Question 1

Output 1.1.2

Topic: Burma—nuclear facility

Hansard page: 14 (28 May 2007)

Senator Payne

Has the Government raised any concerns about the construction of a nuclear facility in Burma with the support of the Russian Government?

Answer: Yes.

Question 2

Output 1.1.2

Topic: Burmese Government

Hansard page: 29 (28 May 2007)

Senator Nettle

When was the last time the Australia Government restricted movement or a request by members of the Burmese Government to come to Australia?

Answer: June 2007.

Question 3

Output 1.1.2

Topic: Cambodia—Australian cavalcade

Hansard page: 15 (28 May 2007)

Senator Faulkner

Has a formal complaint been lodged with DFAT in regard to a car, driven by an Australian, being forced off the road by a Cambodian policeman because of an Australian cavalcade on the road?

Answer: No.

Question 4

Output 1.1.2

Topic: East Timor—UN mission

Written question

Senator Evans

Following the violence in East Timor last year Australia made a decision not to deploy our troops as part of the new United Nations mission.

(a) Was Australia's decision in that respect contrary to advice received from the United Nations Secretary-General's personal representative?

(b) Was it also contrary to an initial request from the East Timor government?

(c) Is it the case that Australia nonetheless subsequently agreed to deploy the AFP and civil administrators as part of the United Nations mission?

(d) In retrospect would more cohesion have been achieved if the ADF as well as the AFP and civil administrators had all been under the one control of the United Nations mission?

Answer

(a) Australia received a written request on 24 May 2006 for assistance from the Government of East Timor to assist in restoring peace and security. The President of the Security Council issued a statement on 25 May 2006 expressing the Security Council's full support for Australia's response.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

Question 5

Output 1.1.2

Topic: Indonesia—Lombok Treaty

Written question

Senator Stott Despoja

(a) Are any processes being put in place to ensure that military cooperation under the Australia-Indonesia Agreement on the Framework for Security Cooperation will not include any Indonesian military personnel who are the subject of an Interpol Red Notice or who were indicted by the Special Panel for Serious Crimes in Dili for alleged human rights abuses?

(b) If so, what are these processes?

Answer: Current visa processes allow consideration of such issues.

Question 6

Output 1.1.2

Topic: Interfaith dialogue

Hansard page: 33 (28May2007)

Senator Payne

Can you provide the Committee with a copy of the delegate lists from participating countries and a list of all the faiths represented?

Answer

The following faiths were represented at the Third Asia-Pacific Regional Interfaith Dialogue: Baha'i; Buddhist; Christian; Confucianism; Hindu; Jewish; Muslim; Sikh; and Taoist.

A copy of the delegate list (provided by the New Zealand organisers, listing participants by country of origin and stating the faith or community group each delegate represents) has been provided to the Committee.

Attachment: Building bridges: Asia–Pacific Interfaith dialogue, May 2007, delegation list.

[also available from the Committee's website:
http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/fadt_ctte/estimates/bud_0708/index.htm

Question 7

Output 1.1.2

Topic: Papua—human rights

Hansard page: 31 (28May2007)

Senator Nettle

Can a copy of the timetable which indicates the times DFAT has raised instances about human rights with Papua, be tabled with the Committee once any sensitive information is removed?

Answer

In 2007, representations have been made as follows:

25 May 2007	Embassy made representations about human rights and the importance of international access in the provinces of Papua and West Papua
16 May 2007	Embassy made representations about human rights and the importance of international access in the provinces of Papua and West Papua
9 May 2007	Embassy made representations about human rights and the importance of international access in the provinces of Papua and West Papua
25 April 2007	Embassy made representations about the importance of international access to the provinces of Papua and West Papua
16 April 2007	Embassy made representations about the importance of international access to the provinces of Papua and West Papua
1 February 2007	Embassy made representations about the situation in Puncak Jaya, Papua.
31 January 2007	Embassy made representations about the situation in Puncak Jaya, Papua.
16 January 2007	Embassy made representations about the situation in Puncak Jaya, Papua.

Question 8

Output 1.1.2

Topic: Papua—police occupation

Hansard page: 29 (28May2007)

Senator Nettle

Has the Government taken any action in response to a report about an Indonesian police occupation of a church in Jayapura in mid May?

Answer: No action was required.

Question 9

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Special Envoy for Cyprus

Hansard page: 55 (28May2007)

Senator Forshaw

When was former senator Jim Short's appointment as Special Envoy for Cyprus first made?

Answer

The Hon Jim Short was first appointed to the position of Special Envoy for Cyprus on 29 December 2000.

Question 10

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Ustasha

Hansard page: 53 (28 May2007)

Senator Faulkner

What guidance or advice is given to DFAT officers, staff at the Australian Embassy in Zagreb and Australians in general about the Croatian nationalist organisation, Ustasha, and about attendance at any events to do with the Independent State of Croatia set up by the Axis powers from April 1941 to May 1945?

Answer

DFAT does not provide formal guidance or advice about the Croatian nationalist organisation Ustasha, or about attendance at events associated with the Independent State of Croatia set up by the Axis powers from 1941 to 1945.

Question 11

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—meeting in Egypt

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Can officials confirm that a high level meeting of Foreign Ministers and diplomats from more than 50 countries was held on the weekend of 5 and 6 May at Sharam el Sheikh in Egypt with the objective of engineering a political resolution to the Iraq conflict?

(b) Can officials confirm that the Foreign Minister didn't attend?

(c) Why?

(d) Did Departmental officials attend this conference instead?

(e) Is so, what number, and how what position?

Answer

(a) to (e) On 3 May, more than 70 countries were represented at the official launch of the International Compact with Iraq in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt. Australia was represented by a senior official from AusAID and our Ambassadors to Egypt and Iraq. On 4 May, the second Neighbours Conference was held in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt. The meeting was attended by neighbouring countries of Iraq, including Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey, the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, G8 countries, and representatives of the United Nations, the Arab League, the European Union and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. The meeting, a diplomatic initiative of Iraq, promoted constructive regional support for its security and stability. Australia was not invited to attend the Neighbours Conference. The Australian Government actively engaged with key participants in the lead up to the meeting and was fully briefed on the discussions.

Question 12

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—Chatham House report

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Have officials examined an expert report by the respected UK foreign policy think-tank Chatham House (released 17 May) which finds that the current strategy in Iraq is failing?

(b) Specifically, have officials seen the report's observation that the troop surge is moving violence to different areas but not reducing it?

Answer

(a) and (b) Yes, officials have read the report and have seen the observation.

Question 13

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—Police chief comments

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Is the Government aware of public statements by General Abdul Hussein Al Saffe, the Police Chief of Dhi Qar Province in Iraq, that he couldn't trust one third of his men because they were linked to illegal militias?

(b) Are they aware of the comments by General in Dhi Qar that the police had been forced for tribal or political reasons, to hire 300-400 officers who were completely illiterate?

(c) In light of this advice have any additional procedures been introduced to vet the qualities of applications for the Iraqi police force before they undergo training by the Australian military?

Answer

(a) to (c) Police recruitment is a matter for the relevant Iraqi authorities. The Pentagon report *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq June* 2007 states that Prime Minister Maliki has publicly committed to giving the Iraqi Security Force commanders the authority to execute operations against all criminals, terrorists and illegally armed groups, and to prohibit militia from controlling local security, regardless of ethno-sectarian affiliation.

Question 14

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—police

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Are officials aware of reports that Iraqi police stood by whilst a 17 year old Kurdish girl was bashed and stoned to death for having a relationship with a Sunni Muslim boy?

(b) Has there been any review of training procedures for Iraqi police as a result of this event?

Answer

(a) Yes.

(b) This is a matter for the relevant Iraqi authorities.

Question 15

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—security forces

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Is the Government concerned that Iraqi security forces appear to retain as part of their custom cannibalising live animals at significant ceremonies?

(b) What representations have Australian officials made in respect to these matters?

Answer

(a) This matter has not been raised previously with the department.

(b) None.

Question 16

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—foreign policy

Written question

Senator Evans

In reference to comments the Foreign Minister made in a lecture in Hobart on 11 May in which he stated that:

"In foreign policy, governments are often faced with short-term crises that require management. But you cannot simply be reactive - you cannot allow yourself to be swept along by events."

Is Australia's foreign policy on Iraq being dictated by events as they happen in Iraq?

Answer

The department has nothing further to add to the comments made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Question 17

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—Government's strategy

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) What exactly is the Government's proactive plan to win this war?

(b) Is there a Departmental or Government strategy for how to prevail in Iraq?

Answer

(a) and (b) The department has nothing further to add to statements made by the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Defence on this matter.

Question 18

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—US phased withdrawal

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Does the Government rule out the possibility of the United States commencing a phased withdrawal of troops if the Iraqis fail to meet benchmarks set by President Bush when he announced the Baghdad Security Plan?

(b) What is Australia's contingency plan in that event?

Answer

(a) The department can not comment on the hypothetical plans of other countries. The Australian Government remains committed to contributing to the security, stability and reconstruction and strongly supports the new security plan for Iraq. This remains the best hope for the Iraqi people. On 21 March, Prime Minister Howard told the Australian Strategic Policy Institute "Australia's role in Iraq has evolved consistent with Coalition strategy and conditions on the ground. Our current contribution is heavily focused on helping to build the capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces so that in time Iraq, as a sovereign independent state, can look after its own security."

(b) On 21 March, Prime Minister Howard told the House "as far as Australia is concerned, the government has not made any requests of the ADF to have a contingency plan to withdraw because it is our policy to maintain the current commitment, but I am quite certain that the ADF would have the operational capacity to handle any contingency." On 30 May at Senate Estimates, Chief of the Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Houston said "We plan for every eventuality and we always plan for the fact that at some stage we might have to withdraw. However, I would stress that this is part and parcel of our normal planning process... in terms of our deployment to Iraq, we focus on everything—the political situation, the security situation and the economic situation. Basically, we build that into our consideration for planning."

Question 19

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—British troop withdrawal

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Is the Government aware of a report in Britain's Sunday Telegraph 20th May 2007 which reported that President Bush had been briefed by Whitehouse officials to expect an announcement on British troop withdrawals during incoming Prime Minister Brown's first 100 days in office?

(b) Has the Minister instructed the Department to seek its own briefing on the matter?

(c) What consequences would a substantial British withdrawal have for Australian troops serving in Southern Iraq?

Answer

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Australia and the UK consult closely and regularly on Iraq matters, including troop deployments.

Question 20

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—Baghdad security plan

Written question

Senator Evans

On Monday 21st of May the Foreign Minister told the Parliament:

"These are early days for the Baghdad Security Plan; it is still very difficult."

(a) Can the Government confirm that when announcing the Baghdad security plan (or surge strategy) more than 4 months ago on 10 January President Bush set a series of benchmarks for the Iraqi Government including that they assume responsibility for all provinces by November of this year?

(b) Is it Government policy that they have ruled out a phased withdrawal of Australian combat troops should the Iraqi Government fail to meet the November 2007 security benchmark?

(c) Has DFAT received any indication of planning (even contingency planning) for a phased withdrawal of US troops that would commence later this year due to the Iraqi Government failing to meet the benchmarks that have been set by President Bush?

Answer

(a) to (c) The Australian Government fully supports the new US strategy in Iraq as the best hope for the Iraqi people. The Multinational Force in Iraq Commanding General, General David Petraeus, has said that it will not be until mid-June or so before all the additional forces will be in place. General Petraeus has also said that he and US Ambassador Crocker would provide in September an assessment of the situation in Iraq with respect to the US mission and offer recommendations on the way ahead.

Question 21

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—diplomatic solution

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Are officials aware of reports in *The Age* of 24 May 2007 that by 31 May the United States will issue a plan emphasising the need to find a political and diplomatic solution to the conflict in Iraq?

(b) Have DFAT or AusAID officials been briefed on the contents of that plan?

(c) Is it the case that the plan identifies a small but influential number of officials and commanders whose sectarian and criminal agendas are thwarting United States efforts?

