

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-22 – 26 OCTOBER 2021

INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO

QoN No.	Portfolio QoN No.	Department /Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hearing Date	Transcript Page
1	SQ21-000796	Australian Postal Corporation	Catryna Bilyk	AUS POST - Parcel volume breakdowns	Please provide the number of parcels Australia Post has delivered in the year to date in 2021 and the past four calendar years, broken down by the following categories: (a)Year (b)Service type (eg. regular, express post) (c)Intrastate, interstate and international (d)Delivery performance, including: - Delivered within service standard - Failed to meet service standard (and the number of days the parcel was late) - Lost, damaged or destroyed in transit	26/10/2021	Written
2	SQ21-000797	Australian Postal Corporation	Catryna Bilyk	AUS POST - Parcel timelines breakdowns	For parcel deliveries that did not meet the service standard, please provide the number of deliveries broken down by the following data: (a) Year (b) Service type (eg. regular, express post) (c) Intrastate, interstate and international (d) Reason for failure to meet the delivery service standard	26/10/2021	Written
3	SQ21-000798	Australian Postal Corporation	Catryna Bilyk	AUS POST - Delayed Hobart to Sydney Express	I am aware of an express post parcel that was recently delivered from Hobart to Sydney that arrived at a processing centre in Sydney the day after it was posted but took another 14 days to reach the recipient. I also understand that circumstances that delayed this parcel caused delays to other parcel deliveries. Is Australia Post aware of this incident? If so: (a) What caused the delay? (b) How many parcels were affected?	26/10/2021	Written

					<p>(c) Have there been similar incidents impacting the delivery of express post parcels either at the same processing centre or across the delivery network? How many parcels have been affected by these?</p> <p>(d) What procedures are being examined to ensure that this incident is (or these incidents are) not repeated?</p> <p>(e) Why is Australia Post accepting express post fees from customers if they cannot deliver within expected time frames? If customers pay for a premium service that isn't delivered how can they be compensated?</p>		
4	SQ21-000799	Australian Postal Corporation	Catryna Bilyk	AUS POST - Parcel delivery by contractors	Does Australia Post use contractors in the delivery of its parcels? What arrangements are in place to ensure quality control of the parcel delivery processes that are undertaken by contractors?	26/10/2021	Written
5	SQ21-000800	Australian Postal Corporation	Catryna Bilyk	AUS POST - Parcel delivery by employees	What arrangements are in place to ensure quality control of parcel delivery processes that are undertaken by directly-employed Australia Post employees?	26/10/2021	Written
6	SQ21-000801	Australian Postal Corporation	Catryna Bilyk	AUS POST - Parcel delivered per parcel delivery employee	From 2016 to the present, please indicate by year how many parcel deliveries were completed for each full time equivalent employee involved in parcel delivery.	26/10/2021	Written
7	SQ21-000802	Australian Postal Corporation	Catryna Bilyk	AUS POST - Parcel delivery employee numbers	How does Australia Post assure itself and its customers that the number of staff employed to deliver parcels is adequate?	26/10/2021	Written
8	SQ21-000803	Australian Postal Corporation	Catryna Bilyk	AUS POST - COVID-19 impact on parcel delivery services	In what ways has the COVID pandemic impacted on the performance of Australia Post's parcel delivery services?	26/10/2021	Written
9	SQ21-000804	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Gerard Rennick	ABC - Fines for journalists	Why is the ABC paying fines on behalf of journalists if they are expressing a private view? I am referring to the damages paid on behalf of Louise Milligan in the defamation case brought against her Andrew Laming.	26/10/2021	Written
10	SQ21-000805	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Gerard Rennick	ABC - Kevin Rudd Pfizer conflict of interest	Was Norman Swan, in saying that the government could sign up Pfizer last August aware that Kevin Rudd as president of the Asian Society Policy Institute receives almost a \$1 million dollars a year	26/10/2021	Written

					from in that role and that a donor to that organisation is Pfizer - a product that Kevin Rudd has been trying to get the Australian Government to buy? Is the ABC colluding with Kevin Rudd and if so why was no conflict of interest disclosed?		
11	SQ21-000806	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Gerard Rennick	ABC - Norman Swan's comments on COVID-19 in children	On the 3/7/2021 Norman Swan posted on Twitter - "My prediction is that unless we vaccinate kids under 12, within 18 months or sooner, depending on 12 yrs and older vaccination rates, COVID will be a childhood disease. And not a trial one. " Given no children under 12 have died from Covid why is Norman Swan posting such alarming rhetoric?	26/10/2021	Written
12	SQ21-000891	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anthony Sheldon	Number of NBN frontline staff who received a bonus	<p>Senator SHELDON: I'm going to go to the department, because we'll be able to deal with some aspects of it now, and then I'll ask you again for a comment. Did the department provide Minister Fletcher with any advice on the number of frontline NBN staff who did receive a bonus?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I'm not aware of that, but Mr Windeyer may have more detail.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'm not aware that we provided specific information about frontline staff. We may have, but I'd have to take on notice, provided information about the number of staff who were paid- who that pool of money was paid to. But I'd have to take it on notice.</p>	26/10/2021	4
13	SQ21-000893	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Allocation of RISE funding	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So questions have been raised about where the RISE funding is actually going. One of the examples I'm sure you're aware of, Dr Arnott, is a couple who own a spa retreat, Mudstone Spa Retreat. They had no track record in the arts at all and have received \$621,000 to run a weekly music night for an audience of 200. How was that approved?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Out of that \$620,000, what percentage actually goes to the artists?</p> <p>Mr Arnott: I'm not sure I have that precisely to hand. I don't have the budget here.</p>	26/10/2021	11-12

					<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Arnott: Yes, I could answer that this evening, at the arts session.</p>		
14	SQ21-000894	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Facebook deal with SBS	<p>Senator PRATT: Has the minister contacted Facebook about this apparent refusal of Facebook to do a deal with SBS?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'm not aware, but I could take that on notice.</p>	26/10/2021	13
15	SQ21-000895	Australian Postal Corporation	Benjamin Small	AUS POST - Parcel volume impacted by first TWU strike	<p>Senator SMALL: Good morning, folks. I'll address my questions broadly, and whoever is best placed can answer them. I want to ask about what impact the first strike by the TWU had on the Australia Post business?</p> <p>Mr Graham: I will refer that comment to Rod Barnes, who's the head of our national network and operations and is directly involved, obviously, in providing that service to our customers.</p> <p>Mr Barnes: In the first period of industrial action that we had some weeks ago, I think approximately 500 to 600 staff chose to participate in that action that day. We did have some delays. We recovered all of those delays within two business days. Victoria was probably our most challenged. We did suffer some impact to some critical shipments we weren't able to isolate. It was a pretty challenging period, but we got through that after about three business days.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: Can you outline exactly what you mean by that sort of business 'impact'? How many parcels were delayed? When you said 'critical shipments', what were you referring to?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: Medical shipments and foodstuffs-items that are traditionally consigned by business, such as pharmaceuticals, medicines and items for hospitals and so forth. The items in question that were delayed-and I'll take the exact number on notice-were about 74,000 parcels in Victoria and approximately 13,000 parcels in New South Wales for that day.</p>	26/10/2021	19

16	SQ21-000896	Australian Postal Corporation	Kimberley Kitching	AUS POST - Incentives in Q4 FY20	<p>Senator KITCHING: That is correct? Can you confirm that over the course of COVID-19, from March 2020 until today, Australia Post has paid out \$171.4 million in bonuses?</p> <p>Mr Boys: Thank you very much for that question. Over the two years Australia Post paid salary at risk STI payments, across those years a sales incentive scheme and also bonuses, the thank you bonuses that we've referred to several times. As per the provisions set down in the annual report-I will turn to that page in the annual report-there was \$92.4 million in FY20 and \$79 million in FY21. The payments would have been approximately those same numbers. I think we have responded to your question on notice for FY20 and FY21 to that effect.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Thank you. It's not quite two years, though, is it? It's March 2020 until today-so a year and as half.</p> <p>Mr Boys: I've quoted you the numbers as per the annual report for the full year FY20 and the full year FY21. We would have only paid a very small amount-I would need to check that-in the period between March 2020 and 30 June 2020.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: If you can come back to me that would be helpful, Mr Boys. Mr Graham, do you have that exact figure yet?</p> <p>Mr Graham: No. We're chasing that figure up. It's just being compiled now. I'll get it for you as soon as possible.</p>	26/10/2021	28
17	SQ21-000897	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	IVE Group donations	<p>Senator PRATT: Minister Hume, has Minister Fletcher received any donations from the IVE Group since 2019?</p> <p>Senator Hume: All donations would be on the register, but I will take the detail on notice.</p>	26/10/2021	30
18	SQ21-000898	Australian Postal Corporation	Kimberley Kitching	AUS POST - Local Government Elections - Complaints	<p>Senator KITCHING: Did you have any complaints, where there was redress that you had to make for not delivering mail in council elections? My understanding is that there were some complaints, from a variety of tickets, in some of the Victorian local government elections. For example, how-to-vote mail across different parties,</p>	26/10/2021	30-31

					<p>which is an important piece of mail in an election, was not delivered in time. In fact, they were delivered, in some cases, two weeks after the close of the ballots.</p> <p>Mr Starr: From time to time, there are issues raised, and we work closely with MPs and the electoral commissions to address those issues.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Sorry, not MPs; I'm talking about local government elections, so they would be councillors.</p> <p>Mr Starr: For local government elections? I beg your pardon, Senator. Yes, in all the cases that I mentioned, the 10 election events, we work closely with the Electoral Commission and with councillors, or MPs if they're state elections, and where issues are raised we address them quickly and make sure that we do deliver. But from time to time there are issues with delivery and we work through those.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: On notice, are you able to give me an anonymised list of complaints for all 10 election events?</p> <p>Mr Starr: I'd have to check what we can provide, but we will endeavour to-</p>		
19	SQ21-000899	Australian Postal Corporation	Louise Pratt	AUS POST - Letter On-Time Delivery & Letters Frequency Performance	<p>Senator PRATT: In relation to preparations for the upcoming federal election, has Australia Post been complying with its regulated service standards for mail delivery frequency and mail delivery time frames?</p> <p>Mr Graham: I will refer that question and the detail to Rod Barnes, who is our head of network operations.</p> <p>Mr Barnes: We're very aware of our serious obligations, which we managed to achieve last year. The situation at the moment with the relevant COVID challenges does make that particularly difficult- and we are doing our best-in some locations. That service is varying depending on the traffic lane and the conditions we face. We're operating under eight different state health orders and requirements to comply, and we're doing our best to work that through. I can send you the detail on notice, if you like, with the</p>	26/10/2021	31

					specific performance by month across the products. That will show it. We are looking towards an improvement, and, with the recent changes not only in New South Wales but also in Victoria, we are confident that we'll be able to recover that service.		
20	SQ21-000900	Australian Postal Corporation	Louise Pratt	AUS POST - Post-Election Reviews (Federal and WA)	<p>Senator PRATT: Do you do a report at the end of an election to see whether there were any particular electoral impacts? Do you talk to the Electoral Commission about that?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: Yes, we do, and we have regular reviews, as we did with the census, where we had a regular fortnightly and six-week catch-up at a senior level.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Are you able to table the review from the last federal election?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: To Gary's previous answer, we will find the information we have around those performances for local council. We also have feedback from the relevant commissions that we could share.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I'd be interested any feedback from the WA election as well, noting the size of the state.</p> <p>Mr Barnes: Certainly.</p>	26/10/2021	32
21	SQ21-000901	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	David Van	eSafety - Spike in online harms reports	<p>Senator VAN: Ms Inman Grant, it's lovely to see you again. Thank you for all your great work. You say that the surges that we've seen in past months are quite significant. Do they vary state by state, or was it uniform across the country?</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: I don't think we kept state-by-state data in this case. I would say it's relatively uniform. In the past, the preponderance of reports generally reflected the size of the population. So New South Wales tends to report the most, followed by Victoria et cetera.</p> <p>Senator VAN: Would you be able to take that question on notice and come back to me on that?</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: Sure.</p>	26/10/2021	35
22	SQ21-000904	Department of Infrastructure, Transport,	Anthony Sheldon	Section 240 of the Online Safety Act 2021	Senator SHELDON: Thank you for that. I want to direct a question to the minister and the secretary. Section 240 of the Online Safety Act 2021 empowers a minister to make legislative rules as	26/10/2021	42

		Regional Development and Communications			<p>necessary or convenient for carrying out or giving effect to the act, and the definition of cyberabuse targeted at an Australian adult in section 7 includes:</p> <p>such other conditions ... as are set out in the legislative rules.</p> <p>Why was the provision for the minister to make legislative rules included in the definition of cyberabuse targeted at an Australian adult?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I would have to take it on notice to check what the intent behind that provision was. If I had to comment, I'd suspect it was to ensure that there is some flexibility in the scheme into the future to keep pace with or keep track of emerging trends or concerns.</p>		
23	SQ21-000905	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anthony Sheldon	Legislative rules for the purpose of the Adult Cyber Abuse Scheme	<p>Senator SHELDON: Minister, what matters does the department contemplate where the minister might make legislative rules for the purpose of the Adult Cyber Abuse Scheme?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I think it would entirely depend on the issue that arose.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: So how that's to operate still hasn't been worked out?</p> <p>Senator Hume: The emerging issues haven't arisen yet, so it's hard to speculate on what the response would be.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Will the minister make rules with respect to the level of evidence required to establish harm to a person's mental health?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'm not entirely sure that that's necessary, but I'll take the question on notice</p>	26/10/2021	42
24	SQ21-000906	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anthony Sheldon	Adult Cyber Abuse Scheme - legislative rules	<p>Senator SHELDON: Will the minister make legislative rules to clarify the application of the Adult Cyber Abuse Scheme to safeguard the role of journalists, comedians and satirists?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'm not aware of any changes to that effect, but I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Is section 233, on the implied freedom of political communication, sufficient for the Adult Cyber Abuse</p>	26/10/2021	42

