

Question 1

Output 1.1.1

Topic: Japan—comfort women

Written question

Senator Nettle asked:

- (a) Has the Department provided advice to the Minister on claims of “comfort women”, women who were detained and abused by the Japanese Military in World II?
- (b) Has there been communication between Australia and the Japanese Government on this issue?
- (c) What has the government done to press on the Japanese government the importance of compensating these women?

Answer

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes. Mr Howard raised the issue with Japanese Prime Minister Abe during his visit to Tokyo on 11–14 March 2007. It has been the consistent position of successive Australian Governments to welcome publicly any attempts by Japan to come to terms with its past, including to educate the current generation through school curricula and open discussion about Japan’s wartime history and the immense suffering caused to the victims of sexual exploitation of women by the Japanese military during World War II. The Australian Government would welcome any additional measures by the Japanese Government to address the valid concerns of those victims. The Australian Government has also, in the past, encouraged the Japanese Government to promote the Asian Women’s Fund which was initiated by the Japanese Government in 1995 to carry out programs and projects with the aim of atonement for the ‘comfort women’.
- (c) Having accepted the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty as addressing the issues of compensation and reparations by Japan for Australian prisoners of war and civilian internees, the Australian Government takes the view that there is no effective legal recourse for Australia to seek reparations for ‘comfort women’. However, the Australian Government does not stand in the way of any private action against the Japanese Government for actions during the war, including by or on behalf of the victims of sexual exploitation of women. See also answer to Question (b).

Question 2

Output 1.1.2

Topic: East Timorese institutions

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) In respect of the Government's long-term plans for peace-building in East Timor, what are its plans for developing the effectiveness of government departments, the East Timorese police forces and the ETDF?
- (b) What are the current projections for the timeframe of Government assistance in each of these areas; and what are the benchmarks for success in each of these areas?
- (c) What policy has the Government developed to prevent any future collapse of the East Timorese institutions?

Answer

- (a) In 2006-2007, Australia has committed around \$43 million in aid to East Timor. The aid program is focused on effective and accountable planning, budgeting and expenditure, and improving public sector management. In 2006–2007 the Australian Government also provided \$1.3 million to support a UNDP project aimed at strengthening electoral institutions and processes, and is supporting capacity building in the health, water and agriculture sectors, and a further \$2 million towards UNDP's justice strengthening project.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) and AusAID are administering the Australia–East Timor Police Development Program (2002-2009) which aims to develop community policing capability.

The Australian Government is assisting the East Timorese defence organisation, comprising the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the national defence force (F-FDTL) to develop its capability and effectiveness through the Defence Cooperation Program (DCP).

- (b) The Australian Government is committed to providing significant assistance to strengthen East Timorese government departments, police and defence forces.
Progress towards strategy objectives will be tracked through an ongoing process of performance management and review.
- (c) Australia has consistently emphasised the importance of East Timor moving towards taking full control over its internal domestic affairs. The Government has long term assistance plans in place to help East Timor achieve this goal.

Question 3

Output 1.1.2

Topic: Philippines—human rights

Hansard page 66

Senator Payne asked:

In terms of our formal or program engagement in the Philippines, is there anything specifically related to human rights or anything that involves the military?

Answer

Our defence assistance to the Philippines aims to improve the capacity and professionalism of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Australia's Defence Cooperation Program with the Philippines funds participation by a number of members of the Philippines Defence Force in defence seminars and other educational opportunities which emphasise the need to respect human rights and international humanitarian law.

Question 4

Output 1.1.2

Topic: Thailand—extradition treaty

Hansard page 65

Senator Nettle asked:

Does Australia have an extradition treaty with Thailand?

Answer: No.

Question 5

Output 1.1.2

Topic: Thailand—military coup

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

The Government responded to a Question on Notice (No.4886) by saying that it is cooperation with Thailand, 'where such cooperation is in Australia's security interests'.

- (a) Can the Government define what interests are being taken into account and how they are balanced with the drawbacks of continuing to provide military aid to a Defence organisation that has just mounted a coup?
- (b) More broadly, can the Department give an outline of ongoing Government relations with Thailand and whether any aspect of them has changed since the coup?

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- (c) Can the Government outline the reasons for the different response regarding relations with the post-coup Fiji Government to that of the post-coup Thai government?
- (d) Has the Government pressured the Thai Government to follow any timeline to the re-establishment of democracy and is it making any aspects of its current cooperation conditional on meeting such a timeline?
- (e) If not, has the Government considered such action? If not, why not?

Answer

- (a) Australia continues a range of defence cooperation with Thailand where it is in Australia's national interest. This includes on counter-terrorism.
- (b) Routine Government-to-Government relations have continued since the coup, when in Australia's interests. Ministers and officials continue to use appropriate meetings with Thai counterparts to urge a prompt return to democratic rule.
- (c) In Thailand, coup leaders have given an early undertaking to restore democracy. They have appointed an interim civilian Prime Minister and have taken steps towards developing a new constitution, have lifted martial law in some locations and have foreshadowed elections, possibly by the end of this year. We continue to take all opportunities to urge the prompt return to democratic rule in Thailand.
- (d) and (e) The Government continues to urge a prompt return to democratic rule.

Question 6

Output 1.1.2

Topic: Thailand—Thaksin Shinawatra

Written question

Senator Nettle asked:

- (a) I note that Thailand's former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and billionaire is currently visiting Australia. Do you know how long he will be visiting here?
- (b) Has he met with any Australian officials?
- (c) I note media reports stating that he may wish to buy property in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, is that correct?
- (d) Would it create diplomatic problems if he moved to Australia?
- (e) Are the Thai's investigating him for corruption?
- (f) The Foreign Minister could cancel any visa obtained by Thaksin Shinawatra to come to Australia couldn't he?
- (g) Has there been any consideration of doing this?
- (h) Do we have an extradition treaty with Thailand?

Answer

- (a) Dr Thaksin visited Australia from 8-12 February.
- (b) It was a private visit.

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- (c) The Government is not aware of Dr Thaksin's intentions.
- (d) See answer above.
- (e) This is a matter for the Thai authorities.
- (f) The Minister retains powers to cancel certain classes of visas if the holder is determined by the Minister to be a person whose presence in Australia is, or would be, contrary to Australia's foreign policy interests.
- (g) No.
- (h) No.

Question 7

Output 1.1.3

Topic: Turkey—EU inclusion

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Is the Foreign Minister correctly reported as saying that some members of the European Union are saying positive things about Turkey's inclusion in the Union "but then find a thousand reasons for why it is not a good idea why it cannot be done immediately".
- (b) Which EU countries are supportive of Turkey's admission to the EU and which countries are expressing opposition.

Answer

- (a) Yes.
- (b) In December 2006, British Prime Minister Tony Blair in a press conference during his visit to Ankara, underlined the strategic importance of Turkey to the EU, particularly in relation to the situation in the Middle East. He said Turkey's EU membership was not just important to Turkey, but to the future of Europe. Other countries supporting consistently Turkey's EU ambitions include Sweden, Italy and Spain.

While not rejecting such a prospect out of hand, France, along with Austria, has pledged to hold a referendum on Turkey's EU accession. German Chancellor Merkel has also talked about a possible privileged partnership for Turkey rather than full membership.

Question 41

Output 1.1.3

Topic: ANZUS Treaty

Written question

Senator Nettle asked:

- (a) Is Foreign Affairs intending to send the US Ambassador a copy of the ANZUS treaty and organise a briefing for him?
- (b) Does Foreign Affairs, our Embassies or Consulates distribute copies of the ANZUS treaty to US officials and Congressmen?
- (c) Has Foreign Affairs ever briefed anyone in the US about the treaty in the last five years?
- (d) When was the last time the treaty was informally invoked?

Answer

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes, on request. A copy of the ANZUS treaty is also available on the DFAT website.
- (c) US officials consider the ANZUS Treaty to be the fundamental basis for the alliance; it underpins all alliance discussions with the United States.
- (d) The ANZUS Treaty was most recently invoked on 14 September 2001 in response to the terrorist attacks on the United States on 11 September 2001.

Question 8

Output 1.1.4

Topic: India—representations

Hansard page 66

Senator Payne

What representations has Australia made to India in respect of recent reports of India's support for Burma in terms of the sale of arms?

Answer

Australia maintains a regular dialogue with the Indian government on its relations with Burma, and continues to encourage India to use its influence to promote democratic development and respect for the rule of law in Burma.

With respect to press reports in January 2007 that India was planning to sell arms to Burma, the Australian High Commission in New Delhi sought to verify these claims with the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. The Australian High Commission was advised that while a request had been made by Burma, it was still under consideration and no decision yet been taken. The Government will continue to monitor this issue.

Question 9

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Afghanistan (Oruzgan) Governance

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

In response to a Question on Notice (No.4969) the Government stated that there are no specific training targets for Afghan police and army and police in Oruzgan province.

- (a) What is the Government's long term plan for Australia's commitment to Oruzgan and what specific benchmarks is it using to gauge its success?
- (b) What governance measures is Australia undertaking in Oruzgan to build the capacity of the local Government and justice systems?

Answer

- (a) The specific benchmarks Australia and the international community use to gauge the success its commitment in Afghanistan are set out in the Afghanistan Compact, agreed to at the London Conference of January 2006.
- (b) Australia is primarily involved in Oruzgan through our Reconstruction Task Force (RTF). The RTF is contributing to capacity building at the local level in areas related to small-scale reconstruction activities in Oruzgan. To this end, a trades training school has been established by the RTF which is, for example, providing training in carpentry. In 2007, AusAID disbursed \$1m through the World Bank Trust Fund to the National Solidarity Program, a local governance program which to date has supported communities to manage around 7,000 reconstruction development projects in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. More broadly, Italy is leading the international community's efforts to improve the capacity of the justice sector in Afghanistan.

Question 10

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Afghanistan (Oruzgan) Taliban

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

In response to a Question on Notice (No.4969), the Government claimed that it does not have exact figures on the number of attacks on schools and how many have closed in Oruzgan.

Can the Department provide whatever information it has on attempts by the Taliban to disrupt civil society in Oruzgan and how successful attempts to counter these attacks are?

Answer

Information not already in the public domain on attacks by the Taliban in Oruzgan, and attempts to counter these attacks, is classified.

Question 11

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Afghanistan administration

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

In response to a Question on Notice (No.4969) about the former Governor of Oruzgan appointing a Popalzai-dominated administration at the exclusion of other groups and tribes, the Government responded that ‘any decisions made by a former governor would be an internal matter for the Afghanistan Government’.