(d) Is it also the case that the plan recognises that the Iraqi government is deeply infiltrated by militia and corrupt officials who are "part of the problem" and are manoeuvring to kill off opponents, install sectarian allies and solidify their power from the time when US troops withdraw?

Answer

(a) to (d) As far as the department is aware, no such plan was issued by the United States by 31 May as suggested.

Question 22

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—administration

Written question

Senator Evans

What level of confidence does Australia have in the Iraqi administration and in particular does the Australian government believe that the Iraqi administration has the capacity to make the necessary compromises to achieve a political resolution of the conflict in Iraq?

Answer

The Iraqi Government faces a number of difficult issues. However, the need for greater momentum towards political reconciliation is vital. On 16 June 2007 in an interview published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Prime Minister Howard said "I'm still quite unhappy with the reconciliation process inside Iraq. The Maliki Government should be doing more on that. They should be doing a lot more. It's absolutely critical; I made that clear when I saw him three months ago, and [the US President George] Bush makes that clear to him every week."

Question 23

Output: 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—Iran

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Is it the case that there have been discussions between the United States and Australia regarding the risk of Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki becoming even closer to Iran?

(b) What have been the nature/outcomes of those discussions?

Answer

(a) and (b) Australia and the US consult closely on matters relating to Iraq. The substance of these discussions is confidential.

Question 24

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—UN involvement

Written question

Senator Evans

Has Australia been briefed on United States intentions to approach the new President of France with a view to mobilising the United Nations to have greater involvement in finding a solution to Iraq?

Answer

(a) and (b) Australia and the US consult closely on matters relating to Iraq. The substance of these discussions is confidential.

Question 25

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—UN peace keeping force

Written question

Senator Evans

What is the Australian Government's response to proposals of President Musharraf made in May that a United Nations flag peace keeping force for Iraq be drawn from Muslim nations?

Answer

Any proposal for a United Nations flag peace-keeping force would need to be approved by the United Nations.

Question 26

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—human rights

Hansard page: 74 (28 May 2007)

Senator Allison

(a) Do the two Iraqi military court laws, passed in January and February 2007 respectively, predate the date that four Iraqi officers were accused of committing rape?

(b) Have the recent reports from Iraq about torture, ill-treatment and lack of judicial process at the hands of Iraqi authorities, been raised with the Iraqi Foreign Minister?

(c) How many people are currently being held in the multinational force detention facilities without charge or trial?

Answer

(a) The department understands the two Iraqi military court laws predate the date the Iraqi officers were accused of committing the rape.

(b) The Australian Government has ongoing discussions with, and has made representations to, the Iraqi Government on a range of matters.

(c) The department is not aware of publicly available numbers on how many people are being held without charge or trial.

Question 27

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—intelligence reports

Hansard page: 70 (28 May 2007)

Senator Allison

In relation to the two intelligence reports produced by the US National Intelligence Council in 2003 (Principle challenges in post-Saddam Iraq and Regional consequence of regime change in Iraq):

(a) Did Australia receive a copy of these reports?

(b) If so, when?

(c) What was our response to these reports?

Answer

It is a longstanding DFAT practice not to comment on intelligence matters. Consistent with this, DFAT does not comment on the handling of intelligence reports. These are matters for intelligence agencies.

Question 28

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—NIE

Hansard page: 76 (28 May 2007)

Senator Faulkner

(a) Has the Department received the classified version of the January 2007 US National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq?

(b) If so when was it received?

Answer

It is a longstanding DFAT practice not to comment on intelligence matters. Consistent with this, DFAT does not comment on the handling of intelligence reports. These are matters for intelligence agencies.

Question 29

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—oil revenue

Hansard page: 71 (28 May 2007)

Senator Allison

Can you confirm that 12 per cent of the revenue from the exploitation of Iraqi oil will flow to Iraq and that the remainder will be in the control of foreign oil companies?

Answer

The department has been unable to find the basis for this claim. The oil and gas law is still in draft form and is currently before the Iraqi Council of Representatives. The issue of the exploitation of Iraqi oil and gas reserves will be a decision for the elected representatives of the Iraqi people.

Question 30

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Iraq—reconstruction

Hansard page: 75, 76 (28 May 2007)

Senator Allison

(a) Is it DFAT's understanding that seven projects under the International Reconstruction Fund Facility which were declared successes by the US, are no longer in operation?

(b) Why is the infrastructure for reconstruction projects placed in private ownership as opposed to public ownership?

(c) Does the placement of reconstruction projects in private ownership contribute to the failure of these projects?

Answer

(a) to (c) DFAT's understanding is seven projects were criticised by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR) during a sustainability review. SIGIR, led by Mr Stuart W. Bowen Jr, was established by the US Congress to provide oversight of the US Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF).

The SIGIR 13 Quarterly Report found that "in seven projects sustainment had not been properly carried out."

The Senator may wish to refer to the report which is available at http://www.sigir.mil.

Question 31

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Australian–Arab relations

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) On what date was Ms Pru Goward appointed as Chair of the Council for Australian-Arab Relations?

(b) On what date did Ms Goward resign as Chair of the Council for Australian-Arab Relations?

(c) What was the total remuneration paid by the Commonwealth to Ms Goward in her capacity as Chair of the Council for Australian-Arab Relations?

(d) Please also provide a full breakdown of this remuneration (salary, sitting fees, all non–travel related allowances etc).

(e) Please provide a full list of all Commonwealth-funded travel (both domestic and international) undertaken by Ms Goward in her capacity as Chair of the Council for Australian-Arab Relations. Please indicate:

i. dates of travel,

ii. purpose of travel,

iii. length of travel (in days),

iv. cost and class of air fares,

v. cost of accommodation,

vi. cost of meals,

vii. travel allowance paid to Ms Goward, and

viii. any other costs incurred by the Commonwealth.

(f) In relation to Ms Goward's trip to Abu Dhabi, as reported in the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper on 12 April 2007, please indicate:

i. dates of travel,

ii. purpose of travel,

iii. length of travel (in days),

iv. cost and class of air fares,

v. cost of accommodation,

vi. details of hotel accommodation (name, address, nightly cost),

vii. cost of meals,

viii. travel allowance paid to Ms Goward, and

ix. any other costs incurred by the Commonwealth.

(g) Did the Department have any concerns about Ms Goward undertaking Commonwealth-funded travel after she had been elected as a member of the New South Wales Parliament on 24 March 2007?

(h) Please outline the nature of these concerns.

(i) Were these concerns, if any, communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, his Parliamentary Secretary, their offices, or anyone else in the Government?

(j) Was any legal advice sought about the implications of Ms Goward undertaking Commonwealth-funded travel after she had been elected as a member of a state parliament?

(k) If so, please indicate who provided the advice and the cost of that advice to the Commonwealth.

(l) Did the Department have any concerns about Ms Goward undertaking Commonwealth-funded travel after she was pre-selected as a candidate for election to the New South Wales Parliament in September 2006?

(m) Please outline the nature of these concerns.

(n) Were these concerns, if any, communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, his Parliamentary Secretary, their offices, or anyone else in the Government?

(o) Was any legal advice sought about the implications of Ms Goward undertaking Commonwealth-funded travel after she had been pre-selected as a candidate for election to a state parliament?

(p) If so, please indicate who provided the advice and the cost of that advice to the Commonwealth.

Answer

(a) 10 May 2006

(b) 21 April 2007

(c) $1,589.00

(d) AACCI Business Lunch, Brisbane – 20 November 2006 – $454.00 Sitting Fee

CAAR meeting, Canberra – 08 February 2007 – $454.00 Sitting Fee

Meeting with Dean of Arab Corps (Egyptian Ambassador), Canberra – 21 February 2007 – $227.00 Sitting Fee

Meetings with Kuwaiti, Algerian and UAE HOMs, Canberra – 05 March 2007 – $454 Sitting Fee.

(e) J = Business Class

Travel Date (i)	Purpose (ii)	Length (days) (iii)	Cost and Class A/F (iv)	Accommodation component of T/A (v)	Meals component of T/A (vi)	Total T/A (vii) (incl. columns E & F)	Other costs (viii)
15/06/06	10th Council Meeting, Canberra	1 (o'night)	$392.05 J	$149.00	$61.00	$231.00	N/A
16/08/06	11th Council Meeting and Strategic Plan launch, Canberra	1 (o'night)	$390.81 J	$134.00	$20.00	$175.00	N/A
10/10/06	12th Council Meeting, Canberra	1	$215.64 J	N/A	N/A	N/A	$11.90 taxi
20/11/06	Luncheon address - AACCI Brisbane	1	$489.68 J	N/A	N/A	N/A	$31.79 taxi & parking
8/02/07	13th Council Meeting, Canberra	1 (o'night)	N/A (by car)	$137.27	$20.00	N/A	
9–18/04/07	CAAR delegation visit to Middle East	10 days	See question (f) below for separate costing				
Total		6.5	$1488.18	$420.27	$101.00	$406.00	$43.69

(f) The purpose of the visit to the UAE, Lebanon, Kuwait and Qatar from 9-18 April 2007 was to promote or follow up on current and future CAAR projects. The visit had a strong education focus, and the visit program included meetings with relevant government, business and education contacts.

- In the UAE, Kuwait and Qatar the objective was to follow-up with government authorities on the April 2006 launch of the 'Explore Australia' kit and development of a CAAR-sponsored 'Arab World' education resources kit for Australian schools; to promote CAAR's postgraduate scholarships program; and to promote CAAR's Young Professionals Exchange Program;
- n Lebanon the purpose of the visit was the inspection and progression of CAAR's Lebanon reconstruction project with World Vision Lebanon at Bsharre; and promotion of CAAR's postgraduate scholarships program.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
(f)	Travel Date (i)	Purpose/Country (ii)	Length (days) (iii)	Cost and Class A/F (iv)	Accommodation Cost (v) (for hotels see f(vi) below)	Meals component of TA (vii)	T/A (viii) (incl. meals)	Other (ix)
Break Down	9/04/2007	Canberra/Sydney	1		-			
	10/04/2007	UAE	1 (2 nights)		$608.88			
	11/0420/07	UAE	1		$177.75			
	12/04/2007	UAE/Lebanon	1		$195.69			
	13/04/2007	Lebanon/Kuwait	1		$282.97			
	14/04/2007	Kuwait	1		$282.97			
	15/04/2007	Kuwait/Qatar	1		$449.13			
	16/04/2007	Qatar/UAE	1		$304.44			
	17/04/2007	UAE/travelling	1		-			
	18/04/2007	Sydney/Canberra	1		-			
Total Figures	9/04/2007 - 18/04/2007	CAAR Delegation Visit to Middle East	10	$12,109.18 J	$2301.83	$486.97	$922.12	

(f) vi.

Hotel name	**Address**	**Nightly Cost (AUD)**
Shangri-La	Dubai, UAE	$304.44
Al Maha Rotana Suites	Abu Dhabi, UAE	$177.75
Phoenicia Intercontinental	Beirut, Lebanon	$195.69
Marriott Courtyard	Kuwait City, Kuwait	$282.97
Marriott	Doha, Qatar	$449.13

(g) (h) and (i) The Department made appropriate checks as to whether Ms Goward's election to the NSW Parliament created a conflict of interest. The Department was satisfied that there was no such conflict of interest. Portfolio ministers were advised appropriately.

(j) and (k) Consistent with longstanding practice, we do not comment on legal advice that may or may not have been provided to the Government.

(l) (m) and (n) The Department made checks in late 2006 as to whether Ms Goward's pre-selection as NSW parliamentary candidate had implications for her membership of CAAR. The Department was satisfied that there were no issues of concern. Mr Downer's office was advised appropriately.

(o) and (p) Consistent with longstanding practice, we do not comment on legal advice that may or may not have been provided to the Government.

Question 32

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Zimbabwe—women's health

Hansard page: 56 (28May2007)

Senator Ferguson

(a) Can you confirm or provide information about the accuracy of the report that 42,000 women in Zimbabwe died in childbirth last year?

