

DFAT QON Index – Budget Estimates 2020-21

Portfolio Question No	Senator	Broad Topic	Question Text	Written / Hansard	Proof Hansard Page
001	McKenzie	Trade Measures to support Australian industry	<p>COVID-19 has taught us that we need to build Australia’s sovereignty, our ability to Make Australia Make Again, and to use trade measures that fortify our industries’ abilities to be competitive in domestic and global trading environments. Has the Department reviewed trading measures including tariffs, anti-dumping measures and counter-veiling duties, and heightened work to remove non-tariff barriers that plague some of our industries, to ensure these measures remain fit-for-purpose and protective of our industries especially as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>a. (If yes) What changes has the Department made on the back of any reviews that have been undertaken?</p> <p>b. (If no) How is the Department working to ensure these measures are used appropriately, whenever required, to support our industries to trade with certainty in global markets?</p>	Written	
002	McKenzie	Impact of COVID-19	<p>Has the Department reviewed its structure or operations to ensure that it functions with the greatest efficiency to achieve what is necessary to best support Australian industry’s global trading environment and to protect and promote our trade interests on the back of the COVID-19 pandemic?</p> <p>i. (if required) Can you provide detail on what reviews were undertaken and their outcomes?</p> <p>ii. (continued) Have any changes been introduced and if so, can you please detail these changes?</p>	Written	
003	McKenzie	Trade Diversification	<p>Some industry groups have long sought the assistance of the Department to diversify their trading markets. This request for assistance has increased for some industries during the COVID pandemic where there has been what some refer to as a “reliance” on China.</p> <p>a. Can the Department outline what work has been undertaken to assist these industries to broaden their market options?</p> <p>b. Can the Department outline what work has been undertaken to preserve the trading relationship with China particularly in situations where sensitivities pose significant risk to industry?</p> <p>c. How has the Department worked to maintain the Australia-China relationship while assisting industries with market diversification?</p>	Written	
004	McKenzie	Addressing Non-Tariff Barriers	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Thank you, Minister. I want to go to some questions from grain growers around the issues that were raised earlier. Can you please update the committee on the non-tariff measures work being undertaken by the department; the number of barriers; and the strategy and prioritisation process to overcome them?</p> <p>Ms Burrows: A point of clarification: do you mean in the EU free trade agreement or across the department?</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: No, I've moved on from the EU free trade agreement. They've got Ukraine. Mr Baxter,</p>	HANSARD	

			<p>what work are you doing on non-tariff trade barriers? Senator Birmingham: You're particularly asking about non-tariff trade barriers in grains? Senator MCKENZIE: In grains, in particular. Mr Baxter: As you would be aware, the government established a non-tariff barrier action plan in 2018 that was specifically designed to bring together the government across all agencies to improve coordination with industry and to improve transparency about non-tariff barriers. It's important to understand that in 2018 it wasn't the first time that the government was agreeing to take action in relation to non-tariff— Senator MCKENZIE: Let me help you, Mr Baxter. Specifically, how many barriers have been identified? What is your strategy and prioritisation process to overcome these? This is industry asking. Mr Baxter: Yes, and we deal with industry very regularly. The number of barriers being identified changes constantly, and this is a sign that the system is working because when a business encounters a barrier in another market it can now, as a result of this plan, register that with us through a one-touch portal much more easily— Senator MCKENZIE: So maybe on notice, thanks to the one-touch portal, I'll get some data on that— Mr Baxter: I can tell you about the prioritisation process briefly, if you'd like. I'll take that on notice as well.</p>		
005	McKenzie	Barley exports	<p>Senator MCKENZIE: Barley growers across the country, those that are taking the crop off now—given the crippling duties imposed by China, what are we actually doing? There's some neat rhetoric around identifying new markets, but what's actually happening, given the crop's about to come off? Senator Birmingham: This is joint DFAT and Austrade work that is being pursued there. Mr Baxter: And the department of agriculture as well. Senator Birmingham: And the department of agriculture, of course, through their counsellor network and support. There are some particular focus areas across South-East Asia and across the Middle East, where opportunities have been identified. Some will be more short term, or possible in the short term, than others that might be more medium term in nature. In terms of recognising that, in the China market, part of what we are feeling the effect of is premium malting barley that had established itself in the China market— Senator MCKENZIE: Great joint partnership in Vietnam with CBH. Senator Birmingham: It may be possible, in some places, to find new partnerships for that malting barley. In others, it may be possible to find new partnerships in grains that could see a change in the production mix over time as well. Senator MCKENZIE: I understand, being a crop, you don't have to plant barley next season. But right now, in this context, we've got a barley crop coming off. So I'd like to know the short-term solution. Mr Baxter: We can provide some of those details on notice. In addition to what the minister said, we are quite hopeful of increasing exports of that premium malting barley to markets like Japan—increasing in</p>	HANSARD	

			<p>existing markets. Senator McKENZIE: Good beer. Mr Baxter: Then there are markets like Vietnam, and the Middle East is an important potential destination for increased exports of barley as feed.</p>		
006	McKenzie	Trade Diversification	<p>Senator McKENZIE: This is my final question, Chair, and I'll put the rest on notice. The red meat processing industry was asked to diversify into China many years ago by government and is now being asked to diversify out of China. Other than FTAs, what specific assistance is DFAT and Austrade providing to individual companies, or indeed their peak council, to manage this market diversification request? Ms Lawson: You're asking about support for meat diversification? Senator McKENZIE: I think the frustration from the industry is they get very clear signals from government at one end—that you're going to have to look to the north, go to China, diversify to China—and now we're asking them to diversify elsewhere. As you would understand better than I do, developing long-term, valuable relationships with importers in these countries is not easy; it's highly competitive. This is your daily task. The question from industry is about tangible assistance from Austrade and DFAT to assist with diversification within, specifically, the red meat industry. Senator Birmingham: Senator McKenzie, the officials here may wish to add, and it would probably be useful for us to take it on notice for both DFAT and Austrade to provide some detail across both on the partnerships that Austrade will have with Meat and Livestock Australia in particular. Senator McKENZIE: And AMIC in particular as the peak council. Senator Birmingham: And AMIC, indeed. I think it is worth noting in terms of the red meat— Senator McKENZIE: Sorry, Minister. It's not the producers of meat and livestock; it's the actual processors and the exporters. Senator Birmingham: Yes. Senator McKENZIE: Thank you.</p>	HANSARD	
007	McKenzie	Meat Exports to China	<p>How is DFAT assisting the four meat processors still suspended from China and the subsequent business suspended for a spurious residue claim from China?</p>	Written	
008	McKenzie	Meat Exports to China	<p>How is DFAT assisting those companies currently looking to get their access back into China following their positive COVID cases in Victoria?</p>	Written	

009	McKenzie	Meat Exports	How do you see DFAT working with Australia's biggest agricultural exporter, and industry, being the meat industry, to assist this government meeting its \$100 billion in Agricultural Industry value target by 2030?	Written	
010	McKenzie	Trade Barriers	<p>We have seen the influence that lobby groups and other groups such as animal activists can have on political processes that affect trade negotiations. In 2019, the Swiss Group of Greens tried to move a motion through the Swiss Federal Council to require the labelling of garments made from Australian wool so that consumers could distinguish between clothes made mulesed and non-mulesed wool from Australian sheep. This week, we have learned an Italian animal welfare group has presented a draft bill to the Italian government seeking to ban the importation of kangaroo products.</p> <p>a. What work does DFAT undertake to ensure disruption to trade does not occur when these sorts of issues arise within our export countries?</p> <p>b. Does DFAT engage with Australian industry, who are generally issue-experts, to for guidance and counsel when working to resolve these matters?</p> <p>c. How is DFAT ensuring that the EU-FTA will ensure that Australian industries are protected from negative trade impacts should issues like this arise once the FTA is in-force?</p>	WRITTEN	
011	McKenzie	Workplace productivity	<p>A. What is the number of public servants working from home for each month from the Department? (Please note that Question 1 applies to working from home arrangements from the beginning of the pandemic).</p> <p>B. How has the Department measured increased, static or declining productivity and what are the conclusions from that measure?</p> <p>C. What is the number of sick days from the Department with a work-from-home workforce for each month of the lockdown and the corresponding sick days for the corresponding months in 2019?</p>	WRITTEN	
012	Kitching	Famagusta Dialogues	<p>A. Can DFAT provide us with a briefing of the "Famagusta Dialogues" which it funded and was conducted in Cyprus in January 2020?</p> <p>B. Why did DFAT fund the "Famagusta Dialogues"?</p> <p>C. What is DFAT's assessment of the "Famagusta Dialogues"?</p> <p>D. What is DFAT's assessment of the "Famagusta Dialogues" project leader?</p> <p>E. Does DFAT consider the "Famagusta Dialogues" a successful public diplomacy intervention in the Cyprus conflict?</p> <p>F. How does DFAT intend to utilise the "Famagusta Dialogues"? in Cyprus? In Australia? Elsewhere?</p> <p>G. Is the "Famagusta Dialogues" worth continuing? Is it DFAT's view that Australia should remain proactive on the "Famagusta Dialogues"?</p>	WRITTEN	

			H. Does DFAT intend to continue its support the “Famagusta Dialogues”? I. If so what form will this support take?		
013	Kitching	Trade with China	<p>1. What actions has DFAT sought within the WTO framework in relation to China’s decision to impose tariffs on Australia?</p> <p>a. Has it been raised through private diplomatic channels in Geneva?</p> <p>b. Has it been raised in committee?</p> <p>c. Has it been raised as a formal dispute settlement action?</p> <p>d. Do you expect it to be raised as a formal dispute settlement action?</p> <p>e. Could it be raised under the framework of the interim appeal arrangement for trade disputes of which both Australia and China are among other WTO members party to?</p> <p>2. Has DFAT or any Australian companies sought to undertake an Administrative Review within the Chinese MofCom?</p> <p>a. If so can you please provide an update on the status of this review</p> <p>3. Have any Australian companies sought to undertake domestic judicial court action in China?</p> <p>a. If so can you please provide an update on the progress of this action?</p> <p>b. What assistance is DFAT providing these companies?</p> <p>4. Has DFAT raised the issue within the context of the ChAFTA agreement dispute settlement instruments?</p> <p>a. If so can you please provide an update on the progress of this action?</p> <p>5. What support is being provided to industry affected by the tariffs?</p>	WRITTEN	
014	Kitching	Trade with China	<p>1. What actions has DFAT taken in response to media reports Chinese authorities had started asking importers verbally not to buy Australian coal, cotton, lobsters, grain, sugar, wine, copper, and timber?</p> <p>2. Has Australia formally made a request for consultations under Art. 15 of ChAFTA on these issues?</p> <p>a. If not, why not?</p> <p>3. If so, has China responded within the specified timeline and in appropriate manner?</p> <p>4. If not, then will Australia refer the matter for arbitration?</p> <p>a. If not, why not?</p> <p>5. What support is being provided to industry affected by the investigation?</p> <p>6. What advice has DFAT provided the Minister in relation to the matter?</p>	WRITTEN	
015	Urquhart	International Treaty on the High Seas	<p>A. What involvement has the Australian Government had in negotiating the establishment of an International Treaty on the High Seas? Has the Department provided input to this work, presumably in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade?</p> <p>B. Does the Government acknowledge the need for this treaty in protecting marine life and biodiversity in international waters?</p> <p>C. What are the next steps in the negotiation process?</p>	WRITTEN	
016	-	-	deleted from index	-	-

017	Wong	Doha airport incident	<p>Senator WONG: I've asked the question. That's fine. When was the Prime Minister advised of these events?</p> <p>Senator Payne: The Prime Minister's office would have been advised through my office at the time the reports were being received. Senator WONG: I always get nervous with conditionals—'would have been'. Are you able to tell me when the Prime Minister's office was advised?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I will take the specific on notice, but I'm confident that it was at the time that reports were being received in my office.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Which was the 5th?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Around the 5th, yes.</p>	Hansard	15
018	Van	India	<p>Senator VAN: My last question on this line is: what other countries have secured 2+2 foreign and defence meetings with India?</p> <p>Mr Wiblin: If you'll just excuse me—</p> <p>CHAIR: If you need to take it on notice, you can.</p> <p>Mr Wiblin: I will have to come back on that. I just have to find it.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: From my knowledge, Senator, it's the United States and Russia. Anyway, we are in very good company—with less than a handful. It's not something that India typically does and it will be a real asset as we develop our relationship further to the absolute top rank, as Mr Wiblin has said.</p>	Hansard	18
019	Rice	Mr Julian Assange	<p>Senator RICE: Was there anyone in Australia monitoring proceedings? Or was that left to London?</p> <p>Mr Wilcock: As a matter of course, officials in consular division follow those proceedings, challenging though it is in real time because of the time difference and reporting delays. But we received faithfully every day an account of the day's proceedings by the time we reported for business the following morning.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Minister, how often were you being briefed on the trial?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Regularly.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Daily?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I would take it on notice to confirm whether it was every day, but certainly it was regularly throughout the process. That probably amounted to daily, yes.</p>	Hansard	24
020	Wong	Privacy Breaches	<p>Senator WONG: When was the minister advised? In relation to the first instance, was the minister ever advised? I became aware of it, so presumably—</p> <p>Senator Payne: Yes, I was advised.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Did you ask the secretary or someone in the department to ensure that this matter was remedied?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: What about after the second breach? Were you advised of that before it became public?</p>	Hansard	37

			Senator Payne: I'm not sure of the timing, but I was certainly advised. I'd have to check on whether it was before or—		
021	Wong	Privacy Breaches	<p>Senator WONG: When was your first discussion with the minister about these issues? It was only after the—</p> <p>Ms Adamson: My recollection is that it was immediately after 30 September. I'd need to go back and check.</p> <p>Senator WONG: So there was no discussion with the minister—it did become public, because I became aware of it—after the Colombia breach?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: I was not made separately aware, through our own systems, of the Colombia breach.</p> <p>Senator WONG: But there was no discussion?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: We did not discuss the Colombia breach, to my recollection, but we certainly discussed—</p>	Hansard	37
022	Wong	Support to stranded Australians	<p>Senator WONG: He also referred to it as a commitment elsewhere in the transcript—but let's leave it there. So he indicates on 18 September that the target or the goal is getting people home—and we differ as to the extent to which that was something that could bank on. I am asking again: when did the department first become aware that this was a target of the government—that is, to get the stranded Australians home by Christmas? Were you aware before 18 September?</p> <p>Dr Webster: As I said earlier, I think we always knew that there was an expectation that we would try to get home as many people as we possibly could within the shortest time frame as we possibly could.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That is not my question, though. It is the answer I would anticipate, but I'm asking a very direct question, which is: was DFAT aware that the Prime Minister was announcing a goal of getting the stranded Australians home by Christmas before he said so?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: I'd have to take that on notice. As Dr Webster has said, this has been a constant for us with every available opportunity—</p> <p>Senator WONG: That's not what I asked.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: I will need to come back to you on notice. Because it has been a constant, it is constantly in our mind and I would need to check.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That's a good answer.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: It's a truthful answer.</p> <p>Senator WONG: You are a very good department and you listen very carefully to what ministers say, including the Prime Minister. When you heard him say that it was the goal to get everyone home by Christmas, were you aware of it before he said those words or not?</p> <p>Dr Webster: As the secretary said, I think we would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: Including because the minister said that for she and I, in particular, but also Mr Sheehan and Dr Webster, this is a daily job for us and I would need to check what meeting of the regular ones that the minister referred to was held immediately before. Often there are such meetings before national cabinet when an indication to do things, including on the basis of our advice, is given and then it is</p>	Hansard	61-62

			<p>announced. So I always pay very close attention, obviously, to the announcements out of national cabinet. We never prejudge them because that is the way national cabinet works.</p> <p>Senator WONG: But, obviously, if there is a policy goal—I'm not going to have a semantic argument now about commitments, so let's like just parked that—to get people home by Christmas, your advice is relevant to that.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: Of course it is.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Were you asked to provide advice on the policy goal of getting all Australians home by Christmas?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: I will need to take that on notice.</p>		
023	Wong	Support to stranded Australians	<p>Senator WONG: Some of them are celebrities. Have you seen the modelling from PM&C that was referred to on Tuesday?</p> <p>Dr Webster: I'm not sure which modelling you mean.</p> <p>Senator WONG: The modelling about how many people would come back.</p> <p>Dr Webster: We meet regularly and talk regularly with PM&C—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Don't give me a process answer. Please answer the question.</p> <p>Dr Webster: I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: You're a very good officer. You would know. Have you seen the modelling from PM&C, which PM&C referred to on Tuesday—the evidence I'm sure you watched or at least got a Hansard of—about the number of people likely to return by Christmas? Dr Webster: We certainly share with PM&C our own figures, and they work off our data, in terms of the number of Australians overseas. Yes, to the extent that we're working off the same numbers.</p> <p>Senator WONG: What number would be home by Christmas? What number of Australians likely to be home by Christmas have you seen in the context of that sharing of data?</p> <p>Dr Webster: I'm not going to speculate on the number of Australians.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I'm not asking you to speculate. I'm asking you a very direct question. I will remind you that this is Senate estimates and that if you have a PII claim you need to refer it to a minister. I'm asking if you have seen the number.</p> <p>Dr Webster: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: On what basis?</p> <p>Dr Webster: On the basis that I don't recall seeing a single figure, because the figures—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Alright. What range of figures have you seen?</p> <p>Dr Webster: The figures have changed over time.</p> <p>Senator WONG: What range of figures have you seen?</p> <p>Dr Webster: The figures have changed over time, because initially we had far fewer spaces within the quarantine caps—</p>	Hansard	66-67

			<p>Senator WONG: What are the most recent figures you've seen?</p> <p>Dr Webster: Five thousand five hundred and seventy-five per week under the caps.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That's not an answer. The question is—when you take into account all of the contingencies and variabilities that everyone seems to want to talk to me endlessly about so that they don't answer this question—what is the most recent set of data that you, as the responsible officer in the agency leading this, have seen about the number of Australians likely to be home by Christmas?</p> <p>Dr Webster: I've given you the figures that I have in front of me, based on the quarantine capacity—</p> <p>Senator WONG: That is a lawyer's answer. It is answering a different question. It's an answer about the number under the cap. That's not what I asked you. Could you please answer the question.</p> <p>Dr Webster: The number that come in under the cap is the same as the number of Australians that will be able to be returned home in a space of time.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Alright. That's your evidence, is it? We're not including Howard Springs?</p> <p>Dr Webster: That includes—</p> <p>Senator WONG: You said 'under the cap'. You spent some time lecturing me previously about them being under the cap.</p> <p>Dr Webster: There are two figures that I mentioned earlier: one was the number under the caps, and the additional one was the calculation we have made around the announcements of additional capacity, including Howard Springs, above the cap, which was about 4,800.</p>		
024	Wong	Doha airport incident	<p>Senator WONG: There's been public reporting—I know you declined to indicate this—of other nations whose nationals appear to have been caught up in the very distressing events in Qatar. The ABC has reported that they understand that citizens of France and the United Kingdom were subjected to searches. If you don't wish to respond—it's on the public record now.</p> <p>Senator Payne: I don't have any confirmation from those countries in relation to that that I would be comfortable referring to.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That's fine.</p> <p>Senator Payne: But I have said I will take that on notice as well.</p>	Hansard	72
025	Wong	DFAT Budget	<p>Senator WONG: Well, because it's about the numbers, isn't it? You have a projected deficit of \$127 million for the 2019-20 financial year and your estimated actual expenditure when the PBS was tabled in this budget was half that.</p> <p>Mr Venugopal: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: And I'm asking what decisions were made to reduce the deficit.</p> <p>Mr Venugopal: I may have to take part of that on notice; however, as part of a high-level response, I can tell you that in the passage of time between the 2019-20 PBS and the 2020-21 PBS there were several fiscal and economic updates. As I said, we received \$10.5 million as part of the JEFU and there were other measures. We received funding as part of MYEFO. So there were lots of ons and offs occurring in that period of time. I don't have a tally of the number in that, but that's the broad answer.</p>	Hansard	73

			<p>Senator WONG: How did you tighten the belt?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: [inaudible] we projected a deficit. Now, as you know, we have the overseas special account. We also work on the basis of the department's spending. We have been conscious for three years now that the accumulated efficiency dividend offsets absorb costs that we carry overseas. That's comparable with no other department. In fact, you referred to Mr Venugopal's predecessor, but not by name. It was Paul Wood, who obviously was tracking this very carefully, drawing my attention to it and ensuring that we were taking responsible action and that I was taking responsible action as the accountable authority to ensure that over time we were able to balance our budget. The chief finance officer has referred to this. Obviously there are ons and</p> <p>offs. Fortunately, there have been a number of ons of late. As has been the case with a number of departments, some cost expenditure that we anticipated at the beginning of the financial year has not come to pass because of COVID. I've also taken action to ensure that we're able to operate within our resources and do the job that the government expects us to do.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That's the last bit I want to ask about. On notice can I have a list of the ons and offs?</p> <p>Mr Venugopal: Yes. I can give you a reconciliation.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Basically I want to understand the underlying transactions that led to a change in the net position. Got it?</p> <p>Mr Venugopal: Yes. Can do.</p>		
026	Wong	National Foundation for Australia-China Relations	<p>Senator WONG: That's fine. Can I just ask about the selection of board members? Was it a list of suggestions briefed up to the minister by DFAT? I'm trying to get through this pretty quickly.</p> <p>Ms Browning: So the decisions on board appointments is ultimately one for the minister.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That wasn't what I asked.</p> <p>Ms Browning: it was a series of conversations and processes of considering potential advisory board members, which DFAT helped to inform, including to take into consideration a broad range of expertise that you can see across quite an independent, diverse and expert board considering that it has responsibilities for things like [inaudible] engagement, community engagement, arts and culture, scientific and educational expertise and [inaudible] as well as geographic—</p> <p>Senator WONG: I'm just asking who put the names together? Did you provide some names in one or more briefs? Was that added to by the FMO? I just want to understand that process, please.</p> <p>Ms Browning: Yes. DFAT and I, when I came on board, which was in March of this year, provided suggested names up to the minister for consideration.</p> <p>Senator WONG: And were they added to by FMO?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Yes; it reflects a combination of members from, as Michaela has said, different backgrounds. Some were from the DFAT process, some were selected through me.</p> <p>Senator WONG: The political process, yes. How many of them were DFAT suggestions and how many of them were yours?</p>	Hansard	88-89

			<p>Senator Payne: I'm not sure, Senator. Can we take that on notice and come back to you?</p> <p>Senator WONG: Are we talking more than half are your own ideas?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I want to give you an accurate response. There are 16 board members. We have had some come, and go as well—Senator WONG: I'm going to come to that.</p> <p>Senator Payne: for example, those who have moved overseas and things like that. We will take that on notice and come back to you. Senator WONG: Any PMO suggestions?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Not that I can immediately recollect.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Okay. We've had a number of resignations from the foundation since it was announced. Mr Warwick Smith, the chair, resigned—was it February of this year?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Yes, the back end of February. Actually, no, that is not right; sorry. I don't have the date with me, but, yes, Mr Smith, who had been the chair of the council, and undertook to start on the foundation, did resign.</p> <p>Senator WONG: His resignation letter is described as including a description of the foundation's start as 'tortured and unspectacular'. He expressed concern about how little involvement he had in the selection of new foundation members, all of which had been appointed by you. He is reported to have been very concerned that it was being stacked with people of a certain political persuasion. Did you see his resignation letter?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Yes. I don't recall whether all those elements are in the letter, but I do know that Mr Smith has made a very significant contribution over many years in relation to the council and, of course, in this place, as a former minister in the Howard government—a fine Tasmanian, as I'm sure Senator Abetz is going to remind us any second.</p> <p>CHAIR: Exactly!</p> <p>Senator WONG: Will you table his resignation letter?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Let me take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Did you get a copy?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Yes.</p>		
027	Wong	International Arrivals	<p>Senator Payne: It's on Australians overseas and arrivals, if I may. So it is not in direct context, obviously. You raised an issue around the numbers provided in an answer to a question on notice by ABF and a gap in that number in relation to the arrivals—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Yes. I think there must be a mistake, because it's an outlier—</p> <p>Senator Payne: Because I was confused and I'm not very good at maths, but, with the trusty calculator, I did it all again, and I still couldn't get to 25,000. The missing number relates to the categories that Senator Keneally asked for in her question. The missing number is somewhere in the vicinity of 9,000-plus in relation to aircrew.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Aircrew?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Yes.</p>	Hansard	98

