

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019 – 2020
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET PORTFOLIO

QoN No.	Department/ Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Responsible Division/ Agency	Question	Proof Hansard & Hearing Date, page or Written QoN	Date Rec'd
1.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Hanson	Mick Bainbridge	Prime Minister's Office	I note that: (i) Mick Bainbridge is a decorated former Commando and Veteran who, along with his family, was wrongly targeted on 23 July 16 with a NSW police raid on his family home. (ii) The NSW police raid was caused by either deliberately malicious or negligently false information from high-ranking Australian Army officers. (iii) The NSW police raid caused significant harm to Mr Bainbridge and his family who have never received an official apology from the Australian Army or Government. (iv) On 1 Feb 2017 this Liberal/National government through then Defence Minister Marise Payne promised, in writing, a special mediation for Mr Bainbridge. (v) On 15 Feb 2019, 2 years after then Defence Minister Marise Payne's promise, I wrote to Prime Minister Scott Morrison about his government's failure to set a date and deliver Mr Bain bridge's promised mediation. Can the Prime Minister please explain why the mediation date has still not been communicated to Mr Bainbridge's Lawyers ?	Written	08/04/2019
2.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Siewert	Family Violence Prevention Legal Services	Education Community Safety and Health Division	a) Could you please provide a breakdown in funding to Family Violence Prevention Legal Services from the latest Budget and over the forward estimates? b) Have funding commitments for Family Violence Prevention Legal Services been extended beyond 30 June 2020? c) What plans are in place for the Government to extend this program? d) Has the Government committed to CPI for Family Violence Prevention Legal Services? e) When will the evaluation being conducted by Charles Darwin University be released? f) Will you include all recommendations made in the evaluation when you release the final reports?	Written	08/04/2019
3.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Siewert	Budget Measures	Education, Community Safety and Health Division	(a) Where will the Indigenous suicide prevention initiatives announced in the Budget be located geographically? (b) How will the Government ensure local First Nations youth leaders do lead this project?	Written	08/04/2019
4.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Smith	Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous People	Recognition, Policy and Empowered Communities and Closing the Gap Division	Senator DEAN SMITH: Professor Anderson, how much money has been spent to date on the issue of constitutional recognition of Indigenous peoples? Professor Anderson: I think we've already provided an answer to that question to previous estimates. Ms Da Rocha: Yes. I can take that on notice.	FPA, Thursday 4 April 2019, page 144	
5.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Smith	Funding for RECOGNISE	Recognition, Policy and Empowered Communities and Closing the Gap Division	Ms Da Rocha: There was funding for RECOGNISE from 2012-13 to 2016-17, and that is finished now. Senator DEAN SMITH: Was there a review or an analysis done on the success of that funding to RECOGNISE or on the activities that RECOGNISE undertook? Mr Fox: I'm not aware if there was an evaluation of that process. Senator Scullion: That is something we can take notice, Senator.	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, page 145	
6.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Waters	Women's Budget statements – staffing resources	Office for Women	Ms Bergin: Looking back, I think that the women's budget statements that were introduced in the mid-1980s varied in their purpose and bulk. Some of the initial ones were extremely detailed and, I think, very comprehensive. They went through every policy measure and really looked at that impact. I think there was a period when they then became more a budget communication tool around the impact for women of specific elements of policy, rather than looking at every policy. Senator WATERS: I know the Office for Women as such didn't exist then, although perhaps you did exist prior to 2014. Ms Bergin: Yes, we did.	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, p.128,	

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					<p>Senator WATERS: Sorry, it's my poor memory.</p> <p>Ms Bergin: That's all right.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Was the creation of those women's budget statements a process that you used to be involved in doing?</p> <p>Ms Bergin: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Did you have additional staff to do that?</p> <p>Ms Bergin: I would have to take that on notice. I don't know how big the office was at that point.</p>		
7.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Moore	Gender Analysis – Tax Measures and Social Welfare Changes	Office for Women	<p>Senator MOORE: My question remains: are you aware of whether any gender analysis was done on the tax measures or the social welfare changes?</p> <p>Ms Bergin: I'm not aware, no.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator MOORE: So there was nothing in writing to remind them of that. I know you have longstanding relationships and all those things, but was there nothing in terms of a reminder leading into the budget cycle that this was something they ought to do?</p> <p>Ms Bergin: There were email exchanges and ongoing meetings.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Can we get a copy of those?</p> <p>Ms Bergin: I think they would go to the heart of some of the elements of the government's deliberations on government. I would have to check that.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: I'm just interested; if you've already told us it's your role to encourage—and you've told us you did—why would it then be difficult to show us how you did it? I'm fascinated by your analysis that it may go to the heart of the deliberations.</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I think that Ms Bergin was referring to the specific communications around the budget process, some of which may have gone to material that we would not be able to disclose. I would suggest that we could take that on notice, and that would be something we can come back to you on as a question on notice—what we're able to disclose.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: But, clearly, you're saying you did encourage them—that they should do it.</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I heard Ms Bergin and I'm sure that she can add stepping through some of the things that the office has done to encourage other agencies to take up gender responsive budgeting, including making training available, having meetings throughout the budget process and having exchanges of emails. So I think there have been a number of steps.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: I'm interested in the steps. I'm interested in what departments the office has actually encouraged. I'm interested in how that encouragement has been done. Have you got proof that the departments have begun to do substantive analysis of gender dimensions of policies?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I suggest we could take on notice to give you some more detailed feedback about the interactions with particular departments. That might be a richer source of information as well.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, pages 125-126	
8.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Moore	Gender Analysis – Tax Measures and Social Welfare Changes	Office for Women	<p>Dr Baxter: What I would add from the vantage point of the Social Policy Group more generally is that I have seen the work the Office for Women and the Social Policy Group more generally do to encourage gender analysis of various measures. We are aware of some examples where departments have done that, including examples in Treasury.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Can you tell us which they are?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: We'll take on notice to set those out for you. I don't have them here with me today.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, page 126	
9.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Moore	Measures with Funding this financial year	Office for Women	<p>Ms Livingston: We have two measures with funding this financial year. One relates to the Future Female Entrepreneurs program.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Livingston: We will this week execute a grant agreement for that program. The other funding relates to the Reducing Barriers to Work Forum. There's sufficient funding to have two forums by the end of next financial year.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: So, that money has been allocated but naturally not spent.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, page 130	