(b) Can you confirm or provide information about the accuracy of the report that 50 per cent of pregnant women in Zimbabwe were HIV positive?

Answer

(a) DFAT cannot confirm the accuracy of the report referred to. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), however, reports that the maternal mortality rate in 2002 was 1,068 per 100,000 live births.

(b) DFAT cannot confirm the accuracy of the report referred to. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), however, reports that over 1,700,000 people living in Zimbabwe are infected with HIV—approximately 20% of the population. The Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey 2005-2006 reports that 21.1% of women between the ages of 15-49 are infected with HIV.

Question 33

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Zimbabwe—youth congress

Hansard page: 55 (28May2007)

Senator Ferguson

Can you provide any updated information on a recent report in the media about the arrest of 200 people in the opposition's offices during a youth congress?

Answer

Of the 200 people arrested on 26 May at the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) National Youth Assembly in Harare, 40 people were held in detention overnight. All of these have since been released, 39 on 27 May and one subsequently.

The arrests appear to be part of an ongoing crackdown aimed at disrupting the political opposition and civil society groups in the lead up to elections due in March 2008.

Question 34

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Zimbabwe—youth issues

Written question

Senator Stott Despoja

(a) What is the Department's assessment of the National Youth Service training program in Zimbabwe?

(b) Are rural and poor youth forced to undertake this program or is it voluntary?

(c) What kind of instruction do the students receive?

(d) Is the Department aware of the presence in Australia of Mr Reason Wafawarova?

(e) Is the Department able to confirm that Mr Wafawarova was formerly the Acting Director of Training and Marketing at the Zimbabwean Government's Department of Youth?

(f) Has the Department made an assessment on whether Mr Wafawarova's former position was in any way connected with the suppression of democratic opposition to President Mugabe's rule?

Answer

(a) According to media reports, for a number of years the National Youth Service (also known as the Green Bombers or the Border Gezi Youth) has been employed by the Zimbabwe Government as part of its state-wide intimidation campaign. Trainees reportedly have participated in the forceful and often violent removal of white farmers from their properties, the politicisation of food aid, voter intimidation, and are alleged to have taken part in the Government's harassment of opposition and civil society groups.

According to the US State Department's 2007 Human Rights Report on Zimbabwe, the National Youth Service training program subjects 'trainees to racist and partisan political indoctrination as well as military training'. It also notes 'credible reports that graduates were used for political violence'.

(b) The program is reported to be compulsory for all school leavers.

(c) See (a)

(d) This question should be directed to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship.

(e) See (d)

(f) See (d).

Question 35

Output 1.1.5

Topic: Zimbabwe—Cricket Australia

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) What is the legal basis of the Government's direction to Cricket Australia not to tour Zimbabwe?

(b) Under what law/laws has the Government made this direction?

(c) Is the Department aware of reports that Cricket Australia faced a $2 million fine from the International Cricket Council if it withdrew from the tour of Zimbabwe?

(d) What discussions, if any, have occurred between the Department and Cricket Australia about this matter?

(e) Please indicate the dates on which any such discussions occurred, and who was involved.

(f) Can the Department confirm media reports that the Government will compensate Cricket Australia if it is fined by the International Cricket Council for withdrawing from the tour of Zimbabwe?

(g) What compensation has been agreed?

(h) How much compensation will be paid if a $2 million fine is imposed?

Answer

(a) and (b) I (Mr Downer) was prepared to invoke powers under the Australian Passports Act 2005 to prevent the cricketers from travelling to Zimbabwe.

(c) Yes

(d) and (e) Discussions between the Government and Cricket Australia are confidential.

(f) (g) and (h) The International Cricket Council (ICC) considered Cricket Australia to be in 'acceptable non–compliance' with its contractual obligation to tour Zimbabwe. The effect of this decision was to waive any fines or other costs for which Cricket Australia would otherwise be liable. Although the Australian Government offered to compensate Cricket Australia if it were compelled to pay a fine as a result of withdrawing from the proposed tour of Zimbabwe, the ICC's decision has rendered this unnecessary.

Question 36

Output 1.1.6

Topic: Kiribati

Hansard page: 9 (29 May 2007)

Senator Nettle

Has the Government of Kiribati approached the Australian Government to discuss the movement of people because of climate change?

Answer

The Australian Government has received no formal approach from the Government of Kiribati to discuss the movement of people because of climate change.

Under the Pacific Plan, endorsed at the Pacific Islands Forum in October 2005, leaders (including Mr Howard) agreed to consider measures, should a need arise, to address population dislocation. This undertaking applies to all potential displacement issues including tsunami, cyclones and sea-level rise.

Australia has never been found wanting in its response to the needs and crises experienced by its Pacific neighbours.

Question 37

Output 1.1.6

Topic: Nauru—MOU

Hansard page: 11, 14 (29May2007)

Senator Nettle

In relation to the MOU with Nauru, an article in the Sydney Morning Herald of 29 May 2007 stated, "it will reasonably compensate Nauru for its assistance and for any losses incurred in this endeavour including accidents or unforeseen incidents resulting directly from the establishment of facilities and/or the residence of asylum seekers on Nauru."

(a) Is this an accurate statement from the MOU?

The SMH article also suggests that the MOU involves a refurbishment of one of the detention centres for the expansion of the number of asylum seekers that can be housed in Nauru.

(b) Can you indicate whether or not this is correct?

(c) Are you able to provide the Senate Committee with copies of previous MOUs?

(d) Are there penalties or clauses in the MOU to cover the situation if Australia should withdraw before the agreement expires?

Answer

(a) Yes. Please refer to the current MOU which was released to you, with the consent of the Nauru Government, on 22 May 2006 in answer to Senate Estimates Question on Notice 252.

(b) This is not correct. The Offshore Processing Centre (OPC) in Nauru is not a detention centre. Previously the Centre was on two sites, one of which is being refurbished, with an expected capacity of 500 once completed; the other is to be returned to the Nauru Government. Refurbishments to the remaining site will result in an overall reduction, rather than an expansion, of the number of asylum seekers that can be housed in Nauru (i.e. from 1500 down to 500 people).

(c) No. Only the current MOU has been released to the public. MOUs, unlike Treaties, are not public documents. They are a class of official or working document which are the property of both governments and are normally confidential between the parties. Public information about Australia's MOUs with Nauru is available from the AusAID and DFAT websites.

(d) No. Please refer to the current MOU.

Question 38

Output 1.1.6

Topic: PNG—Carteret Islands

Hansard page: 8 (29May2007)

Senator Nettle

Has the Australian Government had discussions with the PNG Government about the transfer of population from the Carteret Islands to Bougainville?

Answer

No. Australia has not had any formal discussions, nor are we aware of any informal discussions, with the PNG Government about relocation of population from the Carteret Islands to Bougainville The issue has been raised in general discussion between the Australian High Commission and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

Question 39

Output 1.1.6

Topic: Tonga—assistance grant

Hansard page: 18 (29May2007)

Senator Faulkner

(a) Has the $1.5 million grant to assist businesses to recover from damage caused in the riots been spent?

(b) If so, what has it been spent on?

Answer

(a) $939,400 of the package of up to $1.5 million has been provided to the Tongan Government. A final tranche of $500,000 is expected to be paid in early 2008, when the first payment to the Business Recovery Facility has been fully used.

(b) Distribution of funds under the Business Recovery Facility, to which Australia has contributed an initial payment of $700,000, is managed by the Government of Tonga and independently monitored to ensure accountability. We have been advised that, so far, ten loans have been approved under the facility. One loan has been for a new building and nine loans have been provided for restocking, refinancing and relocation costs. As part of Australia's business recovery package, $89,400 has also been provided to the Government of Tonga's Business Hardship Fund to assist businesses indirectly affected by the riots and $150,000 for the salary of the Deputy Governor to the Reserve Bank of Tonga.

Question 40

Output 1.1.6

Topic: Tuvalu

Hansard page: 9 (29May2007)

Senator Nettle

Subsequent to the 2006 South Pacific Forum, have there been any requests for meetings or have meetings occurred between the Australian and Tuvaluan government officials on the issue of climate change?

Answer

Government officials from Australia and Tuvalu regularly participate in the same international climate change meetings, at which they often have the opportunity to speak with each other. Examples of recent such meetings at which Australian and Tuvaluan Ministers and officials were present include:

- ninth session of Working Group 3 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 30 April–3 May, 2007
- Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting, Rarotonga, 25–26 April 2007
- fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), New York, 30 April–11 May 2007
- twenty sixth session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Bonn, 7–18 May 2007
- Midnight Sun Dialogue Meeting, Riksgransen, Sweden, 11–14 June.

DFAT officials also have regular contact with Tuvalu UN Ambassador (and Forum Island States' coordinator on environmental issues) Enele Spoaga.

Climate change was one of a range of issues discussed during the visit to Tuvalu in April 2007 by Australia's non-resident High Commissioner.

Question 41

Output 1.1.6

Topic: RAMSI—Visa exemptions

Hansard page: 7 (29May2007)

Senator Faulkner

Are you aware of any visa exemptions, affecting RAMSI officials, the current status of which the Solomon Islands Foreign Minister has failed to approve?

Answer

There has been no decision by Foreign Minister Oti to deny visa exemptions to any RAMSI personnel. However, a number of lists of RAMSI personnel requiring visa exemptions have been submitted but are still outstanding.

Question 42

Output 1.1.7

Topic: China FTA—Advocacy

Hansard page: 114 (29May2007)

Senator Carr

In regards to the China FTA, how much money is being spent on advocacy?

Answer

In the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 financial years, AUD201,182 and AUD203,918 was spent respectively on International Media Visits and the Special Visitors Program in support of Australia's advocacy on a free trade agreement with China.

Question 43

Output 1.1.8

Topic: US beef

Hansard page: 110 (29May2007)

Senator Carr

How much beef is Australia importing from the US at the moment?

Answer

Australia has currently had zero imports of *Beef and Veal, fresh chilled or frozen*, from the United States.

Question 44

Output 1.1.9

Topic: Amnesty International Report 2007

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Has the Department undertaken any work in response to issues raised in the Amnesty International Report 2007 that was released on 23 May 2007?

(b) If any work is being undertaken, please outline the nature of that work.

(c) Have any restrictions been placed on Amnesty International following the release of its report (for example, have any restrictions been placed on Amnesty International in terms of dealing with Departmental staff, portfolio Ministers and their offices etc)?

(d) What representations has the Department made to Amnesty International in response to its 2007 report?

(e) What discussions/meetings, if any, have occurred between Departmental officials, portfolio Ministers and their offices, and Amnesty International about the report since it was released?

(f) Did the Department see a draft of the Amnesty International Report 2007 prior to its release?

(g) If so, when did the Department see the draft report?

(h) Did the Department provide any comments to Amnesty?

(i) What was the nature of any comments provided?

Answer

(a) Yes.

(b) Briefing was provided to my Office and for possible questions in the Budget Estimates hearing.

(c) No.

(d) None.

(e) My department had some contact with Amnesty International by telephone to clarify aspects of the report.

(f) No.

(g) Not applicable.

(h) Not applicable.

(i) Not applicable.

Question 45

Output 1.1.9 (Environment)

Topic: APEC—Climate and clean development agenda

Written question

Senator Siewert

With respect to APEC, is the Government planning to push nuclear power as an allegedly "clean" fuel, as part of its climate and clean development agenda?

Answer

APEC economies have already recognised the potential for nuclear energy to play a part in a portfolio of cleaner power generation technologies.

APEC Energy Ministers met from 27–30 May in Darwin. In their declaration on "Achieving Energy Security and Sustainable Development though Efficiency, Conservation and Diversity", Energy Ministers

"noted how energy efficiency in industry, buildings and commerce and cleaner power generation technologies—including renewables, clean coal, natural gas/LNG, and for interested economies, nuclear technologies—can provide for more secure, diversified systems of energy supply and use with lower carbon emissions."