			<p>Senator WONG: Non-Australians?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I'm told aircrew. They don't have to quarantine because there are different requirements in relation to aircrew.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Nine thousand aircrew? That seems—</p> <p>Senator Payne: Over a month.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Over a month—that's possible.</p> <p>Senator Payne: That would be both freight and passenger.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That's fine.Senator Payne: I couldn't work out where the number was either.</p> <p>Senator WONG:</p> <p>The reason I wasn't quite as pushy on that is I thought statistically it was such an outlier with the other months, so I thought there was something wrong.</p> <p>Senator Payne: And 66 per cent of the returns in that month were citizens and PRs.</p> <p>Senator WONG: So still 34 per cent?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Across all of those ranges of issues that the senator asked about—</p> <p>Senator WONG: So it's still higher than the mean.</p> <p>Senator Payne: which include the Pacific labour incoming individuals as well. I wanted to clarify that. I don't know if I can table this, but, if I am allowed, I will.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That will be useful, I think.</p> <p>Senator Payne: I'll just check with Home Affairs. It's not my document</p>		
028	Rice	Beijing Winter Olympics	<p>Senator RICE: The other issue I want to raise is the Winter Olympics in China. The travel advice is that Australians may be at risk of arbitrary detention. Has the government discussed this with the Olympics Committee? Has DFAT discussed the Winter Olympics with your counterparts? Have you discussed it with the committee and the athletes?</p> <p>Ms Lawson: We see the Winter Olympics as a matter for the Olympic Committee. We are not currently considering boycotting the Winter Olympics.</p> <p>Senator RICE: What discussions has DFAT had with the Olympic Committee and with the athletes? Ms Lawson: I'm not aware of DFAT discussions with the Olympic Committee but others may be.</p> <p>Senator Payne: Senator, I have just conferred with the secretary and I would suggest that those discussions are likely to have occurred in different parts of the department. We will take that on notice and provide you with a response. Broadly speaking it is the responsibility of Minister Colbeck, whose agency would engage with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on this. It wouldn't necessarily involve Ms Lawson. Let us take that on notice and we will provide you with a detailed response.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Okay. Thank you.</p>	Hansard	102
029	-	-	deleted from index	-	-

030	Rice	Humanitarian Assistance in Syria	<p>Senator RICE: Is the Australian government funding any humanitarian aid support for the Australians in al-Roj? Senator RICE: Which partner organisations are you providing aid funding to who, amongst their other work, are supporting Australians in al-Roj?</p> <p>Dr Macdonald: Within Syria to the UN Mine Action Service, the UN Population Fund and the World Health Organization.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Can you confirm that, although they don't disaggregate it, those agencies are providing services to al-Roj?</p> <p>Dr Macdonald: I can't confirm that, no. The aid that Australia provides within Syria is provided by those entities in north-east Syria, but we can't determine exactly where that aid goes. It doesn't go particularly to one camp.</p> <p>Senator RICE: No, but can you confirm whether there is any of that aid going to al-Roj?</p> <p>Dr Macdonald: No, I can't confirm that, because it's not disaggregated to that level.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So you don't know, for example, who is providing access to health care in the camp and what the nature of the care being provided is?</p> <p>Mr Foley: We are aware that there are organisations there at al-Roj—Save the Children, the World Food Program, UNICEF and the International Relief Committee. We understand that the ICRC also visits from time to time. Your question was, 'Are there organisations providing assistance?' Yes, there are.</p> <p>Senator RICE: But are we providing humanitarian aid through those organisations that are providing that assistance?</p> <p>Mr Foley: I think Dr Macdonald set out the organisations which Australia is funding.</p> <p>Senator RICE: And they didn't seem to be the same organisations that you just mentioned.</p> <p>Senator Payne: I will ask the officials to put a breakdown of this together for you, on notice, with the organisations listed and the way the support is directed.</p>	Hansard	122-123
031	Abetz	International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance	<p>CHAIR: Great. Can I move to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, please. Am I correct to say that an expert panel was engaged by DFAT to guide Australia's involvement in this alliance? If that is the case, Dr Lee, what's the current status of that?</p> <p>Dr Lee: That is correct. Just for further background, we joined the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in June 2019. We did engage an expert panel, who we continue to engage for expert advice. They helped us with the application to join the alliance and they continue to provide us with expert advice.</p> <p>CHAIR: And this provision of expert advice has led to what in material terms? For example, have they been involved in trying to get the Department of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development and Communications, which has responsibility for the ABC, on board to participate in the interdepartmental committee to support Australia's engagement with the alliance?</p> <p>Dr Lee: I recall that you asked previously—</p> <p>CHAIR: Question on notice No. 7.</p> <p>Dr Lee: Yes. I recall you asked previously about the working definition of anti-Semitism and how that</p>	Hansard	125

			<p>would be extended to other agencies. I would say at the moment that we continue to engage with the Attorney-General's Department on that. The Attorney-General's Department needs to make the decision and interpretation of how we give effect to that working definition. At the moment we are talking to the Attorney-General's Department, but we still do not have a judgement or decision on how we should apply that. CHAIR: Could I just encourage some greater momentum in that area. At ABC estimates, I have now asked the ABC on two occasions as to whether or not they are willing to adopt the alliance's definition of anti-Semitism in their journalism. I am just wondering: has the expert panel provided any advice or guidance or been asked by the ABC to provide such advice to them?</p> <p>Dr Lee: I'm not aware whether—</p> <p>CHAIR: Could you take that on notice and ask the expert panel? I'd be much obliged.</p> <p>Dr Lee: I'll take it on notice.</p>		
032	Abetz	International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance	<p>CHAIR: Senator, if I may, I was hoping that you would bounce off issues that I've raised. If I can quickly finish the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance issue and then I'll pass to you to ask questions on that issue just to keep it together in the Hansard, if that's okay. Would it be fair to describe Australia as a bit of an outlier in not having adopted the alliance's very widely consulted and respected definition of anti-Semitism? It's being used by various jurisdictions and institutions around the world, I'm told. So, if other countries are doing it, why the delay here?</p> <p>Dr Lee: I'd need to take that on notice as to how many countries have adopted the definition.</p>	Hansard	125-126
033	Abetz	UNRWA	<p>CHAIR: Alright. I have a few more if I may. I think it was last time round that I asked about the UN's investigation into the alleged misconduct of a former UNRWA director-general, and I was told at the time that a copy of the report had been sought. That was withheld whilst disciplinary proceedings were being contemplated, and also the UN alleges that it wants to protect the privacy of the complainants, so it doesn't want to release the report. Where are we at with that? Has there been any movement on the release of the report?</p> <p>Dr Macdonald: Yes. We did receive a copy of the reports. They were given to us with the condition of strict confidentiality.</p> <p>CHAIR: So the Parliament of Australia, which provides huge funding to UNRWA, does not get to see this report?</p> <p>Dr Macdonald: I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator Payne: It's not our report, Senator, but I understand the point you are making.</p> <p>CHAIR: I accept that it it's not our report and the condition on which we received it. Being good international citizens, we need to abide by our undertakings. But if the concern was about protecting the privacy of complainants I would have thought certain aspects could be appropriately redacted to protect privacy, and full disclosure could still be made as to misbehaviour, if it was such, by the director-general. Anyway, that's been taken on notice. We'll see what you can do on that front. The Australian Jewish</p>	Hansard	129-130

News, on 26 March 2020, published an article suggesting that we might be inadvertently funding Palestinian groups with links to terrorist organisations. Can you confirm that about two years ago Australia withdrew aid to the Palestinian Authority after President Abbas refused to confirm how he was using those funds? Dr Macdonald: Yes. The government made a decision in 2018 not to fund the Palestinian Authority.

CHAIR: Rather than just cutting the funding, we redirected that to a United Nations agency?

Dr Macdonald: I'm not sure if that was the same funding but we did make a payment that you to UNOCHA, the humanitarian fund.

CHAIR: Was the money redirected?

Dr Macdonald: I would have to take that on notice.

CHAIR: Take that on notice, yes. I've been told that the money was redirected to the United Nations humanitarian fund for Palestinian territories. Does that ring a bell?

Dr Macdonald: Yes. I know we have spoken about this previously. I can't confirm if it was that exact money that was redirected. But we did make a payment in 2018 to UNOCHA, the humanitarian fund.

CHAIR: And that funds a range of projects—is that correct?

Dr Macdonald: There were several elements. It funded some UN agencies directly. It also funded some international NGOs.

CHAIR: Including \$1 million, albeit in US dollars, for the purchase of emergency fuel for Gaza? Take that on notice.

Dr Macdonald: I'll have to take that on notice. I'm not sure of that detail.

CHAIR: And \$1 million allocated to unnamed UN agencies to provide food?

Dr Macdonald: I think we subsequently were able to clarify that those agencies were UNRWA, for health needs; UNICEF, for water and sanitation; and the World Health Organization.

CHAIR: Was that the \$2.4 million for unspecified projects?

Dr Macdonald: I will take those on notice as well.

CHAIR: If you could take that on notice and give me a breakdown of the lot, that would be exceptionally helpful. But it is alleged that \$3.1 million was delivered to international non-government organisations, including for work in food, water and health. At this stage, there has been no identification of which NGOs received that money. Are you able to split that up for us on notice?

Dr Macdonald: Yes. In fact, we did answer a question on notice with those in June this year. The payment of \$3.1 million to the international NGOs went to a pooled fund; when the money goes in, you don't know which organisations will have access to it. Subsequently, through the course of that year, several organisations have had access. I have the list here. It was also at Hansard in June.

CHAIR: Do any of those organisations have links to terrorist groups or members of terrorist groups?

Dr Macdonald: Not that we're aware of, but it was the complex operating environment, combined with the fact that the pooled funds and the way that that operates meant we had very little visibility, at the

			<p>beginning, of which organisations would access it—that we are no longer funding that.</p> <p>CHAIR: You're no longer funding it.</p> <p>Dr Macdonald: That's right.</p> <p>CHAIR: As I understand it, some of the groups also support the anti-Semitic BDS campaign. If we've stopped funding that, that is good.</p>		
034	Sheldon	ACICIS	<p>Senator SHELDON: That's another story as well—me and acronyms. The organisation, of course, has significant broader bilateral relationships. It has been recognised over and over again by various governments, particularly, obviously, by both Indonesia and Australia. It's cited as a successful model for in-country learning, and in 2017 the Commonwealth department of training commissioned a feasibility study using their program as a way to look at how we might deal with student mobility in India, which is a great credit to the program. Of course, they were highlighted when we looked at 70 years of the bilateral relationship between Australia and Indonesia. It was a great celebration of that relationship—a very important one, of course, to the interests of both countries. When we were first aware that there was a prospect of it being closed and that there was a need for emergency funding?</p> <p>Mr Connor: I'm very happy to answer a lot of your question. I should point out that my division is not responsible for the funding that's provided to the body. That's done by the scholarships area, by the New Colombo Plan area. But I am aware, myself personally, of a large number of the details. I couldn't swear about all of the details I give to you that they will be absolutely accurate, but we'll be happy to correct them at a later date. I just don't think my colleague who deals with scholarships is here today.</p> <p>We knew about it fairly early on—</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Sorry, Ms Adamson, are they here?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: Broadly, yes. Ms Balzary—</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I'm happy for Mr Connor to have a go.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: is on her way down, but Mr Connor knows a reasonable amount of this.</p> <p>Senator Payne: We'll let Mr Connor start, if that's okay.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: He's being too modest.</p> <p>Mr Connor: I'm fairly well acquainted with it, Senator. We found out about it soon after the onset of COVID and when restrictions were placed on the travel of students to Indonesia. I couldn't, off the top of my head, tell you exactly which month that was. A series of quite intensive discussions started with the ACICIS management, both with ourselves and with my colleagues from the scholarships area, about the nature of the problem.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: When you can, if you could come back with a note of the date, that would be helpful.</p> <p>Mr Connor: I can certainly give you the exact dates, yes.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Thank you.</p> <p>Mr Connor: But, yes, from very early on we were having discussions about what might be possible. If I can characterise it in broad terms: everyone within DFAT who has had association with ACICIS has very high</p>	Hansard	134

regard for the nature of its product, the model that it pursues, the work that it does. We were all very well informed about it and had a very high regard for it. The particular problem arose from the nature of the funding that we were providing to them. It did require students to be physically present in Indonesia, and when that came to an end there was a quandary. I do believe that the organisation actually had in its possession, if I can put it that way, an amount of money that was intended to pay for forward operations, which they were, quite correctly, not accessing and not able to access because the funding was for sending students to Indonesia.

At a very early stage, ourselves within DFAT started the process of talking to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to see what we could do to act flexibly with those funds. The principal idea of seeing whether we could—

Senator SHELDON: Sorry, the date of the early talks with Prime Minister and Cabinet is—

Mr Connor: We'll put all of that down and get it to you. Again, because it's not my area, I don't know the exact details and I don't have the briefing on it. But from a very early moment we were trying to determine what we could do to allow ACICIS to provide its training virtually. Because that would allow them to get access to the funds, as what they required, they could continue on their program. We are all hoping that next year will be better than this year and there can be some restoration of services. That was achieved—again, sorry, I can't tell you exactly when—probably a couple of months ago, and that decision, again after discussion within government and within our own department, and advice were given to the ACICIS organisation.

Senator SHELDON: Maybe if I ask Ms Balzary: Is that right? you might have those dates for me.

Ms Balzary: Sorry, Senator, could you repeat the question around what dates you were after.

Senator SHELDON: When did we first become aware that there was the potential closure of ACICIS—am I getting close?

Ms Adamson: Yes, you are, Senator!

Senator SHELDON: Thank you—for emergency funding? When did we become aware that there was a problem of potential closure?

Ms Balzary: Sorry, Senator, I don't have those details with me. Apologies for that.

Ms Adamson: I think we can get them for you.

Mr Connor: I think tomorrow we should be able to. Between the two of us we should be able to get something to you.

Senator SHELDON: And you'll have times for the briefings that you've also carried out for the minister? Is that possible as well?

Mr Connor: I think so. We wouldn't have done the briefings, but we were kind of involved, so we can find that out, yes.

Senator SHELDON: Can you also provide, or you might be able to answer this now: what options did you propose to the minister in regard to funding?

			<p>Mr Connor: My recollection of it, again because my area is not the area primarily responsible for sending out submissions to the minister, is that it focused very much around that notion of providing a virtual experience for students and therefore allowing them to have the interaction without physically being able to go there.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: With what I've just looked at, it may be better to actually put a number of these questions on notice, otherwise we're not going to give everyone a five minute early mark. So I might hand back to the chair.</p> <p>CHAIR:</p>		
035	Kitching	Consular	<p>a) Please provide a list of all government-facilitated flights to help Australians return home in 2020, and for each provide an explanation of the government facilitation and total cost of facilitation.</p> <p>b) Please provide a list of all currently planned future government-facilitated flights.</p> <p>c) Did the department do any modelling on the numbers of stranded Australians overseas and the impact of the international arrival cap on their ability to return home prior to 13 July? If so, please provide.</p> <p>d) Has the Prime Minister tasked DFAT or any other agency to help bring all Australians stranded overseas home by Christmas?</p> <p>a. If so, when was this tasked and how will this be achieved?</p>	WRITTEN	
036	Kitching	DFAT Budget	<p>a) What is the Department's total projected deficit over the forward estimates?</p> <p>b) Noting that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's operating deficit has increased from \$73 million over the forward estimates in 2017/18 to \$575.7 in 2020/21 what is the reason for this significant increase in the DFAT's operating deficit?</p> <p>c) Has the Department sought approval to operate at a deficit over the forward estimates from the Department of Finance?</p> <p>a. If yes, what are the conditions of this approval?</p> <p>d) Has the Department identified measures to reduce its operating deficits?</p> <p>a. If so, what are they?</p> <p>e) Has the Department set internal targets to reduce its operating deficits?</p> <p>a. If yes, what are they?</p> <p>f) Does this include reducing Posts' operating costs?</p> <p>a. Have Heads of Mission been set targets to reduce operating deficits at overseas posts?</p> <p>b. If yes, please outline these targets</p> <p>g) Does this include staff cuts (A-based or locally-engaged) or further reductions in Australia's diplomatic footprint?</p> <p>h) From which areas of the Department will the 60 job losses reported in July will be cut?</p> <p>a. How many positions overseas will be cut, including from which posts?</p> <p>i. Were these posts recommended by DFAT to the Minister? If so, when?</p> <p>b. How many positions in Australia will be cut, including from which sections?</p>	WRITTEN	

			<p>i. How many from policy? ii. How many from trade? iii. How many from corporate/consular? iv. How many from development? j) What is the overall number of FTE in 2019-20 and 2020-21 in each of the following areas: a. Human Development and Governance Division b. Conflict and Fragility section c. Gender Equality Branch d. InnovationXchange e. Contracting and Aid Management Division f. Humanitarian Response and the Humanitarian, Refugees and NGOs branch j) Has DFAT's Conflict and Fragility section been abolished? If so, why? k) Is it correct that there is no new funding allocated to the Department's stated goal in this year's annual report to:</p> <p>a. "ensure global institutions are fit for purpose to address current challenges, accountable to member states, free from undue influence and focused appropriately on our Indo-Pacific region. We aim to support fundamental parts of the multilateral system, including the rules, norms, standards and values, which underpin stability, prosperity and our trade and economic interests"?</p> <p>Source: DFAT 2019-20 Annual Report p. 77</p>		
037	Kitching	National Foundation for Australia-China Relations	<p>a) Please provide a list of all advisory board appointments since the Foundation was announced on 29 March 2019. b) What are the performance indicators for the Foundation? c) The Foundation was established with \$44 million of funding over five years, is that correct? How will this be allocated across the next five years? d) How much will be allocated to grants? e) How does this compare in terms of amount of grant funding to other Foundations, Councils and Institutes managed by the Department?</p>	WRITTEN	
038	Kitching	Foreign Relations Bills	<p>a) Please provide a list of all external consultations the Department has undertaken in regards to the Foreign Relations Bill and for each consultation the date and the organisation or individual with which consultation occurred. b) Please provide a summary of the feedback received by DFAT from state and territory governments and Australian universities on the Foreign Relations Bill.</p>	WRITTEN	
039	Kitching	Media Freedom Pledge	<p>a) Has Australia joined the UK's media freedom pledge? If not, why not? b) Minister Payne said in March that she was reviewing the commitments associated with the pledge.</p>	WRITTEN	

			<p>What has this review found?</p> <p>c) Has the department discussed the pledge - and any related concerns - with the UK FCDO? If so, when and what concerns were raised?</p> <p>d) Are there financial commitments associated with the pledge? If so, what are they?</p> <p>e) Have any other nations made representations to Australia encouraging us to join the UK's media freedom pledge? If yes, on what date and by whom have representations been made?</p>		
040	Kitching	ACICIS	<p>a) When and how did DFAT first become aware of the prospect of the closure of the Australian Consortium of In-Country Indonesian Studies (ACICIS) and the organisation's need for emergency funding?</p> <p>b) Did ACICIS ask the Government for emergency funding support?</p> <p>a. If so, when? Was the Minister made aware of this request?</p> <p>c) Did the Department meet with any representatives of ACICIS to discuss their concerns?</p> <p>a. If yes, when and on how many occasions?</p> <p>b. Please provide a summary of these meetings.</p> <p>d) Did the Minister meet with any representatives of ACICIS to discuss their concerns?</p> <p>a. If yes, when and on how many occasions?</p> <p>e) Did the Department brief the Minister on the situation?</p> <p>a. If yes: When was the Minister briefed? How was the briefing initiated? By the Department, in response to a request for assistance by ACICIS or at request of the Minister or her office?</p> <p>f) Did the Department provide the Minister with options for funding?</p> <p>a. If yes: When were these options provided? What options were considered by the Department?</p> <p>g) When did the Minister respond to ACICIS's notification of their prospective closure?</p> <p>a. What did the Minister respond with?</p> <p>h) Is it the case that no new or emergency funding was provided to ACICIS by DFAT?</p> <p>a. If so, why not?</p> <p>i) Is it accurate that the only action taken by the Department was to allow for ACICIS courses to take place in a virtual format?</p> <p>a. And how long did that take to operationalise?</p> <p>j) Is the department satisfied that the government's response to ACICIS will enable this highly regarded organisation to continue its operations into the future?</p>	WRITTEN	
041	Kitching	Multilateral Audit	<p>a) Will the Department's Multilateral audit be made public? If so, when?</p> <p>b) If not, will the terms of reference be made public? Will a summary of the audit's findings be made public?</p> <p>c) Please provide a list of multilateral organisations that were the subject of the audit.</p> <p>d) Please provide an outline of how these multilateral organisations were evaluated as part of the audit.</p> <p>e) Have any new departmental resources been allocation to preserve the three fundamental parts of the multilateral system as outlined by the Minister on 16 June 2020:</p>	WRITTEN	

			<p>f) How many Australians have been placed in UN roles since the Audit was finalised?</p> <p>g). How many Australian Defence Force Staff and Australian Federal Police are now serving UN peacekeeping missions? How many were there 5 years ago?</p> <p>“the rules that protect sovereignty, preserve peace, and curb excessive use of power, and enable international trade and investment the international standards related to health and pandemics, to transport, telecommunications and other issues that underpin the global economy, and which will be vital to a post-COVID-19 economic recovery and thirdly, the norms that underpin universal human rights, gender equality and the rule of law.”</p> <p>Speech: ‘Australia and the World in the time of COVID-19’, ANU 16 June 2020</p>		
042	Kitching	Global Health Architecture	<p>The Foreign Minister said on 16 June that:</p> <p>“Australia will present tangible proposals and initiatives to ensure that the global health architecture emerges stronger from COVID-19.”</p> <p>Speech: ‘Australia and the World in the time of COVID-19’, ANU 16 June 2020</p> <p>a) What are these initiatives?</p> <p>b) When will they be brought forward?</p> <p>c) How are they being funded?</p> <p>d) What UN and health bodies have you consulted in their development?</p> <p>e) What other countries have you consulted in their development?</p>	WRITTEN	
043	Kitching	Countering Disinformation	<p>a) Is there a disinformation taskforce, as was reported in ABC news on 17 June?</p> <p>a. If yes: when was it established? What is the membership of the taskforce? How many FTEs are allocated to support the work of the taskforce and what is the classification of each FTE?</p> <p>b) Have any new resources or funding been allocated to the Department to counter disinformation?</p> <p>c) Who is the head of the taskforce/work unit?</p> <p>d) Is there any other agency participation in the taskforce?</p> <p>e) What work has it undertaken to date? Why isn't it in the latest Departmental Organisation Chart?</p> <p>f) If no, who oversees this task?</p> <p>g) What engagement has the Department had with social media companies to address disinformation on their platforms?</p> <p>h) Can you provide a list of these meetings on notice?</p> <p>i) With which countries is the Department engaging on this issue?</p> <p>j) What work has been done with these countries to counter disinformation?</p> <p>k) Which agency is responsible for countering disinformation within Australia?</p> <p>l) What work is DFAT doing with this agency/ies to ensure that what is being captured globally is reflected</p>	WRITTEN	

			<p>in the domestic response?</p> <p>m) Do they have any form of overarching strategy or guidance you follow?</p> <p>n) What agencies are responsible for monitoring and reporting on international disinformation trends, particularly in our region?</p>		
044	Kitching	Israel	<p>a) Has the Department raised any concerns about any possible future annexation with Israeli counterparts since the announcement of normalisation of ties between the UAE and Israel on 13 August?</p> <p>b) Has the Foreign Minister raised any concerns about any possible future annexation with her Israeli counterpart since 13 August?</p>	WRITTEN	
045	Kitching	ODA investment priority categories	<p>With regard to the evidence by DFAT's Chief Finance Officer at Budget estimates on 29 October 2020 that there have been changes in the system for allocating Official Development Assistance spending across investment priority categories, provide the Committee with the new investment priority categories and provide information on how they compare or can be mapped to the previous categories.</p>	WRITTEN	
046	Kitching	ODA funding by programs and priorities	<p>Provide a table showing, for each year from 2014-15 to 2023-24, total Australian Official Development Assistance by country, regional and global programs with a breakdown by the following investment priorities for each country, regional and global program: infrastructure, trade facilitation and international competitiveness; agriculture, fisheries and water; effective governance (policies, institutions and functioning economies); education; health; building resilience (humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and social protection); and general development support. For the years 2014-15 to 2019-20 provide actual amounts. For the years 2020-21 to 2023-24 provide 2020-21 Budget estimates. Please include in the table Departmental expenditure by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and by other Departments. Given the evidence by DFAT's Chief Finance Officer at Budget estimates on 29 October 2020 that there have been changes in DFAT's ODA investment priority categories, for years where the new categories will be utilised, show total Australian ODA by country, regional and global programs with a breakdown by the new categories for each country, regional and global program.</p>	WRITTEN	
047	Kitching	ODA funding by country or region of benefit and priorities	<p>Provide a table showing, for each year from 2014-15 to 2023-24, total Australian Official Development Assistance by country of benefit and region of benefit with a breakdown by the following investment priorities for each country and region of benefit: infrastructure, trade facilitation and international competitiveness; agriculture, fisheries and water; effective governance (policies, institutions and functioning economies); education; health; building resilience (humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and social protection); and general development support. For the years 2014-15 to 2019-20 provide actual amounts. For the years 2020-21 to 2023-24 provide 2020-21 Budget estimates. Please include in the table core contributions to multilateral organisations and other ODA not attributable to countries or regions. Given the evidence by DFAT's Chief Finance Officer at Budget estimates on 29 October 2020 that there have been changes in DFAT's ODA investment priority categories, for years where the new categories will be utilised, show total Australian ODA by country, regional and global programs with a breakdown by the new categories for each country, regional and global program.</p>	WRITTEN	

