

Question from Senator Abetz	DFAT Response
Will we remain a member of the UNRWA Advisory Commission?	Yes
Has work been undertaken on a new Aid Investment Plan? If yes, what is the detail? Please take on notice.	<p>The Palestinian Territories COVID-19 Development Response Plan is available on our website:</p> <p>https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/palestinian-territories-covid-19-development-response-plan</p>
Has the Department become aware of a complaint brought before the International Criminal Court by Rodney Dixon QC against China alleging widespread and systematic crimes against the Uighur people? The filing involves a litany of crimes including murder, forced birth control and sterilisation.	<p>Yes, we are aware of media reports that human rights and public law barrister, Rodney Dixon QC, has filed a complaint with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on behalf of some Uighur groups.</p>

Questions from Senator Wong	DFAT Response
Was there any contact from other women before, or after the flight from Qatar arrived?	No other women have contacted DFAT regarding the incident [as of midday 28 October].
Did we ask if any other flights in Qatar were affected?	When making representations to the Qatari Foreign Ministry on 6 October, Chargé Doha asked whether other flights from Doha had been affected. The Qatari Foreign Ministry was unable to answer the question and advised it needed to confer with other government agencies to elicit details.
Are you aware of an example where Australians stranded in Guatemala were advised by DFAT to cross the land border into Mexico overnight because of the curfews in place, in order to get a flight home?	On 23 March, Smartraveller stated that you may be able to exit via the Guatemala-Mexico border, and that this should not be done during curfew hours (which was then 4pm-4am). On 15 April, Smartraveller stated that there were reports of unofficial roadblocks at the border between Guatemala and Mexico and to not use this route to depart until further notice. On 9 April, Smartraveller advised that the border had become dangerous due to local unrest and to avoid this route until further notice. The advice regarding the border has remained the same since this update.
You've had plans for facilitated flights since March and you've used some of them. When was the first one [facilitated flight], not from the epicentre [Wuhan or Yokohama]?	The first facilitated was from London to Perth on 27 March. The second was from Peru to Sydney (via Cusco, Lima, Santiago) on 31 March.
How many people are in the consular taskforce? How many from other agencies?	As of 22 October there were 114 staff working on the Taskforce, including 12 from other agencies (10 Services Australia, 2 Australian Border Force). As of 28 October, there are 122 staff working on the Taskforce, including 14 from other agencies (10 Services Australia, 2 Australian Border Force, 1 Infrastructure, 1 Heath). Please note that these numbers change daily with the arrival of new staff and departure of staff on postings/other placements.

Questions from Senator Rice (Assange)	DFAT Response
<p>What communications has the Minister and/or DFAT had with the US this year to raise concerns about Julian Assange?</p> <p>DFAT, can you take on notice a detailed list of when this matter was raised in 2020?</p>	<p>Officials from our Embassy in Washington spoke with officials from the US Department of Justice on 29 June 2020, regarding Mr Assange. Minister Payne raised the matter with Secretary of State Pompeo on 28 July 2020.</p> <p>The Australian Government has – as it does for all Australian citizens – taken regular action to ensure the welfare of Mr Assange and to offer consular assistance, in line with the Consular Services Charter.</p> <p>The Foreign Minister specifically raised the situation of Mr Assange, and his conditions, with United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Raab during his visit to Australia [6 February 2020] and raised Australia's continuing interest in Mr Assange with United States Secretary of State Pompeo [28 July 2020].</p> <p>Officials from our Embassy in Washington spoke with officials from the US Department of Justice on 29 June 2020, regarding Mr Assange. Australia's High Commissioner to the UK (HE the Hon George Brandis QC) has engaged [5 February 2020] with the UK Government, Governor of HMP Belmarsh, senior officials and the Secretary of State for Justice.</p> <p>In 2020, our Consul at the High Commission in London engaged with HMP Belmarsh (on welfare matters) on 25 February, 26 March, 14 and 27 April, 4 May, 1 June, 25 and 28 September and 1 October.</p>
<p>Public reporting said that Australia House reserved three seats at the trial and didn't attend. Can I confirm that?</p> <p>These reservations prevented others from attending the trials.</p>	<p>The High Commission requested seating (or phone access during the COVID-19 lockdown period) at all of Mr Assange's hearings - including case management, extradition and remand hearings. On 4 September 2020, the Court confirmed to our Consul-General in London that seating had been made available for each day of the extradition hearings (originally set down for three weeks from 7 September). The allocation of seating is a matter for the Court. An officer from the High Commission attended each day of the extradition hearings.</p>
<p>When was DFAT made aware of the new third and replacement indictment issued by US DoJ?</p> <p>The new indictment – the press release was on 24 June. Was the department aware before this? When was the department aware of it?</p>	<p>DFAT became aware of the second superseding indictment following the publication of the press release on the US Department of Justice Website on 25 June 2020 AEST (24 June local).</p> <p>Same response as above.</p>

