency.

Senator MASON: Including the ones I have just referred to? But you will take it on notice anyway?

Mr Sedgwick : Yes, I will take it on notice.

Answer:

The two small agencies with unscheduled absence rates of 20.9 and 23.5 days per employee in 2009-10 were Professional Services Review and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies respectively. These small agency results reflect the greater impact on total absence rates of small numbers of employees taking substantial periods of leave.