In their declaration, Energy Ministers encouraged

"the development of cleaner and more efficient power generation technologies, including renewables, clean coal, natural gas/LNG, and for interested economies, nuclear technologies";

They also encouraged

"interested APEC economies to join the Energy Working Group's Ad-Hoc Group on Nuclear Technologies and to ensure that the safety, security, seismic, health and waste handling aspects, including trans-border effects, of civilian nuclear energy are adequately addressed."

Question 46

Output 1.1.9

Topic: Climate change

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Will Australia only have observer status at the Conference to the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will meet from 3 to 14 December?

(b) How will observer status affect Australia's ability to shape a new post–Kyoto agreement?

(c) Can Departmental officials outline the difference for participating nations between those countries who have ratified Kyoto and those who haven't in terms of the next round of negotiations (at Bali)?

Answer

(a) Australia actively participates in all UN deliberations, including in the Protocol, on matters of interest to Australia.

- Australia permanently chairs the Umbrella Group of countries (Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Ukraine, United States), a major bloc in both the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol meetings.
- An Australian (Bamsey, Dep Sec DEWR), together with a South African, co-chairs the Dialogue on Long Term Cooperative Action to Address Climate Change by Enhancing Implementation for the Convention.
- At the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex 1 Parties under the Kyoto Protocol in Bonn in May, Australia delivered the statement on behalf of the Umbrella Group of countries, which includes New Zealand, Canada and Japan.
- Legally, Australia is a Party to the UNFCCC and an observer to the Kyoto Protocol, which is a subsidiary agreement to the UNFCCC.
- As a Party to the Convention and a State Observer to the Protocol, Australia has the right to participate in all Kyoto sessions, including making textual suggestions and submissions (Australia cannot block consensus in the Kyoto Protocol).

(b) Australia will be a full participant in UN negotiations aimed a developing a post-2012 framework on climate change.

Australia and G8 countries have called for negotiations on future action to take place under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – not under the Kyoto Protocol.

Significant discussions on future action on climate change are also occurring outside the UN and Australia is fully engaged in these

- for example, we participated in the recent ministerial Midnight Sun Dialogue in Sweden; we will be seeking a positive outcome on clean development and climate in our role as host of this year's APEC meeting; and we will be involved in the US–driven consultations with key emitters later this year.

(c) Australia and G8 countries have called for comprehensive negotiations on future action to take place under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – not under the Kyoto Protocol.

Question 47

Output 1.1.9

Topic: Indonesia—deforestation

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) When did the Department first become aware of the Government's plans to contribute $200 million to the Global Initiative on Forests and Climate Change?

(b) Was the Department involved in any IDCs or other inter–departmental forums to develop this initiative prior to its announcement?

(c) Please outline the nature of any such forums, list the dates of any meetings and indicate who from the Department (if anyone) participated.

(d) Did the Department undertake any discussions with Indonesia about this initiative prior to its announcement?

(e) Please indicate the dates of any meetings and indicate who from the Department participated.

Answer

(a) The general issue of emissions from deforestation in developing countries had been the subject of ongoing coordination between DFAT and DEWR for some time. This coordination enabled Australia to provide strong support to the drafting and subsequent approval in Montreal in December 2004 of a mandate in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to discuss reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries. As part of the support that Australia has lent to this UN process, Australia hosted a UN workshop on reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries in Cairns on 7–9 March 2007. AusAID were instructed to consider options for further action on reducing deforestation in early February 2007, and DFAT was aware of this instruction. This process led towards the proposal for a Global Initiative on Forests and Climate. The exact amount of the financial contribution towards the Initiative was decided by Cabinet, with all relevant Departments consulted beforehand.

(b) Prior to the announcement of the initiative, there was extensive coordination between relevant Departments on the proposal. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet chaired two meetings on the Initiative prior to its announcement.

(c) Prior to the public announcement, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet held meetings of all relevant Departments on 16 March 2007 and 20 March 2007. DFAT attendees were Jan Adams (Ambassador for the Environment) and Robert Owen-Jones (then Director, Climate Change Section). On 21 March the Department of Finance and Administration met with officials from relevant Departments, including DFAT, to discuss aspects of the Initiative. DFAT was represented at this meeting by Brendan Pearson (Assistant Secretary, Environment Branch) and Henry Fox (Director, Budget Development Section).

There was also other extensive coordination between relevant Departments prior to the announcement.

(d) Australia has an ongoing dialogue with Indonesia on deforestation matters, and deforestation matters were discussed in detail during the Australia-Indonesia Environment Consultations on 10 April 2007. Australia informed the Government of Indonesia about the Global Initiative on Forests and Climate prior its public announcement.

(e) The Australian Embassy in Jakarta, informed the Government of Indonesia of the Global Initiative on Forests and Climate shortly prior to the announcement. Following the public announcement by Australia, the Government of Indonesia immediately welcomed the Initiative.

Question 48

Output 1.1.9

Topic: Iraq—UN sanctions

Hansard page: 66 (28May2007)

Senator Faulkner

In relation to the AFP investigation into the seven alleged breaches of UN sanctions on imports from Iraq. Four breaches have been investigated and DFAT became aware of one of these breaches, involving oil, in December 2001.

(a) When did DFAT become aware of the other three breaches that have been investigated?

(b) Can you confirm that one of the breaches involved chemicals and advise the nomenclature in relation to the chemicals?

Answer

(a) The information available to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) did not necessarily establish that the three companies involved had breached sanctions. DFAT referred certain matters to the Australian Federal Police (AFP), including on the basis of information suggesting that certain companies may have been interested in trade with Iraq during the Oil for Food Program (OFFP), whether or not DFAT had evidence that actual trading activity had occurred.

One matter related to textiles (chemical dyes). In May 1997, DFAT became aware that the company may have considered post-sanctions payments for its products. In September 1997, DFAT became aware that the company had taken product samples to Iraq.

A second matter related to printed materials. In June 1998, DFAT became aware of the companies' interest in trading printed materials with Iraq.

The third matter related to a tender to construct a milk plant. In August 1997, DFAT became aware that a company may have been interested in a milk plant project in Iraq.

(b) The matter related to chemical dyes for textiles.

Question 49

Output 1.1.9

Topic: Matthew Hyndes investigation

Hansard page: 38–43 (29May2007)

Senator Faulkner

(a) What was the quantum of the monetary fines imposed on Mr Hyndes for breaching the code of conduct in 1999? (page 38)

(b) Was Mr Hyndes' security clearance reviewed during the period his security clearance was downgraded (1997-2002)? (page 40)

(c) Can Mr Hyndes' email of 16 August 2002, be tabled for the Committee? (page 43)

Answer

(a) $1000

(b) Mr Hyndes' security clearance was reviewed in 2002.

(c) The email requested is an exhibit in a matter before the AIRC. These proceedings are presently the subject of a reserved decision and the implications of the email are under consideration by the Commissioner. It would therefore be inappropriate for it to be tabled.

Question 50

Output 1.1.9

Topic: Mutual assistance arrangement

Hansard page: 61 (29May2007)

Senator Nettle

On what dates were DFAT officials involved in negotiations with the US Government regarding the mutual assistance arrangement?

Answer

DFAT officials were present during discussions on the Mutual Assistance Arrangement (MAA) with the US Government on the following dates:

- 15 September 2006
- 7 November 2006

- 13 December 2006
- 19 December 2006

Question 51

Output 1.1.9

Topic: Sri Lanka—asylum seekers

Hansard page: 63 (29May2007)

Senator Nettle

Was there a request by the Sri Lankan Government that the 83 asylum seekers be returned to Sri Lanka?

Answer

DFAT received no formal request from the Sri Lankan Government to return the group of 83 asylum seekers who were on board the vessel SIEV Naos to Sri Lanka.

Question 52

Output 1.1.9

Topic: Refugee agreement with US

Written question

Senator Evans

In relation to the Immigration Minister's media release on 17 April 2007, where he says 'The Australian Government has also signed an agreement with the United States of America to provide mutual assistance for the resettlement of people in need of international protection':

(a) What was the nature of the Department's involvement in the process which resulted in this agreement?

(b) Was there an IDC?

(c) If so, was the Department represented on the IDC?

(d) Who represented the Department on the IDC?

(e) How many meetings did they attend, and when were those meetings?

(f) Is the Department aware of comments by a US embassy spokeswoman that the 'swap' plan is an 'informal arrangement', without legal obligations?

(g) Given these comments, does the Department know what the current status of the agreement is?

(h) Which area of the Department has ongoing responsibility for briefing the Prime Minister about the agreement?

(i) Where did the idea for the agreement originate (Australia or the United States - Immigration, DFAT or PM&C)?

(j) When did the idea originate/how long did it take to gain US agreement?

(k) On what dates were briefings provided to the Foreign Minister and/or his office about the agreement?

(l) Were briefs prepared on the idea for any of the Prime Minister's US visits or for meetings with US President Bush at APEC 2006 in Vietnam?

(m) Please indicate each occasion on which briefs were provided for such meetings.

(n) Does the Department know whether similar arrangements with other nations are being contemplated or being negotiated?

(o) Is the Department involved in any IDCs or other inter-department forums to discuss such arrangements with other countries?

(p) Please specify each such IDC/forum in which the Department is a participant.

Answer

(a) The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) led the process that resulted in the Mutual Assistance Arrangement (MAA). DFAT was aware of the process, but did not take a lead role.

(b) No, there was no formal IDC on this matter.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) Not applicable

(f) Yes.

(g) The MAA is an informal arrangement which does not create legally binding obligations. The MAA is currently in effect.

(h) DFAT does not have responsibility for briefing the Prime Minister. This is the responsibility of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C).

(i) The idea for the MAA did not originate in DFAT. Such questions should be referred to DIAC.

(j) As the early discussions on the MAA were held between DIAC and the US State Department, this question should be directed to DIAC.

(k) Information briefings were provided to the Foreign Minister and/or his office on:

- 8 November 2006
- 30 March 2007
- 2 April 2007

(l) DFAT did not prepare any briefs on the MAA for the Prime Minister's US visits or for meetings with US President Bush at APEC 2006 in Vietnam.

(m) Not applicable.

(n) DFAT is aware of discussions on similar arrangements with foreign governments. Questions about specific country negotiations should be referred to DIAC as the lead agency.

(o) No.

(p) Not applicable

Question 53

Output 1.1.9

Topic: Peace keeping centre

Written question

Senator Evans

In 1995 the Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Committee recommended the establishment of a permanent peace keeping centre to draw together and more effectively coordinate those civilian and military agencies and organisations involved in peace keeping operations.

Has the department given any further thought to that proposal in light of recent peace keeping demands?

Answer

The department is continually working with other departments and agencies, military and civilian, to ensure effective whole of government planning for and coordination of Australian involvement in peace operations, in line with Australian Government policy objectives. This includes continuous review, and where appropriate, adjustment of existing practices and procedures to best meet specific operational needs. The department has not been formally presented with a proposal for a permanent peacekeeping centre.

Question 54

Output 1.1.9

Topic: Peace keeping experience

Written question

Senator Evans

In the Government's recent report to the Senate Committee they also said that recent peace keeping experience "have highlighted the importance of effective whole of government coordination".

Given that submission, wouldn't Australia be well served by the establishment of a permanent peace keeping centre to develop expertise, pre–deployment training and on going coordination between military and civilian agencies and organisations?

Answer: Please refer to response to Question 53.

Question 55

Output 1.1.9

Topic: Peace Operations Working Group

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) When was the last meeting of the Peace Operations Working Group held?

(b) What were its major recommendations?

(c) When is it intended to hold a further meeting?

Answer

(a) DFAT coordinates routinely, at the working level, with other agencies involved in the POWG on a range of peacekeeping issues, including the work of the UN's Special Committee on Peacekeeping (C34) and regional capacity-building initiatives. The POWG last formally met on 16 February 2006.

(b) The department has no record of any recommendations tabled or adopted at the last meeting of the POWG on 16 February 2006.

