

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: Absenteeism in the APS – data breakdown

Senator: Mason

Question reference number: 75

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

In relation to the issue of absenteeism in the Australian Public Service and the statements by the APS Commissioner at the Senate Estimates hearings held on 13/2/12:

- a. Please provide a breakdown of the amount of absenteeism or unscheduled leave across all APS agencies (in total and by individual agency) that is attributable to each age cohort (such as up to 24 years; 25-44 years; 45-54 years; 55-64 years; and 65 years+), in each year from 2001-02 to present?
- b. Please provide details of the amount of each category of unscheduled absence (sick leave, carer's leave and other) that is attributable to each of these age cohorts (both by individual agency and in total across the APS)?
- c. What is the total estimated cost of the absenteeism or unscheduled leave across all APS agencies (in total and by individual agency), broken down for each category of unscheduled absence (sick leave, carer's leave and other) in each year from 2001-02 to present? Please also provide a breakdown of the estimated cost that is attributable to each of the above age cohorts in each of these categories.
- d. What are the additional indirect costs that are estimated to arise from the amount of absenteeism or unscheduled leave that occurs across all APS agencies (in total and by individual agency)?
- e. In relation to the APSC publication "Fostering an attendance culture: A guide for APS agencies" - when was this first published, and when was it last updated and republished by the APSC?

Answer:

- a. The Commission does not collect unscheduled absence data by age.
- b. The Commission does not collect unscheduled absence data by age.
- c. The Commission does not collect data on the cost of unscheduled absence.
- d. The Commission does not collect data on the cost of unscheduled absence.
- e. *Fostering an Attendance Culture: A Guide for APS Agencies* was first released in June 2006. This better practice guide has not been updated or republished by the Commission since that date.