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					<p>Ms Livingston: It's committed but not spent.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Of the two measures that have been passed, are you aware of whether funding has actually been spent yet? You're not; it would be the individual departments, which would be Attorney's and—I can't remember, but it would have been other departments. And in terms of the expected start date of each measure, that would have to go back to the responsible departments? That's something you don't control?</p> <p>Ms Livingston: I've got some information, which I'm happy to go through with you, in terms of where—</p> <p>Senator MOORE: I genuinely don't believe we have the time. Can we put that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Livingston: Yes. There is some information that we provided on notice after the last estimates.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: If you could give us everything you have that would be real—no, I'm not serious! It was worth a shot! Give us the folder! Could you just provide what information you have around the economic security package to us, in terms of funding, allocation and the matters that the Office for Women has on record?</p>		
10.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	One Nation	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator WONG: When did the Prime Minister or his office first become aware of the allegations of the links between One Nation and the NRA?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'll have to take that on notice, but, as far as I am personally concerned, it was when the material appeared in the media that morning before the full story appeared.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Was the Prime Minister's office made aware of the allegation by way of being approached for comment prior to the story being aired or published?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Not that I'm aware, but I'll have to check that.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, page 30	
11.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Ministerial resignations	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator WONG: Can I go to ministerial resignations. Mr Morrison held a press conference on 2 March 2019 in which he announced the resignations of Mr Pyne and Mr Ciobo and the appointment of Senator Reynolds. Can you tell me when Mr Morrison was first informed by Mr Pyne that he was planning to resign from the parliament?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When did you know?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I would have known a few days before it went public.</p> <p>Senator WONG: And when did Mr Ciobo first tell the Prime Minister that he was going to resign?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Was the Prime Minister informed before or after the story was reported to the press earlier that week—for example, the fact that there was a report that Minister Ciobo and Minister Pyne would resign? I think it ran in a number of papers, but it certainly ran in the South Australian <i>Advertiser</i> the day before.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'll have to find out—I mean I'll have to find out the sequence.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: Gripping television. I'm told that there was a lot of ducking and weaving and double entendres on the Pyne and Marles show, so obviously this news is out. Why is it held to the Saturday? Why did the Prime Minister not want it announced on Saturday?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I don't know the answer to that, but I'm happy to ask the Prime Minister on your behalf and provide you an answer on notice.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, page 35	
12.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Ministerial resignations	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator WONG: Okay. It was reported in <i>The Advertiser</i> that Mr Ciobo had actually prerecorded a television interview in which he confirmed his retirement.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We're talking about former Minister Ciobo now?</p> <p>Senator WONG: Yes. It's asserted the day before the Prime Minister confirms this. It's reported that Mr Ciobo had prerecorded a television interview in which he confirmed his retirement. Were you aware of that?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I was not aware of the media sequencing of former Minister Ciobo, no.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When did the Prime Minister become aware of this alleged prerecorded interview?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'll have to take that on notice. I was not close to that sequence of events. There was a series of</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, page 35	

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					decisions. Because former Minister Ciobo also immediately stepped down from cabinet there was also the related decision to appoint a new cabinet minister and making the arrangements for the relevant swearing in. So, in the context of those announcements, there was a series of parallel processes taking place, and I just assume that the timing of announcements is related to that.		
13.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Ministerial resignations	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator WONG: Senator Cormann, was Mr Ciobo asked to hold his announcement by the Prime Minister—</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'm not aware. Again, I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: It just seems odd. If it's all reported Friday, the Prime Minister's dodging questions and Mr Ciobo has allegedly—I don't know this, this is the only newspaper report I've been given—pre-recorded an interview in which he confirms his retirement. He's got a pre-recorded interview. There's lots of speculation. Mr Pyne is enjoying a lot of attention about being asked it and no announcement until Saturday. Did the Prime Minister or his office ask them to hold the announcement?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Again, you're asking me to speculate in relation to events that I was not directly involved in, but—</p> <p>Senator WONG: But you're here representing the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Sure. And I'm doing the best I can to be helpful, as I always endeavour to do. As I've pointed out to you, it wasn't just a matter of dealing with the announcements of retiring ministers; it was also a matter of dealing with the appointment of a new minister in Senator Reynolds to the defence industry portfolio. There were obviously a whole series of parallel processes involved in relation to all of this. I'm assuming that the timing of relevant announcements was related to that, but I'm happy to see whether I can get better information for you on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I appreciate that. Let me go through and be very clear about the questions I'm asking. Given the public report or reports that Mr Ciobo had pre-recorded a television interview in which he confirmed his retirement: first, was Mr Morrison or his office aware of this pre-recorded interview? Second, was Mr Morrison aware of this interview when he did a doorstep later on that same day in which this media report appeared where he dodges questions? He is asked: 'Have you asked Steve Ciobo to delay his announcement until tomorrow?' He says: 'No, I talk to them all the time'. Had he already asked him to delay it?</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, pages 35-36	
14.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Ministerial resignations	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator WONG: Did Mr Ciobo offer to stay in the role until the election, as Mr Pyne and Ms O'Dwyer did?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'm not aware. Obviously, Mr Ciobo made a decision to step down and he was replaced by Senator Reynolds.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Did he offer to stay in the role, or not?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'm not aware.</p> <p>Senator WONG: He obviously wasn't asked by the Prime Minister to stay in the role until the election?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'm not aware.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can you tell me why he wasn't asked but the two others were?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'd have to ask the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When did Mr Morrison first approach Senator Reynolds about her possible appointment as a minister?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When were you first aware?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Around about the time—shortly before the announcement was made.</p> <p>Senator WONG: After Mr Ciobo and Mr Pyne's resignations were public?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I can't recall the sequence.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, page 36	

