

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 absence—discussion with State Commissioners

Senator: Mason

Question reference number: 68

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 Commissioner ever spoken with State Public Service Commissioners about public service absenteeism? With which State Commissioners have discussions been held? If no discussions have occurred, have meetings ever been sought?

Answer:

The main mechanism through which the Australian Public Service Commissioner engages with State Public Service Commissioners is the Public Service Commissioners' Conference. The Commissioners meet twice a year. Public service absenteeism has not been raised as a specific agenda item during the last three years. However, the Commissioner has noted the concern about the rise in unscheduled absences with his colleagues in these forums. Specific meetings with other State Commissioners on public service absenteeism have not been sought. The Queensland Public Service Commissioner, however, has sought APS benchmarking data on absence from the Australian Public Service Commissioner.