<p>I'm told that it was well after and that it was not properly served to the court until 4 August.</p> <p>Was DFAT aware Assange would need to be re-arrested on the new indictment?</p>	<p>Following Post's (telephone dial-in) attendance at Mr Assange's 14 August remand hearing, Post (London) advised that the Court reported a second superseding indictment and supporting affidavit had been served on Mr Assange's defence team on 12 August.</p> <p>Further, Post noted the Judge gave Mr Assange's defence team seven days to vacate the already scheduled hearing dates to deal with the new material and advised that, if the scheduled hearing dates proceeded, Mr Assange would be arrested on the first day of the resumed hearing (7 September).</p> <p>In written reporting on the fifth day of Mr Assange's extradition hearing (7 September 2020), Post (London) advised that Mr Assange had been re-arrested in relation to the new request served on the Court by the United States on 12 August 2020.</p>
<p>There are reports that Assange had extremely limited contact with his lawyers in six months preceding hearings and no face to face meetings. Are these correct? Did your officials know this was the case? Was DFAT and the Minister informed of limited contact?</p>	<p>Australian officials have raised on several occasions with UK officials, media reports of Mr Assange's access to his legal team. On each of those occasions, UK officials have provided assurances that Mr Assange's legal team had been provided "very sufficient access to their client". High Commission staff reported that, where Mr Assange's legal team raised this matter in Court, the Judge requested that sufficient access be provided.</p>
<p>Have you been informed via Australia or elsewhere that Australian lawyer Jennifer Robinson testified that she was witness to an offer of a pardon deal by President Trump in exchange for revealing the source of the 2016 election Wikileaks publications, but this was a deal Mr Assange refused and after he refused that was when he was indicted by the administration?</p> <p>Have you been informed of that testimony?</p>	<p>The Australian High Commission in London provided a report following the thirteenth day (18 September 2020) of Mr Assange's extradition hearing in which the defence team read into evidence a witness statement (dated 14 February 2020) from Jennifer Robinson. In its summary of the evidence, Post reported Ms Robinson's statement dealt with a meeting she had attended with Mr Assange at the Ecuadorian Embassy in 2017 with United States Congressman, Dana Rohrabacher and Charles Johnson. DFAT received the tabled document.</p>

Questions from Senator Rice (Flights)	DFAT Response
When were you first recommending flights?	DFAT first put forward the option of facilitated commercial flights in late March 2020.
Questions from Senator Rice (Israel)	DFAT Response
Could you answer now as to whether the incoming Ambassador, Paul Griffiths, who I believe has been at post for about a month, has he raised the issue of settlement building as of yet?	Owing to Israel’s nationwide COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions on meetings, Ambassador Griffiths has not had the opportunity to raise the issue of settlement building since Israel’s most recent settlement announcement. On 19 October, our Deputy Ambassador in Israel conveyed Australia’s concerns about Israel’s recent decision to advance almost 5,000 settlement units in the West Bank to Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Does the Australian Government have any training agreements or MoUs with any Israeli military or police bodies?	In October 2017, Australia signed a MOU on defence industry cooperation with Israel’s Ministry of Defence. In January 2019, Australia signed a MOU on cyber security cooperation with Israel’s National Cyber Directorate. Please refer further details on policing and/or military agreements to Department of Defence and Australian Federal Police.
Questions from Senator Rice (Syria)	DFAT Response
<p>Have they told you how many? But how many is that of all the Australians known to them (Syrian Kurdish authorities)?</p> <p>What is your estimate?</p>	<p>Syrian Kurdish Authorities have advised that there are 12 Australian “family groups” in Al Roj and none in Al Hol.</p> <p>Syrian Kurdish Authorities have not provided the Australian Government with a head count of Australian women and children currently under their care.</p> <p>We understand camp authorities have registered only adults and not children: consequently, they account for camp populations in terms of “family groups” rather than numbers of individuals.</p> <p>Humanitarian groups estimate that a “family group” on average comprises six persons (women and children). Based on that estimate, there may be approximately 70 plus Australian women and children in Al Roj.</p> <p>Some Australians may remain in Al Hol and so we continue to monitor the situation there. Some Australian-based family members are in contact with the department through consular channels.</p> <p>DFAT is unable to independently verify the location of Australians in northeast Syria.</p>

Questions from Senator Patrick	DFAT Response
<p>With respect to Cheng Lei, on Sep 30 DFAT confirmed they had twice visited her in detention since August. Have you had any contact with her since then?</p>	<p>A consular visit occurred on 28 October 2020.</p>
<p>Do you know which law and which article Dr Yang Hengjun is charged under?</p>	<p>Dr Yang has been charged using the following laws:</p> <p>Criminal Law of the People’s Republic of China Part III Special Provisions Chapter 1 Crimes of Endangering National Security Articles 102-113 – charges range from three years or below, to death penalty</p> <p>We don’t know which specific article Dr Yang has been charged under.</p>