048	Kitching	ODA forward estimates	For each of the years from 2020-21 to 2023-24 what amount of Official Development Assistance is budgeted to be provided across the whole of government?	WRITTEN	
049	Kitching	ODA to GNI	With regard to the evidence at Budget estimates on 29 October 2020 on the ODA to Gross National Income ratios over the forward estimates, what is the amount of estimated or projected Gross National Income for each year of the forward estimates.	WRITTEN	
050	Kitching	ODA by agency	For each of the years from 2020-21 to 2023-24 what amount of Official Development Assistance is budgeted to be provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and what amount is budgeted to be provided by each other Australian Government department or agency involved in providing ODA.	WRITTEN	
051	Kitching	ODA 2019-20 outcomes by country, regional and global programs	For each of the line items in Table 1 of DFAT's Australian Development Budget Summary 2020-21 publication (https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-21-aid-budget-summary.pdf), provide the actual expenditure outcomes for 2019-20 or, if actual outcomes are not yet available, provide the latest 2019-20 estimated outcomes.	WRITTEN	
052	Kitching	ODA 2019-20 outcomes by country and region of benefit	For each of the line items in Table 2 of DFAT's Australian Development Budget Summary 2020-21 publication (https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-21-aid-budget-summary.pdf), provide the actual expenditure outcomes for 2019-20 or, if actual outcomes are not yet available, provide the latest 2019-20 estimated outcomes.	WRITTEN	
053	Kitching	Changes to aid projects	Provide the Committee with a list of all ODA-funded programs, projects or activities which have been cancelled, deferred, reduced in scope or size, reprioritised or rephased since 1 July 2019 showing the details of the projects or activities and the amounts of funding affected by the cancellations, deferrals, reductions, reprioritisations or rephasings.	WRITTEN	
054	Kitching	COVID-19 aid projects	Provide a list of all dedicated COVID-19 projects funded since 1 July 2019 and over the forward estimates, including the value of each project.	WRITTEN	
055	Kitching	Humanitarian and emergency response	Based on OECD Development Assistance Committee purpose and sector definitions, how much Australian ODA was provided for humanitarian and emergency response purposes in each year since 2010-11 and how much is budgeted for humanitarian and emergency response purposes in each year of the forward estimates?	WRITTEN	
056	Kitching	2020-21 Aid Budget Summary	With reference to DFAT's Australian Development Budget Summary 2020-21 publication (https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-21-aid-budget-summary.pdf): a) When was it decided that the 2020-21 Aid Budget Summary would be a four-page publication rather than a publication of comparable length and detail to DFAT's 120-page 2019-20 Australian Aid Budget Summary, its 144-page 2018-19 Australian Aid Budget Summary and its 114-page 2017-18 Australian Aid Budget Summary b) Who decided that the 2020-21 Aid Budget Summary would be a four-page publication rather than the longer and more detailed publications of recent years c) What were the reasons for deciding to produce a four-page 2020-21 Aid Budget Summary	WRITTEN	

			<p>d) Did the Minister or Ministers or their offices ask DFAT to produce a shorter Australian Aid Budget Summary than in the last three years</p> <p>e) If yes, which Minister, Ministers or Ministerial offices asked for a shorter Australian Aid Budget Summary and when was that request made</p> <p>f) Did DFAT staff draft a longer version of the 2020-21 Aid Budget Summary</p> <p>g) If yes, when was a longer draft version completed and how many pages was the longer draft.</p>		
057	Kitching	Core and supplementary aid funding	<p>With reference to the Budget measure COVID-19 Response Package – support to the Pacific and Timor-Leste and evidence at Budget estimates on 29 October 2020 concerning the classification of the funding for this measure as ODA and the non-inclusion of this funding in Tables 1 and 2 of DFAT’s Australian Development Budget Summary 2020-21 (https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-21-aid-budget-summary.pdf):</p> <p>a) When did the Government decide to adopt the Budget measure COVID-19 Response Package – support to the Pacific and Timor-Leste</p> <p>b) When was DFAT’s Australian Development Budget Summary 2020-21 finalised for publication</p> <p>c) How is it that details of the \$304.7 million Budget measure were able to be included in the text on page 2 of the Budget Summary but were not able to be included in the ODA figures in Table 1 and Table 2</p> <p>d) Does DFAT intend to publish a corrected version of the Budget Summary which includes the funding for the Budget measure in the total amounts of budgeted ODA for 2020-21 in Tables 1 and 2</p> <p>e) If no, why not</p> <p>f) With reference to the statement on page 2 of the Australian Development Budget Summary 2020-21 that the \$304.7 million in funding for the Budget measure is “separate from Australia’s \$4 billion ODA program” what does this mean</p> <p>g) How is the \$304.7 million in funding separate from the ODA program given Mr Venugopal’s evidence that this funding is ODA-eligible and will be classified as ODA by the Government</p> <p>h) Does the Government now have a system of core and supplementary or non-core ODA funding</p> <p>i) If yes, please identify the core and supplementary components of the Government’s aid budget</p> <p>j) What is the size of the Government’s aid budget for 2020-21</p> <p>k) If the size of the aid budget for 2020-21 is not \$4,000 million, when will DFAT put the correct information about the size of the 2020-21 aid budget on its website?</p>	WRITTEN	
058	Kitching	Uncommitted ODA funding	<p>The figures provided by DFAT to the Committee showing ODA by country and regional programs indicate that the 2020-21 Budget estimate was \$2,270.3 million with \$1,635.22 million was of this committed as of 12 October 2020. What will be the process for deciding how to spend the remaining uncommitted \$635.08 million in 2020-21.</p>	WRITTEN	
059	Kitching	Committed funding ratio	<p>The figures provided by DFAT to the Committee showing ODA by country and regional programs indicate that the amount of committed funding for 2020-21 represents 72 per cent of the 2020-21 Budget estimate as of 12 October 2020. By comparison, figures provided in previous years show that committed</p>	WRITTEN	

			2019-20 funding represented 78 per cent of the Budget estimate as of 22 October 2019, committed 2018-19 funding represented 86 per cent of the Budget estimate as of 16 October 2018 and committed 2017-18 funding represented 82 per cent of the Budget estimate as of 12 October 2017. Why is the percentage of committed ODA country and regional program funding significantly lower at this point in 2020-21 than at similar points in the previous three financial years.		
060	Kitching	Budget measure – Support to Pacific and Timor-Leste	With reference to the \$304.7 million Budget measure COVID-19 Response Package – support to the Pacific and Timor-Leste: a) Is this funding ODA-eligible under the OECD Development Assistance Committee criteria b) Will the Government classify this funding as ODA in its reporting to the OECD c) Will the Government classify this funding as ODA in its own Budget reporting.	WRITTEN	
061	Kitching	Budget measure – COVID-19 Vaccine Access	With reference to the \$23.2 million Budget measure COVID-19 Response Package – COVID-19 Vaccine Access and Health Security Program – support to the Pacific and Southeast Asian Countries: a) Is this funding ODA-eligible under the OECD Development Assistance Committee criteria b) Will the Government classify this funding as ODA in its reporting to the OECD c) Will the Government classify this funding as ODA in its own Budget reporting d) How will the \$23.2m 2020-21 Budget measure for health security and vaccine deployment in the Pacific and Southeast Asia be spent and what will it achieve e) Will this funding support additional DFAT and local staff to help deliver a vaccine in the region once it becomes available f) How will this measure relate to the Government’s decisions to provide funding to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment facility.	WRITTEN	
062	Kitching	COVID-19 Development Response Plans	a) Provide a list of all countries or regions for which COVID-19 Development Response Plans have been published by DFAT b) Provide a list of any countries or regions where COVID-19 Development Response Plans have not yet been published but are intended to be developed c) What consultations were undertaken on each of the COVID-19 Development Response Plans within and outside government d) Did these consultations include civil society groups in Australia and in-country e) If yes, what form did these consultations take f) Were the COVID-19 Development Response Plans subject to expert or independent review g) Will all future funding allocations have to be justified with reference to the COVID-19 Development Response Plans. h) Will there be regular, country-level monitoring and reporting on the key result areas included in each of the COVID-19 Development Response Plans. i) If no, how will Government, Parliament and stakeholders be able to monitor and evaluate implementation of the Plans.	WRITTEN	

063	Kitching	Pacific climate resilience	With reference to the 13 August 2019 joint media release “Stepping up Climate Resilience in the Pacific” which said the Government would provide \$500 million from existing aid funds for Pacific renewable energy, climate change and disaster resilience over five years from 2020, what activities, projects or measures have been undertaken or are currently planned to be undertaken using these funds.	WRITTEN	
064	Kitching	Tuberculosis	What is the expected level of Australian development assistance support for TB programs through bilateral, regional and multilateral assistance programs.	WRITTEN	
065	Kitching	The Global Fund	The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria has identified that it would require \$US 5 billion in the next year to meet its share of the direct response to COVID-19 and to support continued progress in fighting HIV, TB and Malaria. Is the Australian Government planning to make an additional contribution to the Global Fund to meet these objectives?	WRITTEN	
066	Kitching	Humanitarian programs – ICRC	With reference to Table 1 of DFAT’s Australian Development Budget Summary 2020-21 publication (https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-21-aid-budget-summary.pdf): a) Why has the Government cut Australian funding to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) by \$7.5 million or 27 per cent in 2020-21 b) Given that the 2018-19 Performance of Australian Aid report says the ICRC was highly rated against all of the criteria used for assessing the performance of international development organisations, how does the Government justify cutting Australia’s contribution to one of the most highly rated development organisations c) What impact will Australia’s funding cut have on the ICRC’s humanitarian programs including essential programs to protect civilians in armed conflicts d) Did DFAT undertake any risk assessment of the impact of cutting Australia’s ICRC contribution by 50 per cent e) If yes, what were the conclusions of this risk assessment.	WRITTEN	
067	Kitching	Humanitarian programs – UNRWA	With reference to Table 1 of DFAT’s Australian Development Budget Summary 2020-21 publication (https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-21-aid-budget-summary.pdf): a) Why has the Government cut funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) by \$10 million or 50 per cent b) Given that DFAT’s 2018-19 Aid Program Performance Report for the Palestinian Territories said that UNRWA plays a crucial role in maintaining a degree of social and economic stability for more than five million Palestinian refugees and delivers high quality, cost-effective public services in education, health care, relief and social services, microfinance, infrastructure, emergency assistance and protection of refugees’ rights, what is the justification for cutting Australia’s contribution in half c) What impact will Australia’s funding cut have on UNRWA’s humanitarian programs for Palestinian refugees d) Did DFAT undertake any risk assessment of the impact of cutting Australia’s UNRWA contribution by 50	WRITTEN	

			per cent e) If yes, what were the conclusions of this risk assessment.		
068	Kitching	Humanitarian programs – WFP	With reference to Table 1 of DFAT’s Australian Development Budget Summary 2020-21 publication (https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-21-aid-budget-summary.pdf): a) Why has the Government cut funding to the World Food Programme by \$10 million or 25 per cent b) At a time when COVID-19 is exacerbating hunger and food shortages around the world, and in a year when the World Food Programme has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to combat hunger and promote the conditions for peace, what is the justification for cutting funding to the World Food Programme c) What impact will Australia’s funding cut have on the World Food Programme’s humanitarian activities d) Did DFAT consult with the Department of Agriculture on this funding cut e) What impact will this funding cut have on Australia’s role in international food and agricultural diplomacy given our national interests as a major agricultural producer.	WRITTEN	
069	Kitching	South and West Asia aid cuts	a) Does the Government consider South and West Asia to be part of the Indo-Pacific b) Why is the Government cutting aid to strategically and economically important countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Pakistan c) Has Pakistan’s government made any formal or informal representations to the Australian Government regarding the cessation of Australia’s bilateral aid program d) If yes, when and where were those representations made and at what level e) Why is Australia reducing aid to Afghanistan by over a third when it has such severe poverty, is being massively impacted by COVID and Australia has previously invested so much in stability, peace, gender equality and poverty reduction in that country.	WRITTEN	
070	Kitching	Aid performance and evaluation	In relation to the aid and development program, for each financial year from 2014-15 to 2019-20: a) How many country and regional Aid Program Performance Reports were published b) How many thematic Aid Program Performance Reports were published c) How many Office of Development Effectiveness Strategic Evaluation reports were published d) How many Program Evaluation reports were published.	WRITTEN	
071	Kitching	Performance of Australian Aid	In relation to figure 6 on page 10 of DFAT’s 2018-19 Performance of Australian Aid report: a) What were the seven benchmarks that were not achieved b) What metrics were used to assess performance against each of the seven benchmarks that were not achieved c) What was the score or measure on the relevant metrics for each of the seven benchmarks that were not achieved d) What were the two benchmarks where data was not available and why was data for these benchmarks not available.	WRITTEN	

072	Kitching	Performance of Australian Aid	In relation to figure 8 on page 11 of DFAT's 2018-19 Performance of Australian Aid report: a) What were the two benchmarks that were not achieved b) What metrics were used to assess performance against each of the two benchmarks that were not achieved c) What was the score or measure on the relevant metrics for each of the two benchmarks that were not achieved	WRITTEN	
073	Kitching	Performance of Australian Aid	Provide the Committee with a timeline showing key dates of drafting, writing, editing, verification, internal Departmental clearance, Ministerial clearance or approval, desktop publishing and release of DFAT's 2018-19 Performance of Australian Aid report including all dates on which briefs related to the report were provided to Ministers and Ministers' offices.	WRITTEN	
074	Kitching	Performance of Australian Aid	With reference to Ms Delaney's evidence at Budget estimates on 29 October 2020 concerning the process for preparing the 2018-19 Performance of Australian Aid report, did DFAT staff prepare or draft a version of the 2018-19 report of comparable length and detail to the Performance of Australian Aid reports for the previous five years which ranged in length from 77 to 114 pages.	WRITTEN	
075	Kitching	Aid Quality Checks	How many Aid Quality Checks were completed by DFAT in 2018, 2019 and to date in 2020?	WRITTEN	
076	Kitching	2019 aid evaluations	With reference to the planned strategic evaluation of Global Programs – Multilateral Organisations set out in Table 1 in DFAT's 2019 Annual Aid Evaluation Plan and DFAT's response to 2019-20 Additional Estimates Question on Notice 86 (portfolio question 89) which says that some planned 2019 evaluations were deferred: a) Has the planned evaluation of Global Programs – Multilateral Organisations been completed b) If yes, has it been published and where has it been published c) If no, was this one of the planned 2019 evaluations that was deferred, when was it decided the to defer the evaluation, why was it decided to defer the evaluation and for how long was the evaluation deferred d) When is the strategic evaluation of Global Programs – Multilateral Organisations now expected to be completed e) If DFAT no longer plans to conduct this evaluation, when was that decision taken and why.	WRITTEN	
077	Kitching	Fragmentation of aid effort	How is DFAT ensuring that multiple, short-term discretionary funds established to respond to COVID-19 in the region are connected to Australia's long-term objectives and interests and do not result in a fragmentation or dilution of Australia's aid efforts.	WRITTEN	
078	Kitching	Annual Ministerial Statement	In relation to the performance framework under Partnerships for Recovery: Australia's COVID-19 Development Response and the annual Ministerial statement: a) Will this be a statement to Parliament b) Which area of DFAT will coordinate the annual Ministerial Statement c) What will be the format of this statement d) When will it be delivered each year	WRITTEN	

			e) Will this statement address the performance of ODA delivered through Government departments other than DFAT		
079	Kitching	Non-grant finance instruments	<p>With reference to the statement on page 19 of Partnerships for Recovery: Australia's COVID-19 Development Response that the Government "will investigate ways to deploy non-grant financing tools where appropriate, building on our existing experience with these instruments":</p> <p>a) What has been DFAT's existing experience with non-grant finance instruments</p> <p>b) Provide examples of the use of non-grant finance instruments for development finance in recent years</p> <p>c) What investigations is DFAT conducting into ways of deploying non-grant finance instruments in the future</p> <p>d) When will those investigations be completed</p> <p>e) What issues will those investigations consider</p> <p>f) How will those investigations be conducted.</p>	WRITTEN	
080	Kitching	Eyers study	<p>With reference to DFAT's response to question on notice 87 (portfolio question 90) from 2019-20 additional estimates on the study led by Mr Evers on financing options for the aid program, and the advice and recommendations provided by the Department to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment on 9 July 2019:</p> <p>a) Have the Ministers or Government made any decisions on the recommendations provided on 9 July 2019</p> <p>b) If yes, when were those decisions made and what were those decisions</p> <p>c) If no, is the matter still under consideration by the Ministers or Government</p> <p>d) Has the Department provided any further advice or recommendations to Ministers since 9 July 2019</p> <p>e) If yes, when was this advice or these recommendations provided and to which Ministers.</p>	WRITTEN	
081	Kitching	Aid program – direct budget support	<p>a) What are the details of any direct budget support grants or loans made to developing country governments from the Australian aid budget since 2013-14.</p> <p>b) Is the Government currently considering making direct budget support grants or loans to developing country governments from the Australian aid budget</p> <p>c) If yes, what are the details of direct budget support under consideration</p> <p>d) What are the criteria for evaluating and deciding on proposals or requests to make direct budget support grants or loans to developing country governments</p> <p>e) What are the performance criteria or benchmarks used to evaluate the impact of direct budget support grants or loans to developing country governments</p> <p>f) How will DFAT ensure that Australian funds for budget support and loans delivered through government systems in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere in the Pacific are spent effectively and target the most vulnerable.</p>	WRITTEN	
082	Kitching	Australian Infrastructure	a) What is the number and value of all projects approved to date under the Australian Infrastructure Finance Facility for the Pacific	WRITTEN	

		Financing Facility for the Pacific	<p>b) How many projects are currently under consideration</p> <p>c) For each project approved to date, provide the breakdown between loan and grant funds</p> <p>d) For each project where loans are being made, what are the terms and conditions of the loans including interest rates</p> <p>e) How is local civil society being engaged to ensure infrastructure assistance through the AIFFP is inclusive, has appropriate environmental and social safeguards and benefits the poor</p> <p>f) Will economic and development impact assessments for projects supported by the AIFFP be published</p> <p>g) Will social and environmental impact assessments for projects supported by the AIFFP be published</p> <p>h) What arrangements will there be for reviews and evaluations of projects supported by the AIFFP.</p>		
083	Kitching	Pacific Labour Scheme	Further to Senator Wong's verbal question on notice at Budget estimates on 29 October 2020, how many Pacific workers were in Australia under the Pacific Labour Scheme on 31 December 2018, 30 June 2019, 31 December 2019, 30 June 2020 and currently.	WRITTEN	
084	Kitching	Pacific Labour Scheme	In relation to the Pacific Labour Scheme, how many Pacific workers arrived in Australia under the Scheme during each of the following six month periods: 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018; 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019; 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019; 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020.	WRITTEN	
085	Kitching	Pacific Labour Scheme	Further to Senator Wong's verbal question on notice at Budget estimates on 29 October 2020, provide breakdowns showing how many workers were participating in the Pacific Labour Scheme as of 30 June 2020 by sponsoring employer's industry sector and by sponsoring employer's location at Statistical Area Level 4.	WRITTEN	
086	Kitching	Pacific Labour Facility	With reference to point 8 of the answer by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to Senate Question on Notice 1662 by Senator Wong dated 23 June 2020, provide details of each of the 29 critical incidents identified by the Pacific Labour Facility, including dates, locations, the nature of the incident and how the incident has been resolved, in a format that respects any personal privacy issues.	WRITTEN	
087	Kitching	Pacific maritime entitlements	<p>In relation to the Regional Conference on Securing the Limits of the Blue Pacific: Legal Options and Institutional Responses to the Impacts of Sea Level Rise on Maritime Zones in the Context of International Law held from 9-11 September 2020:</p> <p>a) Was the Australian Government represented</p> <p>b) What were the decisions or outcomes</p> <p>c) What is the Australian Government's position on the issues considered at this conference</p> <p>d) Did the Australian Government make any official statement or presentation</p> <p>e) If yes, can the Committee be provided with a copy of the statement or presentation</p> <p>f) Have the outcomes of the conference been considered by Pacific Island Forum Ministers or Leaders</p> <p>g) If yes, what position has been agreed by Pacific Island Forum Ministers or Leaders</p> <p>h) If no, when are the conference outcomes expected to be considered by Pacific Island Forum Ministers or Leaders.</p>	WRITTEN	

088	Kitching	Portfolio Budget Statements	<p>a) With reference to the Comprehensive Income Statement at Table 3.1 on page 49 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2020-21 for the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio, what are the details of the estimated actual \$263,000 expense in 2019-20 attributed to an impairment loss on financial instruments</p> <p>b) With reference to the Schedule of budgeted income and expenses administered on behalf of Government at Table 3.7 on page 57 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2020-21 for the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio, what are the details of the estimated actual \$427,000 expense in 2019-20 attributed to an impairment loss on financial instruments.</p>	WRITTEN	
089	Kitching	Portfolio Budget Statements	With reference to the Comprehensive Income Statement at Table 3.1 on page 49 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2020-21 for the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio, what are the details of the estimated actual \$4,284,000 expense in 2019-20 attributed to the write-down and impairment of assets.	WRITTEN	
090	Kitching	Portfolio Budget Statements	With reference to the Comprehensive Income Statement at Table 3.1 on page 49 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2020-21 for the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio, what are the details of the estimated actual \$9,462,000 expense in 2019-20 attributed to foreign exchange losses	WRITTEN	
091	Kitching	Multilateral Development Banks and Asbestos	<p>a) Is there a DFAT policy on engaging with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank or other relevant multilateral development banks on the issue of asbestos, including the use of asbestos in construction and infrastructure projects</p> <p>b) If yes, what is that policy</p> <p>c) If no, why not</p> <p>d) Which multilateral development banks or financial institutions does DFAT engage with on their environmental and social protection policies or procurement policies</p> <p>e) Does DFAT advocate for asbestos to be excluded from projects with Australian funding or from all multilateral development bank-funded projects</p> <p>f) If yes, how does DFAT advocate in this way</p> <p>g) If no, why not</p> <p>h) Is asbestos on the agenda with discussions with the multilateral development banks and at what level</p> <p>i) How does DFAT implement any asbestos exclusion policy on co-financed projects with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.</p>	WRITTEN	
092	Wong	Phone call between Prime Minister Morrison and UK Prime Minister Johnson	<p>Senator WONG: Whilst the committee is committee the tabling of those, I'm going to just ask some questions about the process by which readouts from the Prime Minister's conversation were prepared. How were they prepared? I'll start that again. The UK issue a readout or a public statement on their website. Tell me, on this occasion, who prepared this readout, which was provided to journalists, from the Australian side?</p> <p>Senator Payne: That is this one you're referring to?</p> <p>Senator WONG: Yes. The small font.</p> <p>Senator Payne: That would have been produced between PM and C and the Prime Minister's office. That would be my—</p>	Hansard	27