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15.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator McAllister	Disability Reform Council – Terms of Reference	Social Policy Division	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Who signed off on the terms of reference that were provided to the ministerial council?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: The terms of reference that were provided to the Disability Reform Council when it considered them?</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: The meeting that took place on 8 March.</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I may just have to check that. I'll have to take that on notice. Certainly drafts of the terms of reference were being shared on a regular basis with the Prime Minister's office but I'll have to take on notice the level at which it was signed off.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, page 49	
16.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator McAllister	Disability Reform Council – Terms of Reference	Social Policy Division	<p>Senator McALLISTER: There are various iterations of these draft terms of reference prior to them going into the reform council—</p> <p>Dr Baxter: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: with input from both—</p> <p>Dr Baxter: States and territories.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Minister Fletcher and his staff and the Prime Minister's office and his staff.</p> <p>Dr Baxter: That's correct. I would say that from the earliest draft to the very latest drafts, I would characterise this as a set of terms of reference that hasn't had dramatic amendments to be required from any of the people who've provided input. There has been a lot of consensus about the draft.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Was redress included in any of those drafts prior to the meeting on 13 March?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: I can't recall. I'd have to take that on notice. I don't recall it being there, but I'd need to check.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, page 50	
17.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator McAllister	Visas	Social Policy Division	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Can you break down which visa classes that net overseas migration increase is being attributed to? You spoke just then about students, skilled and—what was the third category?</p> <p>Mr Duggan: And visitors more generally. I don't have that information in front of me.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Is it available within the department?</p> <p>Mr Duggan: It may be, but I think the department of Home Affairs will have that information in much more detail.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I understand that, but I'm asking about what is available within PM&C.</p> <p>Mr Duggan: It may be. I'd need to take that on notice and find out.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, page 54	
18.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Syria	International Division	<p>Senator WONG: Thank you. I just want to quickly get an update from PM&C. I will ask these questions of DFAT. But I wanted to go to the announcement by President Trump of the planned withdrawal of US troops from Syria. Are you able to give me any update, Mr Hayhurst or Ms Millar, about what you understand the current US position to be, in terms of giving effect to President Trump's announcement?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: Has the Prime Minister been engaging with counterparts about this issue since the original announcement in December?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: The Prime Minister has made his views known directly to the United States on the matter—</p> <p>Senator WONG: How?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: since the original announcement.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Has that been done by way of a phone call or a letter or some other means?</p> <p>Ms Foster: It would appear we don't have that detail. We'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That's okay. Mr Hayhurst knows that the Prime Minister's views have been made known. I don't want to put him in too difficult a position, but I do want to know something about that. I'd like to know how that is being communicated. Has there been a direct engagement or has it been via post—how?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: I know that the Prime Minister has discussed this matter directly with the new United States ambassador. I'll have to check the other details just to get the right information, and I can do that now.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, pages 58-59	
19.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Storer	Statement of Ministerial Standards	Government Division	<p>Senator STORER: Are you aware of any cases of ex-cabinet ministers who have become lobbyists within 18 months of leaving the ministry?</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, pages 63-64	

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					<p>Ms Foster: Senator, no; I don't have details of that.</p> <p>Senator STORER: Okay. Has there been any disciplinary action taken with regard to 2.25 in the Statement of Ministerial Standards since it was commenced?</p> <p>Ms Foster: Senator, I would have to take that on notice. As you probably are aware, the Prime Minister can request the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet Secretary to undertake an inquiry, but I'd have to take on notice if there had been any and what the result was.</p> <p>Senator STORER: In this study it is detailed that there are eight of them who are within this 18-month window. Are you aware of any disciplinary action that has been undertaken with regard to former ministers that have moved into lobbying roles within 18 months of leaving office?</p> <p>Ms Foster: Senator, I have just said I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator STORER: Okay, well, forget about the document. Are there any instances of intra-department discussions regarding the post ministerial employment and possible breaches of that 2.25 code?</p> <p>Ms Foster: I just want to be clear. The question you asked me before was 'was I aware of any breaches?' and that was what I answered. I am aware that there have been some inquiries. I don't know, off the top of my head, how many. But I don't believe or am not aware that breaches were found as a result of those.</p> <p>Senator STORER: Is there any further information that can be provided on the number of investigations that have been undertaken into breaches in this area?</p> <p>Ms Foster: We can certainly take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator STORER: Yes, if you could, please. I think that is fine.</p>		
20.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Kitching	<i>Back in Black</i> advertisement	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator KITCHING: There is an advertisement called <i>Back in Black</i>. It was posted to social media accounts yesterday and it featured the Prime Minister and the Treasurer walking the corridors of parliament while spruiking their projected budget surplus in 2019-20. What resources were allocated to the making of this?</p> <p>Ms Foster: I am not aware and I don't believe that my staff were involved in that.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Senator Cormann?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I am not aware of any agency of government being involved in this. This is obviously the same as the Labor Party does—the Liberal and National parties make sure that we communicate effectively about the achievements of the government. Like you would, from an opposition point of view, mount your case, we have put our case from the government's perspective. Obviously being back in the black is a significant achievement of the Liberal National government and it is quite appropriate that it is promoted accordingly.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Ms Foster, are you able to take on notice to confirm about whether any departmental resources were used?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I am happy to take it on notice but I'm pretty confident the answer would be no.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I think Mr Martin was making his way to the front. Were you?</p> <p>Mr Martin: I can confirm the department was not involved in that.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Okay, thank you. Was the Prime Minister's officer any of his staff involved in any way?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Was the Treasurer's office or any of his staff involved in any way?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: The filming was done in Parliament House. Was all filming undertaken in areas where filming is permitted?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I am sure it was but I am happy to verify that on notice.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, pages 64-65	