Questions from Senator Van	DFAT Response
<p>How many people are adding their name to the list over past weeks because their circumstances are changing as the virus takes off in Europe and other places?</p>	<p>Since 19 September over 13,600 Australians overseas have registered with the Department, with over 95% of those indicating their wish to return to Australia.</p>
<p>Can you provide us the increases and where those increases are emanating?</p>	<p>Registrations are from across the world, with the largest number of registrations being in the United Kingdom and India making up around 40% of the total new registrations.</p>

Question from Senator Fierravanti-Wells	DFAT Response
Yesterday we spoke about the issue of what happened in Qatar. The focus was on the searches of the Australian women. Do we have any progress on whether the mother's been found? Please take on notice.	DFAT is not able to comment on the location of the mother. We note this is currently the subject of an investigation by Qatari authorities.

Questions from Senator Wong (Foreign Relations Bill)	DFAT Response
<p>When were universities included in the draft?</p> <p>What does that mean? You described it as state and territory governments. So when did local governments get included and when did universities get included?</p> <p>Was it in the first set of drafting instructions?</p>	<p>Drafting is an iterative process, and the definition of 'State/Territory entity' evolved over the course of drafting discussions to ensure the Bill reflected the Government's policy intent.</p> <p>Local governments and universities were both covered in early drafts of the Bill. To disclose any more precise details would reveal the deliberations of Cabinet and the iterative content of the legislative drafting process.</p>
<p>Was DFAT asked to provide any briefing for the purpose of national cabinet being advised about this?</p>	<p>DFAT was not asked to provide briefing in preparation for National Cabinet.</p>
<p>[Regarding stakeholder consultations] Could you give me on notice who they were and when that occurred please?</p>	<p>Seek to table details of more than 35 consultation sessions, covering over 60 stakeholders [attached].</p> <p>This captures substantial domestic engagement, but there have been many more additional interactions with stakeholders as well as international discussions in respect of the Bill.</p>

Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Bill 2020

DFAT Stakeholder Engagement (as at 29 October 2020)

States and Territories

Date	Consultation	Stakeholder
27-Aug	SA Dept of Premier and Cabinet	SA Government
27-Aug	Tasmanian Dept of Premier and Cabinet and the Dept of State Growth	TAS Government
28-Aug	NSW Dept of Premier and Cabinet	NSW Government
28-Aug	NSW Treasury	NSW Government
31-Aug	Queensland Dept of Premier and Cabinet and Trade and Investment QLD	QLD Government
2-Sep	WA Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI)	WA Government
2-Sep	Global Victoria	VIC Government
10-Sep	NT Dept of Industry, Tourism and Trade, NT Dept of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	NT Government
14-Sep	QLD Dept of Premier and Cabinet	QLD Government
17-Sep	WA Dept of Premier and Cabinet and WA Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation	WA Government
17-Sep	VIC Dept of Premier and Cabinet	VIC Government
23-Sep	NSW Dept of Premier and Cabinet and NSW Treasury	NSW Government
6-Oct	SA Dept of Premier and Cabinet	SA Government
12-Oct	Senior Officials Trade and Investment Group (SOTIG)	ACT, QLD, NSW, NT, SA and VIC Governments

Local Government

Date	Consultation	Stakeholder
28-Aug	Local Government Association of QLD	QLD Local Government
31-Aug	Local Government NSW	Local Government NSW
3-Sep	Local Government Association of NT	NT Local Government
4-Sep	Australian Local Government Association	Australian Local Governments
9-Sep	Local Government Association of Tasmania	TAS Local Government
11-Sep	Darwin City Council	NT Local Government
15-Sep	Local Government NSW	NSW Local Government
13-Sep	Alice Springs Town Council	NT Local Government
14-Sep	City of Perth	WA Local Government
18-Sep	Local Government Association of QLD	QLD Local Government

Universities

Date	Consultation	Stakeholder
1-Sep	Australian National University	Australian National University
4-Sep	Universities Australia and Group of 8	Universities Australia and Group of 8 Executive
7-Sep	Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN)	ATN Executive
16-Sep	Universities Australia Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universities Australia Executive • University of Queensland • La Trobe University • Edith Cowan University • University of New South Wales • University of South Australia • Australian National University • Queensland University of Technology • University of Southern Queensland
16-Sep	Group of 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go8 Executive • University of Adelaide • University of Melbourne