					<p>Scheme not to be misused to censor the fourth estate?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Again, I think you've just repeated the same question. I'm not aware of any of those changes, but I will certainly take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: For example, if a politician is concerned that a particular journalist, comedian or satirist is focusing on them too much and menacing, harassing or offending them with critical content, should the politician be able to complain to the eSafety Commissioner to have the content taken down? I might include the word 'thuggery' as well.</p> <p>Senator Hume: I don't think that's the intention of this act at all, but I'm happy to take that question on notice and get you an answer directly from the minister.</p>		
25	SQ21-000907	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Anthony Sheldon	eSafety - list of stakeholders that were engaged during each submission process	<p>Senator SHELDON: Would you please table a list of which stakeholders you have engaged with in each process, the dates of the meetings and the attendees?</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: Sure. Absolutely. Most of that, at least for the restricted access system, is already online. We're just going through the process of going through the 33 submissions on age verification.</p>	26/10/2021	43
26	SQ21-000908	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Anthony Sheldon	eSafety - Takedown notices under the Broadcasting Services Act	<p>Senator SHELDON: It wasn't quite clear. How often has the eSafety Commissioner used its powers under the existing restricted access systems declaration in the past?</p> <p>Mr Dagg: I'm not aware of any recent takedown notices under the Broadcasting Services Act that have relied on me to impose a restricted access systems declaration on providers. Since 2015, the eSafety Commission has issued a very limited number of takedown notices. We issued a takedown notice last year and that was complied with, but that was complied with through the removal of content rather than the imposition of a restricted access systems declaration. It is a rarely used power but, through the course of our submissions, industry said that it had had little effect on their businesses and it's had little regulatory impact. But I can take that</p>	26/10/2021	45

					on notice for you, Senator. Senator SHELDON: Thank you		
27	SQ21-000909	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Release of ACMA report to Government on the code development process	<p>Senator GREEN: Ms O'Loughlin, according to ACMA's website, ACMA provided a report to government on the code development process, the adequacy of voluntary code on disinformation and the broader impacts of misinformation in Australia. Do you have an update on when the report will be released?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: Yes, we were asked by the government to provide a report on disinformation and on the performance of the new voluntary misinformation code. That was provided to the government on 30 June this year. That's under consideration by the government and its release would be a matter for the minister.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Has the minister contacted you about the report, since you provided it, to get more feedback or provide-</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: No. We had a discussion with the minister in his office about our report and the context in which it was undertaken and what we'd looked at, for further information. That was a little while ago now. My understanding is that it's being considered by the minister through the normal processes.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Minister, do you know when that report will be released?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I do not. I can take it on notice. I assume it is another report that is for discussion and deliberation of cabinet. I will find that out.</p>	26/10/2021	47
28	SQ21-000910	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Sarah Hanson-Young	ACMA - Number of small publishers that have been through the assessment process	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I've got you. Thanks for that explanation. How many of those that have been through the assessment process were considered to be small publishers?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I'm not sure I have that before me at the moment. We might need to take the number on notice, but there are a number of small publishers. I'll defer to my colleague Creina.</p> <p>Ms Chapman: We can take the precise number on notice, but, if I look at the register, the majority are small. In fact, nearly all are.</p>	26/10/2021	49

29	SQ21-000911	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Louise Pratt	ACMA - Key categories of misinformation prohibited on Facebook and Youth Tube	<p>Senator PRATT: Thank you. We were talking about terms of use and categories in the codes. In general terms, what key categories of misinformation are prohibited on Facebook and YouTube?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: We might have a bit of a stab at that, but we might need to take it on notice to give you something more comprehensive. I'm looking at my colleagues and we're all flicking through our briefings.</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: I think we should take that question on notice for you, because each of the platforms has a range of different policies that go to your question. If we can take that on notice and give you a fulsome response about our views on their policies.</p>	26/10/2021	56
30	SQ21-000912	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Correspondence to the Minister regarding implementation of proposals under Mr Julian Leeser's MP Private Members Bill	<p>Senator GREEN: On the same issues that are raised in the bill, on 30 September the shadow minister wrote to the minister asking whether the department had undertaken any preliminary assessment of how much mobile prices, including for regional consumers, would increase if the proposals were implemented. I think that request has been sent to the minister and, hopefully, passed on to the department. The minister hasn't provided a response yet, but has the department started that work?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I am not aware, but I will see if anyone does know the answer to that question. I imagine that we have had the correspondence passed to us, but I will see if I can find out. We haven't yet. We're not yet undertaking any work specifically in relation to that question.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Sorry, so the minister received correspondence almost a month ago. Has the correspondence been sent to the department or have you just-</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I will check.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Is it a matter of the minister not forwarding it on or it just that they've said, 'Look, we've got this correspondence but don't bother looking at it'?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We will find out. We will have to check. The officers</p>	26/10/2021	57-58

					here can't recall seeing the correspondence, so we will check whether it's been forwarded and get back to you.		
31	SQ21-000913	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Alternative Voice Services Trials program report	<p>Senator GREEN: I have another question from the same budget estimates, No. 13, so it's probably related to the same thing. The department provided information about the seven technical criteria against which grantees are required to report. These included network uptime, network downtime, call drop rates and mean opinion scores. Can you explain what survey questions underpin the qualitative feedback about the mean opinion score, or provide it on notice?</p> <p>Mr P Mason: The criteria that we provided in the answer, from memory, are the technical criteria that we asked the service providers to report on. They monitor that within their networks, using different technologies. We also do an independent survey which is necessarily brief because we figured that customers weren't too happy to be called every month and asked a long series of questions. It's a fairly high-level question about how they feel about the quality of the voice service, so the survey is quite qualitative. The more technical side of it is dependent on information from the service provider.</p> <p>Mr Paterson: It is our intention shortly to publish a short report on the trials as they are at the moment, and to make that publicly available on our website.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Can you table a copy of the survey?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: I think that would probably comprise a part of the report. I'll take that on notice.</p>	26/10/2021	61
32	SQ21-000914	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Parameters of collection of data	<p>Senator GREEN: One of the things that isn't being considered is latency in packet loss not being measured for grantees who are delivering voice as part of their alternative voice trials. Am I correct in saying that those things are not being measured, and wouldn't latency be a useful technical measure for voice experience?</p> <p>Mr P Mason: I'll take that on notice because I want to check the answer. I think the information provided may have been focused</p>	26/10/2021	61-62

					<p>on the voice component. To the extent that providers are also providing broadband, I think that we had those parameters so, yes, they are relevant to providing voiceover internet. I do think we're collecting that; it just depends on what products the providers are providing.</p> <p>Mr Paterson: My recollection is the same as Mr Mason's, but we'll take that on notice.</p>		
33	SQ21-000915	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Marielle Smith	Community Television Stations reporting requirements	<p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: I'm just interested in these years of uncertainty. What have they actually cost the department? Community television stations have had to prepare statements and report after report. Those would have been analysed by officers in the departments. There was rent paid. Regulatory burden was imposed on the broadcasters. Many staff, I assume, were involved in preparing all of this. What's the cost been to the department?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I don't have any cost for this type of activity. Management of spectrum, working with stakeholders and implementing government policy decisions are part of our ongoing business as part of a department.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: But it's work that's specific, right? Because each time we come to this community television [inaudible] work you do as a department, there's no cost involved in that for your officers or for your agency?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: There is no net additional cost. It's in the scope of normal business that we would be asked to do by the government of the day.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: How many departmental staff were involved in assessing these reports which community television was required to provide?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I'll ask Ms Sullivan if she has any further comments on how many staff were involved.</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: There was primarily one officer who was responsible for leading the work reviewing the reports.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: And were those reports done quarterly,</p>	26/10/2021	62-63

					<p>yearly?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: The reporting requirements came in for the last 12 months and they were due quarterly.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Can you take on notice if you can estimate any costs in this process?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: Sure. I'm certainly happy to take that on notice.</p>		
34	SQ21-000916	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Mobile Black Spot Program and Regional Connectivity Program - Northern Australia Initiative	<p>Senator GREEN: That's fine. With the projects for the northern Australia initiative being selected as part of the mechanisms for the Mobile Black Spot Program and Regional Connectivity Program, do they have their own processes? How are they being selected?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: We're consulting on the Regional Connectivity Program around two guidelines at the moment. The way the northern Australia component has been put into it is that it's encapsulated within the program and all the existing criteria, but when you do the assessment you assess the northern Australia program components separately. The reason we do that is because, as you would be aware, the infrastructure builds in northern Australia can often be very expensive, because of the distances of power, backhaul and so forth.</p> <p>So we would get an application, and then look at the northern Australia components separately from the rest of the program. If you exhausted the funding for the northern Australia component, and there were still value-for-money ones, there's the potential they would be picked up with the rest of the program. So they would be assessed separately but as part of the same process.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: In terms of the nature of the projects and connectivity solutions that are being funded, how does it differ from southern parts of regional and remote Australia? You've already touched on some of the specific needs for northern regions, but what are the main differences?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: The main differences are the distances, the costs, and the lack of general backhaul. I'm going to ask Phil Smurthwaite to give you one or two examples out of Regional Connectivity</p>	26/10/2021	64

					<p>Program round 1 which we funded in northern Australia, which will you an indication as to the costings and the sorts of things we expect will flow through.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Do you want to provide that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: I'm happy to do that.</p>		
35	SQ21-000917	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	ACCC final report on the Digital Platforms Inquiry - list of 12 local government areas without coverage	<p>Senator GREEN: It's been 12 months. Somebody has the information. It's just a list. Can we have the list?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: The difficulty is compiling the list. Our Bureau of Communications, Arts and Regional Research is trying to pull together a similar database for us. To begin with, when trying to understand print, we don't have a database of information just on print media. Because the government regulates broadcasting, we have information on the broadcasters, whether they're radio or television. What we don't have and no-one actually has is a set database of online and print newspapers. We're trying to pull together, through our bureau, a database of that information, but it's actually quite time-intensive and difficult to get hold of. I'm happy to come back to you. I'll get an update on where we're up to, because I do actually want the work done, and I'll come back to you with where that work's up to and what we can provide you with.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Let's not wait till the next estimates, because we don't know when that will be.</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: No.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: You can provide it on notice.</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: I'm happy to provide on notice what we have. It's probably not going to be a perfect list. It's probably not going to be what you're after, to that level of detail, because it is quite hard to get this information. Trying to access it-</p>	26/10/2021	73
36	SQ21-000918	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional	Nita Green	Platform and News Branch staffing numbers	<p>Senator GREEN: What about the platform and news section?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: That's a recently stood-up branch. It's not fully staffed yet. We've gone out to advertise for staff.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: How many staff are going to be in that section?</p>	26/10/2021	73-74

		Development and Communications			Ms Sullivan: I'd need to come back to you. It's a branch, so it would probably between 15 and 20 people working across a range of issues around digital platforms, information integrity and other matters.		
37	SQ21-000920	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - defamation case against Ms Milligan	<p>Senator ABETZ: Mr Laming settled each and every other matter in relation to these tweets with a simple apology, because that is all he had sought-exactly what he had sought as well from Ms Milligan. She refused to apologise. In those circumstances, why did the ABC, using taxpayers' money, seek to support Ms Milligan rather than say to her, 'Just apologise and be done with it,' as with all the other cases that Dr Laming had started in relation to this matter?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't know how many other people were served concerns notices over this. That is No. 1. So, I don't know whether they were in the same situation that we were. I will say that when we receive a concerns notice there's a procedure here. We assess it. There are 28 days that sit there.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Wait a minute-but you didn't receive the notice, did you? This was only for Ms Milligan. She was the one who was served with the concerns notice. The ABC wasn't.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can confirm, on notice, exactly where the concerns notice came to. I believe that it actually came into the ABC addressed to Ms Milligan. But when it comes to-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: In a private capacity.</p>	26/10/2021	79
38	SQ21-000921	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Legal advice received regarding Dr Laming	<p>Senator ABETZ: I'm not asking about Mr Porter. I'm asking about Dr Laming.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes, I did inform the board. General counsel informs the board of all legal matters in a privileged capacity at every board meeting. This matter did come up before the board, on 9 June. The circumstances by which we provided indemnity to Ms Milligan were explained-that with regard to vicarious liability, the potential for the ABC to be joined in proceedings and the potential financial exposure for the ABC, unless we created common-</p>	26/10/2021	80

					<p>interest privilege and took hold of those proceedings to be able to settle them as fast as we could.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Are you able to table all of the legal advice that you received in relation to this matter?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can't table the initial advice that I had from general counsel. I did get subsequent external advice after this with regard to vicarious liability for the whole of the ABC. I have that with me. Normally I couldn't just table all of this advice; there are reasons for that, which exposes the ABC in other ways. I could work to, on notice, try to table elements of it. I can read out one piece which I think would be useful-</p>		
39	SQ21-000922	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Obligations under the PGPA	<p>Senator ABETZ: Well, when the ABC wasn't being sued at all, that is an astounding assertion. But can I ask: was the board's permission sought, or was the board just informed?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The board was just informed. I had made that decision. I did not seek the board's approval, nor would I in matters of a similar nature where I am duty bound to discharge my duties with regard to the obligations under the PGPA. Effectively, I made that decision on protecting the ABC's financial position into the future.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can you table your board delegation-the delegation from the board?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I think I can. The board is the authority here, and, yes, I have delegated authority under a delegation policy and a delegation framework.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can you table it?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: And, yes, I can table information on that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Good, thank you. And then can you explain how this meets the PGPA duties?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Well, I think under sections 15 and 16, with relation to me being a member of the board, and 25, 26, and 27, when it comes to reducing risk, making decisions that protect the ABC, I</p>	26/10/2021	80

					will confirm that with you on notice. Senator ABETZ: Thank you.		
40	SQ21-000923	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anthony Sheldon	ABC - outcome of review on documentary Exposed: The Ghost Train Fire series	<p>Senator SHELDON: Thank you. I put this to Mr Anderson: Mr McMurtrie said that we've accepted the outcome; I gather that's still your assessment. Are you going to take out that section that's been highly critical, highly defamatory, of Neville Wran, highly critical about what has occurred, and the allegations in that series? Again, I'll reiterate: I appreciate the other work you've done. But it does not make sense to me when your own internal review is saying that there are issues and serious concerns, no merit to the allegations, but you keep those allegations in the story. Have you got any intention of turning around and taking those allegations out?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: No. We are comfortable with the decision we've made because we have published the independent review and it is all available there on the public record.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: You have told me that the ABC considers that the existence of the report, the independent review, is enough by way of response. Did the ABC issue a media statement in response to the report before the report was released?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't believe so. I think the ABC issued a statement as the report was released. I think it was meant to be at the same time. We can check for you on notice.</p>	26/10/2021	81
41	SQ21-000924	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	ABC - Details of settlement between Ms Milligan and Dr Laming	<p>Senator SMALL: Mr Anderson, in earlier testimony today, you mentioned the costs with respect to Louise Milligan's private tweet being \$184,000 with a little bit to come. Are you able to table all of that information, including any invoices supplied to the ABC and the deed of settlement between Ms Milligan and Dr Laming?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll take that on notice, Senator. I can tell you that, in terms of the settlement to Dr Laming, the orders were made on 11 August for \$79,000 to be payable as damages to Dr Laming. There were \$30,000 in Dr Laming's legal costs. With regard to the other costs incurred, so far, that's approximately \$75,000. Yes, I'll be able</p>	26/10/2021	82

					<p>to table what I can for you on notice.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: You're satisfied that represents the total cost to the ABC of this matter, notwithstanding a little dribble, maybe, of miscellaneous costs to come?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I have to take that on notice. I do know that that is not the total cost yet. I know there is still more to come. I don't believe that to be a significant amount, but I'll have to confirm that on notice for you, Senator</p>		
42	SQ21-000925	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	ABC - Ms Milligan settlement proceedings	<p>Senator SMALL: Has the board been made aware that this liability has potentially doubled, and has the board been made aware that Ms Milligan did not apologise and therefore inflamed the course of proceedings?</p> <p>CHAIR: Last question.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: There are a number of factors here. When the ABC had indemnified Louise, it was made very clear to us that an apology would not settle the matter.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: On what basis?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The only way this matter was going to be settled was by the offer-</p> <p>Senator SMALL: If you can clarify for me on notice on what basis that contention was made, that would be very helpful.</p>	26/10/2021	84
43	SQ21-000926	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anthony Sheldon	ABC - Release of report	<p>Senator SHELDON: There were others, as I've already named, that were able to give substantive conflicting evidence, including people of high reputation in the New South Wales and, I'd argue, the Australian community, in a number of those circumstances. I just want to be really clear. Why did the ABC issue a response to the report on Sunday 29 August, which was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald and the Guardian, but did not release the actual report until Monday 30 August?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: It is my understanding that some reporters approached the ABC with some information-I'm not sure how they got hold of that information-and so questions were answered, but the independent review was always scheduled to be released the</p>	26/10/2021	87