(c) The next meeting of the POWG is expected to be held in July 2007.

Question 56

Output 1.1.9

Topic: UN Peace Building

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Has the recent creation of the United Nations Peace Building Support Office and Peace Building Commission enhanced peace building operations in our region?

(b) What interaction do Australian government agencies have with that body?

Answer

(a) No. The United Nations Peace Building Support Office and the Peace Building Commission (PBC) are still in their formative stages. The PBC has undertaken pilot missions to Burundi and Sierra Leone to identify gaps in the peace building process and to identify areas where it could have the most productive and value-added impact. As its country-specific programs expand, the Australian government will look further at its potential role in our region.

(b) Australia is not a member of the PBC but provides funding to the Peace Building Support Office. Australian government agencies routinely liaise with the PBC and receive regular updates on its progress. Direct meetings also occur, with AusAID representatives recently meeting PBC officials to receive an update on progress of missions to Burundi and Sierra Leone.

Question 57

Output 1.1.9

Topic: Trent Smith

Hansard page: 24–29 (29May2007)

Senator Faulkner

(a) When on 13 July 2006 was the department informed of the decision to suspend Trent Smith without pay?

(b) What were the reasons given by the delegate to suspend Smith without pay?

(c) What material was the delegate provided with in order to make the above decision?

(d) Who appointed the delegate?

(e) How many meetings, between DFAT and AGS has Mr Chester attended?

Answer

(a) The departmental delegate decided to suspend Trent Smith without pay at about midday on 13 July 2006.

(b) The delegate decided to suspend Trent Smith without pay because:

- since February 2003 Mr Smith had been suspended from duty with pay;
- since February 2003 Mr Smith had continued to accrue entitlements such as recreation leave and long service leave;
- Mr Kennedy had found that Mr Smith did breach the APS Code of Conduct; and
- Mr Boucher had determined that his employment was to be terminated.

(c) In order to make the decision, the delegate was provided with legal advice which *inter alia* included the findings of the Kennedy report and was advised of Mr Boucher's decision.

(d) The Secretary appointed the delegate.

(e) At the time of the question from Senator Faulkner, Mr Chester had attended two meetings between DFAT and AGS. Subsequent to the Committee proceedings, Mr Chester has attended one additional meeting between DFAT and AGS.

Question 58

Output 1.1.9

Topic: David Hicks

Hansard page: 54 (29May2007)

Senator Faulkner

Have there been any other occasions, apart from those previously reported to the Committee and in an answer to a question from Mr McClelland (R5349), when representations have been made by DFAT officials on behalf of David Hicks?

Answer

A myriad of representations on the Hicks matter were made over an extended period of time by numerous Ministers and officials—it is not practical therefore to compile a comprehensive record of every representation ever made on this subject.

Question 59

Output 1.1.9

Topic: Matthew Hyndes—requests from Thai authorities

Written question

Senator Faulkner

(a) Have any requests been made by Thai police, legal or financial authorities to the department in regard to the activities of Mr Matthew Hyndes and the private company that employed him in Thailand while he was on leave without pay in 1996?

(b) If yes:

i. which Thai police, legal or financial authority made the request?

ii. when was the request made?

iii. what was the nature of each request?

iv. did the department seek any external legal advice in regard to any such request?

v. If so, who was consulted and when?

vi. what response was given by the department to each request by Thai police, legal or financial authorities?

Answer

Dealings between the Thai authorities and Australia in relation to Mr Hyndes have been the subject of evidence in a matter before the AIRC. These proceedings are presently the subject of a reserved decision by the Commissioner. In these circumstances, it would not be appropriate to answer the questions.

Question 60

Output 1.1.10

Topic: Ambassadors for Counter-Terrorism

Written question

Senator Faulkner

With reference to the response to House of Representatives Question on Notice No 5447, concerning the countries visited by successive Ambassadors for Counter-Terrorism:

(a) Why has it been necessary for the current ambassador to visit 20 countries since his appointment in July 2006, a period of about seven months, when his predecessor visited 23 countries over three years?

(b) What was the cost of the visits by the current ambassador?

Answer

(a) The new Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism has travelled widely in his first seven months in the position due to the following factors.

- The Ambassador's predecessor appropriately established contacts and a dialogue on counter-terrorism issues with a range of regional partners and like-minded countries. It is essential to maintain such contacts through timely and personal contact with relevant counterparts and to sustain the momentum of the counter-terrorism agenda.
- In July 2006 the Department began implementing a new counter-terrorism program worth $35 million over four years, the bulk of which will be spent overseas. This program includes important new work on counter radicalisation and on combating chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism. Given his prime responsibility for overseeing this program, the Ambassador discussed initiatives with counterpart governments and liaised with Australian embassies on the proposed activities under the program.
- A number of ad hoc international meetings at which the Ambassador led the Australian delegation, were held in places he otherwise would not have visited so early in his tenure. These included Rabat and Ankara (for the first and second meetings respectively of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism) and Tel Aviv (for an Institute for Counter–Terrorism Seminar).
- Australia has hosted or co-hosted a number of important counter terrorism meetings in the current year, necessitating close liaison with regional partners and with our trilateral partners in Tokyo and Washington. These meetings include the Trilateral Counter-Terrorism consultations, the Sub-regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and the Asia-Pacific Seminar on Combating Nuclear Terrorism.

(b) The cost of the international travel of the current Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism carried out between July 2006 and February 2007 as reported in the reply to House of Representatives Question on Notice 5547, was $84,042.38.

Question 61

Output 1.1.10

Topic: Cluster bombs

Hansard page: 68 (29May2007)

Senator Nettle

(a) Can you provide a list of countries, like Australia, who do not support a blanket ban on cluster munitions?

(b) Is there any legislation or agreements in place that prevent the import of cluster bomb weapons into Australia?

Answer

(a) The only States that spoke in support of a complete ban at the Oslo Process meeting held in Lima in May were Mexico, Chad and Lebanon. Countries which have stated publicly that, like Australia, they do not support a blanket ban on cluster munitions include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Poland and UK.

The mandate proposed by the EU for negotiations in the Certain Conventional Weapons Convention calls for the conclusion of a legally binding instrument that 'prohibits the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians', not a blanket ban. The Oslo Declaration, endorsed by 46 States after the Oslo meeting in February, also calls for a ban on 'cluster munitions which cause unacceptable harm to civilians', not a blanket ban on all cluster munitions.

(b) The importation of cluster munitions would be governed by legislation and regulations covering all defence and related dual–use goods, including under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations* 1956.

Question 62

Output 1.1.10

Topic: Global Nuclear Energy Partnership

Written question

Senator Siewert

(a) Since the Prime Minister's visit last year to Washington, where he was briefed on the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP), what activities has the Department undertaken on GNEP?

(b) Has DFAT consulted with other government departments on GNEP?

(c) What discussions have occurred between Australian officials and US officials on GNEP since the PM's visit last year?

(d) Is the Government considering participation in GNEP as a fuel supplier nation?

(e) What implications would this have for the development of the nuclear industry in Australia?

Answer

(a) The Government has taken no decision on formal Australian participation in GNEP. DFAT activities in relation to GNEP have been limited to inter–departmental discussions and discussion with officials of the United States and other countries.

(b) Yes.

(c) Australian officials have an ongoing dialogue with US counterparts on GNEP. This includes meetings between Australian and US officials in Washington and in the margins of other meetings where relevant Australian and US officials are present. Officials from ANSTO and ASNO have held discussions with US officials on possible technical cooperation relevant to GNEP.

(d) Australia is not a "fuel supplier nation" as currently envisaged in GNEP.

(e) See (d) above.

Question 63

Output 1.1.10

Topic: Indonesia—uranium

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Has the Department been involved in any discussions with Asia–Pacific countries about purchasing Australian uranium in the future?

(b) If so, please indicate which countries have been involved in the discussions, when the discussions occurred and who from the Department or the Government (for example, portfolio Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries or their offices) was involved in these discussions.

(c) What discussions have occurred with Indonesia about energy needs and/or the potential export of Australian uranium to that country in the future?

(d) If discussions have occurred, please indicate when they occurred and who from the Department or the Government (for example, portfolio Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries or their offices) was involved.

Answer

(a) and (b) In the Asia-Pacific, Australia has bilateral safeguards agreements with Canada, China, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, The Russian Federation and the United States of America. In addition Australia has an agreement with the United States that covers supply of uranium to Taiwan. The Department is involved in ongoing discussions with these countries, as necessary, on the implementation of the safeguards agreements (the safeguards agreement with the Philippines is inoperative as administrative

arrangements have never been concluded). The Department does not engage in discussions on the commercial aspects of uranium sales to other countries. Please refer also to Mr Downer's response to Question on Notice number 5636 of 29 March 2007.

(c) Australia and Indonesia hold periodic discussions about energy needs through the meetings of the Australia–Indonesia Joint Working Group on Energy and Minerals. At the Working Group's 1998 meeting, Australia advised that if Indonesia decided to proceed with a nuclear power program, Australian producers would look to compete for a share of the uranium market provided the Indonesian Government fully satisfied our nuclear safeguards and other requirements. The potential export of uranium was not discussed at the Working Group's most recent meetings in 2003 and 2006.

(d) The Australia–Indonesia Joint Working Group on Energy and Minerals has met 11 times, most recently on 26-27 June 2006, 22–23 July 2003, 22–23 April 1998 and 20–21 August 1996.

Working Group meetings are led by senior officials from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources and include officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Austrade, Geoscience Australia, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and CSIRO.

Question 64

Output 1.1.10

Topic: ASEAN Regional Forum—Peace keeping

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) What were the major recommendations of the first ASEAN Regional Forum Peace Keeping Experts meeting held in Malaysia from 6-9 March 2007?

(b) Are there any plans to hold further meetings?

(c) Are there any plans to develop a permanent secretariat?

(d) How do any of these efforts fit into the United States global peace operations initiative?

Answer

(a) The first ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Peace Keeping Experts meeting, co–hosted by Australia and Malaysia and held in Malaysia on 6-9 March 2007, focused on establishing a contact database of peacekeeping experts from ARF participating countries. The database, which will also list details of relevant courses and future activities, is to be published on the ARF website and updated regularly.

(b) Yes. Subject to ministerial approval at the 14th ASEAN Regional Forum to be held in Manila on 2 August, a second ARF Peace Keeping Experts meeting, co–

hosted by Singapore and New Zealand, is expected to be held in Singapore in March 2008.

(c) No. However, the ARF Unit, which is part of the ASEAN Secretariat, facilitates continuity of ARF activities including those related to peacekeeping.

(d) The ARF Peace Keeping Experts meeting process was initiated in order to establish a regional network of peacekeeping experts able to contribute to building confidence and interoperability among regional peacekeepers and to enhance regional peacekeeping capacity. The US Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) was launched in 2004 as a multilateral five-year program. GPOI goals for the Asia-Pacific region include training 15,000 peacekeepers by 2010, advancing security cooperation, enhancing interoperability, and encouraging supporting partnerships and training sustainment.

Question 65

Output 1.1.10

Topic: Global Peace Operations initiative

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) What is the extent of Australia's involvement in the United States global peace operations initiative operated by the United States State Department?

(b) What steps is Australia taking within the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) to establish a network of peace keeping expertise?

(c) To what extent is Australia working with other nations to develop ASEAN CIMIC (Civil Military cooperation) standard operating procedures?

Answer

(a) Australia and the United States agreed at AUSMIN 2006 to continue work under the US Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) to help build capacity in the Asia-Pacific region. The Department of Defence has committed an officer to work in the US State Department in Washington to support the GPOI in the Asia-Pacific region. The ADF conducts training programs in peacekeeping in Australia and regionally and is partnering with the United States to develop further these programs.