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21.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Rice	Prime Minister meeting with Coalition MPs - Adani	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator RICE: I want to ask about a report that was in <i>The Australian</i> last week that a number of coalition Queensland MPs met with the Prime Minister to demand approval for the Adani groundwater-dependent ecosystems management plan, as to whether that report was accurate.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: The Prime Minister meets with his colleagues and talks about matters of public interest, but I would not agree with the characterisation of any meeting the Prime Minister had as you have put it to me.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So you can't tell me who attended that meeting then?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Sorry?</p> <p>Senator RICE: You can't tell me who attended? You're not denying that the meeting took place. I'm presuming that the report's accurate.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Hang on. I'm not denying that the Prime Minister meets with his colleagues from time to time. If you want to ask me about a specific meeting, including who may or may not have attended a specific meeting, I would have to take that on notice, because I don't have that information.</p> <p>Senator RICE: If you could, that would be appreciated.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: That's fine. I'll take that on notice.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, pages 50-51	
22.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Rice	Prime Minister meeting with Adani CEO	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator RICE: The <i>Courier-Mail</i> also reports today that Lucas Dow last week had a frank conversation with the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Who?</p> <p>Senator RICE: Lucas Dow.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Who is that?</p> <p>CHAIR: I think he's the CEO of Adani.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Can you confirm that that meeting occurred?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I can't confirm that, no, but I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator RICE: The question is whether it occurred at the demand of Queensland LNP members, who have issued public demands—nothing in terms of confidential meetings—for Minister Price to approve the groundwater management plan to boost their electoral prospects.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'll take that on notice, but I would just note that, obviously, environmental approvals are a matter for the Minister for the Environment. It is not the Prime Minister who, under relevant legislation, provides these sorts of approvals.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, pages 51	
23.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Kitching	Commitments in the Prime Minister and Treasurer's diaries	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator KITCHING: Are there any fundraisers the Prime Minister, the Treasurer or you were meant to be attending this week?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I was not meant to be attending anything other than Senate estimates this week, which has been scheduled, as you know, for some time, and it's been a very high profile commitment in my diary for a long time. In relation to the Prime Minister's and the Treasurer's commitments, I would have to take that on notice, but let me add that this is the traditional post budget week, and, for as long as I can remember, with governments of both persuasions, in the week after the budget week there is obviously a level of community engagement that takes place nationally.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, pages 56	
24.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Prime Minister – meeting with QLD MPs - Adani	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator WONG: The media reports also are that the delegation of Queensland members of parliament have lobbied the Prime Minister over this issue. Has the Prime Minister had any meetings in the last two or three weeks about the approval of the Adani coalmine?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'll have to take that on notice. Obviously the Prime Minister meets with colleagues on a regular basis. In terms of what specifically the topics of conversation were in various meetings that he's had with colleagues over the last few weeks, I'll have to get that on notice.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, pages 56-57	

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25.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Letter from Senator McGrath - Adani	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator WONG: Okay. Consistent with the theme of public pressure or pressure being put on Ms Price, the front page of <i>The Courier-Mail</i> on 8 April had as its first paragraph: 'Fired-up LNP Senator James McGrath has sensationally warned environment minister Melissa Price that he will publicly call for her resignation if she fails to treat the Adani project fairly. In terse and blunt correspondence, Senator McGrath told the embattled minister he would issue a press release calling for her ministerial scalp if Queensland jobs were thrown under the bus.' Are you aware of this letter?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I've read the report on the front page of <i>The Courier-Mail</i>, obviously. I'm not aware of the letter.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Were you aware of it before reading?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: No.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Was the Prime Minister aware of this?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Not that I'm aware, but I'm happy to check on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Have you seen a copy of the letter?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: No.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Has PM&C seen a copy of the letter?</p> <p>Mr Duggan: I haven't seen a copy of the letter.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Have the Prime Minister or his office had any discussions or meetings with Minister Price about her handling of the approval process?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 58	
26.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Letter from Senator McGrath - Adani	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator WONG: Does the Prime Minister have a view about Senator McGrath making these sorts of public statements about a minister's performance?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Senator McGrath is a backbench senator expressing a view as a backbench senator. He's not a member of the executive. He's obviously not the minister responsible for making the decision. Obviously, I would have much rather that he had not made that sort of communication, but he has, and we are where we are.</p> <p>Senator WONG: He's threatened her with issuing a press release calling for her 'ministerial scalp'.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Allegedly. I have not seen any such correspondence.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Have you contacted him?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I have not.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Has anyone from the Prime Minister's office contacted him? It's a front page. You've got a senior cabinet minister who's in a public and extraordinary display of disunity and disloyalty by Senator McGrath. This is an attack on a cabinet colleague, an attack on a member of the cabinet and an attack on the legal process. Does the Prime Minister do anything?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: If your question is asking me to provide you with information on what the Prime Minister has done in relation to this, I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Do you know what he's done?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I don't, no.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Has anyone spoken to Senator McGrath?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I haven't, and I will find out for you whether somebody in the Prime Minister's office has.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 58	
27.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Adani	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator WONG: If he has, I look forward to seeing it. Maybe he has; I don't know. I haven't looked at all the media. Have you been advised or has the Prime Minister been advised on when a decision on Adani is likely?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I have not been advised. I will take that on notice. I don't know what the Prime Minister has been advised on this.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 60	