					<p>following day.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: So people were giving advice. What was the circulation of the report as of 29 August? Who had access to it?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: It was a very small group. I'd have to come back to you in terms of exactly who knew, but it was very closed. It wasn't widely distributed at all, but we had journalists who came to us with questions, and those questions, as far as we were able to, were answered.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: So, besides, of course, those that carried out the review, the small group is the leadership of the ABC-is that correct? People in leading positions?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: Yes.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Can you narrow down anyone that was involved. Were you involved?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: Yes. I knew about the review.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Can you name anyone else?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: I'd have to come back to you on notice.</p>		
44	SQ21-000927	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Arrangement between ABC and Ms Milligan	<p>Senator ABETZ: Thank you. Can you explain to us what was the exact arrangement the ABC entered into with Ms Milligan re indemnifying her, and was that in a written agreement?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will have to respond to you on notice for that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Was it written?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can't confirm that to you now. I would need to check on that and I can respond on notice.</p>	26/10/2021	88
45	SQ21-000928	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Legal control of defamation proceedings	<p>Senator ABETZ: Did you then take control of all proceedings at that time on 25 May?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will confirm on notice. But my recollection of this is that it is not possible to take full legal control at that moment, other than to direct as much as possible that that issue be settled as soon as possible.</p>	26/10/2021	89
46	SQ21-000929	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Legal advice concerning	<p>Senator ABETZ: But why wasn't it clarified?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It will be, but-</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Why wasn't it clarified? How can you settle a</p>	26/10/2021	90

				settlement and fringe benefits tax	<p>matter without knowing what the full exposure may be to the organisation? Did you tell the board this?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Actually, I believe the issue of fringe benefit did come up with the board, which was something that we needed to settle. But I will tell you that the advice I was provided when it came to accepting the offer of compromise was that total exposure to the ABC was in the order of some \$700,000. So, even with fringe benefit-if it turns out like that-we are still settling the matter for less than what the potential exposure was at that particular point in time.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can you table that legal advice? That would be very interesting-how the total potential exposure for Dr Laming's case was \$700,000. He'll be very disappointed that he settled for \$79,000 instead of \$700,000.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't know if I can table that advice, but I'll provide you some undertaking in some way, shape or form.</p>		
47	SQ21-000930	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Legal Costs in relation to Mr Porter's and Dr Laming's cases	<p>CHAIR: How much did the corporation spend on the two matters you discussed tonight at estimates-the ones in relation to Mr Porter and Dr Laming?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: In terms of settlements? I've given the-</p> <p>CHAIR: The legal costs.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The legal costs of the Laming matter were-I think I gave evidence earlier that I'll have to confirm it-\$184,000. The Porter matter was with regard to the mediation in that matter. The mediation costs in the Porter matter-I'll have to confirm to you on notice, Senator, as to where that's up to</p>	26/10/2021	91
48	SQ21-000931	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Legal Costs for Gleeson services	<p>CHAIR: How much did you pay for Gleeson?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll have to come back to you on notice, Senator.</p>	26/10/2021	91
49	SQ21-000932	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	ABC - Conflicts of interest	<p>Mr Anderson: We manage potential conflicts of interest actively at the ABC. When it comes to media inquiries, that was put in place. There was separation such that the head of communications didn't deal at all with matters related to Ms Milligan. As per the conflict</p>	26/10/2021	93

					<p>of interest, there are what the board sees and what I see. The board is not actively involved in every issue of conflict of interest, but I can absolutely assure you that was not a consideration in providing indemnity to Ms Milligan.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: Was that potential conflict of interest and the management related to it documented in any way?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: Can you table that documentation?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will have a look at that for you.</p>		
50	SQ21-000933	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	ABC - Covering cost of personal expenses for an ABC employee	<p>Senator SMALL: I imagine it's pretty hard not to justify when it is clearly related here. Are there any other examples where you've exercised your delegated authority from the board to cover the personal expenses of an ABC employee in respect of matters that are unrelated to their employment?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: This is the first time that I'm aware of, or certainly that I've been involved in, where the ABC has covered personal expenses in a way like this. I will say that we've taken action with regard to future potential vicarious liability and we've taken action to make sure this situation is as avoidable as possible.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: On notice, full detail on that point would be appreciated.</p>	26/10/2021	93
51	SQ21-000934	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Rex Patrick	ABC - Question 3961 - Negotiations between ABC, SBS and Regional Broadcasting Australia Holdings	<p>Senator PATRICK: You should just establish yourself a national cabinet with some state members and then you won't have to tell anyone in the Senate anything; that's what the government does. I want to go to a question on notice to the minister, question 3961, that talked about negotiations between the ABC, SBS and Regional Broadcasting Australia Holdings. The minister declined to answer that on the basis that I should direct these questions at you, so I might do that. Are those negotiations completed?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I believe that we negotiated for a two-year period. I will confirm that on notice. But, yes, they were completed for this period of time.</p>	26/10/2021	93

52	SQ21-000935	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Rex Patrick	ABC - Transmission towers covered by the contract	<p>Senator PATRICK: Which transmission towers are covered by the contract and for how long?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can provide that on notice for you but it's quite a few.</p>	26/10/2021	93
53	SQ21-000936	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Rex Patrick	ABC - SBS Transmission towers negotiations	<p>Senator PATRICK: That's a sensible answer, thank you. That was the ABC's component. I presume SBS negotiate separately, or do you join together and negotiate as one?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll confirm on notice, but I think we're in regular touch with SBS on this. For some big contracts, we do jointly negotiate and put together ABC and SBS if we are negotiating with one party about the same thing. You can ask Mr Taylor, who I believe is up next, but my understanding is that their share is \$600,000 per annum.</p>	26/10/2021	93-94
54	SQ21-000937	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Chisholm	NBN Co - NBN Regional Co-investment Fund	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Just starting with the NBN Regional Co-investment Fund, can you confirm the \$300 million is coming from borrowing sourced through debt markets?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: How much of the co-investment fund has been spent so far?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Not a large amount. I do not know the exact amount but not much to date. I will see if I can get the answer to that. I'd say it's \$10 million, but let me just check. It is that sort of range. We'll try and get you the exact number.</p>	26/10/2021	108
55	SQ21-000938	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Rex Patrick	ABC - Negotiations with supplier	<p>Mr Anderson: It's obviously a negotiation with the one supplier. They were up-front that that was the minimum cost for them. I wasn't part of that negotiation. I was kept abreast of it at that point in time. I didn't get the impression that there was any belief that there was any gouging going on here on behalf of the ABC; rather, it was a negotiation held in good faith to ensure those services could continue through those elements of regional Australia.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: I wasn't in any way suggesting you haven't achieved value for money; it was really about the process by which</p>	26/10/2021	94

					<p>you go through. Do you compare with perhaps similar services overseas? A lot of Commonwealth contracts, for example, if there is a sole-source arrangement or limited tender arrangement, there's the ability to look at the books to make sure there is no gouging. Is that the case with the ABC?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll respond to you on notice. We do have a similar provider in BAI, which provides other transmission services for us. We would have had that comparison; although that's a massive contract. But there were the components within that. I will confirm that on notice with you.</p>		
56	SQ21-000939	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Chisholm	NBN Co - Co-investment Fund - Project transparency	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: In terms of transparency, will NBN Co be publishing details about how much it will invest and how many premises will benefit on a project-by-project basis?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I haven't thought that through. I'll have to think about that. Certainly, when it comes to transparency with the states, no program will be more transparent with the states. At the end of the day, we're using NBN money and state money, and the states would expect full transparency-timing of the programs, what premises are being built et cetera. In terms of making it available outside of the states, I haven't thought that through, but certainly within the state it absolutely would be. I would expect there to be teams from NBN and teams from the state that would be very much involved in governing the programs.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: We'd certainly be expecting some transparency as well.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Yes. Let me take that on notice and think how I can best address that.</p>	26/10/2021	109
57	SQ21-000940	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Rex Patrick	ABC - Contract provisions	<p>Senator PATRICK: What provisions are in the contract? I'm happy for you to take this on notice, because I'd like to know this in some detail. What are the provisions in the contract relating to continuity of services, particularly during emergencies?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Again, I will confirm on notice but my understanding is in both the RBAH contract as well as the BAI contract, there is</p>	26/10/2021	94

					negotiated in continuation of service. So if there is an outage, best endeavours to restore the outage, depending on what has caused it and what it is. They own the infrastructure; therefore, they're responsible for the maintenance of it and that's in both of those contracts.		
58	SQ21-000941	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Chisholm	NBN Co - Co-investment Fund - Applications	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Sure. How many project applications have been approved to date?</p> <p>Mr Rue: There are two types. There are specific agreements between NBN and the states, and, as you're probably aware, we have come to arrangements with the Victorian government whereby the Victorian government has committed just over \$70 million to co-investment with NBN on a range of programs over a period of multiple years, which we announced a few months ago. I can't remember the exact month, but it was a few months ago. So that's one program.</p> <p>On top of that, there's also what's called the RCIF. That's where there is investment with the Commonwealth government, NBN and councils, for example. I thought you might ask, so I looked this up earlier. We've made 174 estimates, there have been 11 quote requests, and we've committed around \$29 million to date. That's on a range of projects across a range of states. I can send the committee the details rather than bore you by reading them all out now.</p>	26/10/2021	108
59	SQ21-000942	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Response to Budget Estimates 2021 QoN 215 - Brownfield Premises	<p>Senator PRATT: I'm asking questions on behalf of Senator Urquhart about nonresponses to questions on notice. Question on notice No. 215 from budget estimates was:</p> <p>Will all brownfield premises in Australia have access to minimum download speeds of 25 megabits per second by the end of 2021?</p> <p>In answering this question, they referred to question on notice No. 27, which did not answer that specific question. So I'd like to ask the question again now. Given NBN Co believes it has answered this, I'm sure you will be in a position to tell me: in what year will all brownfield premises have access to a minimum speed of 25</p>	26/10/2021	109

					<p>megabits per second as required by Australian law and the statement of expectations?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I will ask one of my team to send me the question on notice. I guess when I look at that I'm probably going to respond, 'I'll take that on notice,' again, to answer the question. But let me see what we've responded with. For now, I'll take it on notice. I'm just waiting for it to come through.</p>		
60	SQ21-000943	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Response to Parliamentary QoN 3912 - On-demand FTTP	<p>Senator PRATT: Question No. 3909 asked NBN Co to provide the number of premises that would receive on-demand FTTP access for each of the publicly announced locations.</p> <p>NBN Co answered, 'This is the information that NBN Co has.' However, the response from the minister to the QON referred back to an NBN press release which did not provide a breakdown of premises by each announced location and had nothing to do with what the question on notice requested. So this question on notice will be lodged again. Are you able to confirm that you can provide a response this time for each announced location?</p> <p>Mr Rue: What I can tell you is that I'll talk to the team and see how they've responded and why they've responded that way, and we will respond to your question.</p>	26/10/2021	109
61	SQ21-000944	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Response to Budget Estimates 2021 QoN 102 - 2013 Strategic Review	<p>Senator PRATT: Question on notice No. 102 from budget estimates asked questions clarifying figures contained in the 2013 NBN strategic review pertaining to scenario 2. The department responded by saying, 'Questions related to the 2013 strategic review should be directed to NBN Co Limited.' Why wasn't this question on notice transferred to NBN Co for a response?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I don't know the answer to that question. That sounds like a question for the department, or maybe it was sent to us. I don't know, Senator. We attempt to be very diligent in answering all of these questions. If it was sent to us I'm sure we would have, but I honestly don't know. I haven't heard of that. Again, I'll ask my team if they can send me some of this by email. I may be able to help you.</p>	26/10/2021	109-110

					<p>Senator PRATT: Okay. What is the rough range of costs per premises that you have seen to date for the fibre upgrades in the fixed wireless footprint?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Maybe Kathrine might be able to answer that. I think we'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Yes, we will, Stephen. I don't have those figures at hand.</p>		
62	SQ21-000945	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - Agile training - Field Staff	<p>Senator KITCHING: Thank you. What was the Agile training conducted by NBN Co's HR department?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I'm not sure if that question on Agile based training was related to the field, because, to my knowledge, there's never been Agile based training to the field. Is the question more general in nature?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Can I ask you: did it take place in Sydney in August 2020?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Agile based training for the field?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I would need to check that, but not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Does Agile training have a syllabus?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I would need to take that on notice, because I'm not aware of Agile based training being utilised. If the question is about the field-</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: It wasn't done in the field; it was done in an office.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: For the field staff-is that your question?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I'll need to look into that, because I'm not aware of it.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Agile training-I think you're calling it Agile based training-was done in an office in Sydney. I think it was in August last year.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Right. I will absolutely take that on notice because I-</p>	26/10/2021	111
63	SQ21-000946	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - Agile training offerings	<p>Senator KITCHING: Ms Dyer, do you run Agile training, or Agile based training, in the HR department?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I will have to take that on notice.</p>	26/10/2021	111-112

					<p>Senator KITCHING: You're the chief operating officer. Do you have HR in your remit?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: No, I don't, and I'm not aware of Agile based training being utilised in the field.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: No, no; it wasn't in the field. It wasn't done in the field. It was done in an office in Sydney.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: But focused on the field workforce or just focused on the [inaudible]?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I was hoping you could tell me. I know that it was done for field based safety workers, but it was maybe done for others.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Could we take that on notice, because I don't have HR reporting into my area. But absolutely we could check that for you.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Maybe you can ask Ms Kincaid, while we're here this evening: Who ran the Agile training course? What was the cost of Agile training for 2020? My understanding is that it was over \$200,000. Was the training cut short early, and, if yes, why? Were field based safety workers involved in this training, and how many?</p> <p>How many were flown in from different parts of Australia to take part in the training? Were any complaints or displeasure from this cohort recorded regarding the training? My understanding is that some people were unimpressed that they were playing with Lego. How many field based safety workers were there at the start of 2020 and how many are there currently?</p>		
64	SQ21-000947	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - Staff satisfaction Survey Overall	<p>Senator KITCHING: [...] NBN conducts a staff survey entitled the 'Great place to work survey'. Is this correct?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Yes, we do. It's a standard engagement survey that we do an annually, yes.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: What was the average overall satisfaction score for the last survey?</p>	26/10/2021	112