(b) Australia and Malaysia co-hosted the first ARF Peacekeeping Experts meeting, held in Malaysia on 6-9 March 2007. The meeting focused on establishing a contact database of peacekeeping experts from ARF participating countries. The database, which will also list details of related courses and future activities, is to be published on the ARF website and updated regularly. Subject to ministerial approval at the 14th ASEAN Regional Forum to be held in Manila in August, a second ARF Peacekeeping Experts meeting, co-hosted by Singapore and New Zealand, is expected to be held in Singapore in March 2008. Australia will participate actively in this meeting.

(c) As part of more general ARF efforts to develop Standard Operating Procedures for use in disaster relief, Australia and Indonesia plan to host a desktop exercise for all ARF members in Indonesia in 2008. The exercise will focus on establishing common disaster relief planning procedures to improve practical military to military and civil-military cooperation in a whole–of–government context.

Question 66

Output 1.1.10

Topic: Regional cooperation

Written question

Senator Evans

In the Department's report to the recent Senate Inquiry into peacekeeping it stated that "the Asia-Pacific region lacks a collective security institution to manage conflict and peace keeping arrangements tend to be case by case".

It was also said in that submission that "while RAMSI (Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands) is an example where ad hoc regional responses can work well, it also highlighted the benefited of having good procedures and mechanisms in place to respond to such challenges in the future"

(a) What steps is the Government taking to develop regional cooperation to develop expertise, training and coordination between agencies and between countries?

(b) What strategies is the Australian government adopting in our region to organise preventative diplomacy missions to the Asia Pacific region to prevent conflict emerging?

Answer

(a) Australia is working bilaterally and through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) to strengthen peacekeeping and related capacities in countries in the Asia–Pacific region. The ADF conducts training programs in peacekeeping in Australia and regionally. Australia and the United States agreed at AUSMIN 2006 to continue work under the US Global Peace Operations Initiative to help build peacekeeping capacity in the Asia-Pacific region.

(b) Australia maintains regular dialogue on security and related issues with countries in the Asia-Pacific region, bilaterally and through regional organisations such as the ARF and the Pacific Islands Forum. Australia has been working with other countries to strengthen the ARF's preventive diplomacy capacity, specifically by developing a "Friends of the ARF Chair" mechanism to provide the Chair with an enhanced capacity to act intersessionally to address emerging security concerns. Subject to ministerial approval, this mechanism will be formally established at the 14th ARF ministerial meeting in Manila on 2 August.

Question 67

Output 1.1.10

Topic: Security institution

Written question

Senator Evans

In the Department's report to the recent Senate Inquiry into peacekeeping it stated that "the Asia-Pacific region lacks a collective security institution to manage conflict and peace keeping arrangements tend to be case-by-case".

Has your department made any proposals to establish such a collective security institution?

Answer: No.

Question 68

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Peace operations training

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) To what extent do officers of DFAT and/or AusAID inter–relate with our defence force peace operations training organisation including:

   i. ADF Peace Keeping Centre;

   ii. 39th Personnel Support Battalion;

   iii. Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law.

(b) How many DFAT or AusAID officers have been involved?

(c) How many are placed with these organisations at present?

(d) What is the cost per officer for the training they receive?

(e) How long does a DFAT or AusAID official stay with these organisations?

(f) Is the Department aware of how many students undertook the civil military cooperation course run by the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law during the last 12 months?

(g) How many of those students were from overseas militaries?

(h) How many of those students were from overseas governments and or bureaucracies?

Answer

(a) DFAT officers have delivered presentations to courses at the ADFPKC, attended pre–deployment training with the 39th Personnel Support Battalion, and had occasional interaction with the APCML on international humanitarian law

issues. DFAT's Senior Legal Adviser is a member of the APCML Advisory Board.

(b) Given the nature of the interaction, we are not able to say definitively how many DFAT officers have been involved. However, we can confirm that three have attended training with the 39th Personnel Support Battalion.

(c) No DFAT officers are placed with these organisations at present.

(d) No costs are involved with these activities, apart from domestic travel.

(e) Stays by DFAT officers with these organisations would be limited and not likely to exceed a week.

(f) The Department of Defence has advised that 26 students and two observers attended the 2007 APCML course. DFAT does not manage this course.

(g) The Department of Defence has advised that 11 students on the 2007 APCML course were from overseas militaries.

(h) The Department of Defence has advised that there were no students on the 2007 APCML course from overseas governments or bureaucracies.

Question 69

Output 1.2

Topic: Security clearances

Hansard page: 37 (29May2007)

Senator Faulkner

How often were security clearances downgraded in the mid to late 1990s as compared to the current annual rate?

Answer

To provide the information sought would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

Question 70

Output 1.2

Topic: Security funding

Written question

Senator Faulkner

With reference to the Portfolio Budget Statements 2007–08 of the Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio, which, on page 22, has a "($3.5m) adjustment to re-phase security funding" affecting the department's 2007–08 appropriations:

(a) What is the purpose of the "security funding" that has been re–phased?

(b) If it relates to the relocation of overseas posts, is it in addition to a minus $12.1m adjustment "to re-phase security funding to out years" identified in the department's *Portfolio Budget Statements 2006–07*

(c) (i) What is the total amount of funding to relocate overseas posts for improved security that has been re-phased, and (ii) how much is it as a percentage of the total amount of funding allocated by the Government for this purpose?

(d) (i) When was the funding to relocate overseas posts for improved security originally allocated, (ii) when was it originally expected to be spent, and (iii) in what year(s) is it now expected that the re–phased funding will be spent?

(e) What impact will this re-phasing have in terms of the risks faced by those posts that have been earmarked for relocation to improve security?

Answer

(a) The security funding that has been re-phased relates primarily to the relocation of offices and residences.

(b) No. The minus $3.5m is a 'net' adjustment to the minus $12.1m. The overall result is a minus $8.6m adjustment to estimated expenditure in 07/08.

(c) (i) $94.65m.

(ii) This represents 74% of the total amount of funding allocated for relocations.

(d) (i) December 2004.

(ii) The original expenditure programme was for delivery between 2004–05 and 2008-09.

(iii) The relocation programme commenced in 2004–05 and anticipated completion of the entire programme has been revised to 2011–12.

(e) The Department has implemented a range of improved physical and personnel security measures which will mitigate risks at posts earmarked for relocation.

Question 71

Output 1.2

Topic: Matthew Hyndes—DSB email

Written question

Senator Faulkner

With reference to the email sent by Mr Hyndes to the head of the Diplomatic Security Branch on 16 August 2002, in which he said that he would go to the media with allegations about the department unless his security clearance was restored:

(a) Were the allegations made by Mr Hyndes investigated?

i. If so, by whom, in what timeframe, and what was the outcome?

ii. If not, why not?

(b) Given the nature of the email, was this matter considered as a possible breach of the APS Code of Conduct under section 13 of the *Public Service Act 1999*?

i. If so, by whom, in what timeframe, and what was the outcome?

ii. If not, why not?

Answer

(a) and (b) A senior officer counselled Mr Hyndes about the email. Mr Hyndes said that he regretted sending it, and that in hindsight he should not have done so. He apologised unreservedly for the email. This was considered an appropriate response to the issue.

Question 72

Output 1.3.1

Topic: Questions on notice

Hansard page: 6 (28May2007)

Senator Faulkner

Given that a substantial number of the answers to the 80 questions on notice from Additional Estimates in February 2007 were approved by the Minister on 17 April, why the delay until Tuesday, 8 May for them being submitted to the committee?

Answer

Instructions from the Committee Secretariat require that all questions are to be numbered and grouped in outcome and output order. The Secretariat has further advised that answers presented as individual documents will be returned to the agency for collating into large output batches.

In order to meet these requirements, answers to questions were submitted on 8 May following approval of the final batch of answers.

Question 73

Output 1.4

Topic: Mr McBurney—diplomatic visa

Written question

Senator Carr

(a) Did the Department know that Mr. McBurney's diplomatic visa and status had expired in October 2004?

(b) From whom or where did you get this information?

(c) Why didn't you take the appropriate steps to cancel that visa out of your database?

Answer

(a) The Department knew that Mr McBurney ceased duty at the United States Consulate-General in Perth on 1 October 2004 and departed Australia on 3 October 2004. The completion of his posting meant that he no longer had status as a consular officer and was therefore no longer eligible for a diplomatic visa.

(b) As required by Article 24 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, the United States Consulate-General in Perth advised the Department of Mr McBurney's final departure from the Consulate–General so that his status as a consular officer could be ceased.

(c) The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is not able to cancel visas directly. When it is notified by diplomatic missions and consular posts in Australia of the departure /completion of postings by individual staff members, the Department terminates their diplomatic or consular status and then requests the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (formerly the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs) to cease their diplomatic visas. This was what occurred in Mr McBurney's case.

Question 74

Output: 2.1.1

Topic: Indonesia—Flight safety standards

Written question

Senator Faulkner

(a) Can you confirm that, on 16 April 2007, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced that Indonesia did not comply with international safety standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization, and that the FAA determined that the Indonesian Directorate General of Civil Aviation was no longer overseeing the safety of the country's airlines in accordance with international standards?

(b) Is it the case that, on 17 April 2007, the US Embassy in Jakarta advised Americans travelling to and from Indonesia to endeavour to fly directly to their destinations on international carriers from countries whose civil aviation authorities meet international safety standards?

(c) Why has the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade not updated its travel bulletin issued on 27 March 2007, which advises Australians only to take account of information on Indonesian airline operational performance standards issued by the Indonesian Directorate General of Civil Aviation, when the FAA has serious concerns about that organisation's oversight of Indonesia's air carrier operations?

Answer

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The principal purpose of the 27 March 2007 travel bulletin was to draw the attention of Australian travellers to the information issued by the Indonesian Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and to the specific precautions undertaken by Australian Embassy staff as a result. The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is one of several sources of information on international aviation safety issues. All DFAT travel advisories provide links to these sources of information, including the FAA, to assist travellers make informed decisions about their travel choices. Following consultation with the Department of Transport and Regional Services, the relevant FAA information was added to the travel bulletin on 26 June 2007.

Question 75

Output 2.1.1

Topic: Matthew Hyndes—Tim Gatland

Hansard page: 44–50 (29May2007)

Senator Faulkner

(a) Did DFAT have any involvement in any investigation into the fate of Mr Hyndes' former business partner, Tim Gatland, or have any knowledge of any investigation into the possible fate of Mr Gatland? (page 44)

(b) Is Mr Hyndes still considered a 'person of interest' by the Thai police? (page 50)

Answer

(a) The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not investigate the disappearance of Australians abroad. In Mr Gatland's case, the department through the Australian Embassy in Bangkok followed up with Thai authorities on the status of their investigation into his disappearance.

(b) The department is not aware of any information that would suggest the Thai authorities currently consider Mr Hyndes a "person of interest".

Question 76

Output 2.1.1

Topic: Peter Tatchell

Hansard page: 53 (28May2007)

Senator Nettle

How did the Government respond in the recent case of Peter Tatchell in Russia?

Answer

On 28 May, media reported the arrest of activist Peter Tatchell at a gay rights demonstration in Moscow on 27 May 2007.

Australia provides consular assistance to Australian citizens and Australian permanent residents. Mr Tatchell is not an Australian citizen or a permanent resident.

Nevertheless, on hearing of his arrest, consular officials from the Embassy in Moscow attempted to contact him to check on his welfare, and sought further information from the Russian authorities on his arrest. Our Embassy also contacted the British Embassy in Moscow on the basis that Mr Tatchell is a British citizen and had been with other British citizens at the time. Despite their best efforts, our consular officials were not able to contact him.

The Embassy was advised by local authorities on 29 May that Mr Tatchell had been released and was not listed as facing criminal charges.

Question 77

Output 2.1.2

Topic: Diplomatic passports lost or stolen

Written question

Senator Faulkner

With reference to the response to House of Representatives Question on Notice No 5424, concerning the number of Australian passports on issue, lost or stolen:

(a) Is it the case that the number of diplomatic passports recorded as lost or stolen (107), expressed as a percentage of the total number of diplomatic passports on issue (2739), is more than double (3.9 per cent) when compared with official passports (1.75 per cent) or ordinary passports (1.8 per cent)?

