

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19 FEBRUARY 2019**  
**FINANCE PORTFOLIO**

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard/ Written	Date Rec'd
F001	ASC Pty Ltd	Gallacher	ASC Workforce - Apprentices	<p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> ASC is now not responsible for ASC Shipbuilding; ASC is responsible for delivering the AWD and the OPV programs. ASC has, currently, nine people employed, overseeing those projects. The rest of the workforce is hired by ASC Shipbuilding—that is, BAE Systems. Currently, we have 669 people, whom we employ through ASC Shipbuilding, supporting those two programs.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Do we know how many apprentices we have?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> I don't know how many are inside those numbers.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Perhaps on notice you could provide that.</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> I can, but I think that's really a matter for BAE. We have taken their workforce back, so that number will change, depending on how we work with them. They're not ASC employees.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> So you can't provide it on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> I will take the question on notice and see what I can provide for you.</p>	Proof Hansard page 6	19/02/2019
F002	ASC Pty Ltd	Gallacher	Osborne and Henderson - Contractors and Subcontractors	<p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> What's the current number of permanent employees working on the sustainment of Collins?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> In total, we've got approximately 1,200 people, permanent employees, working on Collins at this point in time.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> The current number of apprentices?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> We've got 34 in South Australia and 20 in Western Australia.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Fifty-four. The breakdown of contractors and subcontractors?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> I haven't got a breakdown, and that number fluctuates very much in terms of the cycle we are in, in terms of maintenance.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> But it's in the 1,200?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> No, it is outside—those are permanent employees, that 1,200. We would say at our peak in South Australia we would take on probably 200, and probably 200 in Western Australia, so about 400 labour-hire would be supplemented in that number, in terms of delivering our work requirements.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Are you able to provide a breakdown of the numbers at Osborne and Henderson?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> I haven't got that in front of me but I can take that question on notice and give you a breakdown of those numbers. It's about 350 in Western Australia. The rest are in Osborne.</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> You will provide the exact numbers on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> Yes.</p>	Proof Hansard pages 8-9	19/02/2019

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				<p>...</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> So we've got 1,200 permanents, labour hire of 400—is that right?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> Total. As I said, it varies in the year, depending on where we are on the maintenance cycle and what we're doing. I said that, at a peak, there are probably about 400 across the business—labour hire—</p> <p><b>Senator GALLACHER:</b> Perhaps on notice, could you give us the exact figures so that we can do the comparison of last year to this year?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> Yes, no problems at all.</p>		
F003	Finance	Patrick	Tender for the Future Frigate	<p><b>Senator PATRICK:</b> ... but you'd be aware that the tender for the future frigate was public and it did not include that transfer arrangement. On my understanding, that transfer arrangement was introduced into the tender much later on in the piece. It certainly wasn't in the original tender documents. Can you provide the additional information that was used by the tenderers to guide them on what their final arrangements would be?</p> <p><b>Mr Jagers:</b> Yes. The tender process was run by the Department of Defence, and you're right in suggesting that it wasn't part of the original tender documentation but was added into the process.</p> <p><b>Senator PATRICK:</b> So it can't be added in by Defence because it's owned by Finance. You must have had some involvement of that. Can you table the arrangements that you might have had with Defence or whether they were directly discussed with the tenderers?</p> <p><b>Mr Jagers:</b> Yes. I will talk to Defence about that. There was a detailed—</p> <p><b>Senator PATRICK:</b> No, I'm asking you to table something. I don't care what you talk to Defence about.</p> <p><b>Ms Huxtable:</b> We have taken the question on notice. I think Mr Jagers has already taken the question on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard pages 10-11	19/02/2019
F004	ASC Pty Ltd	Patrick	Engineering Team	<p><b>Senator PATRICK:</b> Mr Whiley, at the last estimates we talked about how you had lost 24 engineers, very experienced people, 10 per cent of your engineering team. Can you give me an update on that figure since we last met, in terms of experienced engineers?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> I think since then we've lost probably about another half-dozen. I'll take the question on notice and give you an exact figure. It is about half a dozen.</p>	Proof Hansard page 11	19/02/2019
F005	ANI Pty Ltd	Patrick	ASC North Facility	<p><b>Senator PATRICK:</b> You can take this on notice, but what I would like to have is a copy of any documentation that you have in your possession that relates to the use of the existing ASC North facility.</p> <p><b>Mr Knox:</b> I can certainly provide you with effectively the leasing arrangements by which ASC occupy that yard.</p> <p><b>Senator PATRICK:</b> I'm not sure whether you're hearing me properly. I understand that you lease</p>	Proof Hansard page 13	19/02/2019

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				<p>that yard. I'm talking about plans for the future, okay? There are discussions going on between yourself and Naval Group over the use of those facilities. I'm asking you to please provide the committee—if necessary we'll end up getting an order for production or we'll get an FOI—but you could actually just say, 'I'll provide those to you if I can.'</p> <p><b>Mr Knox:</b> I'll have a look through our records and take on notice what I can provide you with on that.</p>		
F006	ASC Pty Ltd	Patrick	Tasking Statement – Value of Contract	<p><b>Senator PATRICK:</b> How much of that tasking statement—what's the value of that particular contract, Mr Whiley?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> We haven't submitted a response to the tasking as yet.</p> <p><b>Senator PATRICK:</b> Surely, in normal commercial terms, you would scope out what you need to do—</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> Yes, I haven't got it in front of me. That's underway. We only received the tasking in very late December, and we're still going through that process.</p> <p><b>Senator PATRICK:</b> Late when?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> Late December.</p> <p><b>Senator PATRICK:</b> Does that tasking statement have a dollar value attached to it?</p> <p><b>Mr Whiley:</b> There's no dollar value on it—I'll take the question on notice. I've not seen the tasking statement, specifically.</p> <p><b>Senator PATRICK:</b> One presumes that you will get paid to do the work. You're a commercial entity, arm's length, so can you please advise me, on notice, how much money you'll generate—sorry, what the tasking cost is. That would be appreciated.</p>	Proof Hansard pages 14-15	19/02/2019
F007	Finance	Patrick	Consideration for ASC Shipbuilding	<p><b>Senator PATRICK:</b> ...Ms Huxtable, as we finish up, I just wanted to clear up what I'm after in relation to the consideration for ASC. I'm not trying to be in any way critical that it might have been a low value, but this is, in my view, a company of significant value. I just want to understand what the consideration was, as a number value, that would have been in a contract somewhere. Most companies will announce what they've paid for things and what they've sold things for, so I would expect it's no longer commercially confidential. But there would have been some methodology to get you to the point by which you came to an agreeable price, and that might have factored in what the value of the golden share arrangement would be, the divestiture of other assets, but must have included all those other things you do when you sell a company like Goodwill and the expertise that was in the company and any capital that was in the company. That's what I'm after, on notice, really, as an oversight—</p> <p><b>Ms Huxtable:</b> I understand. I would just say, in regard to the assets, to reiterate the point I made earlier, that the assets of ASC had already transferred to ANI. So there are no assets, in that sense, or very minimal assets. But we can look at what we can provide you in that regard.</p>	Proof Hansard pages 15	19/02/2019