					Mr Rue: I think it was 76 per cent. I'll just check that and make sure it's right.		
65	SQ21-000948	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - Staff satisfaction Survey HR	<p>Senator KITCHING: I'd like the average overall satisfaction score for the HR department.</p> <p>Mr Rue: I think it was broadly the same as the company, but I'll check that.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I'd like the other sections of NBN Co's overall satisfaction score as well.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Let us take that on notice.</p>	26/10/2021	112
66	SQ21-000949	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Alexander Antic	ABC - ABC Kids Community social media page post	<p>Senator ANTIC: That being the case, does the ABC then have any plans to let other groups talk to children on that show; Christian groups, for example, who might talk about a different version of gender fluidity and sexuality? Are there any examples of that? Does the ABC have any plans to do so?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't know, but I wouldn't preclude that idea.</p> <p>Senator ANTIC: That's a no by the sounds of it.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll give you a response on notice.</p>	26/10/2021	96
67	SQ21-000950	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - Built and Fully Operational Event - Jessica Rowe	<p>Senator KITCHING: In the financial year ended 30 June 2020 you held a virtual event for all staff to mark the completion of the volume rollout. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Did you engage media personality Jessica Rowe to appear at this virtual event?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Yes, we did.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: What was she engaged to do at the event?</p> <p>Mr Rue: She basically coordinated, again on a virtual basis, the questions to me and the executive team.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Questions to the whole executive team or to you principally?</p> <p>Mr Rue: No, it was the whole executive team. Clearly, I had a large part to play, but it wasn't just about me. As I said, it was the whole executive team.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: How much was she paid?</p>	26/10/2021	112

					Mr Rue: I'll have to take that on notice. Senator KITCHING: My understanding is it's about \$100,000. Mr Rue: Let me take that on notice.		
68	SQ21-000951	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - Hiring of media personalities	Senator KITCHING: Mr Rue, did you engage, employ or hire the services of a media personality? Did you engage, employ or hire the services of a business or executive coach, motivational speaker, entertainer, events planner, events designer or events stylist, marketing agency, business development agency? I was given no cost. They are very specific questions; I gave you a specific financial year-no response. Mr Rue: Again, let me take that back, let me take that on notice- Senator KITCHING: It's question No. 2386, and I'd like it answered properly. Mr Rue: Okay. Thank you.	26/10/2021	114
69	SQ21-000952	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Alexander Antic	ABC - inappropriate images	Senator ANTIC: The link on that story contained a link to Mr Jenek's social media profile through the ABC community Twitter account. That link contained some fairly inappropriate images including one of Mr Jenek half-clothed. Was the ABC aware that Mr Jenek's account contained images that were thoroughly inappropriate for children, and, if so, why the link to it? Mr Anderson: I can't answer that; I don't know. From recollection, I think we had an issue with that, frankly. But I can't remember offhand. Mr McMurtrie, do you remember that? Ms McMurtrie: No, I don't. I'm sorry, we'd need to take a closer look.	26/10/2021	96
70	SQ21-000953	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - KPMG audit - date of review	Senator SHELDON: Whilst we're dancing around, let's go to this next question. Was an order commenced after the \$75-per-job supplement payment? Ms Dyer: The review was actually initiated-and I'll have to get the exact date-back in, I think, the end of March. So we actually commenced our review back then. So it was prior to the \$75 rate being introduced.	26/10/2021	118

71	SQ21-000954	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - KPMG audit - Interim Report	<p>Senator SHELDON: It is getting very, very difficult to get clear answers here. Has KPMG provided you with an interim report?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: We do have a report related to the overall enablement and implementation of that new operating-</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Are you able to make that available to the committee?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: To answer you in a short way, I'll take that question on notice.</p>	26/10/2021	119
72	SQ21-000955	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Application of APS social media guidelines to statutory office holders	<p>Senator URQUHART: Thank you. I just want to talk about a tweet from a board member. Minister or Secretary, if I can go to you first, do the APS social media guidelines apply to statutory office holders in the communications portfolio?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'm not sure. I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Mr Windeyer, you would know that.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: No, Senator, I'm sorry. To be sure, I'd have to take it on notice and check.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Really? So you don't know if the APS social media guidelines apply to statutory office holders in the communications portfolio? You don't know that?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I would have to take it on notice. I don't know whether the APS guidelines apply to statutory officers.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Do they apply to SBS board members?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Again, I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: It is extraordinary that you don't know that, Mr Windeyer. You've been in this department for a long period of time. [inaudible] can sit there and tell me you don't know that.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Yes. I'm sorry, I don't know how the APS social media guidelines apply to SBS or its board members.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What about to statutory office holders-you don't even know that?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I've answered that question. I'm happy to take that on notice. I don't know the answer, I'm sorry.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: You don't know if they apply to ACMA</p>	26/10/2021	97-98

					<p>members?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'm sorry, I'm going to have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: And the eSafety Commissioner?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Similarly, as a statutory office holder, I'll have to take it on notice.</p>		
73	SQ21-000956	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - KPMG audit - cost and resources	<p>Senator SHELDON: Mr Rue, Labor understands that there were discussions within NBN Co whereby the KPMG audit was referred to as an exercise which had been 'designed to disappear up its own backside'. Were you present at a meeting where the KPMG audit was referred to in this manner?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I've never heard that.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: How much is NBN Co paying for the KPMG report?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I don't have that with me. We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Which partner is leading the work?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Mark Tims.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: How many consultants does KPMG have on this project?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: The review that we are completing is based on a review period, so, again, I couldn't answer directly how many people are looking at all the elements of the review.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Yes.</p>	26/10/2021	119
74	SQ21-000957	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - KPMG audit - consultation with the Union	<p>Senator SHELDON: Has KPMG met with the union?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: As part of the review, as part of the interview process, a number of technicians were invited to take part and provide interview feedback. Based on that, the subcontractors could have brought a union representative to those meetings, but, obviously, we wanted that to be absolutely confidential in nature, so I don't have the detail of whether union members turned up to those meetings.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I'm not talking about confidential meetings. I'm talking about whether there has been a reach-out by KPMG to the</p>	26/10/2021	119

					<p>elected leaders of the union that represents those NBN technicians.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I would need to take that on notice.</p>		
75	SQ21-000958	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - Presupplement payment rates	<p>Senator SHELDON: ... Has NBN Co examined whether the presupplement payment rates flowing through to subcontractors represent for technicians a fair return on a labour and capital?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: The intent of the interim enablement was very much focused on technicians that were unable or needed additional assistance in being able to work through what rates they could claim, but for those technicians that couldn't work it out, we do feel and we do believe that that is balancing up for those technicians as we continue to simplify the process and roll out further improvements, and we're making great progress on that front.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: You can take this on notice if you haven't got it there handy. Can you tell me what you consider a fair return on labour and capital and the rise and fall formula you use for that.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I'm certainly happy to take that on notice. But the way our agreement is with our delivery partners, we pay them to perform certain work and activities. That is costed out. That exercise that you're asking for is costed fully by our delivery partners. So, again, I will take that on notice, but the response will come back in that format.</p>	26/10/2021	120
76	SQ21-000959	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - FTTC - Cost of building fibre lead-ins	<p>Senator PRATT: What is the cost of building fibre lead-ins out to 2024? In your letter to Minister Fletcher on 15 April, explaining a fibre-to-the-curb backflip, can I ask-</p> <p>Mr Rue: Sorry, Senator, what letter are you referring to?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: A 15 April letter explaining the fibre-to-the-curb backflip debacle. I'm sure that you wouldn't characterise the letter that way, but the chronology of events detailed in an NBN document pertaining to a freedom of information request seeking to access that letter-are you aware of the letter I'm speaking of?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I'm not aware of the letter you're talking about. Can you</p>	26/10/2021	122

					<p>table that and then we can take that on notice. Sorry, I'm not being-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: We're trying it get a copy of that letter that you wrote to Minister Fletcher on 15 April.</p> <p>Mr Rue: I'm sorry. I'll have to take that on notice.</p>		
77	SQ21-000960	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - FTTC - FOI August 2021	<p>Senator PRATT: On 11 August this year the department received an FOI request for a copy of that letter. On 16 August the department requested that NBN accept transfer of the FOI and NBN accepted. On 3 September NBN advised the applicant they would reject the FOI request on the basis that the letter was in respect of NBN's commercial activities and is exempt. The applicant requested an internal review of that decision. NBN undertook the internal review and said, 'Having reviewed the request, we're satisfied that it wholly refers to NBN's commercial activities and that the document was brought into existence in the course of the carrying out of NBN's commercial activities.' It's an email that explains NBN's reasons for using certain access methods, 'for example, fibre on demand and G.fast in relation to FTTC, depending on the premises and wholesale access speed. The reasons include technical, possible regulatory and service provider, stakeholder reactions, timing and commercial reasons. These factors relate to NBN achieving a commercial outcome. Given that the build and operation of the network impacts NBN's revenue its intrinsically commercial release of the document would be disclosing NBN's network upgrade methodology and would likely provide NBN's competitors with an unfair advantage and would be likely to impact on commercial activity.' Mr Rue, who are NBN Co's competitors and how could they possibly obtain an unfair competitive advantage if the parliament or the media obtained a copy of an email explaining the Commonwealth government's backflip in relation to this technology?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Firstly, we take our freedom of information responsibilities very seriously. But secondly-</p>	26/10/2021	122

					<p>Senator PRATT: What about your obligation to the Senate to provide this information?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Again, I can answer that question on notice, but we take our freedom of information system very seriously. In terms of competitors, we've got many competitors. We've got people selling mobile services against the NBN; we have competition in the new developments market, for example; we have competition in the fixed wireless market; and we've got competition in enterprise and business. Lots of people think we don't, but we have lots and lots of competition.</p>		
78	SQ21-000961	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Appointment of Mr Vic Alhadeff to the SBS board	<p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, just let me check. Mr Alhadeff was not recommended by the nomination panel for the vacancy. So he clearly did not come through a recruitment process run by the nomination panel. But what I don't have in front of me is whether a recruitment firm was engaged for the purposes of running a process around that vacancy. I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay. So he didn't come through that process, but you don't know if a recruitment firm was utilised?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: No, I don't. I'm very happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you indicate the total budget of the nomination panel?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: The nomination panel process is, as you alluded to, run through PM&C, so I don't have those details in front of me. But I am happy to take that on notice as well.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Could you take that on notice and could you include any recruitment firms used and the secretariat services-so that total budget?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Certainly, yes.</p>	26/10/2021	99
79	SQ21-000962	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - FTTC - cost forecasts	<p>Senator PRATT: I'm seeking to be clear about this. You've reneged on your previous commitment to inform the Senate of how many fibre-to-the-curb lead-ins you plan to build. I'm assuming that this is because you know it's more expensive than Paul Fletcher's announcement. In the last Senate estimates, you said it would be</p>	26/10/2021	122-123

				<p>disclosed in this estimates. Now you're saying you cannot disclose it. Your lack of-</p> <p>Mr Rue: No, not at all. The reason is-as we've laid out before-that, now we are borrowing money internationally, we have new obligations. That prevents me from talking about future forecasts. That's the rationale.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So you're making a public interest immunity claim that those obligations override the Senate's obligation and your obligation to be transparent here?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I'm not familiar, as you would be, Senator, with-what did you say?-public interest immunity. But what I do know is-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Mr Rue, I'm reminding you that you have an obligation to answer the questions if you have the information. It was very unclear to me why you were unable to answer it when, clearly, you knew the question and knew the background behind it.</p> <p>Mr Rue: In terms of-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The only grounds on which you have a premise for not answering the question are that there's a public interest claim to not do so.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Senator, you would know the rules much better than I would.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Indeed, I probably do.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think that claim is actually a claim that the minister makes, rather than the company. I think that's right. But the thing that determines that is whether there is harm to the company, and there is clear harm to the company in talking about long-term forecasts.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I understand what you're saying, but it's not harm to the company; it's whether it damages the public interest. That might be weighed up against harm to the company. Can I ask-</p> <p>CHAIR: I think you need to take the question on notice.</p>		
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80	SQ21-000963	NBN Co Limited	Andrew Bragg	NBN Co - KPMG audit - Interim Report tabling	<p>CHAIR: There has been some extensive discussion about this KPMG report. Mr Rue, will you be taking that as a question on notice-to return with that report?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Sorry; what's your question?</p> <p>CHAIR: Will you be tabling the KPMG report as part of your answers?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Let us take that on notice.</p>	26/10/2021	123
81	SQ21-000964	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Correspondence to Minister raising complaints against the appointment of Mr Alhadeff	<p>Senator URQUHART: Minister, has Minister Fletcher received any correspondence from groups who are concerned about the appointment of Mr Alhadeff?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can't answer that.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Could you take it on notice?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can take it on notice, but I would imagine that board appointments are almost always contentious. There are an awful lot of community groups that would like to be represented on the SBS board.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: If you could take that on notice, and provide us with the groups, that would be great. What is the minister and SBS's response to those concerns?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Well, I don't know whether there have been any concerns, so I can't tell you what the responses-</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: No, but you were going to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator Hume: Yes.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Are you able to provide that on notice as well?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Yes.</p>	26/10/2021	100
82	SQ21-000965	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Rex Patrick	SBS - Concerns and feedback from audiences on in-program breaks	<p>Senator PATRICK: I was going to come back to the question of whether you've made an assessment about your audiences and try to get an understanding of the level of concern. Have you made any effort to do that at all?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: We make a lot of effort to understand all concerns or feedback from audiences. We have about 4,000 contacts from audience members every month. On average we respond to</p>	26/10/2021	101

					<p>contacts in less than 10 hours. We address 80 per cent of contacts in a first contact. We have a post-resolution satisfaction score of over 85 per cent. We take audience feedback very seriously. If you're asking whether I get a lot of feedback from audiences about the way in which advertisements are inserted during programs, I would say, no, it's a very, very, very small issue that audiences provide us feedback on.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: My question did go to quantum. I'm not suggesting anything. But having said that, it's a small amount, it would be good to ground that in some way by saying, 'This is how we've done that.'</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I'm very happy to take the question on notice and give you some quant. to back my qualitative perception.</p>		
83	SQ21-000967	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Australia Council Board code of conduct	<p>Senator PRATT: Yes. Is there anything in the contract for board members that would bring that behaviour into question-for example, bringing the council into disrepute?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I'd just need to check that on notice, as to-</p> <p>Dr Arnott: What the obligations are with respect to that.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Yes; the Australia Council board would have a code of conduct and they would be responsible for making sure-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Noting that the Australia Council's mission is to bring audiences together and it is a matter of public safety that we want to be able to promote vaccination in audiences, how does it serve Australia's arts community and the Australian public attending events if one of its board members gets away with saying stuff like that publicly?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: That's what I'd need to just check, the difference between private citizens posting things and people acting in official capacities, and those sorts of things. I can take that on notice and have a look at what the answer is.</p>	26/10/2021	107-108
84	SQ21-000968	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	David Van	ABC - interview by Sabra Lane about	<p>Senator VAN: If, in news bulletins, we were hearing people giving opinion or editorialising, that would be against the guidelines, wouldn't it?</p>	26/10/2021	85

