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23 November 2000

Answers to questions taken on notice from Senators Hogg, Harradine and Cook

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM SENATOR HOGG

Question

Senator Hogg asked for a table of Youth Ambassador placements by country for the financial years 1998-99, 1999-00 and 2000-01.

Response

Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development placements by country for each financial year are as follows:

	1998-1999	**1999-2000**	**2000-2001**
	Intakes 1 & 2	Intakes 3 & 4	Intakes 5 & 6 (Estimate)
Bangladesh	2	5	11
Cambodia	5	21	24
China	4	5	9
Fiji	17	15	0
Indonesia	4	0	0
Kiribati	3	0	0
Laos	1	4	11
Malaysia	2	0	0
Maldives	5	7	11
Micronesia	1	0	0
Mongolia	2	3	7
Nepal	11	10	26
PNG	0	2	4
Philippines	9	9	15
Samoa	3	4	15
Solomon Is	10	0	0
Sri Lanka	2	3	5
Thailand	10	30	29
Tonga	1	5	16
Vanuatu	9	18	21
Vietnam	17	26	36
TOTAL	**118**	**167**	**240**

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Question
Senator Hogg asked for the average placement costs on a country-by-country basis.

Response

The average placement cost per Australian Youth Ambassador for Development for each country is as follows:

	Number of AYADs Intakes 1-4	Program Attributed Costs 1998-2000 $	Average Cost per Placement $
Bangladesh	7	173,831	24,833
Cambodia	26	735,488	28,288
China	9	213,603	23,734
Fiji	32	714,439	22,326
Indonesia	4	73,095	18,274
Kiribati	3	67,399	22,466
Laos	5	146,998	29,400
Malaysia	2	8,000	4,000
Maldives	12	308,011	25,668
Micronesia	1	18,596	18,596
Mongolia	5	135,430	27,086
Nepal	21	524,275	24,965
PNG	2	48,721	24,361
Philippines	18	444,016	24,668
Samoa	7	176,451	25,207
Solomon Is	10	249,173	24,917
Sri Lanka	5	116,080	23,216
Thailand	40	1,034,169	25,854
Tonga	6	166,844	27,807
Vanuatu	27	719,377	26,644
Vietnam	43	1,130,111	26,282
TOTAL	**285**	**7,204,106**	**25,277**

Costs for each country are the same (except for Malaysia—see below). The variation in average cost per country is because of the varying length of assignments from a minimum of 3 months to a maximum of 12 months. The amount of allowances paid to each Youth Ambassador is based on the length of their assignments. Allowances are paid at a fixed rate in Australian dollars. This rate was the same for all countries.

* Partner organisation paid for allowances, in-country support and monitoring in Malaysia.

Question
Senator Hogg asked what proportion administrative expenditure comprised of the total costs of the Youth Ambassadors scheme.

Response

Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) administrative expenditure comprises internal management costs, former AYAD Office costs and marketing costs and amounts to 12.8% of the total cost of the program (July 1998 to November 2000).

The implementation of the pilot phase of the AYAD program was contracted via public tender process. Following a review of the program in November 1999, AusAID is now in the process of tendering for the implementation of AYAD as an ongoing aid program. We expect the proportion allocated to administration to reduce further.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM SENATOR HARRADINE

Question
In answer to a question asked at the Budget estimate hearings 2000—2001, May 31, 2000, the Department stated: "The Government's policy on contraceptives in the aid program restricts purchases to contraceptives that are readily available and in wide use in Australia. Is Implanon in "wide use" in Australia?

Response
Implanon was registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in August 1999, but is not yet available commercially.

Question
Has the Department received confirmation from UNFPA regarding contraceptive goods being the sixth most purchased item by UN agencies, while water purification equipment is not in the top 10?

Response
A response to this question was provided to the Senate Estimates Committee Secretariat on 5 December 2000.

Question
Has the Department received additional information from UNFPA regarding dissemination of information on the lifting of targets and quotas in counties where the UNFPA program in China is operating and for additional reporting on the overall effect of this information on promoting voluntarism?

Response
A response to this question was provided to the Senate Estimates Committee Secretariat on 5 December 2000.

Question
Has the Department been able to obtain specific information from the UNFPA relating to unplanned pregnancy in Sijui City in Guangdong province and the response of authorities to those pregnancies, and the subsequent outcome?