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F008	Finance	Kitching	Management of Default Superannuation – Discussion with Mr Costello	<p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> There have been various other inquiries at various times. The royal commission has touched on some of these issues. We are focused on making sure that Australians saving for their retirement have the best possible opportunity to maximise their net returns. But, as the Prime Minister has clearly indicated, it is not government policy for the Future Fund to manage default superannuation.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> In those discussions you had with Mr Costello, did he agree with that?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> If you want me to provide this on notice, I can. My recollection is that there was a front- page story in The Australian some years ago which referenced Mr Costello and attributed some views to him on the record, and I had a conversation with him, including to explain that that was not government policy. These are matters that have previously been canvassed, but, if you want me to provide more detail, I will have to go back, on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> Some more detail would be good.</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I will check on notice. I will supply the article that caused the conversation at the time.</p>	Proof Hansard pages 18-19	19/02/2019
F009	Future Fund	McAllister	Ownership Rights	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Do you maintain a record of the resolutions and the entities where the Future Fund has exercised ownership rights to vote against the management?</p> <p><b>Dr Arndt:</b> Yes, we do.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Is it possible to table that on notice?</p> <p><b>Dr Arndt:</b> We can. In fact, the report for last year is available on our website, but we can certainly do that.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Your annual report makes it clear that climate risk is one of the factors that you are considering as a risk and you say:</p> <p>... we incorporate climate risks, where these could pose a material risk to investment performance, into our investment decision-making.</p> <p>You note:</p> <p>... investments might be impaired due to regulatory, policy or technological initiatives, or lack of resilience to changes in the natural environment.</p> <p>Over the last year, have you had cause to exercise your ownership rights in relation to that principle?</p> <p><b>Dr Arndt:</b> I can't remember the exact dates, but there certainly are cases where we've felt that listed companies have not been sufficiently across these issues and we've either engaged with</p>	Proof Hansard pages 21-22	19/02/2019

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				<p>them or exercised our view that they should lift their game in terms of understanding the impact of these issues on their own business and I can recall at least in one situation where, as a result of that particular issue, we have exercised a voting right against.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> What example was that?</p> <p><b>Dr Arndt:</b> It was an insurance company but I would have to take it on notice as to the specific one.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> I would appreciate if you would take that on notice. I'd be interested to understand which company it was and the issues that were canvassed at the AGM that led you to vote against the management.</p>		
F010	CSC	Molan	Defence Superannuation	<p><b>Senator MOLAN:</b> You work in, as you said, very, very well with many other areas of government and institutions within this country. This government certainly sees veterans as important. I think we spend something like \$11 billion out of DVA, and we support several hundred thousand members through DVA. And we've just put before the parliament a covenant. You mentioned that your staff take their role very seriously. What is the Defence part of your business worth, in dollar terms? Can you put a dollar term on it?</p> <p><b>Mr Carrigy-Ryan:</b> There are two parts of that. There is a part where we get an amount of income from government, which is of the order of \$70 million per annum. The rest of the money to run our organisation is from the funds that we manage. So our total business cost is approximately \$420 million per annum. That \$70 million is paid for defined benefit scheme administration, both military and APS. For each of those, we have teams of people that will do benefit assessments, benefit information, claims, pension payments, invalidity—all of those sorts of functions. The exact dollar split, I haven't got with me, as to what we would spend on our military compared to our APS members, but I can certainly get that for you.</p>	Proof Hansard page 23	19/02/2019
F011	CSC	McAllister	Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Yes. The advice I have is that previously ComSuper, and perhaps CSC, used to insert SCOA membership brochures in letters to Commonwealth superannuants. However, that practice has ceased. What was the basis for doing it in the past and why has the organisation's position changed?</p> <p><b>Mr Carrigy-Ryan:</b> I would have to take that on notice. I don't have any information about that with me.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Are there any other groups that represent these superannuants and their interests?</p> <p><b>Mr Carrigy-Ryan:</b> Do you mean our membership base broadly? We have a huge number of military organisations that are member representative organisations. In relation to our APS members, I would have thought that SCOA was probably the stand-out one in terms of numbers. My recollection—again, I don't have the numbers handy—is that it wasn't very big in terms of membership. But I can't vouch for that.</p>	Proof Hansard page 27	19/02/2019

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				<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> SCOA obviously has a concern about this. Have you or anyone at the organisation met with SCOA to discuss this?</p> <p><b>Mr Carrigy-Ryan:</b> I have discussed a number of issues with SCOA—</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> This issue?</p> <p><b>Mr Carrigy-Ryan:</b> I can't remember whether this was on our agenda. There were about six or seven items at the last meeting I had with them sometime last year. I can check that up and let you know.</p>		
F012	CSC	Molan	Military Family Law Matters	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many requests were made as part of family law cases for asset details to CSC in FY 17/18?</li> <li>2. How many of these cases involved a customer receiving an invalidity support pension?</li> <li>3. Does CSC have oversight of the amount granted by court decision to ex-partners in CSC cases?</li> <li>4. If you do, could you then provide details of the total amount granted in FY 17/18 from CSC to the spouses of veterans receiving the invalidity support pension?</li> <li>5. Does CSC provide information to the Department of Veterans' Affairs about the changes to a veteran's situation due to a family law asset split?</li> </ol>	Written	20/02/2019
F013	Finance	McAllister	Association with Mr Burnes	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> How do you know Mr Burnes?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I've known him over the years. It's a matter of public record that he has been involved in the Liberal Party for some time.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> How far back does your association with him go?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I'd have to take that on notice. I think six or seven years, perhaps.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> But it's only in recent times that you've commenced booking with him directly?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> These three trips would have been in the last three or so years, yes. I can take that on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard page 30	19/02/2019
F014	Finance	McAllister	Official Travel Dates and Arrangements	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> We may come back to the establishment of these arrangements. Can I just check that the actual travel was undertaken in 2018? What were the precise dates of that travel?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I've got to take the precise dates on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> It was in January. It would have been around the second and third week of January 2018.</p> <p>...</p>	Proof Hansard pages 31, 45, 61	19/02/2019