				<p>COVID vaccine rollout</p>	<p>Mr McMurtrie: I would need to answer that on a case-by-case basis. Obviously we have the opinions of newsmakers contained in news stories.</p> <p>Senator VAN: I'm talking about your reporters. I'll run through some examples for you if you'd like. On 1 July, a news piece on AM titled 'Confusion over AstraZeneca vaccine advice'. Sabra Lane, in her opening line of the piece says:</p> <p>The bitter spat between politicians and health officials over Australia's bungled COVID vaccine rollout ...</p> <p>Using the term 'bungled' is an opinion. She's not basing that on any fact, is she? She's not quoting anyone. She's not citing a reference for that. How is that not opinion?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: We say to our people that they need to be evidence based. Depending on the timing of the issue and where it is in the debate, they can draw a professional judgement. Sabra is a very, very experienced political journalist and presenter. She can form a judgement so long as that judgement is evidence based.</p> <p>Senator VAN: What was the evidence for it? Can you take that on notice and have that provided to us?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: I would need to have a close-</p> <p>Senator VAN: You agree with me that the term 'bungled' is quite loaded and is an opinion, don't you? It's a loaded term.</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: I would need to take a look at the specific example.</p>		
85	SQ21-000978	Screen Australia	Anne Urquhart	<p>SCREEN AUS - Funding for Australian content</p>	<p>When the government announced its planned changes to screen policy in September 2020, including the offset changes contained in Treasury Laws Amendment (2021 Measures No. 5) Bill 2021, it announced in a press release "\$30 million in funding to Screen Australia over two years to support the production of Australian drama, documentary and children's film and television content".</p> <p>Has that money come to Screen Australia?</p> <p>a. If yes, has that funding been distributed to the industry yet?</p> <p>i. If so, when and how?</p> <p>ii. If not, why not?</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					b. If not, when will this funding be given to Screen Australia and when will it be distributed to industry?		
86	SQ21-000979	Screen Australia	Anne Urquhart	SCREEN AUS - Australian content quota review	It's now been nearly a year since changes were made to Australian content quotas for commercial television. What plans does Screen Australia have to review the impact of the changes? Will such a review be made public?	26/10/2021	Written
87	SQ21-000980	Screen Australia	Anne Urquhart	SCREEN AUS - Screen fund unused funds	On the Supporting Cinemas' Retention Endurance and Enhancement of Neighbourhoods (SCREEN) Fund for independent cinemas – if any of the total \$20 million funding has not been committed after 24 December 2021, when applications have closed, what will happen to any leftover funds?	26/10/2021	Written
88	SQ21-000981	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Malcolm Roberts	Response to Senate Inquiry report	It is now over twelve months since Ms Holgate was unfairly removed from her position and five months since twenty-five (25) recommendations were handed down by the Senate Inquiry. When will Minister Fletcher respond to this scathing report? What is being done?	26/10/2021	Written
89	SQ21-000982	Australian Postal Corporation	Malcolm Roberts	AUS POST - Stage 2 of payment reform implementation date	In regard to Australia Post licensees, stage 1 of payment reform was implemented in 2019. It is now 2021, will stage 2 of the payment reforms be implemented from 1 January 2022, as previously stated by Ms Sheffield at the last Senate Estimates?	26/10/2021	Written
90	SQ21-000983	Australian Postal Corporation	Malcolm Roberts	AUS POST - Outcomes for unviable post offices	Australia Post licensees in some regions have been doing it tough as the whole nature of their industry changes. Given that they paid for licenses to operate post offices on behalf of Australia Post, will they be compensated or have their contracts paid out where these offices are no longer viable? What provision exists to compensate affected Post Office licensees?	26/10/2021	Written
91	SQ21-000984	Australian Postal Corporation	Malcolm Roberts	AUS POST - Casual conversion and conditions	We are concerned to ensure that casual workers are not disadvantaged the way casual coal miners have been abused in the Hunter Valley and Queensland. Are casual labour hire and directly employed casual workers paid under the same terms and conditions as permanent employees and do they have a right to	26/10/2021	Written

					convert to permanent status as Australia Post employees? How many have converted in the past 6 months?		
92	SQ21-000985	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Australia Council board member Rebecca Weisser	1. What action has been taken against Australia Council board member, Rebecca Weisser, in relation to her anti-vaccination social media activity? 2. Has Ms Weisser's social media activity been raised with her by anyone at the Australia Council, within the Department, or within the Minister's office?	26/10/2021	Written
93	SQ21-001018	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Sarah Hanson-Young	SBS - Pre-existing break markers in 2020	Follow up from SBS in their answer 1 to Question No: 253 16 June 2021 asked by Senator Sarah Hanson-Young. a. What percent of programs were broadcast by SBS in 2020 that did not have any pre-existing break markers when delivered to SBS?	26/10/2021	Written
94	SQ21-001019	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Sarah Hanson-Young	SBS - Payout logs for selected broadcast times	Could SBS supply the complete and detailed payout logs for SBS Melbourne, showing the precise broadcast times (measured down to the hour, minute and second) of every program segment and all breaks, naming individual advertisements, promos, and other spots - showing their individual durations and advertising totals for each hour - in the seven continuous hours from 5:30PM to 12:30AM (the next day) as listed below: CHANNEL DATE Food 4/6/2020 World Movies 3/6/2020 VICELAND 2/6/2020 Primary 1/6/2020 TWO 20/2/2014 ONE 13/2/2014 ONE 6/6/2012 TWO 8/4/2011 ONE 7/4/2011 SBS ONE 10/11/2009	26/10/2021	Written

95	SQ21-001020	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Complaint handling by Screen Australia, Australian Children's Television Foundation and Ausfilm	What do the following have as formal processes for handling of complaints or reviews of performance by stakeholders: a. Screen Australia b. Australian Children's Television Foundation c. Ausfilm	26/10/2021	Written
96	SQ21-001021	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Consultation, fund allocation and reporting by Screen Australia, Australian Children's Television Foundation and AusFilm	What's the formal consultation process with industry by which objectives are determined for the allocation of money to Screen Australia, Australian Children's Television Foundation and AusFilm? a. What is the reporting against objectives that each of these 3 bodies provide the Government? b. Given much of the usual work of AusFilm has been disrupted by covid, what are the funds allocated to AusFilm being used for?	26/10/2021	Written
97	SQ21-001022	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	RISE Budget	Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That would be helpful. I think you've already given the total figure that's been requested through the RISE program, or have you only given the figure for what has been committed? Mr Arnott: I've given the figure for committed and spent to date. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Can I have the figure for what has been requested, because we know it's been oversubscribed. Mr Arnott: It has been a very popular program. The total number of applications received up to the end of batch 5 is 1,548. I don't have the amount of money that was requested, so I'll have to take that on notice.	26/10/2021	12
98	SQ21-001023	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	David Van	ABC - interview by James Glenday about handling of pandemic	Senator VAN: I will table all these and you can take these on notice. The next one, again on AM, on 19 July, the opening talks about the problem plagued program-being the vaccine rollout. The reporter, James Glenday, repeats in his opening line, 'problem plagued vaccine program'. Again an opinion and again quite loaded terms.	26/10/2021	85

					<p>Mr McMurtrie: I would need to look at the contents of James's report. But if he has spoken to credible sources who have said to him in his report that a program is bungled, not optimal or whatever, then, in the introduction to that story, he can characterise the story in that way.</p> <p>Senator VAN: And if he hasn't?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: We produce hundreds of stories and publish thousands of words every week. I'd need to have a closer look.</p>		
99	SQ21-001036	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	David Van	ABC - Editorial standards	<p>1. Should the ABC uphold itself to the same editorial standards as other commercial broadcasters or should the ABC have different editorial standards to commercial broadcasters? Why?</p> <p>2. Is the Editorial Guidance Note "Differentiating Between Factual Reporting, Analysis and Opinion" given to all news reporting staff and are they made aware of the difference between reporting, analysis and opinion?</p> <p>3. Are these Guidelines enforced?</p> <p>4. What internal process does the ABC management undertake to ensure editorial standards are being met in news reports?</p> <p>5. How many times has ABC management investigated news reports for breaching editorial standards?</p> <p>6. How many times have the ABC found incidences of news reports breaching editorial standards and found there has been unjustified use of opinion in news reports?</p> <p>7. In the Supplementary Budget Estimates on Tuesday 26 October 2021, Mr McMurtrie justified the use of opinion in the news articles by stating that these terms may be used if they have spoken credible sources, stating that "I would need to look at the contents of James's report. But if he has spoken to credible sources who have said to him in his report that a program is bungled, not optimal or whatever, then, in the introduction to that story, he can characterise the story in that way." Now that you have heard or read James Glenday's interview on AM from 19 July 2021 titled "Poll suggests Australians think premiers handling pandemic better</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					<p>than PM"? Do you believe that the Editorial Guidance was breached in relation to submitting opinion into a factual story with his use of the term "problem plagued"? We note that the guests he spoke to on the program Lieutenant General John Frewen does not go on to discuss any problems with the vaccine rollout and the other Guests Bill Brown, Bob Carr and Jeff Kennett only discuss matters of the state Governments handling of COVID-19. The number of 10 million doses is mentioned arguably in the context of a positive milestone.</p> <p>8. In the same manner, did Sabra Lane in the introduction to the Alexia Attwood piece on AM titled "Confusion over AstraZeneca Vaccine advice" breach editorial guidance relation to submitting opinion into a factual story with his use of the term "bungled" as those interviewed on the show was a 30 year old nurse who discussed vaccine hesitancy and the Director of Alice Springs brewing Co who discussed lockdowns could hardly be described as credible sources on the vaccine rollout and did not even touch on the topic on the success or failures of the rollout?</p> <p>9. Editorial Policy 4 Impartiality and Diversity of Perspectives was last revised on August 18, 2014. Why has there been no to update to policy since 2014?</p>		
100	SQ21-001037	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anne Urquhart	ABC - Funding cuts	<p>1. Since 2014, by what amounts have the following been reduced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ABC funding ABC staffing (roles and ASL count). <p>2. What specific cuts to staff, content and services has the ABC had to make as a result of the indexation pause from 2019-20 to 2021-22?</p> <p>3. What is the ongoing impact of the indexation pause on ABC funding into the future, from mid-2022?</p> <p>4. Since 2014, what percentage reduction has there been overall in ABC commissioned content in the following genres (expressed as a percentage):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Drama 	26/10/2021	Written

					<p>b. Factual</p> <p>c. Documentary</p> <p>d. Comedy</p> <p>e. Children's.</p> <p>5. Since 2014, what key additional and/or rising costs has the ABC had to manage?</p>		
101	SQ21-001038	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anne Urquhart	ABC - Children's television	How much funding has the ABC secured under the \$20 million announced by the Minister in September 2020 for the Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF) over two years to boost the development, production and distribution of high-quality Australian children's content?	26/10/2021	Written
102	SQ21-001039	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anne Urquhart	ABC - ABC staff underpayments and buyouts	<p>1. Has an advisory firm been retained by the ABC to investigate underpayments and to undertake a review of "buyouts" of penalties and overtime for certain staff?</p> <p>a. If so, what firm?</p> <p>b. If so, what is the value of the contract?</p> <p>2. What are the terms of reference or guidelines provided to the advisory firm in relation to the underpayments/buyout review?</p> <p>3. What outcome is the ABC seeking from this review?</p> <p>4. Could the removal of buyouts for certain staff amount to a 25 percent pay cut for other staff?</p> <p>5. What information is the advisory firm using to base its recommendations on?</p> <p>6. Will the advisory firm base its recommendations only using "rostered hours" rather than actual hours?</p> <p>7. What impact could the removal of a 25 percent buyout agreed in negotiations have for staff? Could it impact their mortgage repayments and superannuation?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
103	SQ21-001040	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anne Urquhart	ABC - Staff morale and engagement	<p>1. What mechanisms does the ABC have in place to monitor and mitigate the effects of political interference and harassment ? (for individual staff and program-making)</p> <p>2. For example, the ABC used to do staff surveys of morale and</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					engagement. Are these surveys ongoing? If so, what are the results? If not, why and what has filled its place?		
104	SQ21-001041	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Anne Urquhart	eSafety - Dr Anne Webster MP PMB	<p>1. The Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster, introduced a Private Members Bill in the House of Representatives, the Social Media (Basic Expectations and Defamation) Bill 2021.</p> <p>a. Did eSafety provide any advice to Dr Webster on this Bill?</p> <p>b. Did eSafety provide any advice to the Minister or Department on this Bill?</p> <p>c. Did eSafety provide any advice to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel on this Bill?</p> <p>2. Dr Webster's Explanatory Memorandum states that "the bill will have no financial impact", does eSafety expect that if the Government backs this bill that the additional resource demand will be met from existing departmental resources, or reallocations from within the eSafety Commissioner?</p> <p>3. The Bill would give the Commissioner powers to declare content defamatory, subject review in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.</p> <p>a. Does eSafety believe that it an appropriate role for the eSafety commissioner to be deciding that material is reasonably likely to be defamatory?</p> <p>b. Would eSafety expect there to be costs associated in AAT processes and who is likely to bear these costs?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
105	SQ21-001042	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Anne Urquhart	eSafety - Advices	<p>1. On what date/s has the eSafety Commissioner provided formal advice to the Minister or Department on dating apps, like Tinder?</p> <p>2. On what date/s has the eSafety Commissioner provided formal advice to the Minister or Department on suicide videos online?</p> <p>3. On what date/s has the eSafety Commissioner provided formal advice to the Minister or Department on hate speech online?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
106	SQ21-001043	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Nick McKim	eSafety - Online Safety Act and sex work	<p>1. An article on Independent Australia in which the Online Safety Act was described as a very "women unfriendly" Act said "this well-meaning law might also get women killed" because similar laws in the US have forced sex workers offline and into unsafe work situations. How will the Online Safety Act protect women</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					<p>working in sex industries?</p> <p>a. In a Guardian article in March 2021 the eSafety Commissioner claimed that the intention of the Online Safety Act was not to "throttle the sex industry". Is that still the position of the eSafety Commissioner, and if so, how will the Office of the eSafety Commissioner ensure that the Act does not "throttle the sex industry"?</p> <p>i. How is the Office factoring that position into industry codes being developed under the Online Safety Act, and the age verification roadmap and restricted access scheme?</p>		
107	SQ21-001044	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Anne Urquhart	ACMA - Online gambling	<p>1. The self-exclusion register under the National Consumer Protection Framework, for vulnerable gamblers, was meant to be in place by May 2020 but is still not in place. What is the reason for the delay?</p> <p>2. When will the self-exclusion register finally be in place, operational and available as a consumer protection measure?</p> <p>3. What are the key milestones between now and when the register will be operational?</p> <p>4. How will the availability of the self-exclusion register be promoted in the community?</p> <p>5. Does the ACMA have an advertising budget to promote the availability of the self-exclusion register in the community?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
108	SQ21-001045	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Anne Urquhart	ACMA - Misinformation	<p>1. On 30 June 2021, the ACMA provided a report to the Minister on the broader impacts of misinformation in Australia, among other things. Do any of the ACMA's findings on the broader impacts of misinformation in Australia relate to:</p> <p>a) bushfires?</p> <p>b) COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>c) elections?</p> <p>2. Does the ACMA find that the digital platforms' measures under the voluntary code to be adequate or inadequate?</p> <p>3. What information from platforms about misinformation would it</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					be useful for the ACMA to have, and does the ACMA currently have the power to compel this information?		
109	SQ21-001046	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Anne Urquhart	ACMA - Digital radio	Please provide an update on work to progress the rollout of digital radio in regional Australia?	26/10/2021	Written
110	SQ21-001047	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Anne Urquhart	ACMA - News in Australia	<p>1. In December 2020, the ACMA published "News in Australia: diversity and localism News measurement framework" which outlined the potential design and outputs of a news measurement framework, along with implementation options. Since then, what contact has there been between the ACMA and the Minister and/or Department to progress consideration of, or work to implement a news measurement framework?</p> <p>2. Since December 2020, what contact has there been between the ACMA and the ACCC to progress consideration of, or work to implement a news measurement framework?</p> <p>3. The ACMA paper states that "Work to measure and track levels of diversity and localism over time would likely be valuable to policymakers across the government and could provide an evidence base that helps inform future regulatory reform in the media sector, including on issues of regulatory harmonisation." Please elaborate on how this work may inform future regulatory reform, including harmonisation?</p> <p>4. Has the ACMA received any additional resources to implement a news measurement framework?</p> <p>5. What, if anything, is the ACMA doing to progress this work, subject to resourcing considerations and potential sensitivities?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
111	SQ21-001048	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Anne Urquhart	ACMA - Research on media influence	<p>1. What research has the ACMA undertaken to assess the degree of influence of various media in Australia?</p> <p>2. How influential is subscription television as opposed to commercial television in Australia, and does this assessment change in view of the availability of subscription television content on platforms such as YouTube?</p>	26/10/2021	Written