Response
AusAID requested information on Sihui City from UNFPA . UNFPA informed AusAID that UNFPA collects information on unplanned births, not on unplanned pregnancies, in the areas in which UNFPA works in China.

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Answers to questions taken on notice from Senators Hogg, Harradine and Cook

Question

International Planned Parenthood Federation has recently admitted it violated US guidelines in using US taxpayer money to perform abortions in India and Uganda. Bearing in mind the Federal Government's stipulation that aid monies cannot be used for abortion provision, does the Department know how IPPF allocates the money it receives from AusAid? Could the Department ascertain from IPPF the specific uses it has made of Australian funding since 1996?

Response

IPPF has informed us that it did not use US funds to perform abortions. It acknowledges that some US funds were transferred, through a bookkeeping error, into the accounts of the national Family Planning Associations (FPAs) of India and Uganda (where abortion is legal). But IPPF maintains that this was picked up by a routine audit and rectified immediately it was discovered.

AusAID does not release any money to IPPF until it indicates in writing its agreement to use Australian funds in conformity with the Australian Government's *Guiding Principles on Family Planning*. It last did this on 16 April 2000 by completing and signing the Multilateral Population Checklist. The Checklist stipulates *inter alia* that Australian Government contributions will not be used to fund abortion training or services, or research trials or activities which directly involve abortion drugs.

Australian funds allocated to FPAs have been spent principally on the promotion and provision of sexual and reproductive health and family planning services, maternal and child health, as well as HIV/AIDS awareness activities. Women from poor areas and youth are priority target groups for most FPAs.

Answers to questions taken on notice from Senators Hogg, Harradine and Cook

IPPF has provided the attached summary of its allocation of AusAID funding to national FPAs from 1996 to 2000.

FPA	1996 AUS$	1997 AUS$	1998 AUS$	1999 AUS$	2000 AUS$
CAMEROON	89,152	70,772	82,971		86,410
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	73,944	45,627	57,049		68,196
CHAD	39,852	39,366	44,377		70,440
GABON		13,998	16,957		92,764
MOZAMBIQUE	74,578	66,235	68,561		88,396
NAMIBIA	26,433	36,022	19,041		17,437
NIGER	41,232	35,893	48,903		77,529
SENEGAL	113,791	94,355	93,061		160,908
SIERRA LEONE	97,487	90,574	100,458		742
BURKINA FASO	108,674	85,799	87,409		112,653
ZAMBIA	208,855	220,956	171,285		194,521
ALGERIA	115,338	89,285	58,615	43,702	26,339
EGYPT				188,238	
DJIBOUTI	58,706	58,328	53,418		67,680
JORDAN (EAST)	105,103	73,037	81,926	63,736	65,192
PALESTINE	99,139	80,342	83,651	38,677	57,884
LEBANON	104,879	95,908	97,881	64,205	64,860
MOROCCO	136,169	74,421	132,466	26,842	43,528
SYRIA	106,379	84,937	103,626	54,625	57,551
TUNISIA	82,682	74,440	66,911	46,080	46,082
YEMEN	101,332	82,996	54,146		102,172
MAURIITANIA	59,275	54,709	45,288	53,791	66,716
NEPAL				269,571	
PAKISTAN				39,762	
SRI LANKA				69,947	
COLOMBIA				323,412	
COSTA RICA				37,258	
GUYANA				37,918	
HAITI				10,560	
PANAMA				40,066	
PARAGUAY				55,643	
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO				47,922	
URUGUAY				55,662	
(BANK CHARGES)				383	
	1,843,000	1,568,000	1,568,000	1,568,000	1,568,000
US$	1,160,182	987,456	839,870	1,014,744	908,205
Exchange rate	1.59	1.59	1.87	1.55	1.73

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Answers to questions taken on notice from Senators Hogg, Harradine and Cook

Question
Please provide details of all WHO/UN/International Rescue Committee family planning/reproductive health programs in East and West Timor and of Australian funding to these programs or any other similar programs run by Australian and/or other agencies. Do any of these programs involve the provision of abortion or of contraceptives not approved for use in Australia?

Response
The Australian Government's policy is to support activities that provide information and access to safe, voluntary and affordable family planning options. The Government does not consider abortion to be a method of family planning.

We note AusAID does not gather or monitor information in other countries about family planning or reproductive health activities that do not involve Australian funding. However, we have provided available information to the best of our knowledge in answer to Senator Harradine's broad question.