			Senator WONG: Perhaps you can take notice whether PM and C had any involvement in the production of it, or whether it was only produced in the Prime Minister's office. If you could take that on notice— Senator Payne: I will take it on notice.		
093	Wong	Phone call between Prime Minister Morrison and UK Prime Minister Johnson	Senator WONG: I would ask you on notice—you might have to liaise with P—to provide me with all the public readouts of leaders' calls that the Prime Minister, Mr Morrison, has engaged in this year? Ms Adamson: That is really a question for PM and C. Senator WONG: I am sure you can make sure that they provide it. I'm asking you on notice. Senator Payne: We will take it on notice. Senator WONG: Thank you. But please don't give me something back saying, 'This is a matter for PM and C.' People can pick up a phone and ask them to provide it and refer it to the department—okay? They have already been— Ms Adamson: We will do that.	Hansard	27
094	Farrell	Global Diplomatic Network	In the package of support announced following the bushfires \$5m was allocated to the Global Diplomatic Network. Can DFAT advise - 1. How has COVID impacted this program? 2. How much of the funding has been expended? 3. How much is remaining? 4. Has the remaining funding been set aside for this purpose or has it been reallocated? 5. If it has been reallocated, where is the funding going and how was that decision made? 6. When do you expect this funding to be fully expended? 7. Have the expectations for this funding changed at all? If yes, how?	WRITTEN	
095	Kitching	Aid Governance Board	a) Who are the members of DFAT's Aid Governance Board b) Are any of the members independent from DFAT c) What is the Board's role d) Has the Board's role changed under the new Partnerships for Recovery strategy e) If yes, how has the Board's role changed f) On what dates has the Board met in 2020.	WRITTEN	
096	Kitching	Aid evaluation – Independent Evaluation Committee	a) Does the Independent Evaluation Committee still exist b) If no, when was the Independent Evaluation Committee abolished, who made the decision to abolish the Committee and why c) If yes, what will be the Committee's role given the abolition of the Office of Development Effectiveness d) Who are the members of the Independent Evaluation Committee e) On what dates has the Committee met in 2020.	WRITTEN	
097	Kitching	Performance of ODA by other departments	a) Will Official Development Assistance delivered by government departments other than DFAT be subject to DFAT's development effectiveness and aid quality systems. b) If no, why not.	WRITTEN	

098	Kitching	Data Analytics Unit	<p>With reference to evidence at Budget estimates on 29 October 2020 concerning the Data Analytics Unit in the Office of the Chief Economist:</p> <p>a) What will be the roles and activities undertaken by the unit</p> <p>b) Will the unit publish real-time data on the performance of Australian aid so taxpayers can be assured that they are getting value for money</p> <p>c) Will the unit work only on data analytics in relation to the aid program or will it have a wider focus and, if there is a wider focus, what other areas will the unit work on.</p>	WRITTEN	
099	Kitching	Tier 3 gender and disability aid markers	<p>Under the new performance framework outlined in Partnerships for Recovery: Australia's COVID-19 Development Response:</p> <p>a) How will DFAT assess and report progress against the Tier 3 makers on gender equality and disability inclusive development</p> <p>b) Will information on progress against the Tier 3 makers on gender equality and disability inclusive development be reported in annual country and global program reporting</p> <p>c) Will information on progress against the Tier 3 makers on gender equality and disability inclusive development be included in DFAT's Annual Report or in the annual Ministerial Statement referred to in the new performance framework</p>	WRITTEN	
100	Kitching	Disability policy marker	How is DFAT implementing the OECD Development Assistance Committee's policy marker for inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities.	WRITTEN	
101	Kitching	Aid program disability allocation	<p>a) How much funding has been provided for the aid program's central disability allocation in 2019-20 and 2020-21</p> <p>b) Has funding for the aid program's central disability allocation been cut by 25 per cent in 2020-21</p> <p>c) How will this cut affect work plans under existing partnerships for disability inclusive development</p> <p>d) How will this cut affect the renewal of partnerships funded through this allocation over the last two years</p> <p>e) Will there be any changes to the level of Departmental expenses or to DFAT staff levels for managing the central disability allocation</p> <p>f) If yes, what will these changes be and how will they affect Australia's ability to exercise international leadership on disability inclusive development</p> <p>g) Does the Government intend to develop a new strategy for disability inclusive development.</p>	WRITTEN	
102	Kitching	Disability inclusive aid information	Can DFAT provide the Committee with information on the aid program's spending on inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities, including details of the amounts of funding, types of activities and programs supported, partner governments and other partner agencies, countries and regions of focus, and examples of outcomes and achievements.	WRITTEN	
103	Ayres	Travel by Mr Daryl Maguire	Senator AYRES: I'll do this in reverse order. This is page 1676 to 1680 of the New South Wales ICAC. It's in relation to travel by Mr Maguire to Shenzhen in September or October 2016. Is the department aware of the travel that Mr Maguire undertook to Shenzhen in 2016?	HANSARD	5-6

Ms Adamson: I am not aware. We would need to check, in the way we normally would to assist the committee, in order to be able to answer that question with confidence. Obviously, you're referring to a period some years ago, but I personally have no knowledge. I sense my colleagues at the table do not either.

Mr Thomson: You've asked—

Senator AYRES: Sorry, I should be clear. I'll come to the material that I have provided in relation to the Pacific in a moment. The question I am asking now, in an effort to work my way through this more efficiently, is in relation to travel that Mr Maguire undertook to Shenzhen in 2016. I want to know to what extent the department was engaged with Mr Maguire about that travel.

Ms Adamson: I can't assist you at this point with an answer to that question. You say—

Senator AYRES: Would you be able to come back to us later in the day?

Ms Adamson: I think it's probably going to take us some time to check, but you say he visited. I don't know that he visited. It's not clear from this email.

Senator AYRES: The email is in relation to contact between the department and Mr Maguire's office. Did any meeting take place between Mr Maguire and DFAT staff in relation to this travel?

Ms Adamson: As I've said, I know nothing about this issue. We would need to check. I'm also aware that—and would need to take advice from my senior legal officer—there are other processes underway as well. Recognising the authority of this committee, as I say to you, I have no knowledge about any of this. I'm not sure that I can help you at all this morning. We would, as always, do our best to check, and we would do that as quickly as we could.

Senator AYRES: It's very hard to accept that senior officials of the department, given the prominence of this issue and given the public hearings have dealt with this issue, would not be in a position to answer these questions. Has the general issue of Mr Maguire's travel and his engagement with the department following the ICAC hearings been brought to your attention?

Ms Adamson: No, it has not.

Senator AYRES: Are there any officials of the department here who have been in receipt of information about the ICAC proceedings and Mr Maguire's travel?

Ms Adamson: I have no knowledge of what you've raised. I'm not really in a position to answer any of your questions.

Senator AYRES: So you can't tell me whether there was any logistical support for his China travel?

Mr Newnham: Heading up the legal division, of course we have oversight of any issues which draw in DFAT officers and legal proceedings. To this point, we have no knowledge of these issues having been raised with DFAT officers, to your earlier question.

Senator AYRES: Despite the fact that the interview refers to a request from Mr Maguire's office for a meeting with a DFAT official then based in Shenzhen, you're not able to tell the committee whether or not that meeting occurred?

Senator Payne: Sorry, that's an email we don't have that you're talking about.

Senator AYRES: It's an interview request.

Senator Payne: I don't think you've passed that to us. That makes it hard for the officials.

CHAIR: That the one that's still being copied.

Senator Payne: Alright. We'll wait for that then.

CHAIR: It is arriving as we speak.

Senator Payne: I can't see an interview request.

Senator AYRES: Let's start at the beginning again, shall we? Mr Maguire's travel to—

Senator Payne: This is about the Pacific as well, what has just been passed to us.

Senator AYRES: That's right. There is quite some travel by Mr Maguire. Let's start with the document that's titled 'Confirmation of an email from the Hon. Daryl Maguire'.

CHAIR: What page number is that?

Senator AYRES: Back to the beginning: 1455 and 1456.

CHAIR: Thank you.

Senator AYRES: It's an email from Ms Wright that seeks to confirm whether the email that Mr Maguire sent did in fact originate from Mr Maguire. So what was the outcome of that inquiry? We don't have the reply.

Ms Adamson: As I've explained to you, I have no knowledge of this issue. In order to assist you in any genuine way, we would need to be afforded, please, the opportunity to check.

Senator Payne: Officials can take on notice the questions that you have in relation to specific matters and try to identify records from 2016, as you have indicated here. The next document I can see is dated 2017—

Senator AYRES: If you have no information about Mr Maguire's travel to Shenzhen and you have no information about engagement between the department and Mr Maguire about his travels to Pacific countries, I might try in relation to some more recent travel, in April 2017. Mr Maguire travelled to Samoa, and there's a chain of correspondence between the department, Mr Maguire's electoral office and Mr Maguire, from 3-4 April 2017.

Ms Adamson: I don't have that.

Senator AYRES: I'm reluctant to go through sheet after sheet of the attachments that are publicly available, which you appear not to have. Are you saying that, despite the public controversy and notoriety of this issue, there is nobody here who has been briefed in relation to Mr Maguire's travel to Samoa in 2017?

Ms Adamson: That's correct.

Senator AYRES: In an email to the DFAT New South Wales office on 3 April 2017, Mr Maguire's office informs the department: 'Mr Maguire has asked me to inform you that although he is a member of parliament that is not the main capacity in which he's travelling to Samoa.' You have no knowledge of that

		<p>exchange? Ms Adamson: I've said, and I will simply have to repeat, that I have no knowledge of the issues that you are raising. It would assist me if you were to table all of the documents that you're referring to so that we can assist the committee. But my answer at the beginning will remain my answer throughout. Senator WONG: I have a suggestion. I understand from my colleague that these documents are publicly available. Why don't we confirm that and then perhaps collate them and provide them—even if they are not formally tabled, Senator Abetz—to enable the department to answer questions. I assume someone in the department would have knowledge about Mr Maguire's travel, because the documents my colleague is speaking about— CHAIR: There's an identifying name on the document. Senator WONG: Yes, so I wonder if it would be possible to perhaps ensure that someone who could answer questions about them could attend later today? Ms Adamson: We will, as always, do our very best to assist the committee. But, as you know, four years in DFAT is a very long time, and the name of the official who sought to confirm the identity of Mr Maguire is no longer serving in that role. I think she's overseas somewhere in a different time zone. I will take responsibility for answering questions, to the extent that we're able to, and if you can provide me with some basic information I will do my very best to assist the committee. Senator WONG: I'm going to ask our very good officers, who I'm sure are watching, if they could perhaps generate a file for provision to the secretary and the chair. Ms Adamson: That would be very helpful.</p>		
104	Ayres	<p>Mr Tony Abbott</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Are you aware of whether the department or the high commission were aware that Mr Abbott was likely to be appointed to the UK Board of Trade before he travelled to the United Kingdom? Mr Geering: Yes. The office of the Secretary of State for International Trade contacted the office of the high commissioner in July 2020 to advise of the potential appointment. Senator AYRES: So Mr Brandis and the other officials of the department were aware, prior to the breakfast, that Mr Abbott was likely to be appointed to that position? Mr Geering: Yes—officials at the high commission. Senator AYRES: When you say 'the state of UK-Australia relations', was the Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement discussed? Ms Adamson: I'd have to take those details on notice. Senator AYRES: Was the potential appointment discussed at the breakfast? Mr Geering: My understanding of the breakfast is that there was a wide-ranging discussion on UK-Australia relations, but I can take the specifics on notice. Senator AYRES: So there was a wide-ranging discussion at the breakfast about the state of UK-Australia</p>	HANSARD	14

			<p>relations, and you will take it on notice for me about whether or not— Mr Geering: The specifics. Senator AYRES: the specific question of Mr Abbott’s appointment to the UK Board of Trade was discussed as well? Mr Geering: Yes</p>		
105	Ayres	Mr Tony Abbott	<p>Senator AYRES: What about the foreign minister's office, Minister? Before Mr Abbott's travel, were you aware that he was going to be appointed to the UK Board of Trade? Senator Payne: I'd have to check when I became aware, but I'll take that on notice and return to the committee. Senator AYRES: So you can't tell us whether you were aware before he travelled? Senator Payne: I think Mr Abbott has visited the UK more than once. I'm not completely familiar with every trip Mr Abbott takes, obviously, but let me check as to when I became aware in relation to the Board of Trade specifically.</p>	HANSARD	14
106	Ayres	Mr Tony Abbott	<p>Senator AYRES: Has Mr Abbott, Minister, accused himself from advising on its proposed trade agreement negotiations with Australia? Senator Payne: I'm not aware of what undertakings Mr Abbott has given, but, if you wish us to take that on notice, we will. Senator AYRES: Mr Abbott said that he was only too keen to help the United Kingdom. He said: A UK-Australia trade deal, maximising the movement of goods, services and people is clearly in the best interests of both our countries My government finalised trade deals between Australia and China, Japan and Korea. I'm looking forward to bringing that expertise to bear as Britain works towards mutually beneficial improvements with its major trading partners. Has Mr Abbott made any contact with the UK team for the Australia-UK FTA? Mr Geering: Not that I'm aware of. Ms Adamson: I'll check that. We have colleagues—if not in the room then nearby—listening, so we can confirm that. Senator AYRES: The Daily Telegraph reported that Mr Abbott said: ... when he was appointed to the job that he hoped a UK-Australia trade deal could be signed and pointed to the deals Australia did with China, Japan and Korea while he was PM. Are you aware of those comments, Minister? Senator Payne: I think it is all our hopes that UK-Australia trade deal is signed. Senator AYRES: Yes, but are you aware he made those comments and the comments I referred to earlier?</p>	HANSARD	15

			<p>Senator Payne: I've seen comments reported.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Has the department provided Mr Abbott any advice regarding the negotiation of previous trade agreements with China, Japan or Korea in relation to his appointment?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: No. I can confirm that Australia's UKFTA negotiating team has had no contact with Mr Abbott.</p>		
107	Fierravanti-Wells	The Vatican	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Since 2 October, when the Italian media Corriere Della Sera and other Italian newspapers printed allegations, based I might add on Vatican sources and confirmed through documents and Vatican sources, have you spoken or has anyone in DFAT had conversations with the nuncio here in Canberra?</p> <p>Mr Geering: Not that I'm aware of here in Canberra.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Would you follow that up, please.</p> <p>Mr Geering: I can follow that up. As I mentioned to you, our Ambassador to the Holy See did catch up with the nuncio when he was back in Rome. I'd need to take on notice and check for you whether that issue came up in the conversation.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Thank you. I will go to that. I assume that not just the current ambassador but also previous ambassadors Hitchman and McCarthy over the years have provided ongoing information, particularly in relation to the Pell matter. Cardinal Pell was appointed to the position of inaugural prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy in February 2014. I assume that, given that high role and the subsequent issues that arose in relation to Cardinal Pell, there has been a steady flow of information from our Vatican ambassador—is that the case, Mr Geering?</p> <p>Mr Geering: As you know, we had a changeover of ambassador just recently. Unfortunately I'm only recently new to the role. I'd need to check to find some of that history for you. I'd need to take that on notice. As I say, our ambassador is only reasonably new and has been doing—</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: I'd appreciate if you would. I too have officially visited the Vatican when I was minister, so I am aware that there has been information passed. I understand that during the nuncio's tour, as you've confirmed now, our ambassador met with him. Did the ambassador or the embassy organise for the nuncio to meet with Cardinal Pell?</p> <p>Mr Geering: I'd have to take that on notice. My memory is no, but let me take that on notice to be absolutely sure.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: My understanding is that a meeting was instigated at the request of the nuncio and that the embassy approached the cardinal for that meeting to go ahead. But I also understand that the meeting did not go ahead. I'm interested to know who made the approaches, on whose behalf and, subsequently, why the meeting didn't go ahead. I would appreciate it if you could get that information and provide it to me today if possible. In relation to the investigation—</p> <p>Mr Geering: I would have to go to Italy to get that information, so I would have to contact our ambassador to get something on—</p>	HANSARD	17 - 18

108	Fierravanti-Wells	The Vatican	HANSARD	19

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: I appreciate that. I'm very conscious of the time difference. I'm interested to know how accurately and how keenly we are following investigations by the Vatican prosecutors of the cardinal who was the former acting secretary of state. As you are aware, Mr Geering, those allegations include abuse of authority, embezzlement, corruption, money laundering and the use of proceeds from criminal activities. I quote now from Italian and Vatican sources in relation to that. In the media reports— Mr Geering: As I mentioned to you earlier, the AFP have asked that any questions around this issue be referred to them because of the nature of their ongoing considerations of it. We are aware of the allegations and we've seen them in the press.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Okay. Did the embassy at some point become aware of information and pass on information to the AFP, or was it the other way around?
Mr Newnham: Unless Mr Geering has information on that, no allegations were provided to or received by the department.
Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: So you've had no direct contact with AUSTRAC? Other than the AFP you've had no contact with any other—
Mr Newnham: Not to my knowledge.
Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Would you take that on notice and please investigate that?
Mr Newnham: Sure.
Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: These are very serious issues. If the allegations are proven to be correct, bearing in mind that the allegations pertinent to Australia are only a part of a much, much broader investigation by the Vatican authorities, it does reflect significantly and will have significant consequences especially for authorities and judicial authorities in Victoria and other places. I'm very keen to get to the bottom of it. I would have thought that, from an Australian government perspective, we would be doing everything that we possibly could.
Mr Newnham: Yes.
Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: In the event that this matter progresses, will the lead be Home Affairs? As more and more information emerges in relation to this matter, what will be the role of our ambassador in Rome?
Mr Newnham: Your question goes to a series of potential eventualities that I cannot predict. What I would say is that, as is usual practice, the AFP is conducting the investigation into a potential criminal matter. They are of course receiving assistance from the Australian government, from the department, from our post. The future steps to be taken there really are a matter for the AFP, but acknowledging that it really depends on what circumstances and facts arise in the course of that investigation.
Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: When did the AFP first make contact with us?
Mr Newnham: I certainly don't have that to hand. Let me see if I have it in my notes. If not, I will take it on notice for you. I'm sorry; I'll have to take the question of first contact on notice.
Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Given these allegations in relation to the transfer of funds to Australia, which we saw on 2

			<p>October in the articles that emerged then, and the issues pertinent to the players here—the allegations are that the moneys were transferred. There were four payments—two from Cardinal Becciu and two from a Monsignor Borgia, which is an interesting surname for—through to an organisation here in Australia. My understanding is that you will have to go back some time—</p> <p>Mr Geering: Those are questions of detail. I will have to go and take some of those on notice.</p>		
109	Fierravanti-Wells	Diplomatic Immunity	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: If you don't mind. I have a batch of questions, if I can. Could you outline the nature of the diplomatic immunity that would be enjoyed by the nuncio or any other diplomat in relation to potential criminal investigations or potential criminal allegations?</p> <p>Mr Geering: I will hand over to those who know—</p> <p>Mr Newnham: If I understand it correctly, your question goes to a matter of judgement about the immunities of a foreigner—</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: A foreign diplomat in Australia. If I can just ask this question: assuming this matter proceeds, if these allegations proceed further, and if—and I say 'if'—there are issues that do attach to any person at any embassy then what are the parameters of that person's immunity? Are they obliged to cooperate with Australian authorities? What is the extent of what they would be obliged to do or not do?</p> <p>Mr Newnham: I will tread carefully here. I'm conscious your question—the lead into it—goes to a series of specific circumstances. I would not be able to comment on—</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: No, I'm not asking—I'm just asking a general question now. Can I just say that I am asking this question in a very general context. Mr Newnham: Of course, the Vienna convention on diplomatic and consular relations, to which Australia is a party, as of course are many nations around the world, has a series of immunities and rights and responsibilities that flow through that. I think it would be best if I took on notice the exact nature of your question to give you a sense of some of the underpinnings of that convention—or those conventions. There are a couple.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: In simple terms, would a diplomat be obliged to answer questions? If the AFP go knocking on a diplomat's door—we know they like to evade fines at times—</p> <p>Mr Newnham: Your questions are coming to a sense of giving legal advice to this committee, and I would not propose to do that. What I could say is that, in general terms, materials available publicly around the sorts of elements that are contained in those conventions speak to any number of criteria that need to be met for certain rights and responsibilities to be engaged. But, as I said earlier, I will take that on notice.</p>	HANSARD	19 - 20
110	Patrick	International Peace Institute	<p>CHAIR: Senator Patrick will be with us very shortly. I will quickly ask a question. I preface it by saying I find it somewhat incongruous putting 'think tank' and 'Mr Rudd' into the same sentence, but I am about to. Has the department seen the reports in this morning's media alleging that Mr Rudd's International Peace</p>	HANSARD	21

			<p>Institute think tank received a donation of \$650,000? Does the Australian taxpayer make any contribution through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to this institute?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: Senator, thank you for the question. I'd need to have a closer look at it.</p> <p>CHAIR: Alright. Take it on notice.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: I will do that.</p>		
111	Patrick	Support to stranded Australians	<p>Senator PATRICK: How many overseas Australians have requested emergency financial assistance?</p> <p>Dr Webster: Under the hardship program which was announced on 2 September—these figures are accurate as of 23 October—we had received 1,943 applications for financial assistance.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: How many have been provided assistance through either a loan or a grant?</p> <p>Dr Webster: The breakdown of figures is: number of applications approved to that date, 1,070. Of those, 177 were for subsistence—that's to support the cost of staying in country while awaiting a return flight; 162 were just for repatriation—that's for flights; and 731 were for both subsistence and repatriation.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: How many of the difference between the 1,943 and the 1,070 are refused or pending?</p> <p>Dr Webster: We have a number of applications which were withdrawn and some which were declined. They amount to 223.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: There were 223 declined. So does that mean there are of the order of 600 still pending?</p> <p>Dr Webster: Yes, that's right. Twenty-four applicants were actually rejected. That's very few.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Thank you. What's the total of financial assistance that has been provided as a result of this program?</p> <p>Dr Webster: The chief financial officer will comment on expended. I'm going to comment on committed funds, because, of course, some of the funds haven't gone out the door yet. Funds committed on subsistence loans are \$1,072,500. Funds committed on repatriation loans are \$681,945.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Obviously, they're committed. Do you have any understanding of how many of those loans have been repaid to date?</p> <p>Dr Webster: I can take that on notice, but I would hazard a guess that it won't be that many yet, because people are still making their way home. Under the conditions of the scheme, people have six months either to repay the loan in full or to agree a plan for repayment.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Maybe on notice, could you provide the actuals and the amounts that have been returned and also break it up into subsistence and flights, if possible.</p> <p>Dr Webster: Yes, we can certainly do that.</p>	HANSARD	23
112	Patrick	Australia-Hong Kong FTA	<p>Senator PATRICK: Okay. That then goes to the situation with the free trade agreement. When that was set up, Minister Birmingham said:</p> <p>This Agreement underpins Australia's support of the "One Country, Two Systems" framework in which Hong Kong operates.</p> <p>That was on 17 January as we entered into the free trade agreement. On 9 July the Prime Minister said: The National Security Law erodes the democratic principles that have underpinned Hong Kong's society</p>	HANSARD	24

			<p>and the One Country, Two Systems framework. So it would appear that the circumstances have changed significantly. Have we suspended the free trade agreement— Ms Lawson: No, we have not suspended the free trade agreement. We don't plan to suspend the free trade agreement. It continues to provide certainty and transparency for Australian businesses trading and investing in Hong Kong, including in an even more uncertain environment. Senator PATRICK: We now have this paradox or, in some sense, a duplicity in saying one agreement has been suspended on the basis of a fundamental change in circumstances but then on the other hand we're not suspending this other agreement even though it also meets that criteria. Ms Lawson: Thank you for that. We have looked very carefully at our arrangements with Hong Kong. The extradition treaty and the free trade agreement are two very different agreements which have different provisions underneath them. Our judgement on the extradition treaty was that, under the circumstances, it was best to suspend that treaty, whereas the free trade agreement continues to support the interests of Australian businesses operating in Hong Kong. We have 100,000 expatriates there and we want to support their interests. We continue to believe that the FTA does support their interests. Senator PATRICK: I'm not in any way critical of the suspension of the extradition treaty; I think that was a very, very sensible move. You've taken a very, very principled approach on that front, noting the change in circumstances. But, on the other front, you might perhaps be putting business before those same principles. Senator Payne: I think Ms Lawson has explained it very well. They are quite different agreements and serve quite different purposes. The free trade agreement, as Ms Lawson said, does provide what we think is very important certainty and transparency for Australian investors in Hong Kong. We do support a rules based system that provides recourse for Australian business and investors, and the free trade agreement offers that. If you would like us to go into further detail, we'd be happy to provide a compare and contrast on notice on the differences between the suspension of the extradition treaty and the operation of the free trade agreement. Senator PATRICK: That would be helpful.</p>		
113	Molan	Emissions reduction commitments	<p>Senator MOLAN: I do have a couple of questions. The first question I have—and I guess it's to the secretary or the ambassador—is: which countries are on track to achieve 2030 in relation to these restrictions? Mr Isbister: Countries have made a range of different target commitments. Some have got 2025 and some have got 2030 targets. A range of countries are on track to meet that, but there are also other countries that have still got a way to go. The reality is that the Paris agreement comes into force this year. So, for some countries, there is a decade to go in terms of what they are going to do to invest and deliver the policies.</p>	HANSARD	29