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28.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Adani	Industry, Infrastructure and Environment Division	<p>Senator WONG: Do you know what the status of the approval consideration is?</p> <p>Ms H Wilson: Yes, I'm getting that advice at the moment. If you don't mind, I'll take it on notice and, as soon as my official comes back, I'll get that to you. As Mr Duggan has already indicated, some of these questions are best directed to the Department of the Environment and Energy but I'm getting what advice I can.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 60	
29.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Service Delivery and Coordination Committee of Cabinet	Cabinet Division	<p>Senator WONG: Is there capacity, as per other areas of expenditure, for the Prime Minister to authorise expenditure without SDCC and cabinet approval on an advertising campaign?</p> <p>Ms Foster: I think that goes to the policy or the running of the advertising—</p> <p>Senator WONG: No, it actually goes to the Prime Minister's authority in relation to the cabinet. We've already heard evidence today that the Prime Minister, as is correct, provided policy authority to the Treasurer to essentially overturn a cabinet decision without cabinet meeting to approve it.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Amend a budget measure.</p> <p>Senator WONG: He provided policy authority to amend a budget measure in a manner inconsistent with a prior cabinet decision. All I'm asking is: does the Prime Minister have the authority to authorise advertising expenditure without the matter going to SDCC? My next question is: if so, has he done so?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Let me clarify that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: And, if so, has he done so?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I don't believe so, but let me check that on notice.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 73	
30.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Kitching	Service Delivery and Coordination Committee of Cabinet	Cabinet Division	<p>Senator KITCHING: Just on the tempo, how many meetings were held from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'd have to take that on notice. I don't have that information. What I can advise in response to another question that was asked is that the principal private secretary and a senior adviser in the Prime Minister's office attend those meetings.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 73	
31.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Senator Bushby's appointment	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator WONG: Can I ask about Senator Bushby's appointment.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: That's a matter for Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>Senator WONG: What involvement did the Prime Minister have in that appointment? Was it an appointment at his request or his initiation?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: Well indicated! Did the Prime Minister request that appointment be made?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'm not aware of the precise sequence. I'll take that on notice for you to make sure that the answer is accurate. What I would say is that the process in relation to this appointment would have been similar to these sorts of processes under the previous government. Obviously, I would expect that there would have been a level of engagement between the Prime Minister and the foreign minister in relation to that appointment, as in relation to other such appointments of this nature, but in terms of the precise logistics that were involved, I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: So is that answer, yes, the Prime Minister probably did engage with the foreign minister in relation to the appointment?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: You can't verbal me.</p> <p>Senator WONG: No, sorry. What does the answer tell me?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: The answer tells you that I'm taking the question on notice and that my expectation is that the process will have been the same under our government as it would have been under governments previously of both political persuasions.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 79	
32.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Dr Feng and Mr Yang	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator WONG: I'll just sit here and talk to myself. First some questions which, you'll be pleased to know, I don't intend to be about a political contest but because I think it's probably useful that we go to them. The first is that we have some media reports today from <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i>, Fairfax Media and the ABC previewing, I think, a <i>Four Corners</i> program in relation to two Australian residents, Dr Feng and Mr Yang, reportedly being questioned by Chinese officials in Australia about Mr Garnaut at a time he worked for the Prime Minister's office. I just want to ask: is there anything the department would like</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, pages 80-81	

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					<p>to update the committee on in relation to these reports?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: I can't make any comment as to the veracity of it or not, but there was a media report in the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> on 7 April making assertions about these particular individuals being targeted—I use the phrase 'targeted' because that's used in the report—and then a discussion about Mr Garnaut and his involvement. As a consequence of that, did the department provide or prepare any advice for the Prime Minister?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: We have provided the Prime Minister's office with initial advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Home Affairs talking points and initial briefing about these reports, including to note that the full story has not yet aired on television and so we are anticipating more information and have been asked to provide a further briefing on that tomorrow.</p> <p>Senator WONG: By whom?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: By the Prime Minister's national security adviser in his office.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I've also seen media reports of Mr Hastie making public comment. Was the department aware that a member of the government would be making public comment via these reports prior to this being made public?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: I was not aware personally, no.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Was the Prime Minister aware or the Prime Minister's office?</p> <p>Ms Millar: I don't know.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I am asking Senator Cormann.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'm not aware whether the Prime Minister was aware but I'm happy to check with him.</p>		
33.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Kitching	Mr Yang-Access to Lawyer	International Division	<p>Senator KITCHING: Has Mr Yang had access to a lawyer yet?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: My advice from DFAT is that he has not yet had access to a lawyer.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: He's been detained for approximately 10 weeks?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: I think it might even be longer than that. I'd have to check the precise time. As my DFAT colleague on Friday explained, given the nature of the charges he faces, the investigating authorities have wide discretion in China, including about the timing of access to a lawyer and that is why Australian officials are focusing their advocacy around the need for him to have access to a lawyer at the earliest possible time.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 81	
34.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights	International Division	<p>Senator WONG: Don't move; there will be more questions. I'll leave that point there. I think there was a recent decision—certainly a recent Tweet—by President Trump to recognise Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. I think it was in a Tweet late last month. Are you aware of that?</p> <p>Ms Millar: Yes, we are.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Does that represent a change in the US position?</p> <p>Ms Millar: Yes, it does.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can you perhaps outline for the benefit of the committee Australia's current position in relation to the Golan Heights?</p> <p>Ms Millar: Yes. As the foreign minister stated on 26 March, the Golan Heights is a matter for Israel and Syria to determine through negotiations in the context of a comprehensive peace settlement. US policy positions are a matter for the US government.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That's been Australia's position for some time.</p> <p>Ms Millar: Yes, it has.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When were we first made aware of the change in the US position?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: I think we became aware when we saw it in the public domain.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Did we know before the tweet?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet was not aware. I'm not sure about DFAT or the embassy in</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, pages 81-82	

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					Washington. We'd have to check.		
35.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Australian Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem	International Division	<p>Senator WONG: You've now tabled answers to questions on notice 58, Jerusalem, and 59. Mr Hayhurst, are these in the same form as that which you provided to the Prime Minister's office?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: Was the inclusion of the reference group part of that decision on 16 April?</p> <p>Ms Foster: It was 16 November.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Sorry, I apologise. I'm tired—16 November. He ticks off on the decision after a month about a process. I may have asked this previously, but I just want to make sure: was the reference group specifically part of that decision—the existence of it, its membership and so forth? It doesn't look like it.</p> <p>Ms Millar: I just simply don't recall. I wasn't very closely involved in it, but we can certainly—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can someone tell me? It's the Prime Minister's decision. He's briefed by the secretary, and it takes a month to make a decision just about process. All I'm asking is: did the process that was agreed on the 16th include the reference group, their membership and the nature of their involvement or did that come subsequently? Mr Hayhurst?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: That's my recollection, but I'm going to check to be certain.</p> <p>Senator WONG: What's that? I gave you two options.</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: Did you? My recollection is that when the decision was made it also encompassed the idea of a reference group, its role and membership, but I just want to check that.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, pages 83 and 85	
36.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	International Women's day statement	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator WONG: If you could. Can I go to the International Women's Day statement. I asked some questions in DFAT, and I'll go back again on it this week. There was an International Women's Day statement proposed by Mexico and Finland to the UN Human Rights Council, which was supported by 57 countries. Australia did not join. I want to know what your—as in the department's—involvement was in consultations regarding Australia's decision not to join. Then, I do want to know whether any particular advice was sought or provided to the Prime Minister in relation to this.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: Was a written brief provided to the Prime Minister?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: Not by International Division.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Was there a written brief from someone else?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: Not to my knowledge. All I know—</p> <p>Senator WONG: I was wondering if you were carefully choosing your language, or whether—</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: I was carefully choosing my language, because I'm aware that the Office of Women in the portfolio was consulted on this as well, and I don't know—</p> <p>Senator WONG: If they were briefed?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: I just don't know. I don't think so, but I don't know.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That's fine. We'll ask them. I think they're coming shortly. Was there any discussion with the Prime Minister's office, about which you are aware, regarding this issue?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Ms Millar?</p> <p>Ms Millar: Not to my knowledge either.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Minister, did the Prime Minister's office request the Foreign Minister's office not to sign up to the statement?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Not that I'm aware of. I have got no knowledge of this.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, pages 85-86	