- (a) Given the centrality of ethnic and tribal political exclusion to the conflict now raging in Iraq and the priority that the Coalition has placed on solving that problem, why is the same priority not being attached in Afghanistan?
- (b) Is the response that the Government gave in its answer to the Question on Notice typical of policy that the broader Coalition in Afghanistan shares?

Answer

- (a) The Government places a high priority on returning Afghanistan to political stability and security. The evidence of this is our military deployments.
- (b) It would not be appropriate for the Australian Government to characterise the policies of our international partners in Afghanistan on this issue.

Question 12

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Afghanistan—EU representation

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Which European countries have troops serving in Afghanistan?
- (b) Which of these countries, if any, have imposed restrictions on their troops being assigned from northern Afghanistan to southern Afghanistan.
- (c) Did the Foreign Minister raise this subject on his recent visit to Europe with representatives of any country that is a member of the European Union and, if so, what was the response in each case.
- (d) Are there any European countries that have troops serving in Afghanistan that have not imposed restrictions on the movement of their troops there. If so, what are the countries?

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Answer

- (a) Of the 37 countries participating in the NATO-ISAF mission in Afghanistan, 33 are European. The 33 are: Albania; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey, and; the United Kingdom.
- (b) It would not be appropriate to comment on the national policies of other countries. Furthermore, restrictions may be classified for operational reasons.
- (c) Mr Downer delivered an address to the Munich Security Conference (10 February 2007) in which he urged nations involved in the NATO–ISAF mission to relax or remove caveats that restrict their troop deployments in Afghanistan. He said such action would “give the ISAF commanders the flexibility they need to achieve victory”. Ministers and high-ranking officials from many NATO-ISAF mission nations attended the Munich Conference. He will continue to encourage NATO members to take such action. Other countries involved in Afghanistan—US, UK and Canada—have also appealed for caveats to be relaxed.
- (d) It would not be appropriate to comment on the national policies of other countries. Furthermore, restrictions may be classified for operational reasons.

Question 13

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Fiji—military coup

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Can the Government provide details on what restrictions it is imposing on Fiji as a result of the military coup?
- (b) Are these restrictions being undermined by any other countries replacing the services that Australia or other countries have withdrawn?
- (c) What further action will the Government take if Commodore Bainimarama’s government does not return the country to democracy?
- (d) Is the Government aware of any Fijian threats to declare sanctions on Australian interests and if so what are the details and status of these threats?
- (e) Does the Government support New Zealand’s position that Fijian troops should be removed from UN peacekeeping operations?
- (f) If so, what action did the Government take within the UN to bring about this goal?
- (g) If not, why not?

Answer

- (a) The Australian Government has instituted travel bans against perpetrators and supporters of the coup, members of the interim government and the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) and their families. The families of RFMF below Warrant Officer rank are not subject to the bans.

Senior public servants and members of quasi-government boards appointed by the interim government are captured by the bans. Their families are assessed on a case by case basis.

The Australian Government has also suspended its Defence Cooperation Program and those elements of Australia's development assistance program which have been rendered ineffective or would be compromised by working with the military, such as public sector reform and assistance in the law and justice sectors.

- (b) No.
- (c) The Australian Government is maintaining its measures in place in order to encourage an early return to democracy in Fiji. We will also work with members of the Pacific Islands Forum to encourage Fiji's return to democracy.
- (d) Yes. On 19 January, Commodore Bainimarama threatened the introduction of trade sanctions against Australia. On 27 February, he stepped back from these threats. On 2 March, the Fiji interim government announced it had placed travel bans on Prime Minister John Howard and New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark entering Fiji. The Fiji interim government has not announced the lifting of these bans.
- (e) On 8 December, the Australian Permanent Representative to the UN, together with his New Zealand counterpart, met UN Assistant Secretary General (DPKO), Hedi Annabi, to convey our concerns about RFMF participation in UN Peace Keeping Operations (PKOs) and to explore appropriate mechanisms for reviewing/restricting Fiji's future participation in UN PKOs.
- (f) & (g) Not applicable.

Question 14

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq Government

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Are you concerned by allegations that Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is colluding with Iran and radical anti-US cleric Moqtada al-Sadr to facilitate the safe passage of senior militia's members to Iran in order to evade capture or killing by US forces? (Shia Rebels Leave Before the Surge, Australian, 29/01/07)
- (b) Do you have any evidence to support this conclusion?

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- (c) Has the Minister taken this matter up with Prime Minister Maliki or any Iraqi Government representatives and if so, what response was received?
- (d) What is the department's view of the relationship between PM al-Maliki and Iraqi militias?

Answer

- (a) to (d) Prime Minister Maliki in a press released issued following his meeting with Prime Minister Howard on 17 March, emphasised that stability in Iraq can only be achieved through a parallel commitment to the “political process and national reconciliation, in finding common ground between all groups of the Iraqi people, while using force against anyone who does not follow the law.”

Question 15

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq invasion

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Is it the Department's view that the Iraq invasion and occupation strategy has emboldened Islamic fundamentalists in the Middle East and resulted in Iran expanding its regional influence?
- (b) If not, why not?

Answer

- (a) and (b) As the Government has consistently said, a victory for terrorists in Iraq would be a massive boost for terrorism around the world, including in South East Asia.

Question 16

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq Study Group Report

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

The Baker-Hamilton Iraq Study Group report states that:

“Iraqi police... routinely engage in sectarian violence, including the unnecessary detention, torture, and targeted execution of Sunni Arab civilians. The police are organized under the Ministry of the Interior, which is confronted by corruption and militia infiltration.”

Are you aware of the Pentagon report to Congress of August 2006 which details how some Iraqi politicians “are condoning or maintaining support for violent means as a source of political leverage” and reports emergence of an increasing number of death squads including those formed from “rogue elements of the Iraqi security forces”.

Is it not the case that these reports prove that elements of the Iraqi Administration are indeed corrupt, inept and in some cases murderous?

Answer

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is aware of the two reports.

The situation in Iraq is complex and levels of violence remain of serious concern. However, it is encouraging that the Iraqi Government has been a significant part of the planning for and has committed to the new security plan. The Iraqi authorities, with the full support of the Coalition, are increasingly taking the lead and working to defeat those involved in the violence.

Question 17

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Funding of mosque

Hansard page 70

Senator Faulkner asked:

Following comments made by Mr Downer in January this year regarding funding of a mosque in Adelaide, the embassy of Saudi Arabia issued a statement saying it was shocked by the comments.

Did a spokesman for Mr Downer say the Minister was misunderstood by the embassy of Saudi Arabia and there was no intention to criticise the Saudi Arabian Government?

Answer

The office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs responded to a media query by noting that there had been a misunderstanding with the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia and that no criticism of the Saudi Arabian Government had been intended.

Question 18

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq–Australia and the Iraqi Government

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

In response to a Question on Notice (No. 4974) the Foreign Minister stated that the US government is in regular discussions with the Iraqi Government on a range of matters, including security.

- (a) Are you aware of representations made by the US Government to the Government of Iraq that the latter agree to a timetable for disbanding of militias; if so what was the Iraqi Government's response?
- (b) Has Australia made similar representations; if so what was the response received.

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Answer

- (a) The United States Government has publicly stated its concerns about the impact of militias in Iraq and is in regular discussions with the Iraqi Government on a range of matters, including security. It would not be appropriate for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to comment on the detail of these discussions.
- (b) The Australian Government has had ongoing discussions with, and has made representations to, the Iraqi Government on a range of matters, including security.

Question 19

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq–British withdrawal

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Has the government received any communication from the UK Government confirming the report of 11 January (Blair Set to Announce Troop Pullout, Financial Times) that an announcement on the reduction of British soldiers in Basra Province from 7,100 to 4,500 will be made public by the end of February?
- (b) Can the Government confirm the disagreement between the US and UK over this pullout plan (Britain at odds with US over Iraq Troop Pullout, Guardian 25/01/07)?
- (c) Does this disagreement still exist?
- (d) If so, what is the substance of it and how is it being resolved?
- (e) What is the Australian Government’s position on the British troop withdrawal?

Answer

- (a) Prime Minister Blair made a ‘Statement on Iraq and the Middle East’ to the United Kingdom House of Commons on 21 February 2007.
- (b) to (d) The goal of the Multinational Force in Iraq, including the United States and the United Kingdom, is to build the capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces so that they can assume primary responsibility for security operations. The United Kingdom has announced a conditions-based reduction in numbers as the Iraqi security forces make progress towards this goal in Basra and Maysan provinces, which the United States has welcomed.
- (e) This is a conditions-based reduction in numbers and is a positive sign that Iraqi security forces are assuming increasing responsibility for security operations in southern Iraq.

Question 20

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—casualties

Written question

Senator Evans

- (a) Has any estimate been made by or provided to the Australian Government on the number of people who have been (a) permanently incapacitated or (b) permanently disfigured in Iraq since the 2003 invasion of that country. If so, what is the estimate and by whom has the information been provided?
- (b) Has any estimate been made by or provided to the Australian Government on the number of people who have lost their life in Iraq since the 2003 invasion of that country. If so, what is the estimate and by whom has the information been provided?

Answer

- (a) and (b) The Government remains concerned about the security situation in Iraq. There are no authoritative estimates on the total number of Iraqi civilian casualties, or the number permanently incapacitated or disfigured. Estimates, and the methods used to compile them, vary widely.

Question 21

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—comments by Condoleezza Rice

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

I refer you to comments by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (Press Statement, 18/01/07) in regard to the Iraqi al-Maliki Government:

"I think he knows that his Government is, in a sense, on borrowed time"

Has the Australian Government given any timetable for its support to the Iraqi Government in a similar way to Secretary Rice's comments?

Answer

The Australian Government has consistently stated that our withdrawal from Iraq will be conditions not calendar based.

Question 22

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—comments by General Casey

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

I refer you to the comments of outgoing US military commander in Iraq General George Casey who said on 1 February this year:

"The longer we in the US forces continue to bear the main burden of Iraq's security, it lengthens the time that the government of Iraq has to make hard decisions about reconciliation and dealing with the militias. And the other thing is that they can continue to blame us for all of Iraq's problems, which are at base their problems."

What representations has the Australian government made to the Iraqi government with the aim of outlining a need for increased Iraqi efforts?

Answer

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

Question 23

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—comments by Robert Gates

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

I refer to the comments by Defence Secretary Robert Gates on 11 January 2007, when asked how long the US troop surge in Iraq would last, he said:

"It's viewed as a temporary surge, but I think no one has a really clear idea of how long that might be."