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				<p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> Senator Cormann, there were three trips to Singapore, and we might have another date for you. One was mid-2017. There's the one that you've disclosed, on approximately 6 January 2018. Can you remember the date of the third trip?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I've taken the specific dates on notice. I think that there would have been one after the 2016 election, in August.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> ... In the ordinary course of events, I think the next one would've been in January 2017 and then the one in January 2018. But that's off the top of my head. I have to verify those dates and I told you I'd take the precise dates on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> Senator Cormann, you're going to give us the dates of the other travel—</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> and any other accommodation or other parts of travel that might have—</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> It's pretty straightforward. Yes.</p>		
F015	Finance	McAllister	Travel Destinations and Dates	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> And each of the three trips that you have referenced in your evidence were to Singapore and back, and did not involve any other associated travel to other destinations?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> No; that's right.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> And there were no onward flights. It was just Perth international to Singapore to Perth international.</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> There was no onward travel in terms of what was booked through this private arrangement. On one occasion—and I have to get the dates—I travelled back with my family to Perth, left them at home and then went back to the airport for a separate official visit overseas, but that was completely unrelated.</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> Do you remember which trip that was?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard page 32, 45- 46	19/02/2019
F016	Finance	McAllister	Airline Company	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Which airline did you fly with?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> In 2018 it was Singapore Airlines—I know that because I've recently checked that—but I'd have to check the other two trips. I feel that it was Singapore Airlines on at least two occasions but I'd have to check.</p>	Proof Hansard page 32	19/02/2019
F017	Finance	McAllister	Travel Upgrades	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Did you receive any upgrades from the airline when travelling?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I don't believe so. I'll have to check that. Yesterday, a journalist asked whether I had received any upgrades facilitated through Helloworld. I can categorically deny</p>	Proof Hansard page 33	19/02/2019

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				that. I'll just have to refresh my memory in relation to the trips otherwise.		
F018	Finance	McAllister	Provision of Departmental Information	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> What then is the source of the other document that was tabled this morning, the whole-of-Australian-Government accommodation program management services procurement?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> That is a document that was provided to me, I believe, by the department.</p> <p><b>Ms Huxtable:</b> Yes, that's right.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> When was that document provided?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I received this document yesterday. In terms of when precisely it was provided to my office, I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard page 35	19/02/2019
F019	Finance	McAllister	Donations	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> In 2010, he made a personal donation to Mr Hockey, into North Sydney FEC. He made a donation to Mr Morrison in 2007. Have you personally received donations from Mr Burnes?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> Firstly, I'm not aware of donations that were made to other campaigns. What I can say is that Mr Burnes, on one occasion that I can recall, would have attended one of my fundraising dinners, which are attended by about 200 people.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Any donations from Helloworld?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I'll have to check. I don't know who paid for Mr Burnes's attendance at my fundraising dinner. As I say, the dinners range between 180 and 220 people. I don't know whether he paid for that personally or who paid for it. I'll have to check.</p>	Proof Hansard page 37	19/02/2019
F020	Finance	McAllister	Value of AOT Contract Extension	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> AOT were given an extension to their contract in May 2015. Ms Huxtable, can you advise what the value of that extension was?</p> <p><b>Ms Huxtable:</b> One of the officers can certainly advise that.</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I hasten to add, should you think otherwise, that did not involve me in any way, shape or form in the process. As I understand it, the initial contract that was let in 2012 actually did provide for a number of extensions.</p> <p><b>Ms Huxtable:</b> We will have to take it on notice, Senator. We don't have the exact number.</p>	Proof Hansard page 43	19/02/2019
F021	Finance	Kitching	Whole of Government Travel Contract	<p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> No. This contract that we're talking about here was issued in 2012, initially for a period of three years with an option to extend by a further two years and it was extended to 2017. The issue that you raise there is a separate issue altogether.</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> I understand. What I want to know is how many companies tendered.</p> <p><b>Mr Hunt:</b> I may have to take that on notice but there were a number of companies. It was a competitive process and there were a number of companies that made it through to the evaluation process.</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> How many?</p>	Proof Hansard page 47	19/02/2019

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				<b>Mr Hunt:</b> We will check.		
F022	Finance	McAllister	Impact of Delays in Passing Legislation	<b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Could you also please provide a breakdown of the measures that make up the 'Impact of delays in passing legislation' line item in table 3.4 on page 33 of the MYEFO? <b>Ms Huxtable:</b> Yes.	Proof Hansard page 66	19/02/2019
F023	Finance	McAllister	Official Development Assistance	<b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> It's a saving—others would call it a cut to the budget for overseas development aid, but it is \$80 billion. Does that figure contemplate any further cuts to the aid budget or does it simply represent the medium term impact of changes to date? <b>Senator Cormann:</b> Obviously in any budget and budget update, if decisions are made, the fiscal impact of any decisions are over the forward estimates and the medium term at that point. The \$80 billion figure is essentially the value of the reform that we pursued through the funding arrangements in relation to foreign aid in previous budgets. It is not based on future decisions, if that is your question. ... <b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> ... At the end of the present forward estimate period, is there a resumption of indexation or is the current freeze a government policy decision in perpetuity? <b>Senator Cormann:</b> I might have to take it on notice, because I'm advised that maintaining the level of ODA does go beyond the period of the forward estimates, but I've got to make sure that I get the information precisely right given this is not directly in our portfolio. We'll provide that answer on notice.	Proof Hansard page 63	19/02/2019
F024	Finance	McAllister	Decision on Budget Date	<b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> I want to ask about the announcement that the budget has been brought forward to 2 April 2019. When was this decision made? <b>Senator Cormann:</b> Sometime towards the end of last year. In terms of a precise date, I'd have to take that on notice. Obviously, it was connected to the decision-making also, in relation to the timetable in the lead-up to a likely election. I'm advised on 27 November—that's when it was announced. ... <b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Who made the decision? <b>Senator Cormann:</b> I'll take that on notice. It would have been made through the normal process, but I'll get you the precise information.	Proof Hansard pages 63-64	19/02/2019
F025	Finance	McAllister	Unlegislated Savings Measures	<b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Can you also provide a list of all unlegislated savings measures? <b>Senator Cormann:</b> We can, yes. <b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Associated with that, can you provide the underlying cash balance impact over the forward estimates? <b>Senator Cormann:</b> Yes.	Proof Hansard page 65-66	19/02/2019
F026	Finance	McAllister	Decisions	<b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> In question on notice F012 you provided an updated list of measures	Proof	19/02/2019

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			Taken But Not Yet Announced	<p>that were decisions taken but not yet announced that have since been announced. Can you please update that?</p> <p><b>Ms Huxtable:</b> On notice?</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Is it possible for it to be tabled now?</p> <p><b>Mr Fredericks:</b> I don't think it is.</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> We might have to take it on notice. But the Senate has set a pretty tight deadline for answers to questions on notice to be provided. We'll give you an update by the end of March, which I think is when we were told to provide the information.</p> <p><b>Ms Huxtable:</b> I was just looking at the question we answered previously. To ensure completeness, we will take it on notice.</p>	Hansard page 65	
F027	Finance	Kitching	List of Key Budget Repair Measures Since 2014-15	<p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> Are you using parameter and other variations to deliver budget repair?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> No. If you ask whether we are using economic parameter variations in the broad, then the answer would be no. We are using the ongoing fiscal impact on the spending side of the budget of past decisions made by this government to reduce expenditure across a number of areas.</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> What areas would you say they are?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I'm happy to take that on notice. Obviously, since 2014/15 there's been a long list. One of them we mentioned earlier, which is the decision to put funding for the foreign aid budget on a fiscally more sustainable trajectory. That would be one of the significant ones.</p>	Proof Hansard page 68	19/02/2019
F028	Finance	Kitching	List of Material Payment Parameter and Other Variations in the 2018-19 MYEFO	<p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> On page 49 there's about \$14.5 billion in reductions. Is that right?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> It says \$18.1 billion over four years at the top, and then it lists the major ones.</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> So there's about \$3.5 billion increases in payments. So there's about \$7 billion—</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> No, no. The variation is decreased cash payment since the 2018-19 budget by \$3.8 billion in the 2018-19 financial year—that is in the one year—and by \$18.1 billion over the four years to 2021-22. Listed below are some of the bigger examples. If you want a more comprehensive list, then we'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> But there are some unexplained variations here about \$7 billion. What are the draw-downs?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> Which one are you referring to here?</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> I've just tallied—</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> Sure, but these are only the most material variations. This is what I'm saying.</p>	Proof Hansard page 69	19/02/2019