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					<p>Senator WONG: It concerns access to abortion—</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I am happy to ask on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: and our position notwithstanding our sensible support for reproductive health. The public commentary is that members of the government expressed concern resulting in the Foreign Minister's office directing that the statement not be joined by Australia.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I have no awareness. I wasn't even aware of the allegations. But I'm happy to take the question on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: All right. The question is: did the Prime Minister, or his office, articulate it clearly? Did this Prime Minister, or his office, indicate to the Foreign Minister, or her office, that their preference was that Australia not join this statement because of the statements contained in it in relation to women's reproductive health?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I will have to take that on notice. I've got no knowledge of it. I have just had advice from the Prime Minister's office that the Prime Minister had absolutely no knowledge.</p>		
37.	Digital Transformation Agency	Senator Ciccone	Procurement	Digital Transformation Agency	<p>Senator CICCONE: Have you had any complaints made to you by local firms as part of the process of procurement or in implementing any of the recommendations?</p> <p>Dr Vlastic: We get feedback on a regular basis because we seek it. Off the back of the feedback, we make changes as we need to.</p> <p>Senator CICCONE: Do you have stats or figures on how much feedback or how many complaints—</p> <p>Dr Vlastic: I don't have them with me. I'll need to go get—</p> <p>Senator CICCONE: If there's something you could get on that—</p> <p>Dr Vlastic: Yes.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 90	
38.	Digital Transformation Agency	Senator Ciccone	Procurement	Digital Transformation Agency	<p>Dr Vlastic: We don't make procurement decisions for agencies; they make their own procurement decisions. You will need to take that up with them.</p> <p>Senator CICCONE: Do any agencies come to you for advice before they make decisions about—</p> <p>Dr Vlastic: A number, yes. We have an email box and we have a phone number, and we get regular calls for advice.</p> <p>Senator CICCONE: And is that something that's kept in a register or logged?</p> <p>Dr Vlastic: No, we don't keep a log of it. We give them feedback and they do—because they're responsible for that, at the end of the day.</p> <p>Senator CICCONE: Do you ever provide any details as to which agencies have been in contact about advice?</p> <p>Dr Vlastic: We don't have a log of it. So I can provide you information about the types of agencies, but we don't keep a log of the agencies that contact us.</p> <p>Senator CICCONE: If you could provide a list of agencies, that would be good.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 90	
39.	Digital Transformation Agency	Senator Kitching	Minister's visit to US in 2019	Digital Transformation Agency	<p>Senator KITCHING: Can I ask some questions about the minister's visit to the US in 2018?</p> <p>Mr Alexander: Absolutely.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Was this trip booked through a travel company?</p> <p>Mr Alexander: I'm not aware of how his trip was booked. His office would've done that for him. The DTA wouldn't have done that.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Minister, are you aware how the trip was booked?</p> <p>Senator Seselja: No, I'm not.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Would you be able to take it on notice?</p> <p>Senator Seselja: Sure.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 90	
40.	Digital Transformation Agency	Senator Kitching	Meetings in the United States	Digital Transformation Agency	<p>Senator KITCHING: There was a meeting with Ambassador Hockey in Washington. What time was that meeting—that was on 9 October 2018?</p> <p>Mr Alexander: We'd have to take that on notice. I have the same data you have, which is that it occurred on that day, but I don't have the time.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: So the agenda—I am at a disadvantage: I don't have that QON with me.</p> <p>Mr Alexander: I can tell you on that day in New York, they met Qlik, they met the New York City Mayor's Office of Data</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 92 - 93	