			<p>Senator MOLAN: I'm sorry, Chair, but I can't hear what the ambassador is saying.</p> <p>CHAIR: Apologies.</p> <p>Senator MOLAN: Please go ahead.</p> <p>Mr Isbister: I was just finishing by saying that it is 2020 when the Paris agreement is coming into force. So, for those who have got a 2030 target, like ourselves, there is a decade to go as they look at the policies and measures they are going put in place to deliver on their targets. But, at this stage there is a mix of countries—some that one could argue aren't on track and others that are on track in terms of getting to their targets.</p> <p>Senator MOLAN: Of those countries that have signed, can you give us an indication of how many? Could you give us an indication of how many may have achieved that?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: I'll take it on notice, but again acknowledging that there are countries with different target periods than Australia. If you're talking about 2030, we will take it on notice. Senator MOLAN: Yes, I am talking about 2030, in particular.</p>		
114	Molan	Emissions reduction commitments	<p>Senator MOLAN: Chair, can I have one more question?</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes.</p> <p>Senator MOLAN: Thank you.</p> <p>Senator Payne: Senator, we can take anything additional for that question on notice and provide that onto the record.</p> <p>Senator MOLAN: That's good. Thank you. Please take it on notice. Which countries that have committed to net zero by 2050 have outlined comprehensive costed plans to get there? Could you please take that on notice as well.</p> <p>Mr Isbister: I could probably answer that. There is—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Chair, this is actually opposition time.</p> <p>CHAIR: The chair always allows interventions if they're right on the matter. If you could take that question on notice, that would be helpful.</p> <p>Senator Payne: We will take that on notice.</p>	HANSARD	29
115	Ayres	Mr Daryl Maguire	<p>Senator AYRES: The next document I want to take you to has the headline 'FWD: Tonga'. That's an email from the honorary consul general of the Kingdom of Tonga, Ms Louise Waterhouse. Are you aware that Ms Waterhouse was the honorary consul general of the Kingdom of Tonga based in North Sydney? Ms Adamson: I have heard of her, yes. Senator AYRES: Is she still engaged as the consul general? Is she still in that role? Senator Payne: Honorary consul. Senator AYRES: As the honorary consul? Ms Adamson: I'd have to take that on notice. Honorary consuls often serve for very long periods of time because they're</p>	HANSARD	31

			<p>permanently in place and not posted. Senator AYRES: But is it the same Ms Waterhouse who has separately lobbied the department? It has been publicly revealed that she lobbied Mr Taylor and lobbied the department separately with Mr Maguire in relation to purchases of land around Western Sydney airport. Ms Adamson: I can't speak to that. Senator AYRES: Is it fair to say on the basis of that that there has been some engagement—and I don't make any comment about the propriety of the engagement—between the department and Mr Maguire over some period of time in relation to his international travel while he was a member of parliament? Ms Adamson: I would characterise that, with respect, as drawing a rather long bow. Senator AYRES: No, I'm being very careful— Ms Adamson: I'm not prepared to characterise it in that way. Senator AYRES: Mr Maguire or people employed by him have contacted the department from time to time. The department has observed some of Mr Maguire's attempts to contact the consul generals and responded. I'm saying that there has been some engagement, without any pejorative inference, between the department and Mr Maguire over that period of time. Ms Adamson: Senator Ayres, the word 'engagement' to my mind— Senator AYRES: Okay. Let's try something else. Ms Adamson: It goes further than what I see on face value here. I know DFAT's business pretty well. I also know that the appearance of things is often not what the substance looks like. Given the magnitude or the seriousness of the issues that this goes to I would request the ability, at a minimum, to go through these documents personally and to check with officers, because what you also see here is DFAT doing its job. It's checking to see whether an email is actually valid. It is doing its job. If there's an implication that that is not the case, I would very much like to be given the opportunity to check it, think it through carefully and come back to you, which I will always do to the best of my knowledge, having checked thoroughly. Senator AYRES: As I've indicated, I've sort of truncated the line of questioning and referred to the documents. I was quite careful to pull out that one detail—that is, it does appear quite proper in that first document for the department officer to inquire as to the genesis of the email that she had been provided with by consul generals. 'Engagement' may turn out to be too strong a word—'correspondence', perhaps. If you haven't undertaken an investigation into this—and I've heard you say that to date you're not aware of this material—will you undertake an investigation of the department's engagement in this matter? Ms Adamson: I will check, Senator, to understand better what lies behind the documents that you have tabled today. That I most certainly can undertake to do. I would not, however, characterise what I intend to do as an investigation. Senator AYRES: You'll make inquiries to satisfy yourself as to the origin and the context of these documents? Ms Adamson: I will check what lies behind these documents.</p>		
116	Wong	Procurement of security services	<p>Senator WONG: Was it a straightforward process or was it a complicated procurement? Ms Perera: Well, complicated in the sense that it's a high-value contract. Complicated in the sense that we're talking about security services that we deliver to arguably one of our highest-threat posts in the network, in Afghanistan. So, yes, all of those things brings complications with it. Complicated in terms of following of the process? Not to my knowledge. Senator WONG: There is some history with this entity.</p>	HANSARD	34

		<p>Ms Perera: With Aegis? Senator WONG: Yes. In 2015 Aegis undercut an Australian contractor—this is on the public record; in fact, I have a vague memory of having asked questions about this—and was awarded the contract in Kabul. It was reported at the time that it didn't rank highly during the tender process, and there were reports in The Australian at the time that the federal government had been forced to hand nearly \$10 million in additional funding to the British private security firm tasked with securing the Australian embassy in Afghanistan one month after it signed a deal that slashed the cost of the contract. The public assertion on this is that an Australian company was undercut. Do you have any knowledge of concerns around Aegis's performance under contract previously? Ms Perera: Under the contract previously, no. Senator WONG: Under any security contract previously? Ms Perera: No, I'm not aware of any issues of performance. Senator WONG: Is it the case that they overcharged the department and were required to repay money? Ms Perera: Not to my knowledge. Senator WONG: Can you take that on notice? Ms Perera: Yes.</p>		
117	Wong	<p>Procurement of security services</p> <p>Senator WONG: When does the contract held by Hart finish? Ms Perera: The first of December. Senator WONG: When did we start this procurement process? Ms Perera: Bear with me, Senator. Senator WONG: Why don't we— Mr Sloper: Sorry to interrupt. I can come back with the answer to that question you had before— Senator WONG: Great. Thank you. Mr Sloper: and that is that, at present, we have 31 staff from Jakarta temporarily returned to Australia and 104 dependants. That's a little lower than where we started, but that's the current figure now. Senator WONG: Okay. Ms Perera? Ms Perera: I'm sorry, I don't have— Senator WONG: Okay. Come back on notice. Was the contract always due to end by 1 December, or has it been extended? Ms Perera: It was extended briefly. It was due to expire in September. Because of the change to the post—I'm talking about Jakarta—from operations due to COVID, staff reductions, changes in the way we were operating at post, we sought an extension from the current company, Hart, who agreed to a three-month extension to the period, to sort of tide us over a little bit— Senator WONG: And that was your decision? Ms Perera: It was a collective decision, I would say. Senator WONG: I'm just trying to understand: a</p>	HANSARD	36-37

			<p>Canberra based decision or at the post?</p> <p>Ms Perera: Collective. So all of these decisions around—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Collective here? Oh, both.</p> <p>Ms Perera: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Right. So, on notice, can you outline the procurement process for this contract, please—</p> <p>Ms Perera: Sure.</p> <p>Senator WONG: as to whether it was an open or limited tender; time frame; any extension; and description of the tender process.</p> <p>Ms Perera: I can take that on notice.</p>		
118	Faruqi	Climate Change	<p>Senator FARUQI: How much did DFAT spend on total climate change assistance in 2019-20?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: The figures for 2019-20 are being finalised. A lot of the climate change funding is mainstreamed through the program. The final accounting gets done, usually finalising near the end of the calendar year.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Could you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: I can take that on notice, certainly.</p>	HANSARD	41
119	Faruqi	Mining sector development projects	<p>Senator FARUQI: How much will DFAT spend on mining sector development projects, and where, in 2020-21?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: I'm probably not the person to ask. The question is mining—</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Extractive industries. Mr Isbister: I will take that on notice for the exact funding.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Could you also provide a breakdown of the projects, if that's possible, by resources extracted?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: Can do. Senator FARUQI: Fossil fuels and minerals mining.</p>	HANSARD	41 - 42
120	Faruqi	Gas sector projects	<p>Senator FARUQI: Fossil fuels and minerals mining. This probably a question for the minister: does the government belief in the sustainability of gas fired power apply in the assessments of projects funded under the ODA?</p> <p>Senator Payne: The assessments of projects funded under ODA are guided by the Development Assistance Committee guidelines. I am not sure exactly what you mean in your question.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: I mean, are any of the climate change assistance projects in the gas sector?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I will ask if officials have that information. If not, we will provide it to you on notice.</p>	HANSARD	42
121	Faruqi	Budget publications	<p>Senator FARUQI: I want to go to the budget a little bit now. What wasn't published, I noticed, compared to last year were the sectoral allowances for the year 2020-21 in the budget summary. I remember last year there was a very detailed account of all these breakdowns of the sectors, and that wasn't the case this year. Is there any particular reason why that wasn't done? Will it be published a little bit later?</p> <p>Mr Venugopal: I assume you're referring to the investment priority based information that was published.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: The orange book.</p> <p>Mr Venugopal: That's right, exactly. As one of my colleagues previously mentioned, there is a new policy,</p>	HANSARD	42

			<p>and as a result of that the kind of sectoral grouping is now slightly different. As a result of that, that will be published eventually, but obviously not in time for publishing as soon as the budget, because there is a lot of remapping that is involved. That's all.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: When will it be published? Could you let us know?</p> <p>Mr Venugopal: I am not able to share that. I don't have that information at this point with me.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: Could you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Venugopal: I can take that on notice, yes.</p>		
122	Rice	Training assistant in Indonesia	<p>Senator RICE: Is DFAT actively looking at the issue that we provide assistance with training to Indonesian security forces who are continuing to commit abuses against West Papuans?</p> <p>Mr Connor: On the matter of particular aspects of training that's provided, you'll need to refer those either to the defence department or to the AFP. My understanding is that on repeated occasions in the past it has been pointed out that the kind of training provided to these organisations is not connected in any way with allegations of abuse that take place within Papua.</p> <p>CHAIR: I invite the department to refer those questions to the relevant other departments.</p> <p>Mr Connor: I shall certainly do so.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thanks.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Is DFAT satisfied with that response or that approach from the AFP and Defence?</p> <p>Mr Connor: We certainly take them at their word, and our understanding is that the training that's provided and the interaction that takes place involving Defence and the AFP on the range of issues are extremely important to the relationship between Australia and Indonesia. The training builds up capabilities in those areas but also certainly reinforces to the agencies concerned on the Indonesian side the need to do things in a full and proper manner and to show respect to human rights and persons. Most importantly, I should say that the training that is provided and the interaction of the two agencies, AFP and Defence, in relation to their engagement with Indonesia have a direct and important benefit to Australian citizens in terms of the personal security of our people in Indonesia. In relation to police, may I say it's all directed to ensuring that the Indonesian police are able to engage in counterterrorism activities in Indonesia.</p>	HANSARD	44
123	Rice	Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation	<p>Senator RICE: Can I just put a question on notice, as I said.</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes.</p> <p>Senator RICE: That was to take on notice the role that General Tito Karnavian, founder of Special Detachment 88 and the current minister of the interior, had and continues to have with the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, given that we fund that centre.</p> <p>Mr Connor: Certainly. We'll take that on notice.</p>	HANSARD	44
124	-	-	deleted from index	-	-
125	Fierravanti-Wells	Travel by foreign diplomats	<p>CHAIR: I understand Senator Fierravanti-Wells wants to put a question on notice.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS:</p>	HANSARD	45

			<p>Ms Adamson, further to the questions I asked before, during the pandemic period—let's say February to now—how many foreign heads of mission left Australia? My understanding is it was only two. I'm not talking about diplomats who left—just heads of mission.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: Left at the conclusion of their posting or—I understood you to mean travel for any purpose.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: No, I meant went overseas and then came back to Australia. Can I just clarify that?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: I can take that on notice, but it will take some time. We would need to check with every mission. There are 100 missions here. That will take us some time.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: I would have thought they would have had to go through—didn't you say they went through a proper—</p> <p>Ms Adamson: No, they can go. They've got diplomatic passports. We'd have to check with Border Force. It would be a considerable amount of work.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: I didn't expect it would take that long, but thank you.</p>		
126	Abetz	Algeria and Mauritania	<p>CHAIR: Can I ask whether the department has made any representations to either Algeria or Mauritania in relation to the publicised persecution of Christians in those two countries—the forced closure of churches in Algeria, where thousands of Christians are being deprived of their place of worship. I'm wondering whether any representations are being made on that front.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: I'll ask Dr Macdonald to reply, but I note we do not have diplomatic missions in either of those countries.</p> <p>CHAIR: In that case, take both those matters on notice; that's fine.</p>	HANSARD	45
127	Abetz	Abolition of the death penalty	<p>CHAIR: I think that's a fair comment, Minister. Can I move on to our involvement—Minister, you might be able to assist me on this, because I should remember—that we are in a group in the world seeking the abolition of the death penalty?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Yes, that is a campaign priority for Australia.</p> <p>CHAIR: What is that organisation?</p> <p>Senator Payne: It's the Coalition Against the Death Penalty, which we are a leader of or a member of. It's a matter which we prosecute through a number of multilateral fora, particularly the United Nations, also the Human Rights Council, and then, where appropriate, in the bilateral context, where there are of course countries where the death penalty continues to exist.</p> <p>CHAIR: Minister or department, can you take on notice to advise what we have achieved over the past 12 months? Are there more countries with a death penalty? Are there fewer countries with a death penalty? Are there countries considering repealing their death penalties? Can you give me on notice a rounded</p>	HANSARD	47

			update? Senator Payne: We can provide that update.		
128	Abetz	Papua New Guinea	<p>CHAIR: I would be most appreciative of that. Moving to Papua New Guinea, they still have the death penalty—is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Thomson: Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>CHAIR: What are we doing in relation to our representations to genuinely our nearest neighbour, Papua New Guinea, to encourage them to remove that from their statute books?</p> <p>Mr Thomson: Over a period of many years this issue has been raised with the Papua New Guinea government. At various points in time it's been a subject of discussion with the government and we've encouraged them to consider their position. CHAIR: Can you give me on notice an update as to where we were at when the last representations were made? I understand that law and order is still a very real issue in Papua New Guinea. Is that agreed as a broad proposition?</p> <p>Mr Thomson: I think that's a fair proposition. It's an important part of our cooperation with Papua New Guinea, to help them on that issue.</p> <p>CHAIR: Does Papua New Guinea have the lowest rate of police per head of population in the South Pacific?</p> <p>Mr Thomson: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	HANSARD	47
129	Abetz	Iran	<p>CHAIR: Thank you. I want to move from nuclear weapons to sport, albeit in the context of a death penalty. I assume we're aware of calls by the World Players Association head Brendan Schwab and high-profile former Socceroo Craig Foster for Iran to be banned from world sporting competitions, including the Olympics, after the execution in September of young Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari.</p> <p>Dr Macdonald: Yes, we're aware of that.</p> <p>CHAIR: Have we made any representations?</p> <p>Dr Macdonald: Yes, we supported a statement in the Human Rights Council on 25 September that raised concerns about Iran's human rights violations, including strongly condemning Iran's continued use of the death penalty.</p> <p>CHAIR: Then, very disappointingly, Australia's IOC Vice-President John Coates said that Iran is unlikely to be suspended over its actions—that's in relation to the Olympics. Were any representations made to the Australian</p>	HANSARD	48

			<p>Olympic Committee or to the International Olympic Committee to have discussions about this call for Iran to be banned?</p> <p>Dr Macdonald: Not that I'm aware of.</p> <p>CHAIR:</p> <p>If you could take that on notice and let me know, that would be very helpful.</p>		
130	Abetz	Iran	<p>CHAIR: I understand that this time each year the special rapporteur on human rights in Iran, Mr Javid Rehman, prepares an annual report and submits it to friendly countries—and confirm, please, that that includes us and the European Union—for final approval. Is that right?</p> <p>Dr Macdonald: I might just have to check.</p> <p>CHAIR: Take that on notice; I don't want to delay the committee too much.</p> <p>Dr Macdonald: Sure.</p> <p>CHAIR: Is it true that Iranian communities in Australia have urged DFAT to support the inclusion in that report of a statement which includes a call for an international investigation of the 1988 mass executions of over 30,000 political prisoners in Iran? Firstly, has that request been made, and, secondly, what would our response be to it?</p> <p>Dr Macdonald: I'm not aware of that request, but I'll take it on notice and check.</p>	HANSARD	50
131	Abetz	Jordan	<p>CHAIR: Is DFAT aware that an individual, Ahlam Tamimi, who organised the killing of an Australian national, Malki Roth, is living in freedom in Jordan and that this individual regularly boasts about her role in this act? Are we aware of that?</p> <p>Dr Macdonald:</p> <p>I don't have that information, but others may be aware of that. I will have to take that on notice as well.</p>	HANSARD	50
132	Wong	ODA Budget	<p>Senator WONG: So tell me, have you made decisions about how the \$304 million will be allocated and, if so, can you revise the table?</p> <p>Mr Venugopal: I'll answer the technical side of the question, and my colleague Ms Heinecke will talk about the expenditure and the programming aspects of it. When we publish the—</p> <p>Senator WONG: No, I want numbers. I'm sorry, but I don't want a long description. I'm happy to be briefed at other times if you want to tell me why you're doing so well on development, but I'm actually trying to understand. This is the way in which the parliament and the community and stakeholders understand the ODA budget to be allocated. You have an additional 304. That's going to have to be spent against these line items somewhere. You're going to have to account for it. Have you done that work?</p> <p>Mr Venugopal: How it's going to be accounted for in terms of bilateral or regional, Ms Heinecke will be able to explain to you. What I can tell you, however, is when we publish the statistical summary at the end of the financial year, so for the 2020-21 financial year, the actuals will be published in December, as we</p>	HANSARD	59 - 60

		<p>consistently do every year. So in December 2021— Senator WONG: No, it's not about actuals. Mr Venugopal: Senator, may I finish? Senator WONG: No, you're answering a different question. In order to expend, you must make a decision about where you're going to spend it—right? Mr Venugopal: Yes. Senator WONG: Have you made those decisions about how much of this 300 will be spent in which areas? Ms Heinecke: The answer to your question is no. We are currently designing that fund. Senator WONG: That's fine. And then you can come back, on notice, when you have an updated table. You don't wait until they're actuals; that's not transparent, because then you're looking at it backwards. The parliament should have the table of what you intend to spend, because that's about making sure you're accountable to that expenditure. When do you anticipate you will do that by? Ms Heinecke: At the moment we're designing two windows. One's a vulnerability and economic recovery window, and that is very much focused on social protection, the social sectors, women. The second window is a fiscal crisis window, and that is recognising the fiscal gap that's emerging in the Pacific and Timor-Leste, which are the countries that this fund is targeted towards. That's currently being discussed with partner governments at the moment, and the allocations will be subject to a design process. We're currently in discussions, and those allocations are going to be based on a formula of absorptive capacity, need and ability to spend the money. We're really looking at social protection as a big part of what we do.</p>		
133	Wong	<p>ODA Budget</p> <p>Senator WONG: This phrase 'COVID response package' covers not only the new measure in Budget Paper No. 2 that we've been discussing but previously announced measures? Ms Heinecke: From my perspective, this is all new. Senator WONG: No, no, no. Yes, there is a particular announcement in the budget, which is 'COVID-19 response package—support to the Pacific and Timor-Leste'. Was there any aspect of the COVID response package other than this for 2019-20? Ms Heinecke: For 2019-20, what we did in terms of the COVID response from March to June was through pivoted assistance from the existing Pacific allocations as well as other allocations which were freed up due to programs such as infrastructure and people-to-people programs not being able to deliver. Senator WONG: Can I get those itemised? Ms Adamson: The others? Yes, we've got them. Senator Payne: Yes. Senator WONG: Because the outcome of that decision would be in this—no, this doesn't go back; this is only 2020-21. Are you able to give me that itemised? You're describing it as the 'pivot'?</p>	HANSARD	62-62

Ms Heinecke: Yes.

Senator WONG: You don't call that the 'COVID-19 response'?

Ms Heinecke: In some ways they're—

Senator WONG:

I'm not interested in the bureaucratic nomenclature; I'm only using it to try and identify what I need to know. I understood that there was a set of decisions made for the previous financial year—also under the rubric 'COVID response package'.

Ms Heinecke: Yes, that's correct.

Ms Adamson: Correct.

Senator WONG: I'm asking for the itemisation of those. Can you do that?

Ms Adamson: We can get you that. At the top level, it was on 29 May that the government announced a \$280

million Indo-Pacific response and recovery package, and we were also pivoting approximately 400 individual programs worth \$840 million in 2019-20. That's what we mean by that.

Senator WONG: I'd like to see the underlying transactions—where you took money from and where it went Mr Venugopal: Yes, can do.

Senator WONG: Can do?

Mr Venugopal: Yes.

Ms Adamson: When you say 'take money from', of course, as the minister said, some of it was not being spent, but we will attempt to identify the source of the funding and the way it was applied.

Senator WONG: That's right. Okay. You can put all that political protection in if you want. In relation to this bilateral program, we moved money from this to this, or whatever. That's what I want to understand—not just the net position but the underlying transaction.

Ms Adamson: Yes—

Senator WONG: Why are you nervous?

Ms Adamson: with one caveat. We're talking about 400 individual programs.

Senator WONG: Sure.

Ms Adamson: Are you okay if we give you a reasonable level of detail—

Senator WONG: I'm interested in country and regional program. Ms Adamson: Yes. We can—

Senator WONG: I'm not asking you to give me 24 PNG projects—I don't need that.

Ms Adamson: That's better for us. Thank you.

Senator WONG: I need: this happened in PNG; we had X amount, and we've now converted it to this.

That's what I'd like.