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				<p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> Ms Huxtable, can we have some more detail?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> If you want a comprehensive list, we can provide it to you.</p> <p><b>Ms Huxtable:</b> We have to take that on notice.</p>		
F029	Finance	Bilyk	Social Media Influencers	<p>(a) What was the Department's total expenditure on social media influencers during calendar year 2018?</p> <p>(b) What advertising or information campaigns did the Department use social media influencers to promote?</p> <p>(c) Please provide a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts.</p> <p>(d) Please provide an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts.</p>	Written	28/02/2019
F030	Finance	Kitching	Medical Research Future Fund	<p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> When will the Medical Research Future Fund reach its goal?</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Dr Helgeby:</b> I'd go to the Department of Finance Portfolio's additional estimates statements, page 35. You'll see on the bottom line the closing balance. It's \$20 billion in 2020-21.</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> What's the 7.8, that large credit, in 2019-20?</p> <p><b>Dr Helgeby:</b> That's an investment credit.</p> <p><b>Senator KITCHING:</b> What's driving that?</p> <p><b>Dr Helgeby:</b> We'd have to break that down, because I think that's driven by the savings from 2015.</p> <p><b>Ms Huxtable:</b> We'd have to take that on notice. That'll just be the impact of the profiling of the savings that are being allocated to the fund. There'll be a whole range of things that go in there. Equally, Health I'm sure will be able to respond to that, but we're happy to take it on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard page 70	19/02/2019
F031	Finance	McAllister	Indigenous Recognition Referendum	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> I wanted to ask about provision for the Indigenous recognition referendum. In the Finance Portfolio, in the PEFO for 2016, there was a provision for that referendum on page 36. It indicated that \$160 million had been provided over one year and the measure was included as a decision taken, not yet announced, in the 2016-17 budget.</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> We'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> I have not even asked a question yet.</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I thought you asked if the provision were still there.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> That is what I'll ask. Perhaps I can step through the things I'm seeking to understand. I would like to confirm that the measure to hold a referendum has not been reversed.</p>	Proof Hansard pages 70-71	19/02/2019

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				<p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I don't believe that we have reversed the measure but, in terms of where it is provisioned and how, I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Perhaps I can step through what I'd like as part of that answer then. I'd like to understand if it sits in the estimates for the AEC and how much has been allocated for the measure.</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I'll take that question on notice, for sure.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Can I ask for what year that funding is currently provisioned?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> Yes, you can. We'll take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> What are the assumptions in the underlying figure about provisioning for the yes and no cases?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> We'll take that on notice. Some of that goes beyond what we do directly in this portfolio but, in an abundance of helpfulness, we'll see how we can assist.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> If it was possible to provide some of the information over the balance of the estimates, that would be helpful. Thank you.</p>		
F032	Finance	McAllister	NBN	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> For the purposes of the internal rate of return, the NBN corporate plan projects out to 2040. What assumptions are used in that projection about principal repayments on that debt? Does it assume any principal payments prior to 2040?</p> <p><b>Mr Jagers:</b> Yes, I believe it does. I might just see if Ms Hall and Mr Danks can get some detail.</p> <p><b>Ms Hall:</b> At the moment, the assumption is that the government loan would be repaid by 2024 and swapped out for private sector debt. The basis upon which principal and interest payments would be settled is subject to negotiation as part of that refinancing. I'd have to take further detail on notice with respect to the assumptions that NBN has used, but that would be something that would be subject to negotiation with the commercial market, in the context of swapping out the Commonwealth debt with private sector debt at this point, by 30 June 2024.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Let's distinguish between your rational appreciation—and you're correct that the terms of any such loan made in 2024 by a private lender are unknowable at this point—and the forecasting that's used in the corporate plan to establish the internal rate of return. You said that you'd take this on notice. I want to be very clear that I'm looking for the assumptions that are used in relation to the projecting.</p> <p><b>Ms Hall:</b> Yes. We can take that on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard page 72	19/02/2019
F033	Finance	McAllister	NBN – Dividends and Repayments	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Can you confirm that the existing corporate plan does, in fact, assume that there will be dividends and repayments of principal?</p>	Proof Hansard page 72	19/02/2019

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				<p>...</p> <p><b>Ms Hall:</b> The publicly-available corporate plan only provides the forecasts for three years.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> That's right. It makes a calculation or it gives an indication about the internal rate of return, which actually spans the period to 20140. It's that calculation that I'm interested in, and the way that the calculation deals with the repayment of the principal to whomever may be the lender at any point in the period in question, and also assumptions about dividend payments.</p> <p><b>Ms Hall:</b> We are happy to take that detail on notice and consult with NBN in order to provide you a response, Senator.</p>		
F034	Finance	McAllister	ASIC Registers	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> Do ASIC's registers need to be upgraded?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I'm advised that that is a matter for the Treasury portfolio—principally, ASIC. The reason Finance had a role in the past was in the context of a scoping study that assessed certain potential alternative options. But of course the decision was made by the government, some time ago now, not to proceed with the alternative options. So that is squarely a matter for the Treasury portfolio.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> From a Finance perspective and an expenditure perspective, has money been provisioned to ASIC or to the Treasury portfolio more generally to fund the necessary IT upgrade?</p> <p><b>Ms Huxtable:</b> I think we'd have to take that question on notice, because it's really a question for outcome 1, and the officers have now gone.</p>	Proof Hansard pages 79 - 80	19/02/2019
F035	Finance	Patrick	Whyalla Announcements	<p><b>Senator PATRICK:</b> My next question is to you, Minister. The government turned up in early December to a very significant set of announcements in Whyalla in relation to GFG Alliance and some activities—very, very positive things—that the council was going to engage in. I know in the case of GFG and the South Australian state government—you recall the transition from KordaMentha—the company was in administration, then it went across to GFG. There was an arrangement separate to government, but the South Australian government, I understand, provided some guarantees. What has the Commonwealth done in respect of GFG Alliance in terms of any guarantees you're aware of or any grants or any underwritings?</p> <p><b>Senator Cormann:</b> I'll have to take that on notice. I accept it's a legitimate question, but it's something that goes probably beyond this portfolio. I will provide that information on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard page 81	19/02/2019
F036	Finance	Farrell	Government Campaign Expenditure	<p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> What is the total expenditure for government advertising, current financial year to date?</p> <p><b>Mr Suur:</b> We released a report in December for the 2017-18 year. We release reports at the conclusion of each financial year on the expenditure in that year. At the moment there's advertising underway. A lot of advertising activity hasn't been completed. We typically get a</p>	Proof Hansard page 81 - 82	19/02/2019