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					<p>Analytics and the Mayor's Office of Technology and Innovation; and in Washington they met the Australian Ambassador to the United States.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I just want to know what time of the day the meeting was, or was it in the evening; what was the agenda for the meeting; and what were the outcomes of the meeting? Was it a drinks function hosted by the ambassador? Was it a sit-down meeting where the AIIA delegation—</p> <p>Mr Alexander: We'll take that on notice and give you additional data to this.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Or was it more of a hosting function performed by the ambassador?</p> <p>Mr Alexander: Sure; we'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: In terms of the meeting with Ambassador Hockey, was there a dinner? Were any costs associated with this meeting?</p> <p>Mr de Wet: We'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: That's fine. I understand. That was in Washington. Was it hosted at the embassy or somewhere else? I don't think it says in that QON, does it? It just says Washington. Last estimates, an itinerary for the trip was requested, and what was provided was a little sparse. We can see that there were eight days on the ground in the US, but for five of those days there were just two meetings for the whole day—is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Alexander: That's correct, but I wouldn't characterise them as two meetings; they were immersive workshop days where the team would have gone in—for example, in Seattle, where they met Microsoft and Amazon, they weren't 'sit around a table' meetings; they were substantial discussions and demonstrations of new technology and approaches from those companies. To characterise them as meetings is a bit narrow. They were quite substantial, multi-hour events. We'll get the details on those as well.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Alexander: They were substantial. Taking on notice the Washington event, we will expand these and give you an extra couple of columns on this which will have the time of the meeting, its length, agenda and outcomes.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Thank you. For example, on Tuesday, 2 October, in Seattle, where it says 'meeting with Microsoft and Amazon', they might be nine to five or whatever? They might be whole-day workshops, for example?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Thank you. For example, on Tuesday, 2 October, in Seattle, where it says 'meeting with Microsoft and Amazon', they might be nine to five or whatever? They might be whole-day workshops, for example?</p> <p>Mr de Wet: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Alexander: Given there were two of them, they would have been a period—I know that the feedback from all the people who attended was that they were fully occupied for the entirety of the trip. Each day was a full and long day of innovation experience, new technology, new approaches and great ideas from those companies.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: That's Seattle and San Francisco—let's say those parts of the trip—and then we're in New York. The meetings in New York—there was IBM and then the American Australian Association on 8 October. I wouldn't imagine the American Australian Association is an immersive day. It would be a function, I would imagine—is that correct? You'll take it on notice?</p> <p>Mr de Wet: I'll take that on notice. I would probably make the same assumption you do, but I would take that on notice because I just don't know.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: In Washington on the 10th there are two meetings there, one with the ITIF and one with Oracle—again, if you could take on notice the detail of that?</p> <p>Mr Alexander: Absolutely.</p>		
41.	Digital Transformation Agency	Senator Ciccone	Report of the ICT procurement taskforce	Digital Transformation Agency	<p>Senator CICCONE: What effort has been done to develop a medium-term strategy for building the public service's ICT procurement capacity and culture, in line with recommendation 6?</p> <p>Dr Vlastic: In fact, we recently launched a few things. We recently launched the sourcing network; that was about a month ago. On top of that, this has been a long consultation process with both the Public Service and the public, asking them the sorts of</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 89	

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					<p>things we should put in place. So we're now building out a road map, and the first step was the Digital Sourcing Network.</p> <p>Senator CICCONE: How long do you think building that road map will take?</p> <p>Dr Vlastic: What we have at the moment is a plan for here to the end of the year. The way we built the recommendations and implemented the recommendations was in an agile way. It's really difficult to identify what the target or the actual outcome is. You're trying to make sure that you get the best possible outcome you can as you go. So we have a plan for this year. Then, as we get towards the end of the financial year in June, through June-July we will identify what the next best 12 months looks like. But we've got a long-term target, yes.</p> <p>Senator CICCONE: Is that plan available online?</p> <p>Dr Vlastic: No, that's a plan we keep.</p> <p>Senator CICCONE: Is that something you can share?</p> <p>Dr Vlastic: We can share the plan for this financial year, which has a few months left.</p> <p>Senator CICCONE: If you could, that would be good, thank you.</p>		
42.	Australian National Audit Office	Senator Kitching	Grant audits	Australian National Audit Office	<p>Senator KITCHING: Earlier today, the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment told the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee that these entities should have confidence that, if Mr Crewther and the government are re-elected, their funding applications will succeed. In the ANAO's experience, is it normal for a minister to guarantee funding for an organisation before a grant round is even open?</p> <p>Ms Mellor: It wouldn't be normal for the ANAO to comment on something it hasn't audited. If we were undertaking an audit of this, it would be against the Commonwealth grant guidelines, and we're not undertaking an audit of it at present.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Have you ever undertaken an audit of something similar?</p> <p>Ms Mellor: Not to my recollection. I'd have to go away and have a look at other grant audits.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Could you have a look and see if there was something similar to where a grants program had been announced by the minister and, without it really being open, there were media releases announcing funding for various organisations.</p> <p>Dr Ioannou: I think we'd have to go back into the audit series to have a look for a similar circumstance.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, pages 97	
43.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	IWD – Australia's position	Office for Women	<p>Senator WONG: So, you only became aware that the government's position is not to join the IWD statement after it was reported in the media.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can you just confirm for me—and you might need to check with your colleagues—that no-one else from PM&C was aware of the government's decision not to join prior to this being made public?</p> <p>Dr Baxter: Yes, I can take that on notice. Mr Hayhurst may have been aware. I'll check.</p> <p>CHAIR: I think his evidence earlier was that he wasn't.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, pages 99-100	
44.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	IWD – Australia's position	Office for Women	<p>Senator WONG: Have you ever heard this before, that this constrains our support for women's reproductive health choices?</p> <p>Ms Livingston: I have had responsibility for the international engagement section since October last year, so this is really my first time working closely with DFAT around international language.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When was the discussion with the gender equality branch?</p> <p>Ms Livingston: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 101	
45.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Moore	Gender response to budgeting	Office for Women	<p>Senator MOORE: The questions around the Office of Women are to go back a little bit on the gender response to budgeting that we talked about and we continue to talk about. We asked a number of questions here on Thursday. I know that's not that long ago but I wonder if we have updates on it? We asked for information on which departments the office has encouraged to undertake gender impact assessment and how they had been encouraged. You said you would take that on notice. Have we got any movement? I'm really keen to know about the methodology that the Office of Women has used with the other departments. Has there been letters to secretaries, letters to ministers? Were there emails? I followed up with a couple of departments today and they were unaware. If we can get the methodology you used to the encourage people to look at gender responsive budgeting.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 102	