112	SQ21-001049	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nick McKim	BOSE consultations	<p>Have online service providers been consulted about expectations under BOSE?</p> <p>a. How does the Department plan to ensure these expectations on online service providers don't contradict government initiatives in privacy and security?</p> <p>i. Will requirements to age-gate data lead to additional personal data being generated and stored. If not, how/why not?</p> <p>ii. Does the Department believe online service providers will be more likely to take actions to censor content on adult industry sites rather than age-gate it, given the requirements in privacy law that require them to minimise the collection of personal data, and if not, why not?</p> <p>iii. How does the Department believe the BOSE will impact on sex workers?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
113	SQ21-001050	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nick McKim	Online Safety Act and unlawful online content	Does the enactment of the Online Safety Act mean that previous surveillance laws the Government has enacted (including the so-called de-encryption laws) were inadequate for dealing with unlawful content online?	26/10/2021	Written
114	SQ21-001051	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nick McKim	Online Safety Act engagement internationally	<p>Given that the Online Safety Act's codes are going to apply to websites hosted offshore, how does the Department plan to engage with the international sex industry?</p> <p>a. How cooperative do you believe the industry will be with this initiative?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
115	SQ21-001052	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nick McKim	Online Safety Act privacy	How is the Department going to ensure that the Online Safety Act codes don't compromise users' rights to use services to speak freely in private, or that the security of their personal information sent over email or messaging won't be compromised?	26/10/2021	Written

116	SQ21-001053	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nick McKim	Support to fulfil responsibilities	With the new responsibilities of the Basic Online Safety Expectations (BOSE), how is the Office of the eSafety Commissioner being supported to fulfill those responsibilities?	26/10/2021	Written
117	SQ21-001054	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nick McKim	Online safety - additional approaches	Existing approaches to the regulation of harmful online content centre on forms of content moderation (such as those outlined in the Enhancing Online Safety Act) that fail to address the algorithmic systems that prioritise viral, sensational and conspiratorial content, and have also proven to be less effective in non-English speaking contexts. Is the government considering additional approaches to regulating harmful online content?	26/10/2021	Written
118	SQ21-001055	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Nick McKim	eSafety - Protection of personal information	Does the Office of the eSafety Commissioner consider people who access adult industry sites are likely to be very concerned that their identity will be kept private and their interactions with websites are secure and are not compromised or misused? a. When considering age verification and restricted access schemes, how is the Office going to ensure that citizens will be comfortable with giving details about their identity before accessing adults only websites? i. What measures will the Office put in place to mitigate the risk of the additional data required for age verification and restricted access schemes being hacked?	26/10/2021	Written
119	SQ21-001056	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Nick McKim	eSafety - Overseas cooperation	How does the Office of the eSafety Commissioner plan to get overseas website owners/operators/hosts to cooperate with the various schemes provided for in the Online Safety Act? a. This wicked policy problem was considered a failing of the UK's attempt to implement similar legislation. Have you conducted any outreach with the UK Government? i. Have they indicated any willingness to cooperate?	26/10/2021	Written

120	SQ21-001057	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Nick McKim	eSafety - Adult industry engagement	How is the Office of the eSafety Commissioner engaging with Australian users of adult industry sites affected by reforms under the Online Safety Act? a. As users of adult industry sites may not be forthcoming about such Internet usage, how has the Office promoted this work to the general public?	26/10/2021	Written
121	SQ21-001058	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Nick McKim	eSafety - Private communications	What are the implications for the private communications of Australian citizens under the codes provided for by the Online Safety Act? a. How does the Office of the eSafety Commissioner plan to ensure these codes don't contradict government initiatives in privacy and security? b. Is it considered that requirements to age-gate materials will lead to a lot of additional personal data being generated and stored? c. Is it considered industry will be more likely to take actions to censor content on adult industry sites rather than age-gate it, given the requirements in privacy law that require them to minimise the collection of personal data?	26/10/2021	Written
122	SQ21-001059	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Minister - Social media posts	1. What, if anything, has the Minister done in relation to an inappropriate twitter post by SBS Board Member, Mr Nyunggai Warren Mundine AO? 2. Would it concern the Minister to see repeated pro-Government posts on social media by Board Members of the ABC or SBS? 3. Would it concern the Minister to see repeated pro-Opposition posts on social media by Board Members of the ABC or SBS?	26/10/2021	Written
123	SQ21-001060	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anne Urquhart	ABC - Staff engagement and corporate tracking update	1. Please can you provide the following: a. Results of staff engagement and/or morale surveys done by the ABC over the past five years (2016-2021). b. Results of any other systematic research done into staff engagement and/or morale over the past five years (2016-2021). 2. In January 2020, the ABC published its ABC Corporate Tracking Update: Audience Data & Insights January 2020. It would follow	26/10/2021	Written

					that the ABC is compiling a similar dataset for the current year (i.e. since January 2021). Please provide the data collected to date.		
124	SQ21-001061	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Minister - Dr Anne Webster MP PMB	<p>1. The Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster MP, introduced a Private Members Bill in the House of Representatives, the Social Media (Basic Expectations and Defamation) Bill 2021. Did the Minister provide any advice to Dr Webster on this Bill?</p> <p>2. Did Dr Webster approach the Minister for information or advice about the Bill, prior to introduction?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
125	SQ21-001062	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Minister - Dating app meetings	On what date/s has the Minister met with providers of dating apps, like Tinder? Please specify date of meeting/s and company met.	26/10/2021	Written
126	SQ21-001063	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Classification review	<p>1. The reporting date for the review of classification regulation was extended to 31 May 2020. On what date was the report provided to (a) the Minister; and (b) the Department?</p> <p>2. What was the cost of the Stevens' Review (include fees, ASL count, etc.)?</p> <p>3. Has the report been provided to State and Territory counterparts? If so, to whom and on what dates?</p> <p>4. Since 31 May 2020, on what dates has the Minister met with his State and Territory counterparts to discuss the review?</p> <p>5. Since 31 May 2020, on what dates has the Department met with State and Territory counterparts to discuss the review?</p> <p>6. The Government Response and Implementation Roadmap for the Digital Platforms Inquiry describes "developing a uniform classification framework across all media platforms" as a priority reform area, with work to be done in 2020. It is now late 2021. Why hasn't this work yet been completed, and how long until it will be completed?</p> <p>7. Will the new Online Safety Act 2021 commence before the uniform classification framework is in place?</p>	26/10/2021	Written

127	SQ21-001064	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Advertising Review	<p>1. The Government's Response to the Digital Platforms Inquiry flags a "review of advertising rules and restrictions across all delivery platforms" to commence "later in 2020". Has this review commenced?</p> <p>a. If so, when did it commence?</p> <p>b. If not, why not?</p> <p>2. Since the Government Response and Implementation Roadmap for the Digital Platforms Inquiry:</p> <p>a. how many submissions has the Department received to inform a review of advertising rules and restrictions; and</p> <p>b. how were the submissions sought; and</p> <p>c. who were the submissions from; and</p> <p>d. will the submissions be published?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
128	SQ21-001065	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Privacy Reforms	<p>What role, if any, does the Department have in relation to the reform of the Privacy Act and introduction of a privacy code for digital platforms?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
129	SQ21-001066	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Screen consultations	<p>1. Has the Department held screen industry consultation roundtables in 2021? If so, please provide:</p> <p>a. Dates</p> <p>b. Locations</p> <p>c. Companies / stakeholders included.</p> <p>2. Of the independent production companies included in these roundtable consultations:</p> <p>a. How many were Australian companies?</p> <p>b. How many were overseas companies or platforms?</p> <p>c. How many were US companies?</p> <p>3. Were all independent Australian children's screen producers invited to, or given the opportunity to attend, a roundtable?</p> <p>4. Is the Department aware of any independent Australian children's screen production company that was not invited to</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					attend a roundtable? If so, who? 5. On what basis were companies / stakeholders selected for inclusion in the roundtables? 6. Of the roundtables the Department was involved in, how many did the Minister attend?		
130	SQ21-001067	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Digital Radio	Please provide an update on work to progress the rollout of digital radio in regional Australia?	26/10/2021	Written
131	SQ21-001068	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Gambling self-exclusion register	1. The self-exclusion register under the National Consumer Protection Framework, for vulnerable gamblers, was meant to be in place by May 2020 but is still not in place. What is the reason for the delay? 2. When will this finally be in place and available as a consumer protection measure?	26/10/2021	Written
132	SQ21-001069	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Community TV	1. Community TV (CTV) broadcasters C31 Melbourne and C44 Adelaide have been required to prepare reports/documents and supply them to the Department. a. For what purpose were the reports required? b. How often were they required to be supplied? c. How many Departmental staff were involved in assessing these reports? 2. Was this a necessary financial and/or administrative burden on the providers of these broadcasting services? If so, for what reasons? 3. How much funding is available for the community broadcasting sector under the Community Broadcasting Fund? 4. Are CTV broadcasters eligible for funding from the Community Broadcasting Fund? If not, why not? 5. Has the Department been involved in redrafting the deed of funding for the CBF? If so, why?	26/10/2021	Written

					<p>6. Is the Department aware of any need for funding by CTV broadcasters? If so, what is the need and what would it cost to address this need?</p> <p>7. The Government has supported a three-year licence extension to CTV broadcasting. Why would the Department now seek to interfere in funding decisions under the CBF?</p>		
133	SQ21-001070	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Dr Anne Webster MP PMB - advice and impact	<p>1. The Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster, introduced a Private Members Bill in the House of Representatives, the Social Media (Basic Expectations and Defamation) Bill 2021.</p> <p>a. Did the Department provide any advice to Dr Webster on this Bill?</p> <p>b. Did the Department provide any advice to the Minister on this Bill?</p> <p>c. Did the Department provide any advice to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel on this Bill?</p> <p>2. In March 2021 the Council of Attorneys-General released a discussion paper for Stage 2 of its defamation reform process, which is explicitly looking into "the liability of internet intermediaries for defamatory material published online by third-party users". Given the overlap between the private members bill and the national process currently underway, does Dr Webster's Bill pre-empt the findings of the review?</p> <p>3. The relevant intermediaries of many social media service providers are in the US. Is it the Department's view that this Bill will make it easier to enforce judgements against social media providers?</p> <p>4. The Explanatory Memorandum states that "the bill will have no financial impact". Does the Department agree that, if legislated, the requirements under this bill could be met from existing departmental resources and/or eSafety Commissioner resources?</p> <p>5. The Bill would give the Commissioner powers to declare content defamatory. This is likely to result in content being taken down subject to a review processes in the Administrative Appeals</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					<p>Tribunal. Would the Department expect there to be costs associated in appealing a decision by the Commissioner to the ATT and who is likely to bear these costs?</p> <p>6. Does the Department believe that it an appropriate role for the eSafety commissioner to decide what material is reasonably likely to be defamatory?</p>		
134	SQ21-001091	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Complaints handling - General	<p>1. ACMA said the complaints handling function was "ambiguous"; what do you say to this?</p> <p>2. Who works in the ABC's complaints handling unit and who do they report to?</p> <p>3. What is the total budget for the unit, including aggregated salaries of staff?</p> <p>4. What is the process of the independent review of the ABC's complaints handling process? Process, governance and output.</p> <p>a. Is "self-regulation" appropriate?</p> <p>5. What has happened to past reviews of the complaints handling framework?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
135	SQ21-001092	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Complaints handling - Exposed – The Ghost Train series	<p>1. Why did the Board request an independent review of the program if the ABC's Audience and Consumer Affairs team had found there was no issue with the program?</p> <p>2. Is the Board concerned that the ABC complaint handling processes are not sufficiently rigorous or independent or was this just a PR response to some noisy public critics with high profiles?</p> <p>3. Following the release of that independent review, which was critical of the implications made about former NSW Labor Premier Neville Wran, was any correction or apology made in respect of the program? Was the program edited to remove the material the independent review had found to be problematic, or does the program remain on iView unedited? If so, what was the point of the independent review?</p> <p>4. Who made the decision to ignore the findings of the independent review? Was that approach supported by the Board?</p> <p>5. Is the Board concerned that Management has effectively</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					<p>ignored the finding of the Independent Review commissioned by the Board?</p> <p>6. Does the Board have any effective control over what management does?</p> <p>7. Do you have to be a prominent and well-connected Australian in order to get a review of ABC programming that attracts complaints?</p> <p>8. The ABC Board has now requested an independent review of the ABC's complaints handling practices? Does Management intend to ignore the finding of that review as well?</p>		
136	SQ21-001093	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Complaints handling - Sally Neighbour's investigation of Louise Milligan complaint	<p>I refer to the complaint made by Ms Dhanya Mani about Louise Milligan.</p> <p>1. Does the Code of Practice make it OK for managers to investigate their own staff in relation to their conduct?</p> <p>2. How can Australians who make a complaint to the ABC trust that it will be dealt with fairly and impartially?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
137	SQ21-001094	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Complaints handling - Ms Represented	<p>https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/media/wife-of-exlabor-treasurer-john-dawkins-left-shattered-after-airing-of-abcs-ms-represented/news-story/9be395dda4fd2dc167a1474cb9a69fa9</p> <p>The ABC program Ms Represented has been criticised for putting allegations to air (including in respect of Cory Bernardi and Ex-Labor Treasurer John Dawkins) - because those allegations were never put to the relevant subject for comment - instead they were essentially reported as fact.</p> <p>1. Do the ABC's Editorial Guidelines support the broadcast of serious untested allegations?</p> <p>2. Was this program subject to any editorial oversight before it went to air - or is content of this nature just treated as 'entertainment' - and it doesn't matter if the claims made are true or not.</p> <p>3. How is Ms Represented classified? Is it documentary or news? Is the editorial news staff involved with its creation?</p>	26/10/2021	Written