What is your understanding of the duration of troop deployments under the new US surge strategy?

Answer

On 6 February 2007, Defence Secretary Robert Gates testified to the United States Senate Committee on Armed Services that: "If the plan to quiet Baghdad is successful and the Iraqis step up...I would hope that we would be able to begin drawing down our troops later this year."

Question 24

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—cost of allied contributions

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

In response to a Question on Notice (No. 4975) the Foreign Minister stated that to determine the cost of the allied contributions to the stabilisation of Iraq would entail a significant diversion of resources, and that the additional work to do so could not be justified.

- (a) What would be the cost of such an activity?
- (b) What costs do you have in regard to the total allied contribution to the stabilisation of Iraq during the calendar year ending December 2006?
- (c) What total Australian costs do you have?

Answer

- (a) and (b) To determine the cost of the contributions from each of the twenty-seven coalition partners, as well as NATO and multilateral contributions, or the costs of allied partners, would entail a significant diversion of resources. The Department does not consider this work to be justified.
- (c) In relation to the Iraq Task Force and the Baghdad post, in 2005-06 the Department spent \$2.897 million on staff, administration and property costs. This amount does not include costs associated with asset purchases.

Question 25

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—Hadley leaked memo

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

In relation to the leaked memo of 8 November 2006 by White House National Security Adviser Stephen J Hadley, which records concerns about:

“intervention by the Prime Minister’s office to stop military action against Shia targets and to encourage them against Sunni ones”.

- (a) Does the department share these concerns?
- (b) Have you seen the memo?
- (c) Has the Government made any representations, or asked any questions of the Iraqi or US Governments arising from this memo?

Answer

- (a) to (c) The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not comment on leaked material.

Question 26

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—Hakim Zamili

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Are you aware of reports that the Iraqi Deputy Health Minister Hakim Zamili has been detained by US and Iraqi Forces in Baghdad?
- (b) Is Zamili a member of a political group that is loyal to the Iraqi cleric Moqtada al Sadr?
- (c) If so, what are the circumstances involving and the reasons for Zamili's detention?
- (d) Have any charges been laid against Zamili arising from the detention and, if so, what are the charges?
- (e) Are you able to say whether there are any other Ministers and/or officials of the Iraqi Government subject to investigation on matters of a like nature?

Answer

- (a) Yes
- (b) He is affiliated with the parliamentary coalition of predominantly Shia parties, the United Iraqi Alliance.
- (c) to (e) These are matters for the relevant Iraqi authorities.

Question 27

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraqi security forces

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

In response to a Question on Notice (No. 4972) the Defence Minister stated that Australia does not play a role in vetting members of the Iraqi Security Forces for possible links to militias.

Do you know who does screen Iraqi security forces for such links?

Answer

This is the responsibility of the relevant Iraqi authorities.

Question 28

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—Iran and Syria’s position

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Can the Department clarify Australia’s position on the Iraq Study Group’s recommendations for initiating dialogue with Iran and Syria regarding the strategic situation in Iraq?
- (b) What representations has Mr Downer made to the Iranians and Syrians concerning Iraq?
- (c) Has there been any discussion between the United States and Australia concerning their respective positions on dialogue with Iran and Syria about Iraq? If so, what were the substance and outcomes of these discussions?
- (d) Is the Australian position on dialogue with Iran and Syria on Iraq different to the US position?

Answer

- (a) Australia has consistently called on Iraq’s neighbours to play a constructive role in Iraq’s future, and to work for peace and stability in the region.
- (b) The Australian Government has raised its concerns with the Governments of Iran and Syria and called on them to play a constructive role in Iraq.
- (c) Australia and the United States consult closely on matters relating to Iraq. The substance of these discussions is confidential.
- (d) The Governments of the United States and Australia believe that Iraq’s neighbours should play a constructive role in Iraq’s future, and have welcomed the 10 March 2007 neighbours conference held in Baghdad, in which both Iran and Syria participated.

Question 29

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—non-Muslim minorities

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) What is the Department’s assessment of the position of non-Muslim religious minorities in Iraq and in particular has the Department made any assessment as to whether persons of non-Muslim religious minorities in Iraq who are facing persecution are entitled to enter Australia on a temporary or permanent basis?
- (b) Are you aware of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees dated October 2005 titled “Background Information on the Situation of Non-Muslim Religious Minorities in Iraq”?

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- (c) Are you aware of any further research that has been undertaken by the UNHCR in respect to the position of non-Muslim religious minorities in Iraq and if so what is the government's response to that additional research?
- (d) Are you aware of any particular steps that are being taken to both protect non-Muslim religious minorities in Iraq and or to assure the safe passage of those persons of non-Muslim background that may wish to leave Iraq as a result of persecution?

Answer

- (a) This question is best directed to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes. The Government is aware of further UNHCR research and continues to monitor the situation of minority groups in Iraq. The Government makes representations on these matters as appropriate.
- (d) Yes. The Iraqi Government, United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and international agencies are working to protect internally displaced persons, including non-Muslim religious minorities, in Iraq. UNHCR reports including the *Global Appeal 2007*, the *Global Report 2005*, the *Return Advisory*, dated December 2006 and the *Country of Origin Information: Iraq* report of October 2005 provide details of these steps.

Question 30

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—price of oil

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

In response to a Question on Notice (No. 4979) the Foreign Minister stated that changes to the price of oil in 2006 were due to a range of factors.

Has the Government been provided with advice as to the extent to which the conflict in Iraq has increased the price of oil; if so, what is that advice?

Answer

The Department has nothing further to add to the answer provided by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to Question on Notice No. 4979.

Question 31

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—proposed future strategy

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

Were the views of the Australian Government sought by President George Bush or his advisors on the proposed future strategy of the Iraq war prior to the President determining to escalate American presence in Iraq by the dispatch of another 21000 American troops to that country?

Answer

The Australian and United States Governments consult closely on Iraq matters.

Question 32

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—US Intelligence

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

It has been reported (Weekend Australian 10/2/07) that top US Defense official Douglas Feith provided intelligence of “dubious quality” and that he was engaged in “inappropriate” activities involving important intelligence reports before the Iraq war. The US Defense Inspector General’s report concluded that Mr Feith issued intelligence assessments on the relationship of Iraq and al-Qa’ida at odds with the wider US intelligence community.

- (a) Are you aware of this report?
- (b) Do you share any concerns about any US intelligence?
- (c) Is it possible that the assessments made by Douglas Feith have been used by the Australian Government?

Answer

- (a) Yes.
- (b) and (c) The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not provide public comments on intelligence matters.

Question 33

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—US National Intelligence Estimate

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Has the Department received the classified version of the Jan 2007 US National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq?
- (b) If so when was it received?
- (c) What conclusions does the Department take from the NIE?
- (d) Are any conclusions of the NIE consistent with those of the Australian Intelligence Community?

Answer

- (a) to (d) The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not provide public comments on intelligence matters.

Question 34

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iraq—US National Intelligence Estimate (2)

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

Isn't it the case that the conclusions of the latest US National Intelligence Estimate did not consider either the likely impact of the Iraq Study Group's recommendation of a phased withdrawal of troops or President Bush's announced strategy of escalating American involvement in Iraq by committing an additional 21,000 combat troops?

Answer

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade does not provide public comments on intelligence matters.

Question 35

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Pakistan—Taliban support

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) What information does the government have regarding the veracity of Mohammed Hanif's claim that Mullah Omar is currently living in Quetta, Pakistan, protected by Pakistani intelligence agencies?

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- (b) What information does the government have about broader support for the Taliban by Pakistani intelligence agencies?
- (c) What information does the Government have about Pakistani Government support for, or lack of willingness to deal with the Taliban and their allies in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan?
- (d) What representations has the Government made to the Pakistani Government about its support for, or lack of willingness to deal with the Taliban and their allies in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan?
- (e) What is the Government position on the Crisis Group recommendations (ICG Asia Report No.125, 11 December 2006) and new policy initiative by the Democratic congress (Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007) to increase pressure on the Pakistani Government through open criticism?
- (f) Specifically, what is the Government's position on the conditions contained within the "Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007" Bill for sanctions on US military aid to Pakistan if it cannot control militants within its borders?
- (g) Can the Government specify the cooperation and training activities that are conducted between the ADF and Pakistani military?
- (h) Has the Government considered putting similar conditions to those of the US Bill on Australian military aid?
- (i) More broadly, what is the Government's position on putting high pressure on the Pakistani Government to end support for the Taliban through Australian open criticism?

Answer

- (a) to (c) Information on these issues is classified.
- (d) Australia is aware of and worried about cross-border infiltration by Taliban-led militants from Pakistan into Afghanistan and the use of Pakistani territory for recruitment, command and resupply. We continue to raise our concerns with the Government of Pakistan at all levels. Mr Downer discussed this matter most recently with Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Mr Kasuri, in January 2007 at the Munich Security Conference. Mr Downer wrote to Mr Kasuri in September 2006 regarding our concerns. Australia is continuing to encourage Pakistan, a key counter-terrorism ally, to do more in the border region.
- (e) Openly criticising the Pakistani Government is unlikely to be productive.
- (f) The imposition of sanctions on US military aid to Pakistan is a matter for the US Government.
- (g) The Department of Defence is the most appropriate agency to answer questions on cooperation between the Pakistani military and the ADF.
- (h) The Department of Defence is the most appropriate agency to answer questions on imposing conditions on Australian military aid to Pakistan.
- (i) See (d).

Question 36

Output 1.1.4

Topic: PNG—ministerial ban

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) When was it announced that ministerial contact with PNG would be suspended?
- (b) What are the guidelines for the ministerial ban?
- (c) What is the aim and purpose of the ministerial ban?
- (d) What type of government communication has there been since?
- (e) At what departmental level does this communication take place?
- (f) Has the delivery of any aid to PNG been restricted as a result of the ministerial ban?
- (g) Has any Australian aid program within PNG been closed, suspended or forced to change its operation as a result of the ministerial ban?
- (h) What plans or conditions are there for removing this ban?
- (i) What effect will this ban have on the ability of Australia to ensure the safety of Australians living in PNG should an emergency arise?
- (j) What is your assessment of the potential for violence and civil-disorder in the lead-up to PNG's elections?
- (k) Is the existence of the ministerial ban a concern to the Department given that there is increased speculation of violence during the election period?
- (l) If such violence eventuates, what impact will the ministerial ban have on any Australian initiative to deploy assets in order to prevent, limit or stop it?
- (m) What plans are in place to facilitate the safe-passage of Australian Nationals in PNG should violence erupt?
- (n) Are these plans any way impeded by the current ministerial ban?