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QoN No.	Department/ Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Responsible Division/ Agency	Question	Proof Hansard & Hearing Date, page or Written QoN	Date Rec'd
					<p>Ms Bergin: In terms of answering that question specifically, we are talking across our team to get that information pulled together in a more comprehensive way. To go to the heart of your question, though, around methodology, you would be aware that at present we really work with agencies to encourage them in terms of looking at their administrative data and any other specific data collected by, say, the ABS, and looking to ascertain the impact of policy changes where they can, modelling it based on gender sensitive data.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: And that's been a long-standing principle?</p> <p>Ms Bergin: That is right.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: We just seem to come up consistently against how that principle is actually explained and have gone through, ad nauseam, the fact that there's no direction. How is the encouragement shared? Could we get from you and from your agency the methodology in terms of interaction with the departments—who you talk to; what you've said to them. We even got to the stage the other night where you said you had meetings with people about how they do it, to the extent of training. That's the detail we need to have.</p> <p>Ms Bergin: We can certainly provide that detail.</p>		
46.	Workplace Gender Equality Agency	Senator Moore	WGEA Legislation	Workplace Gender Equality Agency	<p>Senator MOORE: Do you keep a list of the ones who aren't meeting the minimum standards as well?</p> <p>Ms Lyons: Minimum standards—the bar is so low.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: It's very minimum.</p> <p>Ms Lyons: Absolutely. I'd have to take that one on notice.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 107	
47.	Workplace Gender Equality Agency	Senator Spender	Workplace safety	Workplace Gender Equality Agency	<p>Senator SPENDER: I forgot to follow up on one matter. My predecessor, Senator Leyonhjelm, at the last estimates I think, raised the issue of workplace safety. You quite rightly pointed out that you have various—I think six—indicators that don't go to that matter. However, your act does have a general reference to promoting gender equality in the workplace, including but not limited to equal remuneration. I was wondering whether since the last estimates you've at all considered or done a cursory scan for data with regard to the gendered nature of workplace safety? Hopefully you have, have you?</p> <p>Ms Lyons: My understanding is that the workplace safety data is already collected by other agencies, both nationally and at the state level.</p> <p>Senator SPENDER: But does that data report on sex?</p> <p>Ms Lyons: You'd have to ask those agencies. I assume that they do, but you'd have to ask.</p> <p>Senator SPENDER: I've had a look myself. I've found that data broken up by age, industry and a whole bunch of matters but not by sex, unfortunately. I would again encourage you to consider the first broad principle of your objects and consider this a relevant issue for gender equality in the workplace. But it's up to you what data you want to look at.</p> <p>Could I just ask the minister a question related to the issues I've raised. Given the fact that the agency's act seems to be a bit out of date in treating as completely invisible non-binary Australians, such as intersex Australians, and also doesn't explicitly refer to safety as an important factor with regard to improvements in the workplace, would you care to state, or take on notice, a government position about the prospects for changing the act to deal with both non-binary Australians and workplace safety?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I'm more than happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator SPENDER: That's fine.</p> <p>Ms Lyons: One quick thing—we would have to be very careful not to identify persons who did not identify as male or female.</p> <p>Senator SPENDER: Confidentiality is a factor, of course.</p> <p>Ms Lyons: The issue is that when you collect data on males and females you get numbers on males and females. All the data we get is confidential. When you have very small numbers, it may be easy to identify persons in smaller organisations because they do not identify as male or female. We would have to, at all costs, try and avoid that. That could compromise confidentiality.</p> <p>Senator SPENDER: You'd definitely have to take that into account in designing what you could potentially do, but, nonetheless, it's a real issue. I'd like you to take that on notice, Minister, if you could.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 107	

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
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QoN No.	Department/ Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Responsible Division/ Agency	Question	Proof Hansard & Hearing Date, page or Written QoN	Date Rec'd
48.	Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General	Senator Ciccone	Procedure for calling an election	Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General	<p>Senator CICCONE: I've just got a couple of questions regarding the procedure for calling an election. Probably like most people around this table, I'm keen to have the election called sooner rather than later. Does the Prime Minister have to visit the Governor-General physically in order to issue writs or is that something that can be done over the telephone?</p> <p>Mr Singer: As you'd be aware, the catalyst for calling an election is a request by the Prime Minister of the Governor-General to prorogue parliament, dissolve the House of Representatives and issue writs. Either that request can be conveyed in person, as it has been done over a number of years and with precedent, or it could be conveyed by other means, whether that be electronic email or telephone conversation.</p> <p>Senator CICCONE: When was the last time it was by other means, if ever?</p> <p>Mr Singer: I'd have to take that one on notice. Certainly the established precedent in the modern era is that the Prime Minister of the day would call on the Governor-General.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 108	
49.	Digital Transformation Agency	Senator Ciccone	Blockchain	Digital Transformation Agency	<p>Senator CICCONE: What work have you or the organisation done in terms of working with industry about the potential use of blockchain?</p> <p>Mr Alexander: A lot. Not just us as an organisation, but the Australian government as an organisation. There has been a lot of work across agencies looking at blockchain and considering opportunities and problems in our business, or things we're trying to achieve where blockchain might help. There's been an amount across a number of agencies. We worked with the Department of Human Services and the Commonwealth Bank on the potential for smart contracts and payments in the national disability insurance arrangements. There was some testing of freight movement in Home Affairs. ASIC looked at payment settlements. There has been an amount of cross-government work. In each case where government have been doing that work, they've been partnering with industry, academia and science and technology organisations—like Data61, who have been doing a lot of work in this space.</p> <p>Senator CICCONE: Are you able to provide a list of who you've consulted or engaged with?</p> <p>Mr Alexander: We can give you a list of all the agencies we've dealt with, for sure.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 94	
50.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Office of the National Data Commissioner	Policy Innovation and Projects Division	<p>Senator WONG: . . . Is the data commissioner a statutory body? I think so.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We will check that for you.</p>	FPA Monday 8 April 2019, page 79	
51.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator McAllister	Prime Minister's visit to Christmas Island	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator McALLISTER: When was the decision taken to fly to Christmas Island?</p> <p>Ms Millar: A few days before that. I don't have that advice exactly, but I can try to find out for you.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, page 22	
52.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator McAllister	Prime Minister's visit to Christmas Island	Prime Minister's Office	<p>Senator McALLISTER: What was the total cost of Mr Morrison's trip?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I'll take that on notice. It's reported in the ordinary course of events, but if you want me to get that information I'll take that on notice.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, page 25	
53.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Senator Wong	Official Appointments	Cabinet Division	<p>Senator WONG: How many appointments have been made since the beginning of the year? You made five in one day last week. How many AATs—</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Are you suggesting I shouldn't?</p> <p>Senator WONG: How many appointments has cabinet processed since the beginning of the year?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We've taken that on notice.</p>	FPA Thursday 4 April 2019, page 39	