138	SQ21-001095	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Complaints handling - Juanita: A Family Mystery	<p>I understand the ABC has been forced to temporarily remove the series Juanita: A Family Mystery - following serious doubts raised about some of the claims made.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given the obligations in the ABC Act to ensure the gathering and presentation of news and information is accurate and impartial - did the ABC fail to rigorously assess this program before putting it to air? 2. Will the ABC be commissioning an "independent" review of failures on oversight that led to Juanita: A Family Mystery being broadcast? 	26/10/2021	Written
139	SQ21-001096	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Complaints handling and ACMA oversight	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Figures in the ABC Annual Report (p124) indicate that the percentage of complaints investigated by ABCs Audience and Consumer Affairs that are "not upheld" has increased from 69% in 2019-20 to 82% in 20-21. Does this suggest to you that Audience and Consumer Affairs is increasingly less willing to take on board feedback and make efforts to resolve complaints? 2. In the last 12 months what investigations has the ACMA conducted in respect of editorial content on the ABC? 3. In respect of the breach finding regarding 4Corners Cash Splash - ABC management decided just to ignore that decision didn't they - putting out a statement that you "respectfully disagree with the ACMA's finding that the program lacked impartiality" - ABC statement on the ACMA Four Corners "Cash Splash" finding About the ABC. Isn't that disrespectful of the media regulator? 4. Are there any formal sanctions that the ACMA is able to impose where the ABC has breached its Code? Is that different to what applies to Commercial Broadcasters? 5. So the ABC is free to ignore decisions of the media regulator the ACMA - just as it is free to ignore the decisions of an editorial review requested by the Board. Is the ABC Board and management actually accountable to anyone in respect of compliance with standards? 6. Following the ACMA decision in respect of "Fight for Planet A" 	26/10/2021	Written

					(in which no breach was found) - ACMA wrote to the ABC expressing concern about the ambiguity of the ABC's Code of Conduct in respect of impartiality. What has the ABC done to address this issue? Have you responded to ACMA? 7. Does the ABC conduct public consultation in respect of the provision of its Codes of Practice (as the commercial broadcasters are required to do) - or does the ABC just write its own rules and then mark its own homework?		
140	SQ21-001097	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Legal matters - Quantum of fees	What is the total quantum of legal fees paid by the ABC in FY: a. 2018-19 b. 2019-20 c. 2020-21 Please include a breakdown of the costs for each payment of more than \$20,000.	26/10/2021	Written
141	SQ21-001098	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Social media code - Harmer and Kohler retweets	1. How are the following statements from the social media code enforced by the ABC: a. "The ABC does not require or encourage workers to be active on personal social media" and; b. "A political reporter expressing a strong personal opinion on a contentious issue that they may cover." 2. Please advise whether these two tweets meet the policy: a. b.	26/10/2021	Written
142	SQ21-001099	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Social media code - individual compliance	Considering the policy, "To ensure personal accounts are not mistaken for official ABC accounts, usernames and handles should not include ABC or a program name or station callsign...", please provide advice on whether the following ABC officials are complying with this part of the policy: a. Dan Ziffer b. Gareth Hutchens c. Sally Neighbor d. Linda Mottram	26/10/2021	Written

143	SQ21-001100	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Social media code - staff requirements	<p>1. You told me in prior estimates hearings that compliance with social media policies was not going to be binding in employment arrangements. But on 13 August in a letter you wrote to me that "ABC will be updating its employment contracts to ensure that employees are fully aware of the consequences of a breach of the guidelines..." What will this involve?</p> <p>2. Do staff have to sign the social media code?</p> <p>3. Have any staff ever refused to sign the code?</p> <p>4. Is there any training of staff in relation to social media use and its consequences?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
144	SQ21-001101	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Legal matters - Dr Lamming	<p>Why was the Dr Laming matter considered "particular and exceptional"?</p> <p>a. Authority: who was involved in this decision to pay the bill?</p> <p>b. How was the board involved?</p> <p>c. Which directors were engaged?</p> <p>d. Please supply all papers in connection with this decision and authority.</p> <p>e. Please supply the programme for delegated authority for ABC expenditure.</p> <p>f. Please supply the 161 documents relating to this matter as canvassed in the Daily Telegraph on 26 October.</p>	26/10/2021	Written
145	SQ21-001102	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Regional Connectivity Program - Round 1	<p>a) Please list transparently in a table all the projects that are being funded under Round 1 of the Regional Connectivity Program, the location, and the recipient, and the value of the grant.</p> <p>b) For each grant in the table above that relates to a fixed-broadband improvement project, please list the project, the value of the grant, and the number of premises that will have their service improved.</p>	26/10/2021	Written
146	SQ21-001103	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional	Anne Urquhart	Mobile Blackspot Program	<p>a) How many sq km of new mobile coverage have been delivered since the 2019 election?</p> <p>b) How many sq km of new mobile coverage have been delivered since the establishment of the black spot program. Please break down by Round.</p>	26/10/2021	Written

		Development and Communications					
147	SQ21-001104	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	2013 NBN Strategic Review - Costs	a) What did the 2013 NBN strategic review cost? b) What payment was made to the Boston Consulting Group? c) What payments were made to other consulting firms? d) Which partners in the Boston Consulting Group were involved in the report?	26/10/2021	Written
148	SQ21-001105	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	2013 NBN Strategic Review - Scenario 2	What Cost per Premises for FTTP did Scenario 2 in the FTTP strategic review specifically assume?	26/10/2021	Written
149	SQ21-001106	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	2013 NBN Strategic Review - Scenario 6	What cost per premises for FTTN did Scenario 6 assume? Please provide a page reference	26/10/2021	Written
150	SQ21-001107	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	2013 NBN Strategic Review - Scenario 2 (Revenue)	Page 102 of the fabricated 2013 NBN Strategic Review claims that cumulative revenue (FY11-21) in Scenario 2, relative to Scenario 1, decreases by 1 billion, despite Scenario 2 being claimed a faster rollout as outlined in Exhibit 4-3. How can both claims be true? Were these figures fabricated?	26/10/2021	Written
151	SQ21-001108	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	2013 - NBN Strategic Review - Scenario 2 (CAPEX)	Page 102 of the fabricated 2013 NBN Strategic Review claims that cumulative capital expenditure (FY11-24) in Scenario 2, relative to Scenario 1, has decreased by 12 billion as a result of deploying FTTP more efficiently. If cumulative capital expenditure decreased by \$12 billion, why has peak funding only then decreased by \$9 billion?	26/10/2021	Written

					<p>Cumulative Capital Expenditure (FY11-24) Scenario 1: \$56b Cumulative Capital Expenditure (FY11-24) Scenario 2: \$44b Difference: \$12b</p> <p>Peak funding Scenario 1: \$73b Peak funding Scenario 2: \$64b Difference: \$9b</p>		
152	SQ21-001109	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Boston Consulting Group Contract Variation	<p>Regarding QON98 from the Budget Estimates hearings. The Department was asked: "To whom was the output supplied? Did the Department of Infrastructure and Communications receive it? Did Australia Post receive it? And it responded "BCG provided its outputs to Shareholder Departments only." a) Did the Department or Minister then provide those outputs to Australia Post? b) If yes, on what date, and to which executive? c) If no, are you saying Australia Post has never read this report that was produced as a result of the contract variation? d) Have the outputs been discussed between Australia Post and the Chair?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
153	SQ21-001110	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Mobile Black Spot Program - Rejected sites	<p>Dating back to Round 2, please list all the carrier applications for MBSP sites which have been rejected. Please list each site, the carrier, and the electorate.</p>	26/10/2021	Written
154	SQ21-001111	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional	Anne Urquhart	Regional Connectivity - Funding for each project	<p>For the QON response below, please update the table to include the funding awarded for each project</p>	26/10/2021	Written

		Development and Communications					
155	SQ21-001112	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Regional Connectivity Program	For the QON response below, please identify which projects in the table are being co-funded, co-funded with whom, and how much funding that partner is chipping in.	26/10/2021	Written
156	SQ21-001113	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Data Growth since lockdown restrictions lifted	How does data traffic in the first week of November 2021 compare to the first week of September 2021?	26/10/2021	Written
157	SQ21-001114	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Sky Muster	a) How many users are on Sky Muster Plus? b) How many users are on the normal Sky Muster plan? c) What is the average monthly data usage of a customer on Sky Muster plus?	26/10/2021	Written
158	SQ21-001115	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Strategy Review (Scenario 2 - CAPEX)	Please answer the unanswered QoN below	26/10/2021	Written
159	SQ21-001116	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Strategy Review (Scenario 2 - Revenue)	Please answer the unanswered QoN below	26/10/2021	Written
160	SQ21-001117	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Strategy Review (Scenario 2 CPP)	Please answer the unanswered QoN below	26/10/2021	Written
161	SQ21-001118	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Over Budget	- Why has the cost of NBN multi-technology mix gone from an original promise of \$29.5 billion, to \$41 billion, to \$49 billion, to \$51 billion and now \$57 billion? - What does this say about the economic competence of Coalition governments?	26/10/2021	Written
162	SQ21-001119	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Brad Whitcomb	Mr Whitcomb once claimed he does not think about 5G. Does that remain the case?	26/10/2021	Written

163	SQ21-001120	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - NBN rollout	<p>Will all brownfield premises in Australia have access to the NBN by the end of 2021? Or does NBN still expect some complex premises to be outstanding?</p> <p>A response other than yes, will be taken to mean no.</p>	26/10/2021	Written
164	SQ21-001121	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Data Growth	<p>a) Retail providers have over the last few months argued that "The level of 'relief' offered by NBN Co for the current lockdowns is insufficient, and the rebates do not come anywhere close to covering the increases in wholesale costs paid by telecommunications providers to NBN Co. Is it accurate to say NBN made disproportionately higher CVC revenues during lockdowns compared to average monthly growth?</p> <p>b) How much of an increase did NBNCo experience in its CVC revenues in May, June, July, August, and September when Australia's largest States were in lockdown?</p> <p>c) How much higher was this revenue compared to regular monthly growth prior to lockdowns recommencing at the end of May?</p> <p>d) Retail providers have sought to argue that NBNCo should move to a new 'baseline' of May 2021 for measuring CVC growth – to coincide with lockdowns – and to calculate relief based on individual RSP usage, rather than industry-wide usage.</p> <p>e) NBNCo responded on 1 October by announcing that the CVC relief model would set a baseline of May 2021 to calculate CVC growth, and would change to an individual RSP usage calculation. However, NBNCo did not backdate this new model to account for the months which had already passed during lockdowns. What would have been the difference in the CVC relief provided to RSPs between May and October if NBN had used the new model, instead of the old one?</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					<p>f) On 20 October 2021, Aussie Broadband stated in an ASX release that its quarterly CVC charges had increased by 137% due to lockdowns, and that figure would have been as high as a 264% increase if Aussie Broadband had not migrated customers onto speed tiers with more included CVC as part of NBN's "Focus on Fast" campaign, along with NBN's CVC relief. To quote from that ASX release: "Aussie Broadband believes NBN is earning additional CVC overage revenue as a direct result of the lockdowns, whilst incurring little to no incremental cost for providing the additional capacity."</p> <p>g) Did NBN benefit financially from COVID lockdowns due the increase in CVC revenues paid for by retail service providers?</p> <p>h) NBNCo has previously stated that Compound Annual Growth Rates for CVC capacity are around 20 to 25%, and yet Aussie Broadband has said publicly its CVC charges increased by 137% compared to the previous quarter. What was the CVC usage increase after lockdowns came into effect? How high above the usual 25% growth rate was the observed increase?</p>		
165	SQ21-001122	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - NBN minimum speeds	<p>a) Will all brownfield premises in Australia have access to minimum download speeds of 25 megabits per second by the end of 2022?</p> <p>A response other than yes, will be taken to mean no.</p> <p>b) Will all brownfield premises in Australia have access to minimum upload speeds of 5 megabits per second by the end of 2022?</p> <p>A response other than yes, will be taken to mean no.</p>	26/10/2021	Written
166	SQ21-001123	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Infrastructure	<p>a) Can NBN confirm that infrastructure lease payments to Telstra are accounted for in the annual report as a liability?</p>	26/10/2021	Written

				payments to Telstra	<p>b) Is that liability discounted to present value?</p> <p>c) What is the discount rate?</p> <p>d) Can NBN confirm that the \$1.1 billion in annual lease payments to Telstra are not reflected in its published EBIDTA figures?</p> <p>e) When did this accounting approach change? And why?</p>		
167	SQ21-001124	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Missed technician appointments	How many technician appointments did NBN miss in 2021 to date?	26/10/2021	Written
168	SQ21-001125	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Criteria for FTTN to FTTP upgrades	<p>Has NBN decided upon its criteria for what plan a consumer would have to purchase to be upgraded from FTTN to FTTP?</p> <p>If yes, please provide the detail.</p>	26/10/2021	Written
169	SQ21-001126	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - G.Fast problems	<p>a) Can g.fast deliver gigabit speeds if NBNCo implemented the IT systems?</p> <p>b) The Minister and Department have effectively claimed the IT implementation of g.fast would cost \$100 million for the entire footprint.</p> <p>Is NBNCo saying building lead-ins to the home will be cheaper than this?</p> <p>c) Was the Department briefed before this development was announced? If yes, how was the briefing delivered and on what date?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
170	SQ21-001127	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Staff employed by salary band	<p>a) How many people did NBN employ at the end of FY2021 with a base salary between \$0 to \$100,000? Please include all employees. This includes those on an EBA, and those not on an EBA.</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					b) How many people did NBN employ in the Corporate Affairs division at the end of FY2021? Please include all employees.		
171	SQ21-001128	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Number of premises that will have on-demand access to FTTP	<p>Of the upgrade areas publicly announced by NBNCo to date, provide for each area listed below the number of premises that will have on-demand upgrade access to FTTP.</p> <p>The suburbs and towns announced as of 1 July 2021 are listed in the table. Provide data for the empty column.</p> <p>Please note, NBNCo has already been asked to provide this. The response received blatantly ignored the question and referred to a public media release that did not contain the number of premises in each upgrade area.</p>	26/10/2021	Written
172	SQ21-001129	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Copper purchases to date	How many metres of new copper has NBN purchased to date?	26/10/2021	Written
173	SQ21-001130	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Victorian storm outages	<p>a) How many services were impacted by the storms in total in Victoria?</p> <p>b) What proportion of impacted services were on HFC?</p> <p>c) What proportion of impacted services were on FTTN?</p> <p>d) What proportion of impacted services were on FTTP?</p> <p>e) What proportion of impacted services were on FTTC?</p> <p>f) What proportion of impacted services were on Fixed Wireless?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
174	SQ21-001131	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTC modems	<p>a) How many FTTC modems has NBN replaced since 1 December 2020?</p> <p>b) How many FTTC modems has NBNCo replaced since 1 October 2021?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
175	SQ21-001132	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTC lightning risk	<p>a) Has NBN sought any scientific advice about areas of elevated historical lightning risk that overlap with the Fibre to the Curb footprint?</p> <p>b) Does the Blue Mountains have the highest FTTC modem failure rate?</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					c) Has any area of the country had a greater density of FTTC modem failures following storms than the Blue Mountains?		
176	SQ21-001133	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTP Brownfield RFS	a) What is the RFS size of the FTTB Brownfield footprint? If using millions, please round to two decimal places. b) Are all new high-density apartment complex served by FTTP? Or are some served by FTTB?	26/10/2021	Written
177	SQ21-001134	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN - Executive Bonuses	a) How many people are employed in the NBN Corporate Affairs division at NBNC Co? b) What was the collective amount of bonuses paid to the Corporate Affairs division in FY2020? c) What was the collective amount of bonuses paid to the Corporate Affairs division in FY2021?	26/10/2021	Written
178	SQ21-001135	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTP modem replacements	How many FTTP modems (ONT) has NBN Co replaced since 1 January 2021?	26/10/2021	Written
179	SQ21-001136	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Strategic Review - fibre upgrade	a) Can NBN confirm page 101 of the Strategic Review said the cost of upgrading 3.6 million FTTN premises to FTTC would be \$2 billion? b) How much is NBNC Co now spending to building a fibre distribution network to 2 million premises in the FTTN footprint? This does not include the lead-in.	26/10/2021	Written
180	SQ21-001137	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Fixed wireless speeds	b) How many fixed wireless towers had had a cell with a monthly busy hour cell performance of 25 Mbps or less in September 2021? c) How many fixed wireless towers had had a cell with a monthly busy hour cell performance of 20 Mbps or less in September 2021?	26/10/2021	Written

