

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: Cross Portfolio

Topic: Unscheduled Absences - Directive

Senator: Mason

Question reference number: 66

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 12 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Has the Australian Public Service Commission ever issued a directive or recommendation to Commonwealth agencies and departments to raise the issue of absenteeism at their internal management and/or human resource meetings? If so, when did this occur and what stipulations did it contain? What actions were undertaken as a result?

Answer:

The Australian Public Service Commissioner presented a paper to the Secretaries Board in November 2012; the purpose of this paper was to draw attention to unscheduled absence in the APS and strategies for managing absence.

Secretaries were asked to note the concerns associated with unscheduled absence and consider approaches to managing workplace absence within their portfolio. The paper also included a list of absence management strategies used by the best performing agencies in absence management.