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				<p>report from the central advertising agency on expenditure 45 days after a campaign has been completed, so it's difficult for us to give a running total at this stage.</p> <p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> Can you give us any figures for at least the first six months of the current financial year?</p> <p><b>Mr Suur:</b> We don't have them with us, but we can see what we can get. It will be a pretty imprecise figure, because it would be for only those campaigns which have completed in that six-month period.</p>		
F037	Finance	Bilyk	Advertising and Information Campaigns	<p>(a) What was the Department's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in calendar year 2018?</p> <p>(b) What advertising and information campaigns did the Department run in the relevant period?</p> <p>(c) Please provide an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in that period</p>	Written	28/02/2019
F038	Finance	Paterson	Campaign Granted Exemption During Election Campaign	<p><b>CHAIR:</b> Perhaps for completeness, Mr Suur—I will direct this question to you , and it may need to be on notice—when was the last time a campaign like the one you referred to granted an exemption to continue during an election campaign?</p> <p><b>Mr Suur:</b> I will have to take that on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard page 86	19/02/2019
F039	Finance	Marshall	Acceptance of Comcare Claims – Parliamentarians and Staff	<p><b>Senator MARSHALL:</b> Yes. And, of those complainants, three of them went on to make successful Comcare claims.</p> <p><b>Ms Jones:</b> Correct.</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> Under the policy, one of the options for resolving a bullying and harassment claim is to actually make a claim through Comcare.</p> <p><b>Senator MARSHALL:</b> All right. So you did one investigation. Did that one result in a Comcare claim being accepted?</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> I'd need to double-check whether there was an overlap between those two. I'll take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator MARSHALL:</b> And out of the other six, potentially three—</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator MARSHALL:</b> I think you could probably find out now. We're only talking about a tiny number, aren't we? I'm just trying to come to grips with what you're telling me. So the person who's had two complaints against them, were they also two Comcare claims that were accepted?</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> I would have to take that on notice as well.</p> <p><b>Senator MARSHALL:</b> Surely you have got that information there in front of you, Mr De Silva?</p> <p><b>Ms Jones:</b> We just have to take that on notice, Senator; we don't have that information.</p>	Proof Hansard page 89	19/02/2019

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F040	Finance	Marshall	Comcare Payments – Parliamentarians and Staff	<p><b>Senator MARSHALL:</b> Does Comcare have the authority to make payments as part of a compensation package?</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> Comcare would exercise their powers under that act, and, in relation to a claim, they could make a payment in relation to any injury that had occurred at the workplace.</p> <p><b>Senator MARSHALL:</b> Are you aware of how many payments of that nature have been made?</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> We'd probably have to take that on notice and refer that to Comcare.</p> <p><b>Senator MARSHALL:</b> ... Has Finance ever requested Comcare to make an additional payment in order to resolve a claim?</p> <p><b>Ms Jones:</b> I would check that. I would think it would be highly not likely, so no, not to our knowledge. I could check that, but my response would be not to our knowledge, no.</p>	Proof Hansard page 90	19/02/2019
F041	Finance	Marshall	Comcare Claims – Parliamentarians and Staff	<p><b>Senator MARSHALL:</b> So I now want to talk about that member of parliament who's had four Comcare claims accepted against them. And I want to now find out what information that you've provided me today also applies to that person. Of the seven complaints that you talked about today, how many of those apply to that person that's already had four Comcare complaints accepted?</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> We'd have to take that on notice and double-check.</p> <p><b>Senator MARSHALL:</b> I don't need you to take it on notice to double-check. Just tell me what you know now.</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> Sorry, I'd have to take it on notice to give you an answer.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator MARSHALL:</b> ... We have one parliamentarian that's got four psychological injury claims accepted against them, but you can't tell me whether they've got ongoing complaints. You can't. I'd like you to be able to tell me. So I'm not quite sure that you're tailoring anything to anybody.</p> <p><b>Ms Jones:</b> I don't think that's correct. I think there is extensive support that is provided. In terms of the specific statistics or information that you're looking for, as I said, we can take that on notice, and we'll do our best to provide that information to you.</p>	Proof Hansard page 90, 91	19/02/2019
F042	IPEA	Waters	Staff Reviews	<p>During 2018:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How many MOPS Act staff have been subject to a preliminary expenses misuse review?</li> <li>b. How many MOPS Act staff have been subject to administrative action to address a breach of the framework governing their entitlements?</li> <li>c. In how many cases has this involved a return of funds?</li> </ol>	Written	26/02/2019

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				d. How many MOPS Act staff have been subject to an assurance review or audit? e. How many MOPS Act staff have been referred to the AFP?		
F043	Finance	Storer	COMCAR Fleet Trial	<p><b>Senator STORER:</b> I'd like to ask questions about Comcar procurement. I understand that the department is currently in the process of procuring the next generation of Comcars. Is that correct?</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> We have just completed a trial. We are yet to undertake procurement.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> Sorry, yes. My area is responsible for conducting the trial. We are responsible for analysing the outcomes of that trial. We'll provide advice to government, and government will make a decision.</p> <p><b>Senator STORER:</b> Can you give me any information on the budget for the trial. How much did the trial cost?</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> I might refer to Mr Heaver for that.</p> <p><b>Mr Heaver:</b> Funding for the trial was covered from current appropriations.</p> <p><b>Senator STORER:</b> Current appropriations.</p> <p><b>Mr Heaver:</b> I may have to get back to you on notice on the exact cost, but there were obviously driver wages and lease costs associated with the initial vehicle trial.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Mr Heaver:</b> We don't purchase any vehicles; we only lease vehicles.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> But a payment has been made to lease the vehicles for the purpose of the trial?</p> <p><b>Mr Heaver:</b> That's correct—through our lease provider sgfleet.</p> <p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> I think if it was possible to provide answers in relation to the cost before the evening was concluded, that would assist the committee—sorry, Senator Storer.</p> <p><b>Mr Heaver:</b> I'm not so sure I'll have exact dollar figures; I might have to get that answer back to you on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard pages 91 - 93	19/02/2019
F044	IPEA	Waters	Allowances	<p>There are several examples of printing companies receiving electoral payments from individual MPs and those companies then making large donations to the Labor and Liberal parties.</p> <p>a. Which authority has the capability to investigate this recurring problem?</p> <p>b. Are you able to follow how each MP spends their \$32,000 electoral allowance?</p> <p>On your website, it says your responsibility is to 'conduct audits relating to all work expenses, travel expenses and travel allowances claimed by parliamentarians'. Is this correct with respect to electoral allowances?</p>	Written	26/02/2019