Answer

- (a) Australia formally advised the Papua New Guinea Government of its decision not to proceed with a planned visit to Australia by the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Sir Michael Somare, a planned visit to Australia by Papua New Guinea's Defence Minister, the Hon. Martin Aini, and the 2006 Australia-Papua New Guinea Ministerial Forum, via a diplomatic note delivered on 12 October 2006.
- (b) There is no ban on contact with ministers of the Papua New Guinea Government.
- (c) Refer to (b). The Australian Government's decision to cancel visits by Prime Minister Somare and Papua New Guinea's Defence Minister and not to proceed with the Australia-Papua New Guinea Ministerial Forum was based on its very serious concern with the manner of Mr Moti's departure from Papua New

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Guinea on a Papua New Guinea Defence Force aircraft. Mr Moti was a wanted fugitive in breach of bail conditions and subject to an arrest warrant under Papua New Guinea's own laws. He faces serious allegations of child sex offences under Australian law. The firmness of Australia's response was consistent with the priority that the Government has accorded to strengthening governance and the rule of law in Papua New Guinea.

In advising Papua New Guinea of these measures, the Government made clear Australia's expectation that there would be a credible investigation into Mr Moti's departure and appropriate follow-up action against those found responsible.

- (d) The Australian Government has continued to communicate with the Papua New Guinea Government. There have been several meetings between Australian and Papua New Guinea Ministers. The Australian High Commission in Port Moresby has continued to meet Papua New Guinea ministers and senior officials. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's contacts with the Papua New Guinea High Commission in Canberra are continuing.
- (e) Australian and Papua New Guinea government officials communicate at a range of levels, including at agency-head level.
- (f) No.
- (g) No.
- (h) Refer to (b).
- (i) Refer to (b). Consular services are being provided as normal by the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby.
- (j) We assess that there is a significant risk that violence and civil disorder will be experienced in some regions of Papua New Guinea in association with the 2007 national elections, as was the case during elections in 2002. The Australian Government is providing assistance to the Papua New Guinea Government's preparations for its elections through an AusAID-funded Electoral Support Program.
- (k) No. Refer to (b).
- (l) Refer to (b).
- (m) As is the case with all Australian overseas missions, the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby has in place a Consular Contingency Plan which provides information, policy and procedural guidance for use in providing assistance to Australians in the event of an emergency. The Plan is updated at least annually to ensure that it remains up to date.
- (n) No. Refer to (b).

Question 37

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Solomon Islands—open letter

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Has a precedent now been established in Australian diplomatic relations by paying for the publication of an open letter to the people of the Solomon Islands in that country's media. If not, when has Australia previously taken action along similar lines?
- (b) In which publication or publications was the letter published and what was the cost of its publication?
- (c) Did the Minister or his Department have discussions with any Government that is a member of the South Pacific Forum prior to taking this course of action and, if so, with which Government?
- (d) What representations has the Solomon Islands government made to the Australian government regarding this letter?
- (e) What has been the response of the people of the Solomon Islands to the letter?
- (f) How many Solomon Islanders have read this letter?

Answer

- (a) The High Commission in Honiara took the decision to buy space to ensure the letter was printed in full. I understand this is the first time that space has been bought for such a purpose in Solomon Islands newspapers.
- (b) The letter was published in the Solomon Star, Island Sun, and the National Express newspapers. Total cost was SBD12,003 (approximately AUD 2265.00) for publication in the three newspapers.
- (c) RAMSI contributing countries were briefed on the letter on the day of publication.
- (d) The Solomon Islands Government has sent a Third Person Note to the Australian High Commission in Honiara relating to Mr Downer's letter.
- (e) It is difficult to gauge public reaction. However, the editorial in the Solomon Star on 9 February 2007 highlighted the need for Solomon Islands and in particular Prime Minister Sogavare, to mend the relationship with Australia.
- (f) It would be impossible to state how many Solomon Islanders have read the letter.

Question 38

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Solomon Islands—RAMSI

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

I refer to a report (see SMH - Police Mission to Solomons at Risk of Collapse 10/02/07) that the Australian led regional assistance mission to the Solomon Islands is close to breakdown.

- (a) Is this report correct? If so, what is the latest situation in the Solomon Islands on this subject and what is the present state of relations between the two countries?
- (b) Can you comment on the claims that RAMSI officials have been denied approved visas?
- (c) Mick Keelty has also branded the Solomons Government as either corrupt or incompetent (see SMH -Police Mission to Solomons at Risk of Collapse 10/02/07). Does the Government have any information that would support these claims?
- (d) The Foreign Minister has been quoted in an article (The Australian – *Downer slams Solomons PM* – 10/02/07) saying that Solomons PM Sogavare was using “shameful tactics” to try to destroy the regional assistance mission.
- (e) What sort of tactics is he referring to?
- (f) Given this claim, what is your view as to why RAMSI is not working?
- (g) What process are you setting forward and following in order to improve relations, and increase the mission's success?

Answer

- (a) RAMSI continues to do very good work in maintaining security in Solomon Islands and in helping to equip Solomon Islands overcome the many difficulties the country faces. The political environment is challenging, but the Australian Government is working hard to keep RAMSI in place and effective.
- (b) RAMSI deployees are visa exempt under the Facilitation of International Assistance Act (Solomon Islands law). However, the Solomon Islands Government has introduced new immigration requirements for RAMSI personnel which require ministerial approval for visa exemptions; the minister has failed to approve a number of such exemptions and one RAMSI official has been denied entry to date. It is unclear why his entry has been denied. The dependants of RAMSI deployees have experienced visa-related difficulties, but these have largely been resolved.
- (c) This question should be referred to the AFP for a response.
- (d) No question has been asked.
- (e) Prime Minister Sogavare has alleged that prostitution has occurred at RAMSI’s headquarters; that RAMSI deployees illegally removed war relics from Solomon Islands; that RAMSI helicopters have removed ‘treasure’ from the ocean; and

that Solomon Islanders have been killed in traffic accidents involving RAMSI deployees. No evidence has been produced on these matters.

- (f) See answer to (a).
- (g) Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders agreed in October 2006 to establish a Review of RAMSI and an enhanced consultative mechanism between the PIF, Solomon Islands Government and RAMSI. We are working closely with the PIF Secretariat to ensure that the Review process gets underway as soon as possible. We also welcomed the inaugural meeting of the Consultative Mechanism which was held on 12 February 2007. This Mechanism should ensure that issues can be addressed effectively and in a timely manner.

We are considering seriously Prime Minister Sogavare's proposal for a Prime Ministerial meeting to address issues affecting the bilateral relationship. We believe there would be value in preliminary discussions between the two Foreign Ministers, to explore issues to be addressed prior to a possible meeting of our respective Prime Ministers, as would be consistent with normal diplomatic practice.

Mr Downer has also publicly stated that he would be happy to meet with a Solomon Islands ministerial delegation to discuss outstanding issues affecting the bilateral relationship.

We welcome our High Commissioner's introductory call on Prime Minister Sogavare on 19 March to present his Letter of Introduction which enables him to carry out his duties.

Question 39

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Tonga—capacity building

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) What development and capacity-building programs does Australia operate in Tonga?
- (b) What is the scale in terms of costs and resources of these projects?
- (c) Were any of these projects suspended or disrupted by the violence of November 2006?
- (d) Are these programs active now?
- (e) Was there a cost increase due to the disruption?
- (f) Do you have an assessment as to the cause of the November violence?
- (g) Does Australia currently, and has it in the past had any capacity-building projects aimed at strengthening governance and countering instability?
- (h) Does the Government have any plans to increase Australia's capacity-building and development assistance programmes to Tonga?

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- (i) Could the Government provide the details of the new \$1.5 million assistance package to rebuild the business district in the Tongan capital?

Answer

- (a) Australian Government bilateral assistance to Tonga includes development and capacity building programs in customs, tax administration, public sector reform, health management, fisheries, solid waste management, scholarships and community development.
- (b) Our bilateral aid program to Tonga is \$9.2 million in 2006/07. Our total aid to Tonga in 2006/07, including our regional program, is \$13.4 million.
- (c) None were suspended, but our projects and technical advisers did experience some minor delays in their work plans.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) No.
- (f) Responsibility for the riots is currently before the courts in Tonga. It would be appropriate to allow the legal process to be completed before providing an assessment of the factors at work in the riots.
- (g) Australia currently has a suite of projects aimed at strengthening governance in the central agencies (such as finance, tax, customs, public service reform) and in line agencies (health, fisheries, solid waste management). In the past, Australia has delivered governance projects in the legal sector, in budget systems and in tourism. Projects to counter instability were not, in the past, identified as a development priority by the Government of Tonga.
- (h) Yes. Tonga has requested assistance with reconstruction and planning assistance for the Nuku'alofa central business district, for a business recovery facility for the 157 damaged businesses, legal assistance to support the administration of justice through the courts, and assistance to strengthen the Tonga Police Force. We have approved assistance for reconstruction and planning, business recovery and legal assistance. With regard to police assistance, we are awaiting the outcome of a joint scoping study undertaken by the Australian Federal Police and the New Zealand Police to Tonga in February before further considering assistance in this area.
- (i) Australia has provided \$1 million for demolition and clearance of damaged building sites, as well as urban planning assistance for reconstruction. In addition, we are providing a package of \$1.3 million to establish a Business Recovery Facility in cooperation with the New Zealand and Tongan governments.

Question 49

Output 1.1.4

Topic: Iran—sanctions

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Can the Department outline any Australian trade or broader dealings with Iran that have been caught under the sanctions in UN Security Council Resolution 1737?
- (b) What is Australia's position on the US preferred policy of more extensive Security Council sanctions on Iran at the present time?
- (c) What is Australia's position on US statements that other countries should institute additional sanctions on Iran such as those that would cover financial institutions?
- (d) Is it the case that Iran will soon open a national bank in Iraq which will be the first "wholly owned subsidiary bank" of a foreign country in Iraq?
- (e) Does the Department have any evidence that financial institutions in Australia are being misused by Iran to launder money and fund terrorist organisations?