			<p>Senator Payne: We understand.Senator WONG: Did you say '400 projects'? I can't promise that someone won't come back and ask you for that, but why don't you give me the first bit first. I'm putting a line in the sand, though—that once I get that it may be that someone might want some project based stuff—but let's start at the aggregation level that you've described. We'll do it step by step.</p>		
134	Wong	ODA Budget	<p>Senator WONG: Page 47 of the PBS states: Administered expenses for 'Multilateral Replenishments' are budgeted at \$446.5 million, a decrease of \$143.3 million from the 2019-20 estimated actual due to a smaller new multilateral replenishment being negotiated. Can someone give me details of that? Mr Venugopal: I can say that it will have to do with the replenishment cycles. I may have to come back to you—it won't be too hard; I can do it during this session—about which exact one it is. Senator WONG: Yes, that's fine. Mr Venugopal: I may be able to help you. In 2019-20 it was around \$585 million and in 2020-21 it is \$447 million. I note that these are on an accrual basis. These are not necessarily the cash payments, so this is the full value, so to say. That \$585 million high-level number included things like the IDA investment of concessional discount of around \$300 million and a core grant component of \$100 million IDA HIPC—and I'm not sure what that acronym stands for; I don't have that with me— Ms Adamson: It's highly indebted poor countries— Mr Venugopal: The 2021 numbers, however—\$447 million or so—include \$423 million for the Asian Development Fund and \$24 million for the Montreal protocol multilateral financing fund. Those are the high-level differences. Senator WONG: On notice, can you give me that in more detail? Mr Venugopal: I can.</p>	HANSARD	63-64
135	Rice	Philippines	<p>CHAIR: Senator Rice. Senator RICE: I've got 20 minutes and I want to cover Philippines, Cambodia, India and the COVAX facility. I'll start with the Philippines. I won't go into detail about the appalling human rights situation there because I know that those details are already known. What representations has the government been making, and at what level, regarding the unlawful killings and the other human rights abuses—particularly the killings of, and attacks on, political activists, human rights defenders, environmentalists, Indigenous peoples and journalists—and also about media freedom with the cyberlibel conviction of Maria Ressa and</p>	HANSARD	65

			<p>the shutdown of the country's largest TV network?</p> <p>Mr Connor: The government remains concerned about the state of human rights in the Philippines, including the ongoing war on drugs, the extrajudicial killings, the antidrugs campaign et cetera. We are closely monitoring the situation. We continue to raise our concerns with the Philippine government on many occasions, including through bilateral representations, but we also support resolutions and national statements that have been tabled as a voting member of the Human Rights Council. We are a very, very strong supporter of the independent mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and supported the resolution that was put forward recently at the 45th session of the HRC. We are careful to calibrate the response we make on individual human rights issues with our advocacy on peace and development work to make sure we get the maximum impact. The program that we run, which is called the Philippines Australia Citizens Empowerment Program, is there to specifically support human rights and civil society in the Philippines—</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Rice, do you want to intervene here?</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes, I do. Basically what I want to know is: what action has been taken at what level?</p> <p>Minister, have you been raising the issue with your counterparts?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I have raised it previously. My conversations most recently with Secretary Locsin have been in relation to COVID issues, but I have raised it in the past, yes.</p> <p>Senator RICE: When were you most recently raising human rights issues?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Thank you. Can you provide on notice all of those representations that were being outlined.</p>		
136	Rice	Philippines	<p>Senator RICE: You might need to take this on notice but did Australian development assistance or technical support contribute to the drafting of that law in any way?</p> <p>Mr Connor: I don't believe so, but I will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Could you also take on notice the details of development assistance provided by Australia in recent years to the Philippines—</p> <p>Mr Connor: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator RICE: and any assistance that Australia provides to the Philippines military, security or police forces and the nature of that assistance?</p> <p>Mr Connor: I shall certainly do that but can I assure you, if there is any suggestion that assistance we provide to either military or the police has any kind of human rights implications, that we would have taken action on it.</p>	HANSARD	66
137	Rice	Philippines	<p>Senator RICE: In February this year, a Philippines Lt. Gen. Antonio Parlade visited Australia. Was DFAT</p>	HANSARD	66

			<p>made aware of that visit? Mr Connor: Yes, we would have been. Senator RICE: Was DFAT involved in any coordination of that visit? Mr Connor: If it was a Defence-to-defence visit, we would not have been; it would be a Defence issue. I am not aware specifically of the role the individual concerned. If he is a current serving member of the military, it would have been a Defence-to-defence activity, and they would be responsible. Senator RICE: Could you take it on notice for me? Mr Connor: Certainly, I will take it on notice. Senator RICE: Did DFAT or Minister Payne meet with the general? Senator Payne: No. Senator RICE: Is DFAT aware of the threats made by the general against individuals here in Australia? Mr Connor: I am not personally. May I say that if there are any threats made against individuals in Australia by any person, wherever they are from, we treat them extremely seriously. If there is a requirement to do so, we would refer such matters to the Australian Federal Police. Senator Payne: Given time, we don't have familiarity with the visit. We're happy to answer any of your questions on notice, if that would be helpful. Senator RICE: Yes, please, that would be very helpful—what your awareness was, whether you were aware of the threats and what action you took? Mr Connor: Sure.</p>		
138	Rice	Cambodia	<p>Senator RICE: I will move onto Cambodia. What representations has the government made to the Cambodian government recently in relation to human rights? Mr Connor: Again, it is a continuing process. We are often in engagement with the Cambodian government through our embassy in Cambodia over a large number of issues. I can say it's basically a regular process. Ambassador Kang is assiduous in promoting our views and putting forward our ideas in relation to any incidents— Senator RICE: At what level have the representations been made recently? Mr Connor: From Ambassador Kang on down within the embassy. Senator RICE: Minister, have you had engagement over Cambodia in recent times? Senator Payne:</p>	HANSARD	67

			<p>Only virtual engagement. I saw my Cambodian counterpart physically in the United States last year for UNGA leaders week, but we have both been participating in a significant range of ASEAN related meetings, including a special ASEAN-Australia foreign ministers meeting on COVID-19 in June.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Have you raised the human rights concerns with your counterpart? Senator Payne: Not in the context of that meeting but I have raised them previously.</p> <p>Mr Connor: If I could add, we raise issues related to Cambodia in the Human Rights Commission.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes. Have any of our concerns and our statements about Cambodia been public statements?</p> <p>Mr Connor: I will have to take that on notice. What we do with the HRC is on the public record.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Can you take on notice if there are any other public statements?</p> <p>Mr Connor: Certainly.</p>		
139	Rice	Cambodia	<p>Senator RICE: Has the Australian Embassy provided any on-the-ground support to human rights activists in Cambodia?</p> <p>Mr Connor: Yes, there are a number of civil-society-related programs in Cambodia that we run. We run a three-year, \$2.9 million program in partnership with the Asia Foundation, which encourages evidence based policy dialogue between policymakers, think tanks and non-government organisations in the area. We have regular discussions with officials and what have you. We also provide a modest DAP grant to the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia.</p> <p>Senator RICE: I am thinking more along the lines of actual on-the-ground support, for example embassy staff supporting family members of detained activists or whether we're monitoring trials of the cases against the activists?</p> <p>Mr Connor: Action certainly takes place in relation to these significant activities that go down there, which goes in line with our regular advocacy work and our regular representations to the government there on all those issues, yes.</p> <p>Senator RICE: If you could take on notice all of the details of what advocacy and support work with activists is being undertaken?</p> <p>Mr Connor: Certainly.</p>	HANSARD	67

			<p>Senator RICE: Similarly, take on notice any consideration of targeted sanctions against Cambodian officials—</p> <p>Mr Connor: Yes. It is the same situation as the one I mentioned before.</p> <p>Senator RICE: I suspected it was going to be—including the 12 generals named in the Human Rights Watch Cambodia's dirty dozen report</p> <p>Mr Connor: We will get back to you on that.</p>		
140	Rice	COVAX Facility Funding	<p>Senator RICE: Moving onto the COVAX Facility funding, can you give us an update on the COVAX Facility advanced market commitment? Has the AMC reached its \$2 billion target for 2020?</p> <p>Mr Davies: On the most recent numbers that I have, the AMC has accumulated pledges of \$1.7 billion US against its \$2 billion target.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So it is still \$3 million short?</p> <p>Mr Davies: Yes, \$300 million short.</p> <p>Senator RICE: It is obviously a critical part of our potential COVID vaccination project. What determined the contribution that Australia made?</p> <p>Mr Davies: The Australian government's contribution was \$80 million, which places us 7th among the government donors to the facility.</p> <p>Senator RICE: But how did we determine how much to give? Did the department put a recommendation to government about what funding level was appropriate for Australia?</p> <p>Mr Davies: The level of funding provided is premised partly on the assumed cost of providing vaccines to the high-risk populations of the Pacific Island countries and Timor Leste which, when you do the maths, is probably going to be somewhere in the range of A\$40 million, and then an additional provision was made to support a contribution to the needs of the high-risk populations of South-East Asia, which took the total to \$80 million.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Could you take on notice providing those details of what the calculations were, what added up to that \$80 million?</p> <p>Mr Davies: Yes.</p>	HANSARD	67
141	Rice	Kashmiri journalists in Australia	<p>Senator RICE: There have been reports of Kashmiri journalists and activists targeted and harassed here in Australia. Is the department aware of this, and has it acted on the issue? Mr Wiblin: I am not aware myself of any incidents of Kashmiri journalists being harassed in Australia.</p>	HANSARD	67

			<p>Senator RICE: Maybe you should take on notice whether there was any awareness of that.</p> <p>Mr Wiblin: We'll take it on notice.</p>		
142	Rice	Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Australia	<p>Senator RICE: Going back to the comprehensive strategic partnership: ahead of the Prime Minister's discussions with Prime Minister Modi, did the department provide any briefings to the Prime Minister on human rights violations in India?</p> <p>Mr Wiblin: In our regular briefings for all interactions, we have background on the situation in Kashmir.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Were they provided to the Prime Minister in preparation for the signing of the comprehensive strategic partnership?</p> <p>Mr Wiblin: My recollection would be that we would provide background to the Prime Minister for any interaction we have with the Indians on the Kashmir issue.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Can you perhaps take that on notice and find out what briefings were provided to the Prime Minister prior to the signing of the agreement on human rights?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Those briefings would have been provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, but we'll endeavour to see what is available.</p>	HANSARD	69
143	Wong	AUSMAT deployment to Papua New Guinea	<p>Senator WONG: Did the AUSMAT provide a written report on the outlook for PNG?</p> <p>Mr Thomson: The AUSMAT provided a number of reports. We were getting regular updates from the leaders of the two teams and there was some reporting prepared. There was also a lot of engagement with senior people in the PNG government, including Prime Minister Marape, by the team leaders to explain—</p> <p>Senator WONG: I want to ask for a document and, whether you give it to me or not, I would at least like us to identify it correctly. Do you understand what I'm asking you? I'm going to ask you to table one of those documents, which you will take on notice, but I'd like to identify it correctly. You have said 'a number of reports'.</p> <p>Can we identify with a little more specificity what you could provide in the event that the minister says yes.</p> <p>Senator Payne: We'll have a look at that.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Mr Thomson just spoke in the plural. I want to understand what document I might specifically ask for.</p> <p>Mr Thomson: I will take that on notice. There was a lot of information flowing. Mr Davies might recall. I</p>	Hansard	70

144	Wong	Pacific climate resilience	Hansard	71

think towards the end of the deployment a final report was written. That's what I will check. Senator WONG: I understand that there is a final report. I'm asking for a copy of the final report. If there are issues in it which the government feels some sensitivity about, maybe we can have a discussion about how we might look at that—perhaps the public version could be redacted et cetera—but we would like to understand what is happening.

Senator Payne:
And also let us see who owns it. It won't be owned by DFAT; it is likely to be owned by Health, in portfolio terms. Let us ascertain that and then—I agree with you—if we can redact, we will provide it.

Senator WONG: Yep, or a mixture of both.

Senator Payne: Or not, yes.

Senator WONG: This is why you need an orange—because like-for-like is a useful way to ensure accountability. Can you give us on notice more detail on that—the programs that were included in the \$25 million that are not included in the \$20 million. If you disaggregate it, I can do a like-for-like. The \$500 million that was announced in August of last year as half a billion from existing aid funding on climate resilience in the Pacific over five years, commencing next financial year, I think, 2021. Where is that reflected in this table?

Mr Isbister: I will ask my colleagues in the Pacific to come to the table, but I think the headline issue is that a lot of that funding is reflected through the different bilateral programs and regional programs across the Pacific. Senator WONG: Yes, that's exactly what I'm asking. There was a half a billion dollar announcement last year and it was over five years from 2021. In aggregate, how much is being allocated to spend in the 2020-21 year?

That's the first question.

Mr Williams: The commitment is for \$100 million a year, over the next five years, in climate and disasters resilience. That will be coming from both dedicated regional programs, from the Pacific regional budget, as well as from efforts to integrate climate throughout all of our aid spend in the Pacific. Some of that will be from bilateral programs and some of it will be from regional programs. For example—

Senator WONG: I'm asking for the accountability around the \$500 million. You've told me it's \$100 million per year. Is that right?

Mr Williams: That's the aim.

Senator WONG: That's a decision of government. Where is that \$100 million per year reflected in this

			<p>table? How much of that \$100 million is allocated to PNG, to Solomon Islands, to Fiji, to Samoa, et cetera? Mr Williams: Let me try and explain the way it's calculated— Senator WONG: I understand what you're saying. You've packaged up funding from a range of sources—it wasn't new funding—and it's going to be delivered through a range of programs. I get that. But you're still accountable for the half a billion that was announced, the \$100 million per year. I'd like to know where that is being spent. I appreciate it's essentially a notional point of this amount. For example—this is hypothetical— Solomon Islands is allocated \$103.1 million, and there would be a notional attribution of \$20 million that might go towards this. I would like to know that; has anybody done that? Mr Williams: I think the best response I can provide there is that if I look at the similar programming over the last four years, which is a commitment of \$300 million over four years, we think we spent more than \$400 million. We are currently doing an audit and account of all of that spending. Given it's not just dedicated programs; it also involves a whole lot of integration of climate work through our other— Senator WONG: Can you please provide details of the \$100 million on notice? I don't want to be rude— Mr Williams: Sure. Senator WONG: but you've just described a process of looking into the past. You've allocated money in 2021. The Prime Minister and the FM have announced \$500 million; you've now told me \$100 million over five years. I'd like to know: how is that \$100 million being spent in the current financial year, please? Mr Williams: Sure.</p>		
145	Wong	Office of Development Effectiveness	<p>Senator WONG: It was operationally independent, and the office had an important role in ensuring the effective spend of Australia's aid dollar. Can you explain why you're downgrading independent evaluation of the performance of Australia's aid programs? Ms Adamson: Naturally, I would not accept that we are downgrading the independent elements of that; we are performing them in a different way. I will ask Ms Delaney to talk you through exactly how we are doing that. Senator WONG: It was operationally independent though, wasn't it? What you're doing now is integrating into different areas people who are supposed to do it— Ms Adamson: They will still have operational independence. Senator WONG: Is it the same number of people? It was 15, wasn't it? Ms Delaney: It was 14 officers last financial year. The functions of the ODE are being integrated into the Office of the Chief Economist.</p>	Hansard	72

			<p>Senator WONG: How many?</p> <p>Ms Delaney: The allocation for this financial year was the same as last financial year; however, I think we're shaping the department and the structure of the office in order to be able to position the department to deliver on Partnerships for Recovery.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I asked a question.</p> <p>Ms Delaney: Under the chief economist there will be two units. One is focused on the aid evaluation aspects, and the other is focused on the data analytics. We're actually, I suppose, repositioning how we will support the delivery.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That's a lot of words again. I asked you a specific question: how many staff? There were 14 staff previously in the office of aid evaluation. You've told me those functions are going to the Office of the Chief Economist. How many staff will work on this now?</p> <p>Ms Delaney: There will be five working in the aid evaluation unit.</p> <p>Senator WONG: So we've got about a third of the previous capacity?</p> <p>Ms Delaney: And five working in data analytics. Part of this is thinking about what the role of the former Office of Development Effectiveness was.</p> <p>Senator WONG: From 14 to 10, correct? You can shrug if you want, but not it's on the Hansard.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: We would like to explain and be very clear about what we will be doing, what we won't be doing anymore, why we won't be doing something we did before and why it is more important to be doing what we will be doing.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Do you want to do that on notice?</p>		
146	Wong	Innovation Exchange	<p>Senator WONG: Just give me June 2019 and then June 2020.</p> <p>Mr Isbister: June 2019 is 10.36 FTE. The middle of June this year is 5.56 FTE.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Have those staff been transferred to other parts of the department?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: Yes, they have.</p> <p>Senator WONG: How many are working on aid innovation?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: I couldn't give you the exact figures. There are 5.56. Four of them moved into my division, the Economic Growth and Sustainability Division. I think 1.5 moved into the Office of the Chief Economist. I think there were some grads as well.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Did anyone move into aid or development—sorry, I can't recall what it's called?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: My division includes development programs.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Did anyone go to the Office of the Pacific?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: It depends on when in that cycle.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Did anyone from InnovationXchange go to the Office of the Pacific?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: I am pretty sure they did, but I'd have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Who is where? Ms Delaney is basically aid management performance et cetera. Who</p>	Hansard	72-73

			<p>deals with all the programs?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: It depends which ones you're talking about. There's a global programs group.</p> <p>Senator WONG: They're across. They go to the desks or whatever you call them.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: They're completely integrated across the department, including obviously—</p> <p>Senator WONG: That's right. I just thought there was some other area. So how many went to Ms Delaney's division?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: I'd have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator Payne: We can provide you with—</p> <p>Senator WONG: I just want to know where these innovative people have gone. You said you've made sure it's across the department. I want to know. Senator Payne: Yes, and we'll provide you with that information.</p>		
147	Wong	Innovation Exchange	<p>Senator WONG: On notice can you explain to me what the InnovationXchange achieved in its five years of operation and how you say innovation has now been mainstreamed—I think that was the phrase you used?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: We'll take that on notice. I've just had confirmation that that space is currently being used by the Vaccine Taskforce.</p>	Hansard	77
148	Wong	Pacific Women shaping Pacific Development	<p>Senator WONG: On notice can you explain to me what the InnovationXchange achieved in its five years of operation and how you say innovation has now been mainstreamed—I think that was the phrase you used?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: We'll take that on notice. I've just had confirmation that that space is currently being used by the Vaccine Taskforce.</p>	Hansard	78
149	Wong	Pacific Labour Scheme	<p>Senator WONG: Can you give me on notice some end-of-financial-year stats around the PLS, please: how many workers participated as at 30 June 2019, 30 June 2020 and September 2020, and the breakdown of numbers by workers' country of origin.</p> <p>Senator Payne: If I'm correct, it was launched on 1 July 2018—so we will give you that first year. Obviously this year is impacted, so we'll caveat on that basis.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Of course. But I understood we did have some individual people on the scheme here this year.</p> <p>Senator Payne: Yes, absolutely.</p> <p>Senator WONG: So can you tell me, as at 30 June 2020, how many workers and sponsoring employers, the</p>	Hansard	80

			<p>industry sector and the sponsoring employers' locations. I think you do it at the statistical area level.</p> <p>Ms Heinecke: At the moment we have got data up to 16 October, which can give you a macro of that by sector and by state. We've moved a lot of workers across Australia during this period.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That's okay.</p>		
150	Fierravanti-Wells	Pacific debt	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Have we got any data now in relation to the debt of the Pacific island countries, as a percentage of GDP or in whatever form you've got it? I'm happy for you to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator Payne: Thanks, Senator.</p>	Hansard	81-82
151	Fierravanti-Wells	AIFFP	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: How is the—I won't refer to it in some terms, because I know Ms Adamson gets worked up about it—facility going? That's the concession, this time, rather than referring to it as a bank.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: I'm glad you asked, Senator.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Can I have an update on that? Potentially, you may want to take it on notice. If you could also give me a list of the projects, or what we're doing in relation to that, and what we have funded or—</p> <p>Mr Williams: Sorry, you don't mean the Pacific— Ms Adamson: I think you mean the Fusion Centre.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: No, I'm not talking about the Fusion Centre, I'm talking about the AIFFP—</p> <p>Ms Adamson: The AIFFP, of course!</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: I thought you would have forgotten. That's what my concession is: I'm not calling it the 'DFAT bank'—</p> <p>Ms Adamson: Thank you.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: or the 'Pacific bank', I'm referring to it as 'the facility' because I know you really get worked up about it.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: It's not a bank, but it's doing really well, and we'd love to tell you all about it on notice.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Yes, if you wouldn't mind, please do—I'd like detail about what we're doing there.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: It's a good story.</p> <p>Mr Williams: It's absolutely a good story. We're very pleased with the progress. The AIFFP board has already endorsed 10 projects, and—</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Are they all in the Pacific?</p> <p>Mr Williams: They're in the Pacific and Timor-Leste.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Because the last time I heard, you were shifting to the Indo-Pacific.</p> <p>Mr Williams: No.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Just the Pacific, good.</p>	Hansard	82

		<p>Mr Williams: And Timor-Leste, Senator. Three of those have actually been announced publicly by the government. They're the Markham Valley Solar Project in Papua New Guinea, the Tina River transmission system in Honiara and yesterday the foreign minister announced, virtually, with her counterparts in the US and Japan, an undersea telecommunications cable to Palau—that's the first announced project under the trilateral infrastructure fund.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: The spur, yes.</p> <p>Senator Payne: It's part of the trilateral infrastructure partnership between Australia, Japan and the United States. Secretary Pompeo, foreign minister Motegi and I made a video when we were in Tokyo two or three weeks ago now.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Can I have an update on what's happening with the cable, particularly in Papua New Guinea and some of the concerns.</p> <p>Senator Payne: It's all landed; it's all good!</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Yes, I know, but I'm just a bit concerned in relation to what's happening with Huawei and that issue, and some of the reports in relation to the data centre.</p> <p>Senator Payne: In relation to the Coral Sea cable, Senator?</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Payne: We can provide you with an update on the Coral Sea cable, which is well in place in both Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. In relation to the National Cyber Security Centre in Papua New Guinea, we can also provide you with an update on that.</p>		
152	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Kiribati</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Yes, thank you. And in relation to Kiribati, I've been keeping a bit of an eye on what Beijing is doing there. I would have thought there's a little bit of a concern. I'm particularly interested to know about some of their plans—or as part of their BRI—and what they're terming as a transshipment hub on Tarawa. I understand, from what I've read, that China also has a mothballed satellite tracking station in Kiribati—bearing in mind that Kiribati was where US forces landed in their push against Japan during World War II. I'm happy to take an update on that on notice, Mr Thomson, if you would prefer, because I'd like a bit of detail in relation to that, if you don't mind.</p> <p>Mr Thomson: I'll do that, Senator.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Also, if you could take on notice what may be happening in French Polynesia and the leasing of the highly strategic Hao Atoll, and if we have had any discussions with the French in</p>	Hansard	82-83

			<p>relation to that. Senator Payne: We speak regularly with the French in the Pacific, Senator, as you know. I think they've changed its nomenclature to 'France overseas', as opposed to 'the territories'. The new minister, Sebastien Lecornu, was in New Caledonia just 10 days ago, and we had a lengthy discussion then, so we'll update you on that as well.</p>		
153	Fierravanti-Wells	Digicel	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Thank you. Lastly, if I can, in relation to our thoughts on Beijing telephony giant, China Mobile, taking over the Digicel network in the Pacific— Senator Payne: Do you want an update on that, Senator? Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: If you could give me an update on that— Senator Payne: Certainly. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: I'm particularly concerned about that issue. I would envisage that we, as a government, would be as well. Thanks very much.</p>	Hansard	83
154	Abetz	Maldives	<p>CHAIR: and I'm trying to remind myself. Thank you for that. I'll pass that on. Just a quick question about the Maldives. How are they going economically? Is it true that they are building resorts and airports—just a quick update? Ms Adamson: Unless Mr Wiblin—I do have the greatest respect for his knowledge, but we don't have a post there, as you know. We will have some information, but it may be that we can best answer your question on notice. Let me give him the opportunity to have a go. CHAIR: Let's test his knowledge. Mr Wiblin: The Maldives have been affected very much by the reduction in tourism in the region from COVID. The latest ADB figures are suggesting a contraction in 2020 of around 20 per cent, bouncing back to a certain extent next year. That's about the extent of my knowledge. CHAIR: What about infrastructure development, are you aware of that at all? Mr Wiblin: I'd have to take that on notice. CHAIR: Alright. As I understand it it's associated with the tourism industry, but if you could take that on notice, I would be much obliged. Over</p>	Hansard	84
155	Ayres	Coral Sea Cable	<p>Senator AYRES: I think we can all see how important for Papua New Guinea this kind of infrastructure project is, or could be. The questions I want to go to really are about the regulatory environment and the extent to which the project delivers upon its potential promise. US\$350 for a 20 megabits connection: it's true, isn't it, that people can get a satellite connection that does basically the same thing for about US\$250? That's what Mr Packham reports anyway. Mr Williams: I don't have that information, but I'm happy to get it for you. Senator AYRES: So what is the</p>	Hansard	85

department's understanding of the regulatory arrangements that apply? Mr Packham's report says that 'PNG's Dataco has set its prices high on the Coral Sea cable to cross-subsidise the debt that it owes for a domestic cable delivered by Huawei'. That's right, isn't it?

Mr Williams: I'll have to check that detail and come back to you on notice. I can also come back to you on notice on—

Senator AYRES: But you said earlier on that they haven't passed on—

Mr Williams: Not in full. They haven't priced on the full reduction in the price caps that NICTA has set. That's a target we're aiming for.

Senator AYRES: Australia's engagement with the project was not for commercial purposes. We funded two-thirds of the project because of the significant benefit it could deliver to our closest neighbour. What arrangements did the government enter into in order to get security around issues like price, ensure the benefits are passed onto businesses and households and, as you've indicated, educational institutions and start-ups and all sorts of other potential benefits? What arrangements did the government enter into to secure those benefits for people?

Mr Williams: As I said, this was a priority in our negotiation with the government of Papua New Guinea—in fact, with both governments—and I'll have to come back to you with the specific terms of what those agreements were, if I could, on notice.

Senator AYRES: Secretary, are you aware? Were there provisions in the arrangements that went to price and making sure that the benefits of the project were passed on?