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F045	Finance	Smith (WA)	Contact with Department of Finance Regarding Investigation	<p><b>Senator DEAN SMITH:</b> I've got a line of questioning, if I might. Did any staff that were subject to the investigation—let's call it a private investigation, as opposed to a public investigation—that was undertaken by the Australian Labor Party make inquiries to Finance in regard to what their rights and responsibilities and obligations might be?</p> <p><b>Ms Jones:</b> I think we might need to take that on notice. I'll come back to the point we made a little bit earlier on: it does get sensitive in terms of revealing information about individuals and how they have contacted the department.</p> <p><b>Senator DEAN SMITH:</b> Agreed.</p> <p><b>Ms Jones:</b> It is part of the obligations that we have to them that we try and respect their privacy. I recognise that the committee will ask questions, but the standard practice is we would take that on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard page 98	19/02/2019
F046	Finance	Farrell	Copy of Report	<p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> Yes. In accordance with policy the report is provided to the parliamentarian. We provided a copy of the report to Mr Wyatt on 7 December.</p> <p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> That's a reasonable gap.</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> We had discussions with CPM in terms of the content and then arranged a time to meet with the minister. It was the next time that he was actually in Canberra.</p> <p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> Okay, thank you. Has a copy been provided to the Special Minister of State?</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> No. I'm trying to think about that, but no.</p> <p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> Has a copy been provided to the Prime Minister's office?</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> No.</p> <p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> Can a copy of the report be provided to this committee?</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> We'd have to take that on notice—again, being very careful about what information is given in relation to an individual parliamentarian and also about any staff who are referred to in any report.</p> <p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> Yes, I can understand how it might be redacted.</p>	Proof Hansard page 100	19/02/2019
F047	Finance	Farrell	Conduct of Investigation	<p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> Mr De Silva, can you describe how the external consultant carried out their investigation.</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> I can provide a general comment. They were engaged, there was a discussion about the information that we would have had available to us, the investigation would have proceeded in terms of identifying various persons to contact and interview and then they would have arranged all those interviews over a period of time, collected that information and formed a view about the nature of the issues being raised.</p> <p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> Is this a Western Australian firm? Were they based in Western Australia?</p>	Proof Hansard page 100	19/02/2019

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				<b>Mr De Silva:</b> I would have to take that on notice. I'm not entirely sure where they were based.		
F048	Finance	Farrell	Contact with the Office of the Special Minister of State	<p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> Has the department discussed the report with the Special Minister of State or his office?</p> <p><b>Mr De Silva:</b> Not in terms of the content, no.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Ms Jones:</b> Could I just go back to one other comment—</p> <p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Ms Jones:</b> just in relation to any discussions with the Special Minister of State's office. Could we take that on notice? It's just because, as you know, Mr De Silva has only been in his role five weeks; it is possible that his predecessor did have a conversation, and I think I should just clarify that.</p>	Proof Hansard page 101	19/02/2019
F049	Finance	Farrell	Process to Seek indemnity	<p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> When a person seeks to be indemnified, does that involve the provision of solicitors or simply covering the cost of the solicitor that the individual themselves choose to appoint to defend them?</p> <p><b>Ms Jones:</b> In terms of the specific type of assistance that can be provided, the scheme sets out in detail what that is. I would need to take it on notice. I think it is for different aspects of the legal process, but we can refer you to particular parts of the legislation. I would be happy to take that on notice and provide you with that.</p>	Proof Hansard page 105	19/02/2019
F050	Finance	Farrell	Salaries Above The Range	<p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> ... Could you tell us what is the current number of government staff paid above the published band range?</p> <p><b>Ms Jones:</b> The consistent practice is that we've taken that question on notice and provided a response to you. We have worked on the basis that that consistent approach would be applied this time.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> ... how many of those people being paid above-band are in the Prime Minister's office? I'd request that you include that, if you feel so inclined. And also: how many of those staff who are paid above-band are in Mr Dutton's office?</p> <p><b>Ms Huxtable:</b> We'll take that on notice as part of the original question.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> ... Minister, my previous questions on notice have revealed that the number of the staff paid additional undisclosed salaries grew from 26 individuals in May last year to 36 in October. Can you explain to us why the government has felt it necessary to increase that number?</p>	Proof Hansard pages 106 - 107	19/02/2019

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				<p><b>Senator Seselja:</b> I'd have to take that question on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator FARRELL:</b> Is there a link between the increase in the staff requiring above-band salary appointments and the change of prime ministers in that intervening period?</p> <p><b>Senator Seselja:</b> Again, I'll take it on notice.</p>		
F051	IPEA	Waters	Parliamentarian – Printing Costs	<p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Did you see the media reports of a few months back? Unfortunately I don't think I have a copy with me. I don't want to name the person, but there was a particular MP who was asserting that he was paying a printing company that had links to his political party and he was overpaying them for the service he was receiving, and that extra money was then being re-donated back to his party.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> I'm not sure that's a fair or accurate representation of the alleged facts in that instance. Could I ask you, Senator Waters, to be very careful when you're using the phrases that you are about money laundering and such. That's a very, very serious accusation to even imply, and I don't think it in any way reflects reality.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> I certainly don't mean to misconstrue the facts. That's my recollection. Can you remember what I'm talking about, without me naming the person?</p> <p><b>Ms Godwin:</b> I'm sorry, I'm struggling to remember that one. Can I take that question on notice?</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Yes, the misuse of printing and comms allowance to overpay for services whereby the provider of the service than re-donates back the excess money, effectively enabling taxpayer allowances to be used as donations for political parties. That's my summary.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Ms Godwin:</b> We will certainly take that question on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard page 112	19/02/2019
F052	AEC	Smith (WA)	Return of the writs for previous elections	<p><b>Senator DEAN SMITH:</b> Senator Farrell, if I may, this might be of interest to you as well. I would be interested in understanding the number of days for the 2010 and 2007 elections as well for the return of the writs, just to understand the experience over a broader period.</p> <p><b>Mr Pirani:</b> Senator, I don't have those with me but that would be in the Electoral Pocketbook that's on our website. We do them for each election.</p>	Proof Hansard page 121	19/02/2019
F053	AEC	Smith (WA)	Pre-poll places for previous elections	<p><b>Senator DEAN SMITH:</b> Do you have available the number of pre-poll places that existed for the 2010, 2013 and 2016 elections readily available?</p> <p><b>Mr Rogers:</b> We may have. No, we don't.</p>	Proof Hansard page 124	19/02/2019
F054	AEC	Stoker	Donations declared for 2016 election and recent by- elections	<p><b>Senator STOKER:</b> Are you aware of any professional services or in-kind donations of support of this kind being declared—for instance, during the 2016 election or during any of the recent by-elections?</p> <p><b>Mr Pirani:</b> I would have to take that on notice and go through every single disclosure return to see what has been done. That's a pretty huge task. At the moment, no, I'm not aware, but for me to</p>	Proof Hansard page 127	19/02/2019