Answer

- a. United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1737 imposes targeted trade, technical assistance and financial sanctions against Iran directed at its nuclear and missile programs. The Australian Government controls the export of military and dual use items regulated by SCR 1737 via the Defence and Strategic Goods List (DSGL), administered by the Department of Defence under the Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958. The Minister for Defence may refuse permission to export any items where this would be contrary to UNSCR 1737 sanctions.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has not received any requests for permission to supply, sell or transfer controlled goods under the *Charter of the United Nations (Sanctions – Iran) Regulations 2007* which gives force to Australia's obligations under UNSCR 1737.

The Department is not aware of any Australian persons or entities which have financial dealings with persons or entities designated by SCR 1737 as subject to financial sanctions.

- (b) On 22 February the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that Iran had failed to comply with the UNSCR 1737 demand that it suspend uranium enrichment and other related activities. Australia supports negotiations between the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany to develop a further resolution, imposing further measures under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. This was foreshadowed by UNSCR 1737.
- (c) UNSCR 1737 requires States to freeze funds and other financial assets and economic resources that are owned or controlled by the persons and entities designated in the Annex to the Resolution as well as those of other persons or

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entities designated by the Security Council or Committee as being engaged in, directly associated with or providing support for Iran's nuclear activities or weapon delivery systems. Australia is not applying additional financial sanctions against Iran.

- (d) The Department is aware of press reports indicating that the Iranian bank, Bank Melli, plans to open a branch in Baghdad.
- (e) No.

Question 40

Output 1.1.6

Topic: APEC—Aus-Tender contract 1632163

Written question

Senator Evans asked: asked:

- (a) What is the rationale for such a project?
- (b) Who within the APEC Task Force and DFAT will be working closely with the developer of this project?
- (c) What sort of expertise in Asia-Pacific issues and education does the curriculum development organisation have?
- (d) How many people within the curriculum developer are being tasked with this project?
- (e) What skills do these individuals have in relation to Asia Pacific Issues?
- (f) What is the scope of the curriculum?
- (g) Why is the funding for this program drawn from DFAT and not DEST?

Answer

- (a) APEC is a key element of Australia's engagement in the Asia Pacific region and the Annual Leaders meeting in Sydney will be among the most influential gathering of political and business leaders ever held in Australia. The high profile of Australia's hosting of APEC provides a valuable opportunity to inform young Australians about our engagement in the region. The development of curriculum materials for high school teachers will help make APEC accessible to students.
- (b) The project is being managed by staff within the APEC 2007 Media and Outreach Section of the DFAT's APEC 2007 Taskforce.
- (c) Both Curriculum Corporation and the Asia Education Foundation have extensive expertise in Asia-Pacific issues and education, and strong links with many Australian and Asian schools and educators.
- (d) Eight (8) covering both materials development and production.
- (e) Curriculum Corporation and the Asia Education Foundation both have excellent track-records of producing education materials for Australian schools that

demonstrate a solid foundation of knowledge about issues of relevance in Asia and the Pacific.

- (f) The curriculum materials have been extensively mapped against all state and territory curricula for grades 7-10. They can be specifically used to support English and Studies of Society and Environment curricula. There are also linkages with Economics, Civics and Citizenship and Mathematics/Numeracy curricula.
- (g) DFAT is responsible for the overall coordination of Australian policy in APEC and was funded to conduct an outreach program, including for youth, as part of its 2007 APEC activities.

[Question 41—see output 1.1.3]

Question 42

Output 1.1.7

Topic: Biodiversity convention

Hansard page 61

Senator Nettle asked: asked:

Late last year, Kofi Annan made a proposal about including in the millennium development goals the significant reduction of the loss of biodiversity by 2010. Members FFof the biodiversity convention were asked to respond.

- (a) Was Australia, a member of the biodiversity convention, asked to respond?
- (b) If we have responded (please provide a copy of the response), how did we respond and was the response made public?

Answer

The target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 is one of the objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), adopted in 2002 (decision VI/26), with Australia's support. The target was further endorsed at the 2005 UN World Summit.

In his 2006 Report on the Work of the Organization (September 2006), Kofi Annan recommended the inclusion of this target in the Millennium Development Goals framework under Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.

The Millennium Development Goals framework is not an inter-governmentally negotiated document. As such, States were not asked to respond to the proposal made by Mr Annan in his 2006 Report.

[Question 43—see Enabling Services]

[Question 44—see Enabling Services]

Question 45

Output 1.1.7

Topic: David Hicks—Ambassador Richardson meeting

Hansard page: 12

Senator Faulkner asked: asked:

On or around 22 January 2007, the Australian Ambassador to the US, Mr Dennis Richardson, met with US officials regarding David Hicks.

- (a) Did Ambassador Richardson make representation regarding the Prime Minister's deadline to have Mr Hicks charged?
- (b) Who was at the meeting?

Answer

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Representations were made to senior counsel in each of the Departments of Justice, State and Defence.

Question 46

Output 1.1.7

Topic: David Hicks—Government representations

Hansard page 17

Senator Ray asked: asked:

During the period July 2005 to September 2006, were there any representations made to the US on behalf of David Hicks?

Answer

Yes.

Question 47

Output 1.1.7

Topic: Guantanamo Bay—Repatriated

Hansard page 32

Senator Ray asked: asked:

Can you indicate how many and which countries have come to an agreement to have their citizens repatriated from Guantanamo Bay?

Answer

That is a matter for the US Government and the other countries concerned.

Question 48

Output 1.1.7

Topic: International treaties

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Which international treaties has Australia signed but not ratified?
- (b) When were each of the treaties signed and what is the reason for non-ratification?

Answer

- (a) The **attached** treaty analysis (below) prepared by my department indicates that as at 8 March 2007 there are fifty three treaties that Australia has signed which have not entered into force for Australia. The analysis indicates the year and title of each of the thirty seven bilateral treaties in this category signed by Australia. It also indicates the year and title of the sixteen multilateral treaties Australia has signed but which have not so far entered into force.
- (b) In respect of the treaties identified in Part (1), information on the particular reason in each case for the treaty not entering into force is either unavailable or, if it exists, the time and staff resources required to collect it cannot be justified as it would require unreasonable diversion of resources, in large part because responsibility for bringing the treaties into force lies with departments other than DFAT, including AGD (for extradition and mutual assistance in legal matters treaties), Treasury (for taxation agreements), DOTARS (for air services and IMO agreements) and FACSIA (for social security agreements).

In respect of treaties identified in Part (1) for which DFAT has policy carriage—the large majority of which have only been signed within the last two years—the primary reasons for their non-entry as yet into force includes: that implementation of Australia’s domestic treaty processes and the passage of legislation to implement the treaty is incomplete or delayed; that Australia or the other party to the treaty has withdrawn, denounced, terminated or cancelled the treaty; that the other party to the treaty has not completed its domestic processes for bringing the treaty into force; that there has been further evolution in Australian policy since its signature of the treaty; or, in the case of a multilateral treaty, because the treaty is not in force generally and therefore not in force for Australia.

BILATERAL TREATIES (37)

1988

- Treaty on Extradition with the Oriental Republic of Uruguay

1992

- Agreement with the Argentine Republic relating to Air Services

1997

- Agreement with the Republic of Indonesia concerning Cooperation in Nuclear Science and Technology
- Treaty with the Republic of Indonesia establishing an Exclusive Economic Zone Boundary and Certain Seabed Boundaries

1998

- Agreement with Pakistan relating to Air Services and Exchange of Notes

2000

- Treaty on Extradition with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

2002

- Agreement with the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the Promotion and Protection of Investments

2003

- Agreement with the Kingdom of Tonga relating to Air Services
- Agreement with New Zealand for the Establishment of a Joint Scheme for the Regulation of Therapeutic Products

2004

- Agreement with the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in the Fields of Energy and Mineral Resources

2005

- Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Turkey on the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments
- Agreement with the Republic of Indonesia for Cooperation in Scientific Research and Technological Developments
- Agreement with the Government of Bermuda on the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes
- Agreement with the Kingdom of Norway on Social Security
- Agreement with the United Mexican States on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments
- Protocol amending the Agreement with New Zealand for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to taxes on Income

2006

- Framework Agreement with the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation in Military Fields
- Agreement with the Republic of Indonesia on the Framework for Security Cooperation
- Agreement with the Kingdom of Belgium on Health Care Insurance
- Agreement with New Zealand in relation to Mutual Recognition of Securities Offerings
- Agreement on Social Security with the Republic of Korea
- Agreement with Finland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion

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- Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation with the Republic of South Africa
- Agreement with the Kingdom of Cambodia Concerning Transfer of Sentenced Persons
- Agreement with the French Republic regarding Defence Cooperation and Status of Forces
- Agreement with India relating to Air Services
- Agreement with the People's Republic of China for Cooperation in the Peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy
- Agreement with the Swiss Confederation on Social Security
- Convention with the Kingdom of Norway for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion
- Convention with the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion and Protocol
- Treaty with the Kingdom of Thailand on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters

2007

- Agreement with French Republic on Cooperative Enforcement of Fisheries Law in Maritime Areas Adjacent to the French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Heard Island and the McDonald Islands
- Agreement with Antigua and Barbuda on the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes
- Agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany on Social Security to Govern Persons Temporarily Employed in the Territory of the Other State ("Supplementary Agreement"), Concluding Protocol and Implementation Arrangement
- Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation with the European Police Office
- Agreement with Japan on Social Security
- Agreement with the Government of the Kingdom of Netherlands in respect of the Netherlands Antilles for the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes

MULTILATERAL TREATIES (16)

1991

- Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection

1997

- Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage
- Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

2001

- International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships
- International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage
- Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime

2004

- International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004

2005

- Agreement establishing the Pacific Islands Forum
- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

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- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel
- Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III)
- Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf, 1988
- Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988

2006

- Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
- Amendments, adopted at Antalya, Turkey on 24 November 2006, to the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

2007

- World Wine Trade Group Agreement on Requirements for Wine Labelling

[**Question 49**—see output 1.1.4]

[**Question 50**—Senator Ray asked a question on Iraqi oil shipments. The question was answered during estimates, Hansard p. 55.]

Question 51

Output 1.1.7

Topic: Siev X—Location

Written question

Senator Milne asked:

- (a) Was your Department or any of its agencies informed that the location of the rescue of SIEVX survivors was reported to be 07 40 00S / 105 09 00E?
- (b) If so by whom was this information provided?
- (c) On what date?
- (d) Please provide copies of any file notes and other documents related to this information being provided to your Department or agency.

Answer

- (a) The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was not informed that the location of the rescue of SIEV X survivors was reported to be 07 40 00S/ 105 09 00E.
- (b) N/A.
- (c) N/A.
- (d) N/A.