(b) (i) Has the department investigated why diplomats are more prone to lose their passports or have them stolen compared with other passport holders, and what were the results of that investigation? (ii) If not, why not?

Answer

(a) Yes

(b) (i) No

(ii) The figures provided in response to House of Representatives QoN 5424 were for a 10 year period ending on 14 February 2007. Figures for 2005–06 and 2006–07 (to date) do not support the contention that diplomats are more prone to losing their passports than other passport holders. In 2005–06, the percentage of diplomatic passports lost/stolen (compared to the number issued) was 1.2 per cent. This compares with 2.1 per cent for official passports and 2.7 per cent for ordinary passports. Similar trends have been identified during 2006–07.

Question78

Output: 2.1.2

Topic: Passport fraud

Written question

Senator Faulkner

(a) How many passport fraud investigations or arrests involving Australian or locally engaged staff or Australia Post employees have taken place in the last 12 months, if any?

(b) In regard to cases of passport fraud detected by Australian and overseas authorities, (i) how many involved passports that had been reported as missing or stolen and (ii) what proportion was this of the total amount?

Answer

(a) There were two passport fraud investigations involving Australian employees and one investigation involving an Australia Post employee during the period 1 June 2006 to 31 May 2007. None of these employees was arrested. There were no investigations involving locally engaged staff during the same period.

(b) During the period 1 June 2006 to 31 May 2007 there were:

(i) 55 cases involving the fraudulent alteration or use of an Australian travel document reported lost or stolen.

(ii) This represents 8% of passport fraud cases identified during the period.

Question 79

Output 2.1.2

Topic: Passports issued

Written question

Senator Faulkner

(c) How many diplomatic passports were issued in (i) 1997 (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006?

(d) How many official passports were issued in (i) 1997 (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006?

(e) How many ordinary passports were issued in (i) 1997 (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006?

Answer

(All figures are for calendar years.)

(a)	(i)	907
	(ii)	1,140
	(iii)	1,081
(b)	(i)	8,262
	(ii)	11,263

	(iii)	12,033
(c)	(i)	963,941
	(ii)	1,224,669
	(iii)	1,241,480

Question 80

Output 2.1.2

Topic: Passports missing or stolen

Written question

Senator Faulkner

(f) How many diplomatic passports were reported as missing or stolen in the financial years (i) 1997–1998 and (ii) 2005–2006?

(g) How many official passports were reported as missing or stolen in the financial years (i) 1997–1998 and (ii) 2005–2006?

(h) How many ordinary passports were reported as missing or stolen in the financial years (i) 1997–1998 and (ii) 2005–2006?

(i) Are all instances in which Australian passports are reported as missing or stolen reported to Interpol and if so, what is the time difference between the report of the loss/theft of the passport and the subsequent report to Interpol?

Answer

(ii)	(i)	30
	(ii)	13
(iii)	(i)	95
	(ii)	234
(iv)	(i)	24,379
	(ii)	32,775

(v) All instances of lost or stolen passports are reported to the Australian Federal Police for transmission to Interpol. This is done on the first working day of each month.

Question 81

Output 2.1.2

Topic: Passports—recipients and revenue

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) For each Australian passport category and sub-category please provide the number of passport recipients, revenue received and any indexation factor applied for the 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07 (to date) financial years.

(b) For each Australian passport category and sub-category please provide the projected number of passport recipients, revenue and any indexation factor applied for the 2007–08, 2008–09, 2009–10 and 2010–11 financial years.

Answer

(a) Information provided previously in response to Senate QoN 3123. Updated 2006/07 figures provided below.

(b) Number of recipients:

	2006/07 (to 31/5)
Adult passports	849,223
Child	311,120
Senior	21,973
Frequent Adult	22,504
Frequent Child	841
Frequent Senior	97
Certificate of Identity	543
Document of Identity	2,143
UN Travel Document	1,632
Emergency	6,243
Diplomatic	1,022
Official	12,254
Provisional	163
Total	**1,229,758**

Revenue received:

Revenue (A$ Million)	**2006/07 (to 31/5)**
Adult passports	162.02
Child	29.68
Senior	2.10
Frequent Adult	6.44
Frequent Child	0.12
Frequent Senior	0.01
Certificate of Identity	0.06
Document of Identity	0.08
UN Travel Document	0.19
Emergency	0.45

Revenue (A$ Million)	**2006/07 (to 31/5)**
Priority Services	10.83
Lost and Stolen	0.95
Total Revenue	**212.93**

Indexation factor: 2006–07 3.00%

(c) Information provided previously in response to Senate QoN 3123.

Question 82

Output 3.1.1

Topic: Ambassador designate Vanstone—media commentary

Hansard page: 40 (28May2007)

Senator Faulkner

(a) What are the departmental guidelines on media commentary?

(b) Who sets the guidelines and what is involved?

(c) Has Ambassador designate Amanda Vanstone been made aware of these guidelines?

Answer

(a) Substantive contacts with the media regarding portfolio issues are required to be registered promptly with the Assistant Secretary, Parliamentary and Media Branch. Requests by Australian media for radio and television interviews are required, wherever possible, to be referred to the Parliamentary and Media Branch for clearance before they are agreed to.

(b) Departmental guidelines for contact with the media by departmental officers are determined by the Senior Executive of the Department and set out in a departmental Administrative Circular: "Departmental Contact with the Media."

(c) Yes

Question 83

Output: Enabling Services (OPO)

Topic: Ambassador's residence Rome

Hansard page: 52 (28May2007)

Senator Nettle

Does the Ambassador's residence in Rome have a swimming pool?

Answer: Yes

Question 84

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Appointment of former Senator Vanstone

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Noting the response to question on notice 69(a) from Additional Estimates in February, please provide a list of the 11 former Members of Parliament that have been appointed to diplomatic positions since 1996. Please indicate the name of the former parliamentarian concerned, and the details of their appointment (location, position, length of service in position etc).

(b) Given that the appointment of Amanda Vanstone as Ambassador to Italy has now been announced, can the department indicate what particular skills and qualifications Ms Vanstone has that made her a suitable appointment as Ambassador to Italy?

(c) How do those particular skills and qualifications compare to those of the recalled Ambassador, Peter Woolcott?

(d) Please provide a full breakdown of all money spent by the department in preparing Ms Vanstone for her posting as Ambassador to Italy.

(e) Please provide details of all costs incurred, including the cost of language lessons, domestic travel costs, accommodation costs, cost of training courses, mobile phone costs, computing equipment costs, cost of shipping of personal effects to Italy, cost of shipping of pets to Italy, cost of pet vaccinations, cost of any other medical preparations for Ms Vanstone and her spouse etc.

Answer

(a) The requested list is shown in the table below.

(b) The qualifications for all Head of Mission and Head of Post positions are:

- Australian citizenship.
- Demonstrate clear-sighted understanding and a high level of conceptual and analytical skills with regard to Australia's international interests.
- Communicates with influence.
- Cultivates productive working relationships and high performance.

Successive governments have recognised the contribution former politicians can make in diplomatic roles.

(c) We do not discuss publicly the relative merits of departmental employees.

(d) and (e) All Heads of Mission and Heads of Post undertake a program of consultation and training prior to departure for post. Ms Vanstone undertook a typical program of travel to state capitals. An estimate of the costs is provided below.

- Language tuition in Australia: $2420.00
- Language tuition in Italy: $1934.40
- Language tuition in Italy, accommodation costs: $1360.00
- Domestic airfare costs: $6513.50
- Domestic accommodation and travelling allowance: $2912.70
- Cost of training courses: Nil
- Mobile phone costs: All DFAT SES employees are provided with a mobile telephone for both work and reasonable personal use. All costs associated with the supply of the mobile telephone are met by the department on presentation by the employee of the supporting documentation/receipts. The employee is required to meet the cost of personal calls in excess of the reasonable personal use limit. The details of Ms Vanstone's mobile phone call costs during her pre-posting preparations are not yet available.
- Computing equipment costs: Nil
- Costs of shipping of personal effects: $14 179.95
- International airfare costs: $13 917.02
- International accommodation and travelling allowance: $954.04
- The department does not cover the cost of shipping pets overseas nor of pet vaccinations. The department does not divulge information on medical matters relating to staff.

Former Members of Parliament appointed as Heads of Mission/Post since 1996

Name of Officer	Post	Classification	Posting commenced	Posting ended
J M Spender QC	Paris	SES Band 3.2	07.10.96	29.10.00
M E Baume	New York CG	SES Band 2.2	21.10.96	01.08.01
A S Peacock AC	Washington	SES Band 3.3	31.01.97	11.01.00
D M Connolly	Pretoria	SES Band 2.2	28.05.98	12.07.02
R G Halverson OBE	Dublin and Holy See	SES Band 2.2	20.01.99	9.1.03
A C Rocher	Los Angeles	SES Band 2.2	29.11.00	31.10.02
J. W. Olsen	Los Angeles New York CG	SES Band 2.2 SES Band 2.2	23.11.02 27.3.06	16.2.06
J J Herron	Dublin and Holy See	SES Band 2.2	13.1.03	13.2.06
R K R Alston	London	SES BAND.3.3	25.2.05	
R Charles	Chicago	SES Band 2.2	23.3.05	
R Hill	UN New York	SES Band 3.3	28.4.06	

Question 85

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Ambassador Woolcott—extension

Hansard page: 44 (28May2007)

Senator Faulkner

When was the decision made to extend Ambassador Woolcott's current posting in Rome until February 2008?

Answer

Mr Downer agreed to extend Mr Woolcott's term for six months on 11 August 2006.

Question 86

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Ambassador Woolcott—notice of termination

Hansard page: 50 (28May2007)

Senator Forshaw

When was Mr Woolcott officially advised by DFAT or the Minister that his term in Rome was going to finish and he was going to be replaced?

Answer

Mr Woolcott was officially advised by DFAT on 26 April 2007.

Question 87

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: AWAs

Hansard page: 48 (28May2007)

Senator Hogg

(a) In terms of an AWA, are non-ongoing employees treated differently from ongoing employees?

(b) How are they different?

Answer

(a) No.

(b) Not applicable.

Question 88

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: EL1 salary

Hansard page: 32 (29May2007)

Senator Faulkner

Are you able to put a dollar figure on an EL1 salary?

Answer

DFAT has four EL1 salary points. Current salary points are as follows:

EL1.1	$78,044
EL1.2	$82,358
EL1.3	$85,258
EL1.4	$87,691

Question 89

Output: ES (Executive Branch)

Topic: War on terror

Written question

Senator Faulkner

(a) Can you confirm that the expression "war on terror" is not used in the *Annual Report 2005–06* of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade?

(b) (i) Who made the decision not to use this expression, (ii) why, and (iii) when?

(c) Does this prohibition on the use of the expression "war on terror" apply to other documents prepared by the department?

Answer

(a) The expression "war on terror" was not used in the department's 2005–06 Annual Report.

(b) There was no specific decision on this matter.

(c) There is no prohibition but the department generally does not use the expression "war on terror".

Question 90

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Minister's visit to the US

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) Can details be provided of the visit by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the United States in May 2007 including:

i. the date of departure from Australia;

ii. a detailed itinerary including all official meetings;

iii. details of departmental officers, including name and role, who accompanied the Minister;

iv. details of personal staff, including name and role, who accompanied the Minister;

v. details of family members who accompanied the Minister;

vi. details of other persons, including name and role, who accompanied the Minister; and

vii. the date of return to Australia.

(b) What sum was spent by the Commonwealth on:

i. travel;

ii. accommodation;

iii. security; and

iv. all other expenses for the Minister's visit to the United States in May 2007?