Ms Adamson: I do remember, and this doesn't obviate the need to do what Mr Williams has indicated we will do, when I was in Papua New Guinea at around the time when we were moving towards all of this, we were discussing this. It was very clear that there would need to be a range of things in place for benefits to be realised by the people of PNG, and I was discussing with our post the need for microeconomic reform and a range of other things. Exactly what the points are at which that can come into play, it obviously wasn't going to happen as soon as it was switched on, so it comes to the contracts. We'll check with the High Commission in Moresby. It may be that we can come back to you today on that, because it was something we were alert to from the very beginning. It's perhaps not surprising that it hasn't been instantly realised in the way that we wanted it to be. But let me check and see what leverage, if you like—I don't mean to use that term improperly, but what we've put in place to increase the chances of bringing that about. The increased speed is tremendously welcome, and that's an enhanced capability, but we're also very conscious of where the benefit from that would fall, and we wanted it to be spread as widely as possible.

Senator AYRES: Yes, and if businesses and households can't afford it—

Ms Adamson: Yes, exactly.

Senator AYRES: Possibly there are alternatives, but two alternatives spring to mind. The first is that those arrangements were in place and the cables finished in February, with some reporting and developments

			<p>that Mr Williams referred to in May—we're in October now—which was the failure to pass on the real cost properly. The cross-subsidisation behaviour is a breach of those arrangements and action can be taken to rectify it.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: Yes, that's what we need to check.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Alternatively, those arrangements either are too weak or are not in place. I think there would be some justifiable criticism, wouldn't there, of the government and the department for delivering a project that is incapable of being fully realised in terms of its benefits in a part of the world that needs it more than most?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: It's certainly brought considerable benefits, just by virtue of its completion and turning on. I accept the point that you're making, and we'll check and get back to you as soon as we can.</p>		
156	Ayres	Coral Sea Cable	<p>Senator AYRES: The Auditor-General has identified the implementation of the project for potential audit in 2020-21. Has the department had interaction with the ANAO about that audit? Is it going ahead?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: I'd have to check with our chief auditor.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Can you advise us later in the day about where that's up to?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: We'll follow that up.</p>	Hansard	86
157	Kitching	Bali process	<p>Senator KITCHING: An article in the Sydney Morning Herald in May stated that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees urged Australia to activate high-level discussions to address the crisis. Were those discussions activated?</p> <p>Ms Manton: A number of our embassies and high commissions had high-level bilateral discussions, as in senior-official discussions, with their counterparts about the situation. I also spoke to my Indonesian counterpart—as co-chairs of the Bali process, I should add.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Did the high commissioner express any concern about the situation in the [inaudible] Sea with the department or make any requests of Australia in its role as co-chair of the Bali process?</p> <p>Ms Manton: Sorry, I didn't quite catch the first part of that question. It broke up, I'm afraid.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Sorry. Did the UN High Commissioner for Refugees express any concern about the situation in the Andaman Sea?</p> <p>Senator Payne: There was correspondence, as I recall, and Foreign Minister Marsudi and I responded jointly, as I also recall, to that correspondence.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: What month was that?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I'd be guessing if I tried to say that—</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: That's fine.</p> <p>Senator Payne: I thought I'd done quite well so far, actually, in identifying the relevant high commissioner and the correspondence. Let me take the month on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Lovely, thank you. If you don't mind, if you're going to take the month on notice,</p>	Hansard	88

			would you take the date on notice? Senator Payne: Yes, of course.		
158	Kitching	Bali process	<p>Senator KITCHING: Thanks. Did the department have any engagement with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime on this issue?</p> <p>Ms Manton: The UNODC does attend Bali process meetings from time to time. The UNODC did participate in the recent senior officials meeting, yes.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Did they make any recommendations?</p> <p>Ms Manton: I'd have to look at the notes of the meetings.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: That's fine.</p> <p>Ms Manton: A number of the conversations we have are not just about irregular maritime migration but about, for example, the impact of COVID on the number of people vulnerable to human trafficking. There has been a lot of discussion in these meetings, including with the UNODC, on looking at the impact of COVID on the increased vulnerabilities to human trafficking in the region and globally.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Did the department have any engagement with the Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration on this issue?</p> <p>Ms Manton: Yes, I have spoken to the ADFM.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: What did they recommend? Ms Manton: I'd have to look back at my notes. They have also written, as I understand it. I would have to go back and have a look at that correspondence and take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Thank you. If you could take that on notice for those last organisations I mentioned—for example, the UNODC and the ADFM—that would be great.</p>	Hansard	88 -89
159	Kitching	Cambodia	<p>Senator KITCHING: There have been recent legislative changes that have enabled the increased detention of human rights defenders. What is the department's understanding of those legislative changes?</p> <p>Mr Connor: I think it is fair to say that our appreciation of the situation in Cambodia is that the concerning incidents that we have seen in recent times are a continuation of trends and specific events that we have seen before. I think what you're referring to is the enactment of the state of emergency law. The state of emergency law has been passed but has not been enacted.</p> <p>Cambodia is one of the places in South-East Asia which we are always keeping a close eye on. We are very conscious of the possibility—shall I put it in that way—that the change of circumstances brought upon by COVID may serve as—how shall I put it—a pretext or an excuse or even just an opportunity, if I can put it in those terms, for further crackdowns to be made in relation to human rights to individuals and groups within the region, including in Cambodia.</p> <p>In relation to Cambodia and, broadly speaking, I should say, in relation to the rest of South-East Asia, our appreciation is that that has not occurred, that what we see in relation to human rights abuses throughout the region is a continuation of existing issues, and that we have not seen a spike in relation to the COVID issue. The things that have happened have happened before. The things that have happened</p>	Hansard	90

			<p>recently are of a kind with earlier issues and what have you. In relation to the state of emergency specifically, it has not been enacted by the government.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Obviously there is a large Cambodian community in [inaudible] and obviously there are representations made to members of parliament. Has Australia made any representations to the Cambodian government on the human rights situation?</p> <p>Mr Connor: Yes, and often.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I'm happy for you to take this on notice: when were those representations? Can I take this calendar year, if that's okay, and at what level?</p> <p>Mr Connor: Yes.</p>		
160	Kitching	Sudan	<p>Senator KITCHING: I know—I'm sorry! I know I'm well over. Can I ask for an update on the flooding situation and the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan. What actions has the government has taken in response?</p> <p>Have there been any new or emergency funds allocated from the humanitarian aid program? If not, why not? If yes, where are those funds being directed? When were those funds allocated? Has DFAT received any representations from diaspora groups in Australia? Have you liaised with any diaspora groups around aid to the affected region? Has DFAT corresponded with the South Sudanese disaster and relief group in Australia? That'll do.</p>	Hansard	90
161	Sheldon	Fiji	<p>Senator SHELDON: I want to talk to the department regarding the public-private partnership hospital program in Fiji supported by DFAT. According to the International Finance Corporation, a public-private partnership was signed on 17 January 2019 with Healthcare Fiji Private, a consortium formed between the Fiji National Provident Fund and Aspen Medical, a multinational healthcare service provider headquartered in Australia. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Thomson: I am looking through my brief here and I don't have any information on this issue in my brief, and I'm not familiar with this issue.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Are you familiar with the hospital that we're—</p> <p>Mr Thomson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: You can take that one on notice.</p> <p>Mr Thomson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I'll just go through a few and you can tell me whether you can answer and I'll put them on notice if you can't. Project implementation was supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade—government, of course. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Thomson: Sorry—what was the question again?</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Sorry. There's development assistance to Fiji and the DFAT summary page for the 2019 aid program lists the first results of the public-private partnership with the consortium of Fiji National</p>	Hansard	91

			<p>Provident Fund and Aspen Medical Pty Ltd, which is a multinational healthcare service provider headquartered in Australia. There's a program that DFAT has been involved with regarding the Fiji aid program, and it's reported in the Aid program performance report 2018-19: Fiji and the Fiji program support facility annual report summary 2018-19. The DFAT website's summary page 'Development assistance to Fiji' lists the first result of the 2019 aid program as 'Australia working with the International Finance Corporation facilitated a public-private partnership in the Fijian health sector, the first of its kind in the Pacific island country.'</p> <p>Mr Thomson: Now that you've detailed the question, yes, I'm aware of the project. I was just a bit confused about the title of it. If you have questions on the detail of the project and the partnership, I will probably have to take those on notice.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Let's see how we go. The project transfers the operation of the hospital from the government of Fiji to the new consortium of the existing Lautoka Hospital and newly built Ba Sub-Regional Hospital. Do you know if that's correct?</p> <p>Mr Thomson: As I said, for the details of the project I will have to seek advice and take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: What can you tell me about the project? Maybe I'll start there and then I can work backwards.</p> <p>Mr Thomson: As I've said, I'm not across the details of the project.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Righto. To get to the point, there's a hospital that's sitting there that we've funded that at the moment is not operating, and Aspen Medical is supposed to be providing the services to make that available. Are you aware of that?</p> <p>Mr Thomson: Yes, I'm aware, broadly, of the project, but I can't go into the details of the project. I'm not across the detail of the project.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Righto. Is there anyone else here that can help you?</p> <p>Mr Thomson: I don't think so, not in the room.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: It looks like I'm going to be putting a number of questions on notice. I'll put a series of questions on notice but I will send them to you. I won't read them out because there are quite a number of questions—concerns about that project and where it's up to.</p>		
162	Sheldon	Pacific Labour Scheme	<p>Senator SHELDON: DFAT's response to Senate question on notice 1662 says cases range from general inquiries, which you've mentioned, about pay and living conditions. Give me the breakdown between the general inquiries and more substantial cases which raise issues concerning workers' welfare. Have you got a rating system where you categorise those and a definition for that rating system?</p> <p>Ms Heinecke: I don't have the rating system for our escalation on me, but I'm happy to provide that on notice. It is generally critical incidents that require immediate and urgent intervention and then there are ones that can be dealt with more by follow up or indirect follow up. So, as I said before, there are a relatively small number in the critical incidents space. Most cases are helping Pacific islanders navigate employment issues, accommodation issues, living-in-Australia issues and the unique circumstances</p>	Hansard	92 - 93

			<p>attached to COVID. I think we've supported 230 COVID tests in abattoirs across Australia. That's been important to those workers continuing to work. So the types of assistance that we provide varies.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Could you also break it down into the number of instances that inquiries that have come through into that—</p> <p>Ms Heinecke: Sure. I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I gather some may escalate through that or de-escalate. An explanation of that would be helpful. You mentioned some welfare incidents briefly before identified by the Pacific Labour Facility and how the PLF has resolved them. Can you just give us a bit more detail of other cases you've had where you've tried to resolve them. You mentioned the incident in Bundaberg.</p> <p>Ms Heinecke: The incident in Bundaberg was a Seasonal Worker Program inquiry. The way that it works with the Seasonal Worker Program is that the department of employment respond to inquiries between nine and five, and any flow-over issues on the weekend or in the evenings come to the 24/7 PLS worker hotline. In that case, the diaspora community in Bundaberg played a role and also DESE came onto the scene pretty quickly to support those workers. The types of people we have supported during this year have included 49 pregnant women, most under the Seasonal Worker Program, who normally would return home to their own country to give birth but, because of the unique circumstances, most of our Pacific partners have enclosed their borders, apart from PNG, and we haven't been able to repatriate workers. In that case we've actually stepped in and supported around a hundred workers during the COVID period, particularly those that have been in hospitality and tourism whose jobs have not continued and who have found themselves in a vulnerable space. We have supported them in various ways. Sometimes it's included moving them across Australia. In other cases it's been through health insurance provision. Other times it's been through a living stipend just to get them through to the time when they can repatriate or move to a new job. So that extra support has varied, but it has been substantive and it has been across both the Pacific Labour Scheme and the Seasonal Worker Program.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Would you be able to give us a breakdown of the key elements of those critical incidents?</p> <p>Ms Heinecke: I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: The response to the question on</p>		
163	Sheldon	Pacific Labour Scheme	<p>Senator SHELDON: The response to the question on notice says that the Pacific Labour Facility has referred three cases to the Fair Work Ombudsman for further investigation. Can you give me the details of those three cases?</p> <p>Ms Heinecke: The first one that we have referred is a case around Inverell that's been reported in the media around pay discrepancies. The second one relates to a Wagga discrepancy around pay conditions. The third one is in relation to a Junee meat worker's case. Since the question on notice, through the assurance process that the Pacific Labour Scheme goes through in terms of checking pay slips—it's a six-monthly process and it's a more intense process for the first period when a new employer signs on—</p>	Hansard	93

			<p>we've identified a further four cases we have referred to the Fair Work Ombudsman. So it's seven now. Senator SHELDON: What were those other cases? Where were they based? Ms Heinecke: I haven't got details on which parts of Australia they're from, but they were picked up proactively through the assurance work that we do through the Pacific Labour Scheme in monitoring pay slips. Senator SHELDON: What's the amount of money in those instances? Are you able to tell me that? Ms Heinecke: I don't have the data on that. It might not necessarily be an amount of money; it might be other issues to do with pay and conditions. Senator SHELDON: You'd be able to give us details of the— Ms Heinecke: I can give you as much information as I can. I can't jeopardise the investigations by the Fair Work Ombudsman. Senator SHELDON: I appreciate there are some privacy issues. The broad details would be very helpful. Ms Heinecke: Sure. Senator SHELDON: On notice, can you provide the committee with details of each case—you said you'd do that. With the outcomes from</p>		
164	Sheldon	Pacific Labour Scheme	<p>Senator SHELDON: A final question: you mentioned that there was a review that you're carrying out at the moment. When that's review likely to be completed? Ms Heinecke: I said earlier that we've been doing and froing with a consultancy on that. It's close to competing—a couple of weeks. There are a few questions they haven't answered to our satisfaction, so we're still liaising with that firm to fix the gaps in that report, so it will be a few weeks. Senator SHELDON: Are you able to make that available to us at the appropriate time? Ms Heinecke: I'm happy to take that on notice. I haven't seen it to be able to respond to that.</p>	Hansard	94
165	Ayres	Nagorno-Karabakh	<p>Senator AYRES: Has the Australian government had any engagement with the Minsk group peace process? Mr Geering: I would have to take it on notice. My memory is— Ms Adamson: Yes, we have, but we would need to check with colleagues at post about precisely what. SENATOR AYRES: In media reports of Turkish assistance to Azerbaijan, a Lowy Interpreter article says: Turkey has provided extensive military training, weapons and drone pilots, and is suspected also of bringing Syrian fighters into the region to bolster Azerbaijan's military efforts. Over the past year, Turkey's military exports to Baku have increased six-fold. Has the department made any representations to the Turkish government about those reports? Mr Geering: I would need to take that on notice and just see what our ambassador has said to Turkey on that. Senator AYRES: Would you be able to take that on notice— Mr Geering: I'll have to take that on notice. Senator AYRES: and outline to us what the nature of those representations were. Was there any concern</p>	Hansard	94

			<p>raised with the Turkish government about the conflict and about Turkey's reported support? Are we providing any humanitarian aid to the region?</p> <p>Mr Geering: No, I didn't—</p> <p>Senator Payne: Not that I'm aware of, in specific terms.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: I'm happy for you to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator Payne: There may be agencies we fund that operate within the region but let us take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: The answer is no.</p> <p>Senator Payne: We'll check so we're absolutely sure. None of the humanitarian agencies we fund are engaged with our funding there.</p>		
166	Ayres	Washington Embassy recruitment	<p>Mr Sloper: I have two issues: firstly, one in regard to Alex Tureman; and then one in response to Senator Sheldon so that I can table data he asked about in regard the overseas profile, the diversity of applicants and so on. I know he's not here, but, if we table it electronically, it can be referred to later. That covers gender, families, accompanied and unaccompanied. I would just note that it refers to a non-English speaking background and that our preference is now cultural and linguistic diversity, but that's how the data is recorded, and so it's reflected in that way. Similarly, on gender we have an issue: we only record two genders at the moment; we are looking for a more inclusive way of recording that.</p> <p>You asked when, and to what position, Alex Tureman was hired within the Australian embassy. Alex Tureman was hired by the Australian embassy in Washington in October 2017 in a locally engaged role in the Congressional Liaison Branch in the position of senior congressional liaison adviser. In May 2018 Mr Tureman shifted roles in the embassy to work as executor officer to Ambassador Hockey, the ambassador at the time. His local designation was senior adviser. As I said this morning, Mr Tureman resigned from the embassy in January 2020.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: What does 'local designation' mean? Is that not a position but just what he called himself?</p> <p>Mr Sloper: In some of our locations, we adopt titles that are more useful in the local environment. For example, in the US, some of our staff were ambassadors in other locations. In the Australian system, under our protocol, we don't carry on with that title; but in the US system it is recognised, so we have a range of staff—</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Has anybody else in that embassy ever been called a senior adviser before?</p> <p>Mr Sloper: I will take that on notice. But we have advisers in other embassies, I can assure you of that.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Senior!</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Senior advisers!</p> <p>Mr Sloper: I will take that on notice as well.</p>	Hansard	97
167	McKenzie	Support for wine producers	<p>What is DFAT doing to help improve market opportunities in India for Australian wine producers?</p> <p>b. (Continued) Given the sector's current issues with China, I would have thought it to be prudent to work</p>	WRITTEN	

			with the sector to see how it can gain a greater footprint in India - in line with the Australian Government's India economic strategy?		
168	McKenzie	Industry grants	<p>Due to the coronavirus, many industry grants processes (such as ones provided by the Australia-China Council and others) and applications for in-market activities (those in export markets) for 2019-2020 were deferred due to travel restrictions. Can the Department clarify whether the applications that have been received will be reviewed once international travel restrictions are eased, or whether these applications will be voided and new ones will need to be submitted?</p> <p>d. Industry also seeks to understand what the quantum of funding will be going forward. Will the deferred 2019-2020 funding be rolled over into future years?</p>	WRITTEN	
169	McKenzie	EU-FTA	<p>On 4 September, DFAT's Chief Negotiator for the EU-FTA contacted stakeholders seeking the views of Australian producers, businesses and consumers on policy considerations to inform the possible development of a new Australian GI right through a consultation process. Can the Department explain why a second consultation process on Geographical Indicators is being undertaken and why the Department is seeking public input for legislation to a framework that is not yet finalised?</p> <p>a. What signals do you believe this second round of consultation will send to the EU? Will this be seen by the EU as "giving in" to their agenda when it comes to Geographical Indicators?</p>	WRITTEN	
170	McKenzie	EU-FTA	<p>1. The Australian dairy industry estimates that the potential direct cost to Australian dairy manufacturers (due to lost sales and increased marketing costs) from the strict enforcement of dairy Geographical Indicators under an Australia-EU FTA could range from \$70-90 million per annum in the early years of the FTA. What protections for the Australian dairy industry will be in place under the EU-FTA?</p> <p>2. Will Geographical Indicator provisions extend to evocation clauses? Is the EU seeking to limit the use of colours, flags and images that evoke Europe</p>	WRITTEN	
171	McKenzie	EU-FTA	<p>Can the Department please provide an update on the progress of EU-FTA negotiations?</p> <p>A. When is it likely that the EU-FTA will enter into force?</p>	WRITTEN	
172	Steele-John	Economic modelling	<p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: They most certainly do. Are you aware also that the IEA has recently downgraded India, Vietnam, Bangladesh et cetera in relation to the outlook for the development of their thermal coal industries?</p> <p>Dr Gordon: Some of my staff follow that closely. I am aware that there has been a downgrade. It's due to a number of different factors—in particular, issues around COVID-19 depressed demand for energy. It is much lower as a result of lower economic activity. Then there are concerns about the pace of recovery and the pace of recovery and demand, hence the level of demand for energy.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Are some of your officials who cover that in detail able to come to the table and</p>	HANSARD	107

			<p>take us through a bit more detail of their analysis? Or are they not with us today?</p> <p>Dr Gordon: They're not with us today. If you would like a more-detailed analysis, we can take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Please do. That would be really useful. Also, the trajectory, which is pretty clear, is a bit of a textbook writing on the rural situation. I'm wondering whether the department has initiated any work with other government departments—and maybe this is for you, Minister—to prepare for what the impact on regional coal and gas communities could be if these countries advance towards these targets that they've announced. Minister, that's probably one for you.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Well, it is. It's probably one for a number of other departments as well, in some ways. Government, as I said, in reflection on attendance in the resources estimates this afternoon, absolutely monitors trends. We have continued to see very strong demand for Australian resources at this point in time. But we also have aggressively pursued opportunities for investment in other new energy-producing technologies and potential resources. That's why in this portfolio not that long ago we signed a cooperation agreement with Germany in relation to hydrogen, technology development and information-sharing. It's why we have agreements and arrangements in place with others, including with Japan; the Victorian government and Japan have co-investments in Victoria in relation to hydrogen technologies. And it's of course why—again, these would be questions more for Austrade—in terms of the investment attraction space we do have quite significant investment attraction work that supports major renewable energy investors. So yes, we support absolutely the development of export markets for Australia's traditional resources, but we are supporting the development of Australia's new resource and energy supplies, too.</p> <p>Senator STEELE-JOHN: Alright. Just a final question: we've got a situation here where, for over three-quarters of our import market for these things, it has basically been announced that by 2050 or 2060 it will just disappear. And Minister, I would say that your black-knight-esque positivity would be funny if it wasn't for the fact that regional coal and gas communities across Australia are actually relying on their government to support them through transition. Again, maybe you can take this one on notice for us. The Department of Trade has, in my view, a particular role in actually belling the cat on the forward trajectory of these things, and I'd like to know whether, based on these announcements, you've got any future plans to collaborate with your departmental colleagues on any kind of modelling to government around what the impact of these nations doing what they have said they will do will be on these regional coal and gas communities. If you could take that on notice, that would be appreciated.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Certainly, Senator. We can take questions on notice.</p>		
173	Wong	India Economic Strategy	Senator WONG: I hope that on the next occasion we can have a longer discussion—maybe, because it's you,	HANSARD	108 - 109

			<p>Senator Birmingham, we might be able to do it in the absence of too much ideology—about some of the implications of potential global market changes over the coming decades of the various export markets which are shifting their emissions frameworks. That would be good.</p> <p>I'm going to move to India now, and the Varghese report. In June 2020 DFAT outlined what were described as early outcomes—I think that was a misnomer—for implementing the government's response to the India Economic Strategy recommendations. I think at that point only one of the top 20 priority recommendations had been implemented, which was for a new consulate-general in Kolkata. I want to know a little bit about what work the consulate-general has undertaken in relation to Australian investment in India's eastern states.</p> <p>Mr Wiblin: The Kolkata consulate was opened in March 2019. Since then they have done considerable work, even under the admittedly difficult circumstances over the last few months, in increasing their contacts. For instance, they took part in the Australia India Business Exchange in February this year.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Are there any projects or investment arrangements that you can identify as the consulate having helped facilitate since it was opened?</p> <p>Mr Wiblin: Not at the moment. I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: I'm sure you're aware, but India is essentially in lockdown and our consulates have had very limited ability throughout COVID to do the sorts of things you're talking about. But they do have a focus. Kolkata has a focus on METS. It may be that our Austrade colleagues, who are hopefully listening to this, are able to advise us, because they had an Austrade officer in Kolkata before we established a consulate-general. That was a key focus of their attention. Senator WONG: Obviously that was in place prior to COVID. If there's something you can give us on notice, that would be good.</p>		
174	Wong	India Economic Strategy	<p>Senator WONG: Can you outline any progress you've made on the other priority recommendations of the India Economic Strategy?</p> <p>Mr Wiblin: Yes. In addition to the 20 IES priority recommendations, we have Pulse Australia and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences publishing report and guidance notes to</p>	HANSARD	109-110

provide better forecasting and greater visibility of fluctuations in Indian demand for agricultural commodities imported from Australia. Through Tourism Australia and Austrade, we are funding agtech. We invested in India ready trading programs, in digital toolkits, raising awareness of cultural tastes, preferences and expectations of Indian leisure and business tourists—

Senator WONG: Do you want to just give me something? You're just reading off a list. Why don't you just table it?

CHAIR: If you can.

Senator WONG: If you can.

Senator Birmingham: It looks like it's an integrated part of briefing, but we could certainly provide the list and the updates on notice.

Senator WONG: What I want is: what have you done, what is the time line for completion of these priority recommendations, and how many of them are you saying have been completed?

Mr Wiblin: When the government did its response to the India economic strategy in November 2018, we outlined 43 priority activities based on the Varghese report. Of these, we have completed or have implemented 26, and we are working on the remaining 17 of those. Some of these are from the priority recommendations, but they also extend beyond the priority recommendations to other recommendations from Peter Varghese's report.

Senator WONG: Can you give me a list?

Mr Wiblin: We can take that on notice. Senator WONG: I don't understand the answer you just gave me, actually. So, there are 19 priority recommendations remaining—I thought the government had accepted all the priority recommendations. Is that not the case?

Mr Wiblin: In principle—all the 20.