Question 52

Output 1.1.7

Topic: Siev X—Police report

Written question

Senator Milne asked:

- (a) Was your Department or any of its agencies informed of an Indonesian Police Report dated 24 October 2001 which included the location of the rescue of SIEVX survivors—i.e.: 07 40 00S / 105 09 00E?
- (b) If so by whom was this information provided?
- (c) On what date?
- (d) Please provide copies of any file notes and other documents related to this information being provided to your Department or agency.

Answer

- (a) The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was not informed of an Indonesian Police Report dated 24 October 2001 which included the location of the rescue of SIEV X survivors – i.e. 07 40 00S/ 105 09 00E.
- (b) N/A.
- (c) N/A.
- (d) N/A.

Question 53

Output 1.1.7

Topic: Timor Sea Treaty

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) What is the status of the Timor Sea Treaty?
- (b) Why has there been a delay in the completion of the treaty?
- (c) Is there a threat that the agreement will be delayed further by the up-coming East Timor election?

Answer

- (a) The Timor Sea Treaty was signed by Australia and East Timor on 20 May 2002 and entered into force on 2 April 2003 following an exchange of diplomatic notes.
- (b) Both Australia and East Timor needed to undertake a range of domestic steps, including on Australia's part creating new legislation, before they were able to bring the Timor Sea Treaty into force.
- (c) No.

Question 54

Output 1.1.7

Topic: Trent Smith

Hansard page 39

Senator Ray asked:

- (a) In the case against Trent Smith, who provided the independent decision makers (Mr Kennedy and Mr Boucher) legal advice in determining if the email sent by Mr Smith to Mr Wells was subject to parliamentary privilege; and
- (b) At what cost?

Answer

- (a) Australian Government Solicitor
- (b) The cost of the legal advice to Mr Kennedy and Mr Boucher is included in the figures provided to the Committee on 2 November 2006. That is, the cost of legal advice provided to Mr Kennedy was \$208,216 and to Mr Boucher was \$53,591.

Question 55

Output 1.1.8

Topic: India—exporting uranium

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) Can the Department confirm that Mr Downer stated in March 2006 that ‘Our policy is that we export uranium only to those who sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Unless India does that, we will not be exporting uranium to it’.
- (b) Can the Department also confirm that Mr Howard stated that the nuclear deal between India and the US was ‘very significant’ and that Australia would look at it ‘positively’? (Will Consider Request for Uranium: Howard, The Indian Express 07/03/06)
- (c) Can the Department confirm comments of the Foreign Minister Alexander Downer reported in the *Australian Financial Review* newspaper on 17 January this year where he said:
“...we have been talking with the Indian government about whether it would be possible to put together some arrangement with India whereby we could export uranium...”
- (d) Can you confirm that India is not a signatory to the Non Proliferation Treaty?
- (e) Would you agree that selling uranium to India would be undermining the NPT, and could lead to a collapse of the NPT regime, triggering a nuclear-arms race across our own part of the world in North East Asia, possibly South East Asia and South Asia as well?

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- (f) Has Australia's policy on selling to non-NPT countries changed in relation to India, and if so, why?

Answer

- (a) The Department can confirm on 3 March 2006 Mr Downer stated "...our policy in terms of uranium exports since the 1970s has been that we will only export to countries which are signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Israel, Pakistan and India are the only countries which haven't signed that treaty and we have not been asked to change our policy by the Americans – nobody has lent on us to change our policy and we would only change our policy after careful consideration."
- (b) The Department can confirm that on 6 March 2006 the Prime Minister stated: "So far as the agreement between the United States and India is concerned, it is a very significant agreement, and we look at it positively".
- (c) The Department can confirm that on 17 January 2007 Mr Downer stated: "...we have been talking with the Indian government about whether it would be possible to put together some arrangement with India whereby we could export uranium and be sure that that uranium could only be used for civil purposes – power generation. Not be used in any way, shape or form for military purposes.....I would say in Australia it's something that we're feeling our way on rather cautiously...".
- (d) Yes.
- (e) See (c).
- (f) No. See (a).

Question 56

Output 1.1.8

Topic: Ismail Yusanto

Hansard page 67

Senator Ray asked:

- (a) During his attendance at a conference in Canberra on 30 and 31 August 2004, did Mr Ismail Yusanto meet with any DFAT officials?
- (b) Does Mr Yusanto regularly participate in events at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta?

Answer

- (a) DFAT has no record of any contact by DFAT officials with Mr Yusanto during his attendance at a CSCAP conference in Canberra in August 2004.
- (b) No. Mr Yusanto is not a regular participant in events at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta.

Question 57

Output 1.1.8

Topic: Terrorism

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) To which countries in the Asian and Pacific regions does Australia provide assistance and/or advice in their fight against terrorism?
- (b) What is the nature of that assistance or advice?
- (c) What is the total cost to Australia for this type of assistance?

Answer

- (a) Australia has provided extensive counter-terrorism (CT) assistance and advice to partners in Asia and the Pacific, with an emphasis on those facing the greatest terrorist threat and those least equipped to address it. Australia has established a network of bilateral CT cooperation arrangements that underpin and facilitate practical cooperation. CT Cooperation Memoranda of Understanding have been concluded with India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia, Brunei, East Timor, PNG and Fiji. Most assistance is provided under bilateral programs. Some is provided to regional or sub-regional groups of countries, such as ASEAN and the Pacific Islands Forum. In effect, over the past five years, most countries in Asia and the Pacific have benefited from Australia's security-related capacity building efforts.
- (b) The Australian government has worked with our regional partners in a wide range of areas, including law enforcement; border control; transport security (including protecting aviation against Man-Portable Air Defence Systems); CT legal frameworks; intelligence; terrorist financing; defence; chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism; and strengthening of national CT coordination arrangements. The assistance takes many forms, including, where appropriate, training, technical assistance, exchange of information, expert advice, provision of equipment, seminars/conferences and the conduct of CT response exercises.

A noteworthy Australian regional CT initiative, in partnership with Indonesia, has been the establishment of the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation. The centre is building the expertise and professionalism of regional law enforcement agencies, with over 85 courses conducted so far for more than 1900 regional participants. The Philippines is also an increasingly important CT partner, with cooperation focused on law enforcement, port and border security, and defence issues.

Comprehensive information on Australia's offshore CT engagement can be found in the recent Government publication *Protecting Australia Against Terrorism 2006* (www.pmc.gov.au/publications/protecting_australia_2006/index.htm).

- (c) The Australian government has committed over \$450 million to international CT measures since 2003, including the \$92.6 million regional CT package over four

years announced as part of the 06/07 Budget. Various programs are not included under this Budget package such as those incorporating ongoing departmental and agency activities, and other activities of, for example, AusAID and Defence. All figures are set out in Portfolio Budget Statements.

Question 58

Output 1.2

Topic: Monitoring use of water

Written question

Senator Wong asked:

- (a) Is there any requirement to provide details of how much water is used and how much water is saved in the annual reports of each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (b) Is water usage monitored for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (c) What is the water usage for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (d) For each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio, can information be provided on whether dual flush toilets are in place in the buildings they occupy?

Answer

- (a) There is no requirement to provide details of how much water is used and how much water is saved in the annual reports of each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio.
- (b) Yes, water usage is monitored in RG Casey Building.
- (c) The water usage in RG Casey building has averaged 10,900 kilo litres per month over last three years.
- (d) Yes, dual flush toilets are in place in the RG Casey Building

Answer

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

- (a) All departments and agencies are required to report annually on performance in terms of Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. ACIAR reports on resources, including water usage, being taken to minimise the impact of its activities on the environment.
- (b) Yes
- (c)

2003-04	1,464 kilolitres
2004-05	1,581 kilolitres
2005-06	1,333 kilolitres
2006-07	ACIAR is in the process of installing rainwater tanks for garden watering.
- (d) Dual flush toilets are in place in ACIAR House.

Answer

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) 3,701 kLs for the 12 months to 4/1/2007.
- (d) No.

Question 59

Output 2.1.1

Topic: David Hicks

Written question

Senator Nettle asked:

- (d) Is the exercise yard used by David Hicks bounded by a two storey high concrete wall?
- (e) Has the government ever asked to do its own investigation of alleged mistreatment of David Hicks rather than rely on US?
- (f) Is there a Muslim chaplain at Guantanamo Bay?

Answer

- (a) Our Consul-General estimates that the wall is four metres high.
- (b) No.
- (c) No. However, a block Imam is selected by detainees.

Question 60

Output 2.1.1

Topic: David Hicks—McAnulty's visit

Hansard page: 20

Senator Stott Despoja asked:

On what date was David Hicks' lawyers and family notified of Mr McAnulty's intention to visit Guantanamo Bay at the same time as Hicks' lawyers on 30 and 31 January 2007?

Answer

The Hicks family was notified of the planned visit for mid-February on 24 January 2007. Mr Hicks' lawyers were also aware of the intended February visit. However, a last minute airline cancellation provided the opportunity for an earlier visit on 30 and 31 January. Due to the timing of Mr Hicks' lawyer's travel, the Consul-General was unable to alert him to this change. The Consul-General spoke to Major Mori at Guantanamo Bay early on 30 January and Major Mori had no problem with the

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Consul-General's visit proceeding. Mr Hicks' family was notified of the change in timing of the visit on 29 January 2007.

Question 61

Output 2.1.1

Topic: David Hicks—personal effects

Hansard page 32

Senator Faulkner asked:

What personal effects are inside Mr Hick's cell?

Answer

Our Consul-General in Washington recalls seeing books, writing paper, a bottle of water, prison issue clothing, thermal underwear and limited toiletries (soap, toilet paper) in Mr Hicks' cell.

Question 62

Output 2.1.1

Topic: Guantanamo Bay—Camp 6

Hansard page 32

Senator Faulkner asked:

How many people are currently incarcerated in Camp 6, Guantanamo Bay?

Answer

There are approximately 150 detainees in Camp 6.

Question 63

Output 2.1.1

Topic: Guantanamo Bay—leaflets

Hansard page: 22

Senator Stott Despoja asked:

Is there any report of leaflets being provided to detainees in a so-called communal area of Guantanamo Bay?

Answer

US authorities have advised that there were no leaflets: there were posters and press clippings of Saddam Hussein on notice boards. US authorities advise that the posters did not have pictures of Saddam's corpse or his hanging because they were printed and posted after his conviction but before his execution. US authorities advise that the posters and clippings were part of the regular information provided to detainees on world news and that these posters have been taken down.