Answer

(a) See details below:

i. 23 May 2007

ii. See *Attachment A* at end of this set of answers.

iii. David Ritchie AO, Deputy Secretary

iv. Mr Chris Kenny, Chief of Staff and Mr Andrew Goledzinowski, Senior Adviser

v. Mrs Nicky Downer AM

vi. Nil others travelling from Australia. The following A–based officials accompanied Mr Downer in California: Mr Dennis Richardson, Ambassador to the United States; Mr Innes Willox, Consul–General, Los Angeles; Mr Mark Pierce, Minister–Counsellor, Washington; Julie Peterson, Branch Coordinator, Washington; Mr David Lawson, Consul–General, San Francisco. The following A–based officials accompanied Mr Downer in Hawaii: Mr John Quinn; Consul–General, Honolulu; Mrs Quinn, Spouse of Consul–General,

Honolulu; Mr Peter Grant, Consul, Honolulu; Mr Mark Berwick, District Manager, Honolulu; WGCDR Steve Kennedy, Defence Liaison Officer, Honolulu.

vii. 28 May 2007.

(b) See details below; these figures are correct as at 22 June and are the current known costs. Please note all bills have not yet been received.

i. $67,764.27.

ii. $6,775.00 as at 21 June 2007 (Honolulu). Further charges are expected from Los Angeles and San Francisco.

iii. nil

iv. Other expenses associated with the Ministerial party's travel:

Travelling Allowances	$537.04
Meals in Honolulu	$1,017.33
Ground transport in Honolulu	$491.78

Attachment to Question 90
Minister's visit to the US

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Visit to California and Honolulu 23-27 May 2007

23 May 2007	
0615	Arrive at Los Angeles airport
1000	Formal welcome at Reagan Library, Los Angeles, followed by: - bilateral meeting with Secretary Rice - speeches and press conference - lunch hosted by Mrs Reagan
1415	Fly from Los Angeles to Camp Pendleton Marine Base
1500	Arrive at Camp Pendleton - meetings with selected teams of Marines - discussions with Commander, First Marine Division - observe Marine exercises
1715	Fly from Camp Pendleton to San Francisco
24 May 2007	
1000	Visit to Hewlett Packard laboratories - demonstration of memory spot and video-conferencing technologies and speeches
1115	Demonstration of Tesla electric car
1200	Lunch with Silicon Valley CEOs
1600	Visit to Flood elementary school - inspect after-school program; discussions with students
2000	Dinner with Secretary Rice
25 May 2007	
0900	Depart San Francisco for Honolulu
1120	Arrive Honolulu
1300-1330	Light lunch and briefing on program
1415-1530	Office call on Admiral Timothy Keating, Commander, US Pacific Command
1545-1630	Office call on Admiral Robert Willard, Commander, US Pacific Fleet, PACFLT HQ, Makalapa
1720-1730	Meet Dr Charles Morrison, President, East-West Centre, Imin Conference Centre
1730-1915	Deliver informal address at East-West Centre followed by questions and answers, and reception
26 May 2007	
0700	Golf round with LTGEN Utterback, Commander US 13th Air Force, and other senior PACAF officers at Hickam AFB Golf Course
1215-1415	Visit Pacific Aviation Museum at Ford Island in Pearl Harbour, followed by lunch at the Museum Cafe
1600-1740	Executive time
1800-1930	Attend reception in honour of Mr Downer and Mrs Downer
Sunday 27 May 2007	
0010	Depart Honolulu for Sydney

Question 91

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: HOMs termination advice

Hansard page: 49 (28May2007)

Senator Forshaw

Can you advise, for the last three years, when Heads of Mission were formally advised that their term was concluding and when the public announcement was made about who was replacing them.

Answer

Head of Mission postings are normally for a period of about three years. Head of Mission postings can normally be expected to conclude around the third anniversary of the Head of Mission's commencement date. Operational reasons and the personal circumstances of the incumbent and his or her successor routinely have an impact on the precise changeover timings.

If a Head of Mission has requested an extension past the notional three-year anniversary of commencement, the department will advise the Head of Mission in writing whether or not the application has been successful. This indicates the date that he or she can expect to leave the post.

A Head of Mission will normally receive formal advice of his or her nominated successor when asked by the department to seek agrément (i.e. host government concurrence) for the nominee from the Head of Mission's host country.

Public announcements of Head of Mission appointments are normally made on receipt of agrément and Executive Council approval. If it wishes, the Government can, however, announce its intention to appoint an Ambassador at any time. This announcement does not form part of the agreement process.

To provide the precise information sought by Senator Forshaw would entail a significant diversion of resources and in the circumstances the additional work cannot be justified.

Question 92

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Salary package/AWA

Hansard page: 41 and 42 (28 May2007)

Senator Faulkner

(a) Can the salary package earned by a public servant be made publicly available?

(b) Can an AWA template be made publicly available?

(c) Can the details of an individual's AWA be made publicly available?

Answer

(a) The department's salary structure for non-SES employees, as outlined in the DFAT Collective Agreement 2006–2009, is publicly available on the department's website. Salary ranges for SES staff, who are employed under AWAs, are provided in the DFAT Annual Report.

(b) The department would be happy to provide the Committee with a copy of the template though it is not normally publicly available.

(c) Where an employee's salary is determined under an AWA, there is no legal prohibition on the disclosure of details of that agreement. However, disclosure of an individual's AWA might raise privacy concerns. The department would therefore seek consent from the other party first.

Question 93

Output: Enabling Services (Conduct and Ethics unit)

Topic: Whistleblowing

Hansard page: 26 (28May2007)

Senator Faulkner

(a) Are whistleblowing complaints reported in the Annual Report?

(b) Have there been any internal reviews on whistleblower protection recently?

Answer

(a) Information on whistleblowing complaints made to the department is not reported in the Annual Report.

(b) There have not been any formal internal reviews on whistleblower protection since 2001. The department regularly monitors its whistleblowing policy to ensure all staff are aware of their rights and obligations and that the policy aligns with the provisions of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

Question 94

Output: Enabling Services (OPO)

Topic: OPO account

Written question

Senator Evans

(a) How does the Overseas Property Account work?

(b) What is the balance in the account?

(c) How has this fluctuated over time?

(d) How has this changed over time?

(e) How is the fund topped up?

(f) What have been the contributions to and outgoings from the fund over the past five years?

(g) How are these Budget measures going to be accounted for?

(h) How is this measure to be funded from the reserves of the overseas property account?

(i) What is the accounting treatment?

(j) How is the cash reserve transfer offset against the expense?

(k) What is the status of the Foreign Affairs property redevelopments at p332 of BP No.2 2007–08?

(l) When will contracts for construction be signed?

(m) What processes does DFAT have in place for realising surplus property?

(n) How are the proceeds from realising surplus property shared with the Budget?

(o) Provide a list of holiday rest and recreational accommodation leased and/or owned by the Department and where?

(p) For each property, provide annual lease costs and cost recoveries from staff?

Answer

(a) The Overseas Property Account was established in 2002 by the Minister for Finance and Administration to provide the financial mechanism for the commercial management of the Commonwealth's overseas property estate. Information on the purpose of the Account and its function are contained in Determination 2002/01 "Financial Management and Accountability (Special Accounts)" of 12 March 2002 and subsequent amendment.

(b) The balance of the Special Account at 30 June 2007 is expected to be of the order of $189 million, subject to any draw–down on or deposit into the Account before the end of the 2006–07 financial year.

(c) and (d) The balance of the Account reflects activity throughout the year, including the payment of an annual dividend and asset purchases. Closing balances for the financial years 2001–02 to 2005–06 were as follows:

- 2001–02 $36.279 million
- 2002–03 $62.907 million
- 2003–04 $71.957 million
- 2004–05 $164.401 million
- 2005–06 $131.181 million

(e) There is no mechanism for "topping up" the Account. Revenue into the Account is derived from rents paid by agencies that occupy Government property.

(f)

Financial Year	Contributions AUD ('000s)	Outgoings AUD ('000s)
2001-02**	11,332	83,374
2002-03	191,104	164,476
2003-04	164,038	154,988
2004-05	187,540	95,096
2005-06	141,273	174,493

** part year only

(g) The measures will be accounted for in the Department's Annual Report and portfolio budget statements.

(h) The measures will be funded from the Special Account cash balance (see answer b), and future rental revenue from agencies.

(i) The accounting treatment will be in accordance with the Australian Government Financial Reporting Framework and other relevant authoritative pronouncements such as the Australian Accounting Standards.

(j) The surplus from rental revenue and expenses funds capital measures.

(k) and (l) All three projects are still in the scoping and development stages. Contracts will be signed at the conclusion of any requisite parliamentary public works approval, and tendering processes.

(m) DFAT is advised by the Department's outsourced property services company (United Group Services) on the disposal of property identified as surplus by the Department in terms of the Australian Government Property Ownership Framework.

(n) Proceeds from realising surplus property are paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

(o) and (p) Relief facilities are provided in a number of overseas locations to provide staff, including from attached agencies, and their families with respite from harsh living environments at these locations. At present there is no system of cost recovery from staff for the use of these facilities. However, the Department is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of relief facilities overseas, including the question of instituting a charging regime. Relief facilities overseas are set out in the following table.

Post	Ownership	Rent Per Annum AUD
Accra	Leased	$18,267.93
Ankara	Leased	$23,511.50
Athens	Leased	$27,074.94
Bangkok	Leased	$6,137.55
Bangkok	Leased	$15,389.69
Bangkok	Leased	$14,730.13
Bangkok	Leased	$16,444.98
Bangkok	Leased	$17,338.00
Bangkok	Leased	$16,182.14
Beirut	Leased	$7,498.87
Buenos Aires	Leased	$12,691.97
Cairo	Leased	$3,241.08
Islamabad	Leased	$17,280.02
Jakarta	Owned	$13,200.00
Jakarta	Owned	$13,200.00
Jakarta	Leased	$42,645.01
Manila	Leased	$20,160.67
Manila	Leased	$15,568.52
Manila	Leased	$15,092.50
Mexico City	Leased	$56,833.56
Moscow	Leased	$73,071.72
New Delhi	Leased	$32,778.46
Phnom Penh	Leased	$17,861.98
Port Louis	Leased	$13,972.46
Santiago	Leased	$20,568.33
Seoul	Leased	$62,669.29
Tehran	Leased	$17,849.17

Post	Ownership	Rent Per Annum AUD
Tokyo	Leased	$26,412.49
Tokyo	Leased	$21,244.83
Tokyo	Leased	$27,549.54
Tokyo	Leased	$27,791.20
		$671,613.52

Question 95

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Matthew Hyndes—APS employment

Written question
Senator Faulkner

(a) What was Mr Matthew Hyndes' Australian Public Service (APS) employment classification

i. immediately prior to taking leave without pay in mid–1996 to undertake private sector employment in Thailand?

ii. following his demotion around July 1999 after having been found to have breached the APS Code of Conduct under section 13 of the *Public Service Act 1999*?

iii. when he sent an email on 16 August 2002 concerning his security clearance to the head of the department's Diplomatic Security Branch?

iv. when he was appointed as the Deputy Australian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka in late 2004?

(b) Was My Hyndes' appointment as the Deputy Australian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka subject to a competitive selection process? If not, why not?

Answer

(a) i. Administrative Service Officer (ASO) Class 6.1

ii. Australian Public Service (APS) Level 5.3 (previously ASO Class 5)

iii. Executive Level (EL) 1.2

iv. Executive Level 1.3.

Note: None of these shifts in classification was the result of a promotion, i.e. movement from one broadband to another.

(b) Yes.

Question 96

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Matthew Hyndes—Diplomatic passport

Written question

Senator Faulkner

(a) Did Mr Matthew Hyndes surrender his diplomatic passport immediately on commencing leave without pay in mid 1996? If not, why not?

(b) When was his diplomatic passport returned to him? If this occurred prior to his return to duty with the department in April 1997, why was this action taken?

Answer

(a) No. Mr Hyndes should have surrendered his diplomatic passport when he commenced leave without pay. The department requires officers to surrender diplomatic passports when no longer required officially. This policy is now enforced more strictly.

(b) Not applicable.