Date	Consultation	Stakeholder
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monash University • Australian National University • University of Queensland • University of Western Australia • University of New South Wales • University of Sydney
17-Sep	Innovative Research Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative Research Universities Executive • Griffith University • James Cook University • Western Sydney University • Charles Darwin University • La Trobe University • Murdoch University • Flinders University
25-Sep	ATN	ATN Executive
25-Sep	ATN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATN Executive • University of Technology, Sydney • RMIT University • University of South Australia • Curtin University
28-Sep	University Foreign Interference Taskforce (UFIT) Steering Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UFIT Taskforce • RMIT University • University of Newcastle • University of Queensland • La Trobe University • Australian National University
30-Sep	Universities Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universities Australia Executive • University of Queensland
1-Oct	Innovative Research Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative Research Universities • Griffith University • James Cook University • Western Sydney University • Charles Darwin University • La Trobe University • Murdoch University • Flinders University
7-Oct	Universities Australia	Universities Australia Executive
9-Oct	ATN	ATN Executive

Date	Consultation	Stakeholder
15-Oct	NSW Vice-Chancellor's Committee (NSW VCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW VCC Executive • Australian Catholic University • Australian National University • Charles Sturt University • Macquarie University • Southern Cross University • University of NSW • University of Wollongong • University of Canberra • University of New England • University of Newcastle • University of Sydney • University of Technology Sydney • Western Sydney University

Business

Date	Consultation type	Stakeholder
16-Sep	DFAT Peak Business Bodies Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AusIMM • Australia China Business Council • AI Group • Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association • Australian Services Roundtable • Citi Australia • Business Council of Australia • Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry • Minerals Council of Australia • National Farmers Federation • Export Council of Australia • Australian Fresh Produce Alliance • Australian Food and Grocery Council • Austmine

Question from Senator Sheldon	DFAT Response
I would be very interested in the figures about the [posting] applicants, the mix, and the successful applicants, the numbers and the comparison with previous years – a couple of years, that’s simple enough.	Please see attached document <i>DFAT Overseas Staff Profile</i> .

DFAT Overseas Staff Profile

29 October 2020

Overview

- Our staff hold a continuing interest in serving overseas.
- Our data demonstrates that diversity* metrics for staff applying for postings and receiving postings has remained consistent, pre and during COVID-19.
- Our level of accompanied staff overseas has temporarily decreased in 2020 for both female and male staff
 - This is reflective of the incremental return of staff and their dependents to our overseas posts, as COVID-19 risks are mitigated.

Our diversity data represents declarations by staff to the department and is recorded on our HR systems. DFAT is exploring how to enable staff to declare and record relevant diversity considerations where they choose to do so, including through the posting process.

Data Snapshot

- Number of applicants for postings

Posting round	Number of applicants	Number of positions	Average applications per applicant
August 2020	650	169	2.7
February 2020	443	93	2.1
October 2019	389	85	2.2

- Family composition in the overseas network
 - 47 per cent of female staff and 55 per cent of male staff in the overseas network are accompanied as at 29 October 2020.
 - 49 per cent of female staff and 56 per cent of male staff in the overseas network were accompanied in mid-2020.
 - 65 per cent of female officers and 70 per cent of male officers in the overseas network were accompanied in mid-2019.

Period	Total female staff	Total male staff	Accompanied staff (Female)	Accompanied staff (Male)	Total accompanied
29 October 2020	417	422	195 (47%)	232 (55%)	427
31 July 2020	448	416	220 (49%)	232 (56%)	452
31 January 2020	448	418	274 (61%)	283 (68%)	557
31 July 2019	410	412	268 (65%)	287 (70%)	555

- Gender diversity* in the overseas network
 - 52 per cent of staff in our overseas network were female in mid-2020
 - 50 per cent of staff in our overseas network were female in mid-2019

- In August 2020, there was a slight decrease in the percentage of females applying for postings in August 2020, compared to February 2020.

Period	Total number of applicants	Female applicants	Male applicants
August 2020	650	335 (52%)	315 (48%)
February 2020	443	240 (54%)	203 (46%)
October 2019	389	202 (52%)	187 (48%)

** Gender data is currently not inclusive of sexual and gender diversity. DFAT is developing more inclusive data reporting standards.*

- Postings outcomes by gender

Posting round	Female	Male
August 2020	51%	49%
February 2020	56%	44%
October 2019	43%	57%

- Posting outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants

Posting round	Percentage of all outcomes
August 2020	4%
February 2020	4%
October 2019	3%

- Posting outcomes for applicants from a non-English speaking background

Posting round	Percentage of all outcomes
August 2020	10%
February 2020	13%
October 2019	11%

- Posting outcomes for applicants with a disability

Posting round	Percentage of all outcomes
August 2020	5%
February 2020	2%
October 2019	3%

- Average age category of posting outcomes

Age	Oct 19	Feb 20	Aug 20
20-29	12%	9%	14%
30-39	45%	40%	39%
40-49	28%	34%	29%
50+	15%	17%	18%

- Average age of posting outcomes

Posting round	Average age
August 2020	40
February 2020	40
October 2019	39