181	SQ21-001138	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Consultancy spend	<p>a) Please list the titles all consultancy contract engagements NBN Co has had with consulting firm Alpha Beta or Accenture since 1 January 2017.</p> <p>b) Please list the individual spend against each engagement</p>	26/10/2021	Written
182	SQ21-001139	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - UNIFY and SMAX	<p>NBN has told the Senate "The Unify project was initially due to be delivered in December 2019; however, to avoid seasonal impacts delivery was deferred to May 2020"</p> <p>What does NBN Co mean by "to avoid seasonal impacts"?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
183	SQ21-001140	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTN technicians	<p>a) How many service faults have been lodged for FTTN services in FY2021? Please provide the total number.</p> <p>b) How many technicians have been deployed to attend service faults for FTTN services in FY2021? Please provide the total number.</p>	26/10/2021	Written
184	SQ21-001141	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Strategic Review - upgrade timeframes	<p>With reference to the comments by NBN in QON 228 from additional estimates</p> <p>a) Is NBN aware that page 100 of the 2013 Strategic Review flagged a hypothetical FTTP upgrade to enable gigabit speeds would occur in calendar year 2030?</p> <p>b) Does the NBN CEO rely on the 2013 NBN strategic review, despite it being a thoroughly discredited document?</p> <p>c) What proportion of the FTTN network is currently more than five years old?</p> <p>d) What is the average connection duration of end users on the FTTN network? Please note, this is not referring to RFS at the start of the migration window, but the average timeframe FTTN</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					premises, across the entire FTTN footprint, have been connected to the NBN.		
185	SQ21-001142	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTC	What is the estimated cost of an FTTC lead-in to convert to FTTP?	26/10/2021	Written
186	SQ21-001143	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Additional Estimates QoN 242 - 300,00 premises	Regarding the non-answer to QON242 from Additional Estimates, please answer each question from a) through to j) individually.	26/10/2021	Written
187	SQ21-001145	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Recycled materials in infrastructure procurement	In relation to the infrastructure commitments contained in this year's Budget and across the forward estimates, what is the value of the procurement being applied to incorporating recycled content? How is the cumulative impact of that procurement being measured?	26/10/2021	Written
188	SQ21-001146	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Legal matters - Cost of Mr Gleeson's services	Commonwealth rates apply to Commonwealth agencies that can only pay third party lawyers a maximum rate, this is set out below. The Legal Services Directions 2017 are a set of binding rules issued by the Attorney-General about the performance of Commonwealth legal work. Under the Directions, Commonwealth agencies have various obligations, including an obligation to act as a model litigant and rates of pay of lawyers. Under paragraph 5 of the Legal Services Directions 2017, the Attorney-General's approval is required for a non-corporate Commonwealth entity to use in-house lawyers to conduct court litigation as solicitor on the record or as counsel. How did the ABC apply this policy? How much did they pay for Mr Gleeson's services?	26/10/2021	Written
189	SQ21-001147	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Legal matters - Mr Anderson's knowledge of 88 page document	On 20 September 2021, Samantha Maiden posted an article online at news.com.au entitled 'Christian Porter says 88-page document shows he's innocent'. That article refers to a previously unpublished 88-page document apparently signed by Kate, the person ABC reported made serious allegations against Mr Porter. a. Is Mr Anderson aware of this signed 88-page document?	26/10/2021	Written

					<p>b. Did Mr Anderson read it?</p> <p>c. When did Mr Anderson read it?</p> <p>d. Was that the first time Mr Anderson read it?</p> <p>e. How long before Mr Anderson read it was he aware of its existence?</p> <p>f. The ABC will be obviously aware of: the original article written on this matter - being the article published on 26 February 2021 by Louise Milligan entitled "Scott Morrison, senators and AFP told of historical rape allegation against Cabinet Minister" published on the www.abc.net website ("the Article") and; that the allegations were also the subject of a 4 Corners Program; 'Bursting the Canberra Bubble' which aired on 8 March 2021 ("the Program"). Did Louise Milligan or other ABC staff in 4Corners have possession of the 88-page document at or before the time of the publication of the original Article published 26 February 2021 or before the 4Corners Program on this matter aired on 8 March 2021?</p>		
190	SQ21-001148	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Legal matters - Circulation of 88 page document	<p>1. Who inside the ABC had possession of the 88-page document and when?</p> <p>2. Was the 88-page document ever provided to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - anyone in ABC management (including Mr Anderson), at any time prior to the publication of the Article or the airing of the Program. - anyone in ABC legal at any time prior to the publication or the Article or the airing of the Program. - any external lawyers engaged by the ABC legal at any time prior to the publication or the Article or the airing of the Program. <p>3. Other than the 88-page document - are there any other documents or communications drafted by Kate which are relevant to this matter that are or have been in possession of the ABC or Louise Milligan, which documents have never been disclosed or reported on?</p>	26/10/2021	Written
191	SQ21-001149	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Legal matters - 26 February 2021	<p>1. If I can now refer you to the content of the original Article written on this matter - that was the article published on 26 February 2021 by Louise Milligan entitled "Scott Morrison,</p>	26/10/2021	Written

				<p>article and 4 Corners program</p>	<p>senators and AFP told of historical rape allegation against Cabinet Minister" published on the www.abc.net website ("the Article"). The Article contains a number of quotes – they are represented as being from the 25-page document. The 25-page unsigned document has now been publicly available for some time.</p> <p>a. The quotes contained in the Article published on 26 February 2021 despite being represented as coming from the 25-page document do not appear anywhere in the 25 document – is that correct?</p> <p>b. Do you know where these quotes come from? Were they from the 88-page document that news.com.au reported on or are they from a different document?</p> <p>2. These allegations were also the subject of a 4 Corners Program; 'Bursting the Canberra Bubble' which aired on 8 March 2021 ("the Program"). In that Program there are 6 occasions where the Program reports on excerpts of what is described in the transcript for the program as 'Kate's Statement'.</p> <p>a. Are any of the 6 quotes in the Program from the 25-page statement included in the letter to the PM?</p> <p>b. Do you know where these quotes come from?</p> <p>c. Is it true that all the quotes in the publication of the 26 February Article and aired in the Program of 8 March 2021 do not come from the 25-page document? Where do they come from?</p>		
192	SQ21-001150	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	<p>ABC - Legal matters - Respecting family wishes in relation to reporting on Christian Porter</p>	<p>With respect to the ABC standard and principles pertaining to harm and offence standard 7.5 states that the ABC should "Avoid causing undue distress to victims, witnesses or bereaved relatives". And the relevant guideline states "Finally, please respect the wishes and customs of the families and communities of people who have died".</p> <p>a. Did Ms Milligan ever speak or otherwise communicate with Kate's parents about the possibility of the ABC publishing her allegations and if so, did Ms Milligan act in accordance with the wishes of Kate's parents?</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					b. Did Kate's parents ever speak or otherwise correspond with you about the possibility of the ABC airing Kate's allegations? Did the ABC act in accordance with the wishes of Kate's parents?		
193	SQ21-001161	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Alexander Antic	ABC - The school that tried to end racism - documentary	<p>Senator ANTIC: I want to turn to a separate program. On 21 September there was a documentary series called The school that tried to end racism. There were four episodes in which 10- and 11-year-old students would undergo various racial awareness exercises to learn about white privilege, racial bias and stereotyping. The second episode focused on systemic racism in Australia and the third episode focused on separating students into what were called 'affinity groups'. I think the fourth episode talked about attitudes of racism. Is it the ABC's position that Australia needs this sort of television program because it's a racist country?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm quite proud to be Australian. I think Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world. That said, it doesn't mean that we are without our problems. Yes, I do think racism does exist in this countr I think we're much better than many other countries across the world. I think any society can improve. There are many things I can quote to you on notice that would otherwise suggest that we do have racism in our country. That has come either from our own survey on Australia Talks or from other research that has happened. I think that what the program tried to do, in a very responsible and controlled way, with parents' participation and being part of the project, was allow kids in schools to have a conversation around race. I think the aim of the program was really to celebrate the differences that we have in our community.</p>	26/10/2021	96
194	SQ21-001162	Australian Postal Corporation	Benjamin Small	AUS POST - Parcel volume impacted by second TWU strike	<p>Senator SMALL: When we come to the second round of industrial action by the TWU, what business impacts did that have?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: It was a little bit reduced. In our StarTrack premium business, for example, we saw less than 20 staff take action. Across our StarTrack express business, it was about 450. But I can get the exact numbers on notice. Again, Victoria was probably our most</p>	26/10/2021	20

					challenged area. This particular time, the business caught up in a day. Again, we did suffer delays to some of those shipments, but to all businesses. As I say, with the Saturday and the weekend recovery, and using the Australia Post network, we were able to mitigate some of the challenges.		
195	SQ21-001170	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Fee agreement with Bird & Bird lawyers	Please provide a copy of the fee agreement between the ABC and Bird & Bird Lawyers.	26/10/2021	Written
196	SQ21-001173	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	AUS POST - Unaddressed Mail Service Terms and Conditions	<p>With respect to Australia Post's Unaddressed Mail Service Terms and Conditions and noting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - under clause 3.5, any Article which contains text which does not meet current community standards or expectations may be refused by Australia Post; - under clause 3.6, Australia Post reserves the right to examine a sample of an Article before proceeding to formal acceptance of a Service agreement or effecting delivery; and - under clause 3.7, Australia Post reserves the right to decline to offer the Service if it believes it is appropriate to do so: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has Australia Post's Unaddressed Mail Service distributed any COVID-19-related material? If so, please provide details. 2. Has Australia Post in 2021 refused to distribute unaddressed mail relating to COVID-19 on the basis that, in its view, an Article did not meet current community standards or expectations? If so, please provide details. 3. What does Australia Post consider "current community standards or expectations" to be in relation to COVID-19-related material? 4. To the best of its knowledge, has Australia Post ever refused to distribute unaddressed mail relating a federal election or relating to, or from, a political party or candidate on the basis that, in its view, an Article did not meet current community standards or expectations? If so, please provide details. 5. In what circumstances would Australia Post refuse to distribute 	26/10/2021	Written

					<p>unaddressed mail relating to a federal election or relation to, or from, a political party or candidate?</p> <p>6. What does Australia Post consider "current community standards or expectations" to be in relation to political or electoral misinformation?</p> <p>7. If a person receives unaddressed mail distributed by Australia Post:</p> <p>a. How will the person know that Australia Post – and not some other organisation – distributed the unaddressed mail? Or will it not be evident?</p> <p>b. it is not evident that Australia Post distributed the unaddressed mail, how could a person find out if Australia Post distributed the mail? Is there a number, or a process, the person could go through to find out? If so, please describe the process.</p> <p>c. Is there a complaints mechanism for people to use if they receive unaddressed mail distributed by Australia Post which, in their view, does not meet community standards or expectations? If so, please outline what it is and how people can use it.</p> <p>d. How does, or would, Australia Post assess a complaint from a member of the public about unaddressed mail distributed by Australia Post? Please include details of who would be responsible for assessing a complaint.</p>		
197	SQ21-001174	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	AUS POST - Service standard	In what months since 1 July has Australia Post not met its regulated service standards for mail delivery frequency and timeframes?	26/10/2021	Written
198	SQ21-001176	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	AUS POST - Parcel delivery data	What metric does Australia Post use to measure parcel delivery timeframes, and whether it is keeping its delivery commitments? Please provide that metric for each month in 2021.	26/10/2021	Written
199	SQ21-001177	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	AUS POST - Bees	The ABC has reported that postage delays are causing serious problems for queen bee breeders and keepers, who say crucial stock is turning up dead or going missing, despite being sent using express post. As quoted in the ABC article: "They're arriving dead, they're arriving stressed or just not arriving	26/10/2021	Written

					<p>at all," he said. "They're just disappearing ... we don't know where they go and they're just lost." "This is a flow-on effect down to the beekeeper, who can have his hives already set up waiting for these queen bees, or he's waiting to requeen his queen bees that need to be kept at optimal level for honey production, or for the pollination industry, which is growing all the time now." Has Australia Post received complaints about this from customers in the pollination industry?</p>		
200	SQ21-001180	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	AUS POST - Lightweight economy merchandise product	<p>1. Can Australia Post confirm it has increased the cost of the lightweight economy merchandise product, and remove tracking? Please confirm it has gone from \$3.20 with tracking to the US for 50 grams (pre-COVID), to a cost of now \$13.90 to the US without tracking (as of September 2021).</p> <p>2. Why is Australia Post making it harder for Australian small businesses to export lightweight merchandise? How do you expect these home-based businesses to service customers with the fourth-rate uncompetitive product you have designed?</p> <p>3. What consultation did Australia Post undertake with micro businesses who relied on the product before the massive price increases?</p> <p>4. A small business owner sent us the following message This item was posted today, the total weight (with packaging) was 40gr., I was asked to pay \$21.00, which I did. This is the equivalent of posting 1kg (1000gr) to the USA costing \$525.00 per kg Mind you the actual items sending weighs was only 15 grams the rest is AU Post packaging. Before the changes this was costing only \$3.20 Please see attached. I can no longer operate under these conditions.</p>	26/10/2021	Written

					What do you say to this small business owner? 5. Will Australia Post review its pricing and product offering?		
201	SQ21-001182	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	AUS POST - Superannuation	In August, APRA released results on super funds performance. A number of funds have not met benchmarking standards. Interestingly, Australia Post Super Fund has not reported and its investment performance has not been assessed. This is stated on the ATO my super website. Why has the performance of this fund not been assessed? What was its performance?	26/10/2021	Written