Question 64

Output 2.1.1

Topic: Guantanamo Bay—posters

Hansard page 22

Senator Nettle asked:

What language accompanied the posters of Saddam Hussein provided to detainees at Guantanamo Bay?

Answer

The commander of Guantanamo Bay has recalled that the posters had captions along the lines of: “The people of Iraq have delivered justice” at the head of the poster and “He did not evade justice” at the foot of the poster. The posters were captioned in English and Arabic.

Question 65

Output 2.1.1

Topic: Guantanamo Bay—size of cell

Hansard page 36

Senator Nettle asked:

Does the Australian Government consider the size of the subdivided section of the recreation area (approx 6 X 3 metres) at Camp 6 Guantanamo Bay, an adequate area for exercise?

Answer

Conditions of detention are determined by the detaining authority. The Government is satisfied that Mr Hicks is held in a humane manner.

Question 66

Output 3.1

Topic: Mark Steyn—cost of ticket

Hansard page 40

Senator Ray asked:

In regard to Mark Steyn’s visit to Australia in August 2006, what was the cost of a ticket to attend the *Conservative* (magazine) dinner at Old Parliament House on 16 August 2006?

Answer

The *Conservative* advises the cost of a ticket was \$85.

Question 43

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Comcare claims

Hansard page 48

Senator Faulkner asked:

Were there any Comcare claims associated with the Cole inquiry?

Answer: No.

Question 44

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Comcover

Hansard page 47

Senator Faulkner asked:

- (a) Was the \$500,000 reimbursed by Comcover towards legal costs associated with the Cole inquiry the first time the maximum payment has been made to DFAT?
- (b) What are DFAT's premiums to Comcover?

Answer

- (a) Yes
- (b) DFAT's 2006/2007 Comcover premium was \$1,476,050.52 (including GST).

Question 67

Output: Enabling Services (all agencies)

Topic: Advertising campaigns

Written question

Senator Wong asked:

- (a) What sum was spent on each of the active advertising campaigns for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (b) In attachment A – a list of active campaigns that were tabled in on 30 October 2006 at Senate Estimates, what were the actual costs for those which have been completed as relevant to each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (c) At the Budget Estimates in May 2006, the Budget Papers listed the following Pending Campaigns (from Budget Papers: period up to 4 years). For those campaigns which are relevant to each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio, what is the:
 - i. planning progress for campaigns;
 - ii. likely start dates; and
 - iii. media spend.

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Campaign	\$M
Smart Card	47.3
Child Support Reform	36.1
Promote Private Health Cover	52.1
Medicare direct mail	17.5
New family law arrangements	19.9
Independent contractors	<15
Pensions real estate/assets test	5.9 (at least, over 2 years)
Smart Traveller	13.1
Alcohol abuse	25.2
Citizenship	4
Disease risk factors	
Child care rebate	
Family Law arrangements	
Illicit drugs and mental illness	
Living in Harmony Initiative	

Answer

- (a) As at 31 January, 2007, \$271,009.87 has been spent on phase II of the **smartraveller** advertising campaign.
- (b) N/A
- (c)
- i. Filming of the advertisements is due to commence in March 07.
 - ii. The start date for the advertisements is yet to be finalised.
 - iii. The total media spend is to be finalised.

Answer

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

- (a) N/A
- (b) N/A
- (c) N/A

Answer

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

Nil return. The listed campaigns are not relevant to EFIC.

Question 68

Output: Enabling Services (all agencies)

Topic: Allocation of grants

Written question

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to all grants allocated by the department/agency from 1 January 2002, could a table detailing the following information be provided:

- (a) The name of the grant program
- (b) The name of the grant recipient
- (c) The ABN of the grant recipient (where available)
- (d) The amount awarded
- (e) The date the grant was awarded
- (f) The state of the grant recipient
- (g) The postcode of the grant recipient.

Answer

Any person who meets relevant criteria is eligible to access departmental and portfolio agency programs and services. To provide the detailed information sought would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

Answer

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

The ACIAR Annual Report 2005-06 states that “ACIAR did not issue any discretionary grants during 2005-06 or have any ongoing grants from previous years.”

Answer

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

Nil return. EFIC does not allocate grants.

Question 69

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Appointment of former politicians

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

- (a) How many former Members of Parliament have been appointed to diplomatic positions since 1996? How many of these were Members of the Liberal Party?
- (b) Is over-appointment of former politicians damaging the career prospects of people within the Department, and reducing morale when these appointments are seen to receive the more desirable and less challenging posts?

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- (c) Can the Government confirm whether any deliberation has taken place over who will be next to fill the position of Australian Ambassador to Italy?
- (d) What particular skills and qualifications would be desirable for an Ambassador to Italy?
- (e) Is Amanda Vanstone being considered as the next Australian Ambassador to Italy? What particular skills and qualifications would she possess for this posting and how would they compare to those of the current Ambassador, Peter Woolcott?

Answer

- (a) The Government has appointed 11 former Members of Parliament to diplomatic positions since 1996. This compares to 12 over the period 1983 to 1996. The department does not maintain records of political party membership of its staff.
- (b) Successive governments have recognised the contribution former politicians can make in diplomatic roles. As noted in (a), the appointment of former politicians to diplomatic posts has been common practice by both sides of politics. The government does not accept the proposition of there being an “over-appointment of former politicians”.
- (c) It is the normal convention not to discuss possible appointments.
- (d) The skills and qualifications required of Head of Mission appointees are:
 - Must be an Australian citizen.
 - Demonstrates 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.
- (e) It is the normal convention not to discuss possible appointments.

Question: 70

Output: Enabling Services (all agencies)

Topic: Campaign advertising

Written question

Senator Wong

Can you provide the following information (on a monthly basis) for campaign advertising this financial year:

- (a) the cost
- (b) the frequency, and
- (c) the type/medium (eg. print, television, radio) of campaign advertising.

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Answer

The main advertising DFAT undertakes is the smartraveller campaign and the annual graduate trainee program.

Smartraveller

- (a) The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s smartraveller Campaign has incurred the following costs for campaign advertising this financial year: \$65,345 (July).
- (b) Not applicable for this financial year as services were provided in financial year 2005-2006.
- (c) The costs incurred for advertising the smartraveller campaign were for print in financial year 2005-2006.

DFAT Graduate Trainees

- (a) Total cost (excluding GST) \$40,741.06

	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Already committed 2006-07
Advertising for Trainees	\$222.25	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$12,640	\$14,878.81

- (b) Frequency – total 13

	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Already committed 2006-07
Advertising for Trainees	2	1	1	3	6

- (c) Type/medium – total of 2 online and 11 print medium

	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Already committed 2006-07
Advertising for Trainees					
Online advertising					2
Print advertising	2	1	1	3	4
Campaign Total	2	1	1	3	6

Answer

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

- (a) N/A
- (b) N/A
- (c) N/A

Answer

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

- (a) Cost (inc. GST)

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(b)

	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07
EFIC Headway Campaign	\$7,865	\$36,146	\$13,700	\$42,662	\$24,122	\$34,152	\$16,798	\$34,944

(c) Frequency/ number of ads

	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07
EFIC Headway Campaign	9	15	14	27	16	7	3	3

(c) Type

	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07
Online advertising	6	4	5	5	3	3	2	2
Print advertising	3	11	9	22	13	4	1	1
Campaign Total	9	15	14	27	16	7	3	3

Question 71

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Christopher Pearson

Hansard page 73

Senator Faulkner asked:

How was the process to engage Mr Pearson through Verossity organised?

Answer

At the Additional Estimates hearing on 15 February, Senators asked about the engagement of Mr Christopher Pearson through Spherion/Verossity by the Department to provide speechwriting services in financial years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. Mr Pearson also provided speechwriting services in financial year 2003-2004.

Mr Pearson was first engaged on a one-off basis to provide input for the Playford Lecture on religion and foreign policy in August 2003, prior to his contractual arrangement with DFAT through Spherion.

In September 2003, the Department engaged Mr Pearson until June 2004 to provide occasional speechwriting services. The Department used its contracted personnel services provider, Spherion (Verossity), to make the contract arrangements with Mr Pearson. Mr Pearson was employed by Spherion. The Department's contract was with Spherion, not the individual.

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In December 2004, the Department contracted Mr Pearson through Spherion on a one-off basis to draft a speech for the Interfaith Dialogue in Yogyakarta.

The Department entered into a second contract with Spherion for Mr Pearson's services in early 2005. This second contract ran from 20 April 2005 to 30 December 2005.

(Spherion Recruitment Solutions advised the Department in May 2005 that it had changed its name to Verossity.)

The list of speeches written or contributed to by Mr Pearson is:

One-off speech

1. The Playford Lecture (religion and foreign policy), August 2003

Contract 1 (22 September 2003 to 30 June 2004)

2. UN General Assembly, September 2003

3. National Press Club, November 2003

4. Launch of the terrorism white paper in July 2004 (this speech taking place in financial year 2004-2005)

One-off speech

5. Address to the Interfaith Dialogue, December 2004

Contract 2 (April 2005 to December 2005)

6. Earle Page Lecture (on freedom and foreign policy), May 2005 (material provided did not meet contractual guidelines on apolitical material and contractor was not paid)

7. Economist Roundtable (on evolving regional partnerships), June 2005

8. Hillsong Chapel Speech (on values and foreign policy), July 2005. [Drafted but not delivered. See response to question 72 – Hillsong speech]

9. Arthur Tange Lecture (on Australian foreign policy), August 2005

10. Sir Condor Laucke Lecture (on the environment and the economy), September 2005 (a draft speech was sought but the contractor was unable to provide one).

Question 72

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Hillsong speech

Hansard page 59

Senator Ray asked:

Can you provide a copy of the Hillsong speech prepared by a private consultant for Mr Downer in July 2005.

Answer

The Minister attended a Hillsong Church function in Sydney in July 2005. A draft speech was prepared by a contract speechwriter but it is not available because, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Minister did not deliver it.

Question 73

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Mr Downer—Foxtel package

Hansard page 43

Senator Ray asked:

- (a) What is the cost of the Foxtel business value package in Mr Downer's electorate office and the Foxtel business digital package in his residence?
- (b) Does DFAT pay for both these services or does Mr Downer contribute to the costs?

Answer

- (a) The cost of the Foxtel package installed in Mr Downer's Electorate Office is \$85.00 per month. The cost of the Foxtel package in Mr Downer's residence is \$42.50 per month.
- (b) DFAT pays for both services. Costs are current as at 18 April 2007.

Question 74

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Official Development Assistance

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

Please provide full details of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible expenditure and activities undertaken by Department since 2000–2001 to date.