EAST TIMOR
We have no accurate or detailed knowledge as to what contraceptives are currently being supplied in East Timor in programs outside of AusAID funding. We are aware of the following activities in the area of reproductive health and family planning.

WHO
- Comprehensive assessment of reproductive health problems and organisation of training courses for improving the delivery skills
- Training in new concepts and management of reproductive health activities
- Monitoring of infection prevention activities in labour room in post-natal wards at hospitals
- No Australian funding has been provided to these activities.

UNICEF
- The UNICEF Basic Health Care Program provides assistance to the re-establishment of basic health services including reproductive health activities such as refresher training for midwives.
- Australia contributed $500,000 in 1999-2000 financial year to UNICEF's Basic Health Care Program. UNICEF have advised that these funds were allocated to the immunisation against measles immediately following the crisis.

UNFPA
- UNFPA have a reproductive health program for East Timor to support the rehabilitation of the health system and provision of basic services, staff and training and education to ensure the reproductive health of East Timorese.
- This has included the provision of reproductive health kits to health clinics and provision of condoms to the international community in order to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

- UNFPA is providing contraceptives including condoms, oral contraceptives, injectables and implants including Norplant.
- No Australian funding has been provided to these activities.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RED CROSS

- The ICRC is currently running the Dili Surgical Hospital, including the provision of reproductive health services. The ICRC is not performing abortions
- Australia has not provided funding directly to the Dili Hospital running costs, but did contribute $1,250,000 to the ICRC general emergency appeal for East Timor in 1999-2000.

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

- The IRC is conducting reproductive health training in a new program for local health care workers and communities that will include reproductive health promotion and education.
- No Australian funding has been provided to these activities.

WEST TIMOR

Australia contributed US$125,000 from interest earned on the UNFPA Australian Trust Fund to the project *Emergency Reproductive Health Assistance to Refugees in West Timor.* The project was to be implemented in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia and the International Rescue Committee. All activities were suspended due to the 6 September 2000 Atambua killings.

This was a short-term program for a 6-month period to supply urgently needed supplies for ante-natal care, delivery and emergency obstetric care, treatment of STDs including HIV/AIDS, safe blood transfusion, and family planning needs. UNFPA was providing these supplies in the form of Minimal Initial Service Package Kits. All kits were compliant with the Australian Government Population Checklist that UNFPA signed for this project.

UNFPA had purchased the supplies, but no distribution had occurred before the project was suspended.

The UNFPA rapid assessment for this project in July 2000 revealed there were no other UN/WHO/International Rescue Committee family planning/ reproductive health programs in West Timor. Medecins Sans Frontieres Belgium and American Refugee Committee had been providing some reproductive health services (ante-natal care and STD focus), however both NGOs were in the phase-out stage.

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Question
Could the Department please provide details of funding to any projects administered by Marie Stopes International. Is the Department aware of the controversy surrounding the work of this organisation in the UK, where an abortion facility it runs in London has been accused of negligence and with failing to provide women with adequate counselling and care and that a complaint has been lodged with the Charity Commission against this organisation? Is the Department certain that none of the MSI projects it helps fund are engaged in abortion provision or advocacy?

Response
AusAID does not fund Marie Stopes International (MSI). Our response to Senator Harradine's question of 31 May 2000 advised of the role of Marie Stopes Australia (MSA) in the *Indonesia Women's Health and Family Welfare Project*.

No. AusAID is not aware of the alleged controversy.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM SENATOR COOK

Question
What was the total value of Australian aid funds used to purchase (& distribute) food in 1999-2000. How does this compare to previous years? What is the estimate for 2000-2001?

Response

The total value of Australian aid funds for the purchase and distribution of food aid in 1999-2000 was $83,331,320. In 1998-99 the value was $86,573,270 and in 1997-98 the value was $107,215,640. For 2000-2001 it is estimated that the value will be in the vicinity of $85,000,000.

Question
What was the value of Australian aid funds provided to international or multilateral agencies to purchase or provide food for aid purposes in 1999-2000?

Response

The value of Australian aid funds provided to international and multilateral agencies to purchase or provide food for aid purposes in 1999-2000 was $19,950,000. For 2000-2001 it is estimated that the value will again be approximately $20,000,000.

Question
From what country/countries was the food purchased with Australian aid funds in 1999-2000? What is the estimate for 2000-2001?

Response

In 1999-2000 a total of $63,381,320 was provided for the procurement and distribution of Australian sourced food commodities. *[Information from WFP to be incorporated.]*