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				answer that question properly I would need to go through every single disclosure return.		
F055	AEC	Waters	GetUp!	<p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Can you quantify the amount of cost, time and staff resources that you would have incurred in those three investigations?</p> <p><b>Mr Rogers:</b> I couldn't do that. We have a small number of funding and disclosure staff. They are multiply tasked across a range of different activities on any given day, so it would be almost impossible for me to disaggregate the costs of this. But clearly it took some time and some staff effort.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> 'Some time and some staff effort': would you be able to say what proportion of their time had been spent on these repeated investigations?</p> <p><b>Mr Rogers:</b> Not off the top of my head, it would be very difficult—</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> I'd be happy for you to take that no notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Rogers:</b> I'll take it on notice and consider it. I would, to be honest, just point out that it's going to be a very difficult thing for me to ascertain, because of the way that we do our staffing structure within the area. But I'll take it on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard page 127	19/02/2019
F056	AEC	Waters	Associated Entity Status investigations	<p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Are there any other associated entity investigations currently on foot?</p> <p><b>Mr Rogers:</b> I think I might have to take that on notice as well, to make sure that I'm not—the use of the word 'investigation' worries me, as well.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Perhaps I'm using a misleading terminology. Have you been asked or tasked to look into whether or not any other body is an associated entity?</p> <p><b>Mr Rogers:</b> I'll take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> I'm interested in whether that's occurred in a comparable time frame. Are there others that you've looked into, not just GetUp!?</p> <p><b>Mr Rogers:</b> Just to be clear, in any given year we do a number of compliance reviews across the political spectrum of parties and entities. The language is important here because we have a regular and rolling series of reviews of a number of different entities. There may well be one of those going on right now. We select those using a risk based matrix. So let me take that on notice and have a look.</p>	Proof Hansard page 127- 128	19/02/2019
F057	AEC	McAllister	Access to electoral roll data	<p><b>Senator McALLISTER:</b> I wish to place these questions on notice, given the time, and I'm happy to provide further detail in writing if you need it to answer. There have been a series of media articles and public discussion about the ability of credit bureaus to access electoral roll data. I'm interested to understand from the AEC the legislative basis on which this occurs, the underlying policy reason why it is allowed to occur, any constraints that are placed on organisations that receive data from the electoral roll and the responsibilities and powers in relation to enforcements of those constraints.</p> <p><b>Mr Rogers:</b> We don't need anything else. We'll take those questions as they are. We've got some information to provide on them.</p>	Proof Hansard page 128	19/02/2019
F058	AEC	Abetz	Redistribution	Reference is made to the name change for the electorate of Denison to Clark and the AEC's communications to constituents.	Written	20/02/2019

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				(a) Was there anything hindering the AEC from advising constituents that while technically under the law they were deemed to be in a “new” electorate practically-speaking nothing had changed other than the name of the electorate? If nothing was hindering such an explanation, why were constituents not advised in plain English?		
F059	AEC	Stoker	GetUp!	Does Getup meet the definition of a ‘political campaigner’? Can the AEC rule out that Getup has ever behaved like an associated entity?	Written	21/02/2019
F060	AEC	Stoker	Associated entities	Is the AEC proactive in warning organisations if the AEC becomes aware of behaviour by an organisation where they are exhibiting behaviour or traits that suggest they could be considered an associated entity? Has the AEC ever warned Getup that an aspect of their behaviour risked leading to their classification as an associated entity?	Written	21/02/2019
F061	AEC	Stoker	GetUp!	Is it possible Getup has been an associated entity before but classifying it as such would be too costly an exercise?	Written	21/02/2019
F062	AEC	Stoker	Associated entities	Is the concern of prohibitive legal expense a reason the AEC would not pursue an organisation such as Getup as being an associated entity?	Written	21/02/2019
F063	AEC	Stoker	Home Loan contributions to GetUp!	Is the AEC aware that the Bank Australia website there is a reference to a scheme where a one-off contribution for a home loan is provided to GetUp? Is the figure of 0.4% of a Home Loan considered a material amount of money, in light of current housing prices? According to the Bank Australia website: “For every person who takes out a loan via the Brighter Banks campaign, Bank Australia will make a one-off financial contribution to GetUp to 0.40% of the loan value, at no cost to you.” Based on that statement, who at face value would the AEC consider is being asked to transfer money? And based on this statement, whose money would go to GetUp if people took out a loan via the Brighter Banks campaign? Based on the above statement, does the AEC think it is clear enough to the reader that their payment to Bank Australia would include some contribution to GetUp? Is it evident to the AEC that GetUp would provide consideration in return for these transactions equivalent to the value of Getup’s commission? So would it be possible, that legally, the part of the transaction that goes to GetUp could be considered a gift? Namely, because it is voluntary, the recipient is a political actor, and nothing is received in return? Did GetUp approach the AEC for any advice on this kind of transaction? Is the AEC aware of political parties or political campaigners devising anything like this before? Would the person who agreed to provide this contribution to GetUp be required to disclose this? Has this put people who have provided GetUp with this commission in the position of being donors? Should they be required to make a disclosure? If the donors failed to disclose, or GetUp also failed to disclose, could these be breaches of the	Written	21/02/2019