Answer

Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible expenditure and activities undertaken by DFAT, as reported by AusAID, for period 2000-2001 to 2004-2005 is shown at Attachment A and for period 2005-2006 at Attachment B.

Question 75

Output: Enabling Services (all agencies)

Topic: Opinion polls/market research

Written question

Senator Wong asked:

- (a) What sum was spent on opinion polls, focus groups or market research in 2006 by each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (b) Will the Ministers provide a list of the opinion polls, focus groups, or market research agencies that are used by department and agencies in the Minister's portfolio?

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- (c) How much of the opinion polls, focus groups or market research expenditure of agencies or departments was conducted at the request of the Minister's office?
- (d) What benefit-cost assessments have been done which assess the returns from opinion polls, focus groups of market research?

Answer

- (a) Total spent in financial year 2006 was \$388,709.37
- (b)

Tourism Research Project	\$ 24,181.82
Latin America Education Kit Scoping Study	\$ 17,727.27
Latin American Communities in Australia Project	\$ 17,167.52
Newspoll	\$ 29,870.50
The Open Mind Research Group	\$142,285.00
Yayasan Smeru	\$ 68,385.51
Professor Sarlito WS	\$ 18,201.15
Lembargo Survei	\$ 26,588.60
Asia Foundation	\$ 44,302.00
- (c) None
- (d) The education and tourism research projects are informing the development of strategies to maximise engagement in these areas with Latin America. The Latin American Communities in Australia project provided useful feedback to the Council on issues of concern to the Latin American community in Australia and is helping inform the work of the Council.

The Newspoll survey has assisted DFAT and Austrade in preparing and assessing the effectiveness of trade advocacy and outreach strategies for communicating to our target audiences.

Benefit cost assessments on The Open Mind Research Group have not been done to assess the returns from smartraveller market research.

Benefit cost assessments in regard to the studies/surveys by Yayasan Smeru, Professor Sarlito WS, Lembargo Survei and the Asia Foundation have not been done.

Answer

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

- (a) Nil
- (b) N/A
- (c) N/A
- (d) N/A

Answer

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation.

- (a) \$13,200 (incl GST) was spent on market research.
- (b) Blue Moon Research and Planning Pty Ltd.

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- (c) None.
- (d) Benefits are yet to be assessed for the above research, which is yet to be finalised.

Question 76

Output: Enabling Services (all agencies)

Topic: Recruitment agency spending

Written question

Senator Wong asked:

- (a) What sum was spent on recruitment agencies in 2006 by each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (b) Will the Minister provide a list of the recruitment agencies which are used by the department and agencies in the Minister's portfolio?
- (c) What functions do recruitment agencies perform for departments and what would be the likely impact on departmental outcomes from reduction in recruitment spending on external agencies?
- (d) What benefit-cost assessments have been done which benchmark internal recruitment processes and/or on utilising on line recruitment portals?

Answers

- (a) and (b) The department uses recruitment agencies to provide administrative support to DFAT selection processes. Costs based on expenditure in the 2006 calendar year are as follows:

Verossity Pty Ltd/Ross Human Directions Pty Ltd	\$142,151.58
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(The amount does not include the fees paid for the provision of non-ongoing (temporary) staff and contractors as compiling these figures would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.)

Recruitment Management Company	\$24,594.00
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Australian Council of Education Research Ltd (ACER)	\$17,096.80
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- (c) Ross Human Directions provides two main services for the department: management of a register of non-ongoing employees; and administration of recruitment processes.
 - i. **Non-ongoing employment register.** Functions of this task include advertising, interviewing, short listing, ensuring security clearances are met (including absorbing some costs), staff briefing, preparing employment documentation, performance reviews, invoicing and reporting.
Fees are 9% of non-ongoing employees' salary.
 - ii. **Administration of recruitment processes.** Functions include answering applicant queries, receiving, acknowledging and collating applications, scheduling interviews, preparation of statistical data,

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providing scribing services, sending rejection letters and scheduling feedback for unsuccessful candidates.

Fees are per short-listed applicant.

The provision of these services allows the department to produce timely and quality outcomes for both short and long term recruitment processes.

Recruitment Management Company and the Australian Council of Education Research Ltd assist with testing and marking graduate recruit applications.

A reduction in recruitment agency spending could only be achieved by managing these tasks internally. This would result in additional staff costs in excess of the expenditure and less flexibility to manage peak periods. The resultant recruitment delays would have a flow on effect on the effectiveness of other areas of the department.

- (d) While we have not done a benefit-cost assessment, it is clear the use of recruitment agencies is an efficient way to manage recruitment into the department.

The department is currently trialling an on line recruitment system through Ross Human Directions. We anticipate this will result in a lower rate of application errors (such as incomplete applications) and thus faster and more robust recruitment processes. Data on the efficiency of the new method will be available in several months time.

The department will upgrade its Human Resources Management Information System in 2008. It is anticipated that the upgraded system will support an integrated on line recruitment system. The department is currently investigating the technical viability of using the integrated system and we anticipate this would result in additional efficiencies in the appointment process.

The changes to an on line recruitment system will be incorporated into the next tender for recruitment services. The tender will be advertised in the next few months, with a new contract for services commencing in December 2007.

The graduate recruitment application process is on-line and the cognitive testing which was undertaken by ACER will be conducted on-line this year.

Answer

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

- (a) \$122,694
- (b) Adecco \$40,775
Kowalski \$15,686
Public Affairs Recruitment \$22,600
Stelle \$43,633
- (c) Recruitment agencies provide short-term non-ongoing staff when filling internally is not possible. We also use a specialised recruitment agency to support senior professional recruitment exercises.

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A reduction in recruitment spending on external agencies would reduce the efficiency of filling unplanned short-term vacancies and would diminish the field of applicants for senior professional vacancies.

(d) None

Answer

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

- (a) \$222,385 for the 2006 calendar year. This amount does not include fees or advertising costs paid to recruitment agencies for providing non-ongoing (temporary) agency staff.
- (b) The recruitment agencies used during this period (excluding those used exclusively for temporary agency staff) were:
- Carmichael Fisher
 - Chandler MacLeod
 - Perceptor
 - PKL
 - SOLs Legal Services
 - Michael Page
 - Taylor Root
 - Olivier Group
- (c) EFIC may engage recruitment agencies in the placement of permanent and temporary staff, especially where technical and specialist skills are sought. Reducing the assistance provided by recruitment agencies would impact on EFIC's ability to source appropriately qualified and experienced staff with the required specialist skills from within the banking and finance sector to meet EFIC's requirements.
- (d) EFIC have utilised online recruitment portals and do attempt to recruit without the assistance of recruitment agencies wherever feasible. Due to the market competition for high calibre staff within the finance industry, in-house recruitment of specialist and other staff without the support of recruitment agencies is less effective.

Question 77

Output: Enabling Services

Topic: Verossity

Hansard page 72

Senator Ray asked:

- (a) In regard to DFAT's contractual relationship with Verossity, is there a base contract figure for each year?
- (b) Who are the principals of Verossity?

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Answer

(a) Verossity has now changed company name to Ross Human Directions Pty Ltd.
There is no base contract figure charged each year. All fees in the contract are on a fee-for-service basis.

(b) Ross Human Directions has 7 main principals: two Chair members, four Directors and one Company Secretary.

Allan Fergus McDonald—Non-executive Chairman

Julia Mary Ross—Executive Deputy Chairman

Ralph Shreeve—Group Managing Director

Karen Lynne Wilson—Director

Eileen Doyle—Director

Hugh Henderson—Director

Glenn Meekin—Company Secretary

Question 78

Output: Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

Topic: Philippines claim

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

*According to the 2006 EFIC Annual Report, EFIC has the following outstanding claims on the **Philippines** Government: Philippines: \$184.8 million (71.1 National Interest Account, 113.7 Commercial Interest Account).*

Can the minister's representative please provide the Senate with the following details about the loans from which these outstanding claims are based.

- (a) Who were the contracting parties? From the Australian side, please name the Australian Commercial company involved and also any Australian Government Departments that were involved in contracting the loan (EFIC, DFAT, AusAID, Treasury). From the overseas side, please name all contracting parties including private contractors and government departments.
- (b) Please specify the value of each of the original loan agreements. Also, of those loans from the National Interest Account that were contracted as part of the DIFF program, please specify how much in the form of AusAID grants were given as part of those agreements.
- (c) What were the loans for? Please detail what goods/services were offered to the foreign partner as part of the transaction.
- (d) In each case, please specify whether the loans have been rescheduled or not, and if so, when and under what terms

Answer

(see attachment)

Question 79

Output: Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

Topic: Indonesian claim

Written question

Senator Evans asked:

*According to the 2006 EFIC Annual Report, EFIC has the following outstanding claims on the **Indonesian** Government: Indonesia: \$1,159 million (1,130 National Interest Account, 31.8 Commercial Interest Account).*

Can the minister's representative please provide the Senate with the following details about the loans from which these outstanding claims are based.

- (a) Who were the contracting parties? From the Australian side, please name the Australian Commercial company involved and also any Australian Government Departments that were involved in contracting the loan (EFIC, DFAT, AusAID, Treasury). From the overseas side, please name all contracting parties including private contractors and government departments.
- (b) Please specify the value of each of the original loan agreements. Also, of those loans from the National Interest Account that were contracted as part of the DIFF program, please specify how much in the form of AusAID grants were given as part of those agreements.
- (c) What were the loans for? Please detail what goods/services were offered to the foreign partner as part of the transaction.
- (d) In each case, please specify whether the loans have been rescheduled or not, and if so, when and under what terms

Answer

(see attachment)

Question 80

Output: Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

Topic: Iraq debt

Written question

Senator Nettle asked:

- (a) If 76% of the total Iraqi debt relates to claims paid out by EFIC for wheat exports, what accounts for the remaining 24%?
- (b) Of the 76% of Iraq debt that was in relation to claims paid out by EFIC:
 - i. what is the dollar value of those claims?

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- ii. what proportion is political risk insurance?
- iii. what percentage are sovereign guarantees?
- iv. what proportion was short term credit insurance?

Answer

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

- (a) The remaining 24% of total debt consists of:
 - . 20%, the Australian Wheat Board's share of debt.
 - . 4%, relates to exports of cheese, seed drills, irrigation equipment, split peas, medical equipment, the establishment/management of a cereal/livestock farm, and related services.
- (b)
 - i. US\$381m.
 - ii. Nil
 - iii. Nil
 - iv. 100%