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				Electoral Act?		
F064	AEC	Stoker	GetUp!	Is the AEC aware of any information which suggests Getup is not 100% independent?	Written	21/02/2019
F065	AEC	Stoker	GetUp! Distributing how to vote cards	Is the AEC aware that in the 2016 election Getup distributed how to vote cards which contained replicas of the Greens and Labor parties' own how to vote cards, including the Greens and Australian Labor Party logos?	Written	21/02/2019
F066	AEC	Stoker	GetUp!	Getup's Chair, Mr Philip Ireland, is a former union official and Labor campaign director. Another director, Ms Karen Iles, is a former CFMEU official, while director Mr Daniel Stone founded a company which does work on behalf of various unions and the Australian Labor Party. Meanwhile many other Getup directors are Labor or Greens members and Mr Bill Shorten was a founding director. Getup has previously accepted over 1 million dollars from the CFMEU. Did these facts inform the AEC's view that Getup is not an associated entity? Is the AEC aware that 87% of Getup's past and present directors are connected to Labor, the Greens, unions and fringe left-wing organisations? Did the composition of its board inform your investigation?	Written	21/02/2019
F067	AEC	Stoker	GetUp!	Did the AEC's investigation look into Getup's behaviour during the Braddon, Longman, Mayo and Wentworth by-elections in 2018?	Written	21/02/2019
F068	AEC	Stoker	GetUp!	Is the AEC aware that in 2015-16 Getup disclosed over \$10 million to the AEC in political expenditure, but in 2017-18 it only disclosed under \$750,000? This is a fall of 93%, which coincides with the AEC's investigation into Getup's activities.	Written	21/02/2019
F069	AEC	Stoker	GetUp!	Has Getup been issued with any orders under section 316 of the Electoral Act requiring them to give evidence or testimony or produce documents? How many such orders were issued and when?	Written	21/02/2019
F070	AEC	Stoker	GetUp!	Has the AEC's investigation uncovered the source of Getup's seed funding? If yes, could you provide them?	Written	21/02/2019
F071	AEC	Stoker	GetUp!	What information can you appropriately provide about meetings with Getup's officials, lawyers or representatives? Are you in a position to detail how many meetings occurred? Was Getup cooperative? What information did they provide?	Written	21/02/2019
F072	AEC	Stoker	GetUp!	What information can you appropriately provide about any representations from the Greens or Labor parties or their representatives in relation to your Getup investigation? If so, who contacted you? Where were they from? Did you meet with them? Did they provide you with any documents? What did they say? How did this affect your investigation?	Written	21/02/2019
F073	AEC	Stoker	GetUp!	Did Getup comply with requests for information in a timely manner?	Written	21/02/2019
F074	AEC	Stoker	GetUp!	Are you aware that Getup has previously accepted foreign donations which may now be forbidden under the Government's tough new foreign donation laws? Just days prior to the tough new foreign donation laws coming into effect, are you aware that Getup received \$93,000 from the European Climate Foundation and \$495,000 from the Sunrise Project – an organisation which Wikileaks revealed is funded by foreign donors?	Written	21/02/2019

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F075	AEC	Stoker	Foreign donations	Has the AEC begun to look into possible foreign donations to any third party group – besides Getup – that are campaigning on federal issues like Adani?	Written	21/02/2019
F076	AEC	Stoker	Advice from GetUp!	Can the AEC confirm if there are any provision of free services and/or candidates receiving advice from GetUp?	Written	21/02/2019
F077	Finance	Bilyk	Ministerial Functions	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in calendar year 2018, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) List of functions;</li> <li>b) List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister's family or personal staff;</li> <li>c) Function venue;</li> <li>d) Itemised list of costs (GST <b><u>inclusive</u></b>);</li> <li>e) Details of any food served;</li> <li>f) Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage;</li> <li>g) Any available photographs of the function; and</li> <li>h) Details of any entertainment provided</li> </ul>	Written	28/02/2019
F078	Finance	Bilyk	Departmental Functions	<p>In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc. hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio in calendar year 2018, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) List of functions;</li> <li>b) List of attendees;</li> <li>c) Function venue;</li> <li>d) Itemised list of costs (GST <b><u>inclusive</u></b>);</li> <li>e) Details of any food served;</li> <li>f) Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage;</li> </ul>	Written	28/02/2019

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				g) Any available photographs of the function; and  h) Details of any entertainment provided.		
F079	Finance	Bilyk	Executive Office Upgrades	Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, upgraded in calendar year 2018? If so, please provide an itemised list of costs (GST <b>inclusive</b> ).	Written	28/02/2019
F080	Finance	Bilyk	Facilities upgrades	(a) Were the facilities of any of the Department's premises upgraded in calendar year 2018, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? (b) If so, please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade together with an itemised list of costs (GST <b>inclusive</b> ). Please provide any photographs of the upgraded facilities.	Written	28/02/2019
F081	Finance	Bilyk	Staff Travel	What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental employees in calendar year 2018?	Written	28/02/2019
F082	Finance	Bilyk	Whole-of- Government Travel Spend	What was the cost of the whole-of-government travel spend in calendar year 2018?	Written	28/02/2019
F083	Finance	Bilyk	Media Monitoring	(a) What was the Department's total expenditure on media monitoring in calendar year 2018?  (b) Please provide an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all media monitoring contracts in that period.	Written	28/02/2019
F084	Finance	Bilyk	Promotional Merchandise	(a) What was the Department's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in calendar year 2018?  (b) Please provide an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period.  (c) Please provide photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise.	Written	28/02/2019
F085	Finance	Carr	Paper Procurement	For each Australian Government Department and/or government agency, can the Department of Finance please provide a breakdown of the percentage of Australian made copy paper purchased by the Department/agency in the 2017-18 financial year, as well as the total percentage of Australian made copy paper purchased by the Australian Government in the 2018-19 financial year to date. In the Department's response, please include information on volumes, a breakdown by country of origin, the supplier and the percentage of recycled content.  Has any of the paper purchased through the current Whole of Australian Government Stationery and Office Supplies arrangement ever been subject to Anti-Dumping measures or investigations by the Anti-Dumping Commission?	Written	1/03/2019
F086	AEC	Anning	Exhausted	How many votes exhausted before the conclusion of counting at the last Senate Election?	Written	1/03/2019

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			Votes	<p>Given that the upcoming election is going to elect only half as many Senators, isn't it the case that the exhaustion rate is likely to be much higher at the upcoming election?</p> <p>How many Senate votes do you estimate will exhaust at the upcoming election?</p> <p>Does the AEC make any effort to educate voters that by following the ballot paper instructions to number 6 squares their vote may exhaust?</p>		
F087	Finance	Griff	Investigation	<p>Regarding the investigation and resulting report of bullying complaints against Aged Care Minister Ken Wyatt's office:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has this report been provided to anyone aside from the Department of Finance and the Minister whose office has been investigated?</li> <li>2. How many staff were interviewed during the course of the investigation?</li> <li>3. Were any or all made to sign confidentiality agreements? If so, why?</li> <li>4. Have any of the former staff interviewed by the department made complaints or allegations of the mental health impacts of their treatment in Mr Wyatt's office?</li> <li>5. Have any made claims for compensation?</li> <li>6. Did the report uphold some or all of the complaints against Mr Wyatt's office?</li> <li>7. Without impinging on privacy of the complainants, what were the report's key findings?</li> <li>8. Did the report make any recommendations? If so, what were they?</li> <li>9. Noting the department has no capacity to take disciplinary action, does the department have any ongoing role or can it take any type of action (eg preventative or reparatory), other than initiating the investigation?</li> <li>10. Whose responsibility is it to take any action on the findings? Does the responsibility lie only with the Minister whose office has been investigated?</li> </ol>	Written	4/03/2019
F088	Finance	Storer	Comcar Procurement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. When is the procurement process for the next generation of COMCARs expected to conclude?</li> <li>b. When does the current trial conclude?</li> <li>c. Which vehicles are being trialled?</li> <li>d. How much is being budgeted for each vehicle?</li> <li>e. What is the overall budget for the procurement?</li> <li>f. How much was spent on each vehicle in the current generation of COMCARs?</li> </ol>	Written	14/03/2019

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				g. With whom does the final decision making power rest?		