The 10 short-term and 10

			<p>medium- to long-term priority recommendations were supported in principle, but the— Senator WONG: Does that mean you like them but you might not actually do anything about them? Is that what 'in principle' means? Mr Wiblin: What it means is that we nominated 43 actions from the entire India economic strategy which we would implement as priority actions. The 20 priority recommendations from Peter Varghese's report included 10 medium- to long-term as well. Senator WONG: There were 20 priority recommendations. You've accepted them in principle. There's really too much jargon here. You're doing 43 priority actions. Are they necessarily correlated with the priority recommendations? Mr Wiblin: Some of them are from the priority recommendations, but not all. They are taken from across Senator WONG: Do you know what I would benefit from? I've looked at an answer you gave to a question on notice from Senator Patrick, but it would be really useful to understand: 'Here are the 20 priority recommendations. This is what we say we've done in relation to each of them.' Can you do that? Mr Wiblin: Again, we could take that on notice. Senator WONG: And can you correlate your actions with the priority recommendations? Mr Wiblin: Yes. We could do that.</p>		
175	Wong	Scholarships for Indian students	<p>Senator WONG: I assume that COVID has interrupted this, but has the scholarship program for Indian students been paused? Mr Wiblin: Are you referring to the Australia Awards? Senator WONG: I don't know. My recollection is, or I'm advised, that the establishment of a new scholarship program for Indian students was an early outcome of the strategy. Mr Wiblin: That's right. It was a scholarship program in 2019 for Indian masters students. Senator WONG: Masters? Mr Wiblin: Masters students. Senator WONG: Was that paused? Mr Wiblin: I would have to take that on notice. Senator WONG: You don't have knowledge of that? Mr Wiblin: I don't have knowledge if that's been paused at the moment.</p>	HANSARD	110-111

		<p>Senator WONG: What department administers that program? Mr Wiblin: I would suspect that it's the education department. Ms Adamson: The Australia Awards program, which DFAT administers— Senator WONG: Yes, I thought it was in there. Ms Adamson: Elements of that, naturally, have been paused. Some courses have been able to be delivered virtually. But across the board—and certainly in the reverse sense—the impact has been on New Colombo Plan scholars, including with the suspension of our scholarship program for secondary schools in the Pacific. All elements of student programs have been affected by COVID. I'm checking to see whether my colleague who has the statistics at his fingertips is here. I think not. But it has been impacted. If there is anything additional that we can say, we will provide it to you on notice. Senator WONG: Okay. But this scholarship program is administered elsewhere, not through the Australia Awards. Is that what you are saying? Mr Wiblin: Yes, I think so.</p>		
176	Wong	<p>India</p> <p>Senator WONG: Okay. Could you, perhaps on notice, indicate to me how DFAT has continued to engage with India remotely during the pandemic. Could you tell me now: have any virtual trade delegations been held? Mr Wiblin: There are various virtual webinars on specific topics—for instance, the high commission and Austrade's super funds webinar in early October. There are some specific webinars on specific areas that are continuing. Senator WONG: Basically we're interested to see what the architecture and the engagement has been. Are you able on notice to give us a bit of a list of what engagement there has been this calendar year? Is that reasonable? Senator Birmingham: This calendar year is good. We can take that across Austrade— Senator WONG: I would appreciate that. We are just trying to get a sense. Senator Birmingham: AIB-X was, I think, the last overseas trip that I made. We had quite a large delegation with us. There were quite a lot of follow-ups there. Of course it was not long after that that things started to shut down, but the teams as far as they can have been trying to follow up virtually on those elements.</p>	HANSARD	1111

177	Wong	UK Internal Market Bill	<p>Senator WONG: Thank you very much. I have some brief questions on the UK government's internal market bill and in particular whether or not there are any implications for the FTA negotiations. Can you tell me what you understand, if you're able to, of the effect of the UK government's United Kingdom Internal Market Bill?</p> <p>Ms Bowes: We are tracking the progress of the internal markets bill. Of course I think that has a greater impact in its arrangements with the EU. We have not seen any direct impact, to date, on our negotiations with the UK.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Okay. I hadn't gone to that bit yet. I've flagged it as a matter of courtesy, but I basically want you to tell me what you understand that bill to do.</p> <p>Ms Bowes: I will have to provide the details on notice. I have been tracking it. But, to summarise it, I would like to do it proper justice on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I can just look up what people have said on the web. Can't you just tell me, broadly, what the issue is that they're trying to resolve?</p> <p>Mr Geering: I need to caveat that I am not a lawyer—</p> <p>Senator WONG: I'm not trying to trip anybody up here. I just would like you to—</p> <p>Mr Geering: It's principally about the internal arrangements of how the various—I was about to say 'provinces', but that's the wrong term; how Scotland, Wales and Ireland are managed, in a market sense, within the United Kingdom. As you'd be aware, the issue is around the management in Ireland. We are watching the bill. It hasn't passed the Lords yet, but we're watching it in its progress.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Mr Geering, I think you did mean Northern Ireland?</p> <p>Mr Geering: I did mean Northern Ireland; my apologies.</p>	HANSARD	111
178	Wong	UK Internal Market Bill	<p>Senator WONG: Okay. Can I ask first this, of the secretary: one of the concerns which has been raised publicly is the extent to which this proposition deviates from international law; have we made any representations about that, given our view about the importance of international law?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: I'm not aware that we have made such representations.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can I ask why?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: You're asking me as secretary. I've got a high-level awareness of it. We're tracking this</p>	HANSARD	112

			<p>through regular Brexit bulletins. We are obviously very aware—and it's striking the extent to which every element of UK politics continues to be heavily featured by the Australian media, but obviously we're aware of the European reaction to this—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Sure.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: and the resignation within the British system of their chief legal adviser on this. So the point has been made. I think we would probably regard it as an internal matter for them—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Well, is it, though? Notwithstanding Senator Abetz putting the position today, one of the stated reasons for the Australian government urging the continuation of the JCPOA was a view—leaving aside the content of the agreement—that we have that countries ought continue to observe commitments that they make in international agreements.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: That's true. I'm looking at our chief legal adviser. Of course that's true—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Nobody's moving to help you!</p> <p>Ms Adamson: No, they're not moving to help me! You make a general point. Of course the UK is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and has been absolutely part of that JCPOA action as a member of the E3.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I will ask on notice if no-one is able to answer now: what is the department's assessment of the effect of the recently passed UK Internal Market Bill on the provisions of the Good Friday Agreement? Does the department assess the legislation as being a violation of international law? And does the government intend to make any representations?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: We will take those three questions on notice.</p>		
179	Ayres	Trade Diversification	<p>Senator AYRES: Does the department identify priority markets?</p> <p>Ms Lawson: I generally work on North Asia, but my trade colleagues will be able to identify a whole range of markets where we are negotiating a whole range of FTAs, and we do have priority markets that we're looking at.</p> <p>Dr Gordon: We have been doing some analysis of where the growth markets are coming through in the rest of the world. China has been, and will continue for some time to be, a major market simply because of the size of the population, the current growth in the middle class and the fact that it's also having the best recovery from COVID. So that is where a lot of the growth in demand is going to be, and they particularly demand the things that we sell.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: I think some participants in this debate describe a diversification strategy because of a hostility. This line of questioning is about diversification in its real sense—that is, additional markets. It's surely much more than free trade agreements, which have been the sole vehicle. When you say you're doing some work, what is that work? It's priority market identification?</p> <p>Dr Gordon: The work we've done so far has been looking at what are the characteristics to look at in the market. So we've done the preliminary work to identify how we'd go about looking for where the growth opportunities are and identifying those characteristics.</p>	HANSARD	115

			<p>Senator AYRES: It sounds like that work's at an early stage. Would you be able on notice to give the committee a bit of a scope for what that work involves?</p> <p>Dr Gordon: We are happy to take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: I think that's probably the fairest way to approach that.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: There are two observations I'll make quickly here. One is that government facilitates trade and business undertakes trade. Through our FTA negotiations and through other things, we, hopefully, lower the barriers to trade and allow business to walk through open doors. However, businesses choose with whom they trade and where they sell their goods; government doesn't make that decision for them. Certainly, we are pursuing strategies to try to increase the range of choices available to businesses. Whether they choose to turn away from one large market into another market is still a business decision, as I have acknowledged publicly. I think some of the risk factors have changed this year in relation to trade with China because of some of the regulatory decisions, and otherwise, that have heightened risk for trade there. In terms of then the specific efforts to help in those other countries, as we were reflecting on with Senator McKenzie before, there are certainly a range of practical steps in certain targeted industries and Austrade, especially in providing direct help to Australian businesses and their partners. I can, in addition to what Dr Gordon has taken on notice, outline a number of those actions for you, too.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: So there are staff allocated to the diversification strategy, beyond the work that Dr Gordon is doing?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Dr Gordon is the department's chief economist, and so analytical work—</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Can you take on notice, Secretary, how many full-time equivalents are allocated to this kind of work?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: It's the job of every geographic division to be doing this.</p>		
180	Ayres	Vietnam	<p>Senator AYRES: I have one final question, Chair. In an address to the National Press Club in June, Minister, you said that the government is 'making investments to put ourselves at the front of the queue as a partner of choice in big emerging economies like Vietnam'. Can you outline the steps that Australia has made to increase economic activity with Vietnam?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I can certainly start on that, and provide, perhaps, some extra information on notice or bring relevant officials to the table. The government has elevated dialogue with Vietnam and partnership activities with Vietnam, particularly following on from the Prime Minister's visit there, which was highly successful, at the entry into force of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, which</p>	HANSARD	115

			<p>provides a new level of integration between Australia and Vietnam, and opens up new trade opportunities there. We are, as part of our agreements with Vietnam, implementing a Vietnam economic strategy that has a number of action points to it. I hosted my Vietnamese counterpart in Adelaide late last year, if my memory is correct, where we updated on work under that strategy. There are significant Australian investors, such as SunRice, for example, operating now in Vietnam. We've seen strong growth in our trade ties there, and, if you like, we can try to provide now some detail around the action points under the Vietnam economic strategy, or I can provide that on notice.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: It's like having a kettle boiling next to you! Taking that on notice is probably advisable, if I want to stay on the right side of the chair for the rest of the evening.</p>		
181	Gallagher	Contractors	<p>1. Please provide the following figures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expenditure on all contractors for 2019-20 Expenditure on all contracts with labour hire firms for 2019-20 Headcount of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as at 30 June 2020 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In total As a percentage of total staff headcount As a percentage mark-up on the cost of the contractor, the maximum and minimum fees paid to labour hire firms in 2019-20 <p>2. Has the agency performed any analysis on whether it costs more to engage staff as contractors compared with hiring staff as employees? If yes, please provide this analysis.</p>	WRITTEN	
182	Gallagher	Contractors	<p>Has the agency engaged any Senior Executive Service or equivalent positions on a contract/labour hire basis? If yes, please provide details.</p>	WRITTEN	
183	Gallagher	Market Research	<p>4. In relation to contracts for market research:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How much has been spent to date since 1 January 2020? How much has been spent since 24 August 2018? Please provide a table with all contracts entered into since 1 January 2020 along with the following information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Total contract value Supplier If it was approved by the Service Delivery and Coordination Committee 	WRITTEN	

184	Faruqi	UNRWA	<p>1. In 2016 the government signed a 4-year agreement to fund the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestinian Refugees \$20m per annum in core funding, which expired this year. In the 20-21 budget this was cut to \$10m. Why was this cut made? Is there an expectation of entering into an equivalent new funding agreement?</p> <p>2. Under that agreement 20% of Australia’s core funding to UNRWA is subject to performance review. In April 2019 DFAT assessed UNRWA and found all targets were met. Has a performance review been undertaken this year? What did it conclude?</p> <p>3. The 2018-2019 DFAT Aid Program Performance Report explains at length the value of UNRWA’s work.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why did the government cut funding to UNRWA by 50% in the FY20-21 Budget? Please provide the criteria on which this cut was based. Please provide the assessments on which the cut was based. Please provide any advice the Minister or department received recommending this reduction in funding. Who did the Minister or Department receive that advice from? <p>4. The budget estimates on DFAT’s Overview of Australia’s aid program to the Palestinian Territories website indicates that aid to the Palestinian Territories will be \$29.8m this financial year, including \$17.1m in bilateral funding. Could you please clarify what “bilateral funding” means in this context - who are the partners?</p>	WRITTEN	
185	Faruqi	Disability	<p>1. Australia has been a world leader on a disability inclusive development for over a decade – why has Australia cut funding for the central disability allocation by 25% when the Partnerships for Recovery strategy highlights the importance of inclusive responses to COVID-19?</p> <p>2. Will this cut be offset by increases in bilateral funding for disability programs?</p>	WRITTEN	
186	Faruqi	Humanitarian funding	<p>1. Humanitarian funding is estimated to reach \$450m in 2020-21 - when will the Government reach the target of \$500 million in annual humanitarian assistance that it committed to almost four years ago in the 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper?</p> <p>2. Why has Australia cut global humanitarian allocations to the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Were these cuts based on organisational performance or other criteria? Please provide the criteria and assessments on which these cuts were based. <p>3. What are the specific criteria governing allocations under the renamed “Humanitarian Emergency and COVID-19 Response Fund”?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Will this be primarily allocated according to humanitarian need or are there other criteria? 	WRITTEN	

			4. Is the government continuing to work on a multi-year Syria package to replace the package that finishes in March 2021? If so, when will this package be finalised?		
187	Faruqi	Climate Change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much did the government spend on total climate change assistance in 2019-20? 2. How much will the government spend on total climate change assistance in 2020-21? 3. The DFAT budget summary includes an allocation of \$20 million for climate partnerships in the Indo-Pacific. Please provide a list of all partnerships, with funding allocations if possible. 4. The Turnbull Government's 2015 five-year, \$1 billion commitment for climate development finance ends this year – how much of this commitment was spent? 5. Will a new climate change commitment be made ahead of the Glasgow UNFCCC Conference of the Parties meeting in November 2021? 	WRITTEN	
188	Faruqi	Managing Contractors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does DFAT have an estimate of how much of Australia's development assistance was delivered through managing contractors, multilateral and NGO partners in 2019-20? 2. What are the trends in terms of delivery partner allocations? 3. Which companies comprise the top 10 managing contractors for DFAT in 2019-20? 4. What trends/changes have there been in the composition of this top 10 group over the last 7 years? 	WRITTEN	
189	Faruqi	Aid spending against the DAC gender marker	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the proportion of aid spending against the OECD DAC Gender Marker, including principal, significant, and total aid screened? FY 2018-19 FY 2019-20 Principal Significant Total aid screened 	WRITTEN	
190	Faruqi	Human Development and Governance Division	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have there been staffing reductions in the Human Development and Governance Division in 2020, and are any future reductions planned? 2. If so: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. On what advice was this decision made? b. On whose advice was this decision made? 	WRITTEN	
191	Faruqi	Office of Development Effectiveness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why was the Office of Development Effectiveness abolished? 2. When was the decision taken to abolish the Office of Development Effectiveness? 3. Whose decision was the abolition of the Office of Development Effectiveness? 4. On whose advice was the Office of Development Effectiveness abolished? 5. Please provide this advice. 	WRITTEN	
192	Kitching	Executive Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In relation to executive management for the Department and its agencies, can the following be provided for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The total number of executive management positions b. The aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions. 	WRITTEN	

			<p>c. The change in the number of executive manager positions.</p> <p>d. The change in aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.</p>		
193	Kitching	Ministerial functions	<p>1. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the following be provided:</p> <p>a. List of functions.</p> <p>b. List of all attendees.</p> <p>c. Function venue.</p> <p>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>e. Details of any food served.</p> <p>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage.</p> <p>g. Any available photographs of the function.</p> <p>h. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>	WRITTEN	
194	Kitching	Departmental functions	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the following be provided:</p> <p>a. List of functions.</p> <p>b. List of all attendees.</p> <p>c. Function venue.</p> <p>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>e. Details of any food served.</p> <p>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage.</p> <p>g. Any available photographs of the function.</p> <p>h. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>	WRITTEN	
195	Kitching	Executive office upgrades	<p>1. Have any furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, been upgraded for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive).</p>	WRITTEN	
196	Kitching	Customised and special-order furniture and office supplies	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the Department/agency advise the quantum spent on customised and special-ordered furniture and office supplies (excluding items such as ergonomic desks and chairs and items required for work, health and safety purposes). Please provide a full breakdown, descriptions and cost.</p>	WRITTEN	
197	Kitching	Facilities upgrades	<p>1. Were there any upgrades to facility premises at any of the Departments or agencies for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. This includes but is not limited to: staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment.</p>	WRITTEN	

			<p>2. If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrades be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>3. If so, can any photographs of the upgraded facilities be provided.</p>		
198	Kitching	Staff travel	1. What is the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.	WRITTEN	
199	Kitching	Legal costs	1. What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.	WRITTEN	
200	Kitching	Travel by Secretary	<p>1. Can an itemised list of the costs of all domestic and international travel undertaken by the Secretary of the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020 be provided including:</p> <p>a. Flights for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the airline and class of travel.</p> <p>b. Ground transport for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials.</p> <p>c. Accommodation for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed.</p> <p>d. Meals and other incidentals for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided.</p> <p>e. Any available photographs documenting the Secretary's travel should also be provided.</p>	WRITTEN	
201	Kitching	Staff Allowances	1. Can a list of Departmental/agency allowances and reimbursements available to employees be provided.	WRITTEN	
202	Kitching	Market research	<p>1. Does the Department/agency undertake any polling or market research in relation to government policies or proposed policies.</p> <p>2. If so, can the Department provide an itemised list of:</p> <p>a. Subject matter</p> <p>b. Company</p> <p>c. Costs for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020</p> <p>d. Contract date period</p> <p>3. Can the Department/agency advise what, if any, research was shared with the Minister or their office and the date and format in which this occurred.</p>	WRITTEN	
203	Kitching	Advertising and information campaigns	<p>1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>2. What advertising and information campaigns did the Department/agency run in each relevant period. For each campaign, please provide:</p>	WRITTEN	

			<p>a. When approval was first sought.</p> <p>b. The date of approval, including whether the advertising went through the Independent Campaign Committee process.</p> <p>c. the timeline for each campaign, including any variation to the original proposed timeline.</p> <p>3. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in each period be provided.</p>		
204	Kitching	Promotional merchandise	<p>1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>2. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period please be provided.</p> <p>3. Can photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise please be provided.</p>	WRITTEN	
205	Kitching	Ministerial overseas travel	<p>1. Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all international travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020 please be provided including:</p> <p>a. Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel.</p> <p>b. Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials.</p> <p>c. Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed.</p> <p>d. Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided.</p> <p>e. Any available photographs documenting the Minister's travel should also be provided.</p>	WRITTEN	
206	Kitching	Social media influencers	<p>1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on social media influencers for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>2. What advertising or information campaigns did the Department/agency use social media influencers to</p>	WRITTEN	

			<p>promote.</p> <p>3. Can a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts please be provided.</p> <p>4. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts please be provided.</p>		
207	Kitching	Commissioned Reports and Reviews	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many Reports or Reviews have been commissioned. Please provide details of each report including:</p> <p>a. Date commissioned.</p> <p>b. Date report handed to Government.</p> <p>c. Date of public release.</p> <p>d. Terms of Reference.</p> <p>e. Committee members and/or Reviewers.</p> <p>2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost.</p> <p>3. The background and credentials of the Review personnel.</p> <p>4. The remuneration arrangements applicable to the Review personnel, including fees, disbursements and travel</p> <p>5. The cost of any travel attached to the conduct of the Review.</p> <p>6. How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level.</p> <p>7. What is the current status of each report. When is the Government intending to respond to each report if it has not already done so.</p>	WRITTEN	
208	Kitching	Board Appointments	<p>1. Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</p> <p>2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio</p> <p>3. Please detail any board appointments made from 30 June 2020 to date.</p> <p>4. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid.</p> <p>5. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors.</p> <p>6. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors.</p>	WRITTEN	
209	Kitching	Stationery	<p>1. How much has been spent on ministerial stationery requirements in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p>	WRITTEN	
210	Kitching	Media monitoring	<p>1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the each Minister's office for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>a. Which agency or agencies provided these services.</p> <p>b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each</p>	WRITTEN	

			<p>period please be provided</p> <p>c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the FY 2020-21.</p> <p>2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>a. Which agency or agencies provided these services.</p> <p>b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract Notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided</p> <p>c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2020-21.</p>		
211	Kitching	Departmental staff in Minister's office	<p>1. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of departmental staff seconded to ministerial offices, including:</p> <p>a. Duration of secondment.</p> <p>b. APS level.</p> <p>2. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of DLOs/CLOs for ministerial offices including APS level.</p>	WRITTEN	
212	Kitching	CDDA Payments	<p>1. How many claims have been received under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration scheme (CDDA) by the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020?</p> <p>2. How many claims were:</p> <p>a. Accepted.</p> <p>b. Rejected.</p> <p>c. Under consideration.</p> <p>3. Of the accepted claims, can the Department provide:</p> <p>a. Details of the claim, subject to relevant privacy considerations</p> <p>b. The date payment was made</p> <p>c. The decision maker.</p>	WRITTEN	
213	Kitching	Recruitment	<p>1. What amount has been expended by the department/agency on external recruitment or executive search services in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>2. Which services were utilised. Can an itemised list be provided.</p>	WRITTEN	
214	Kitching	Staffing	<p>1. How many full-time equivalent staff were engaged at each of 30 June 2019, 30 June 2020 and at 10 November 2020.</p> <p>2. How many of these positions are (a) ongoing and (b) non-ongoing.</p> <p>3. How many redundancies have occurred in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. How many were:</p> <p>a. voluntary</p>	WRITTEN	

			<p>b. involuntary.</p> <p>4. How many of those redundancies occurred as a result of departmental restructuring. What is the total cost of those redundancies.</p> <p>5. What was the total value in dollar terms of all termination payments paid to exiting staff.</p> <p>6. How much overtime or equivalent has been paid to staff in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>7. How many section 37 notices under the Public Service Act 1999 have been offered in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p>		
215	Kitching	Comcare	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the Department advise whether it has been the subject of any investigations involving Comcare. If yes, please provide details of the circumstances and the status.</p> <p>2. Can the Department advise the number of sanctions it has received from Comcare in the each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p>	WRITTEN	
216	Kitching	Fair Work Commission	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Commission within the Department or agency.</p>	WRITTEN	
217	Kitching	Fair Work Ombudsman	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Ombudsman within the Department or agency.</p>	WRITTEN	
218	Kitching	Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner within the Department or agency.</p>	WRITTEN	
219	Kitching	Public Interest Disclosures	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many public interest disclosures have been received.</p>	WRITTEN	
220	-	-	deleted from index	-	-
221	Rice	Philippines	<p>What dates did DFAT meet with Major General Antonio Parlade? Who was present at those meetings? Did the Major General provide any documents or presentations that he planned to distribute or show to the diaspora community in Australia? If so please provide a copy.</p>	WRITTEN	
222	Rice	The Vatican	<p>Media reports ("Cardinal Pell's first Mass in public in Rome", Catholic Weekly, 20 October 2020) noted a mass held with "support from the Australian embassy".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What support did the Australian embassy provide? 	WRITTEN	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the embassy invite former Prime Minister Abbott to the Mass? • What support did DFAT provide for the former Prime Minister's travel on this trip? 		
223	Rice	Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the Australian government raised concerns with the Indonesian government about new Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto who was discharged from the military in 1998 following allegations of human rights violations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o At what level? • Has the Australian government raised concerns about the rise in hateful rhetoric, discrimination and violence against LGBT people in Indonesia? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o At what level? • Has the Australian government raised concerns about a problematic new draft criminal code in Indonesia? 	WRITTEN	
224	Rice	Bangladesh	<p>DFAT Is DFAT aware of concerns by Amnesty International about human rights abuses in Bangladesh perpetrated by the government of Bangladesh?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has DFAT raised human rights violations with counterparts? • What level have those concerns been raised at? <p>Is DFAT aware of the reports of sexual violence against women, by figures linked to the Awami league?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have those issues been raised with counterparts? 	WRITTEN	
225	Rice	DFAT operations	<p>1. Please provide an update on Australia's commitment and contribution to the Global Network of Australian Embassies, Consulates and Posts.</p> <p>a. Given a recent report found that "as the COVID-19 pandemic hit, crisis action plans were implemented in Australia's diplomatic missions, with only essential staff remaining. Officials involved in humanitarian admissions have returned to Australia and are continuing their work remotely", what assurances can you provide the committee that the Global Network of Australian Embassies, Consulates and Posts are performing all their required functions?</p>	WRITTEN	
226	Rice	Vietnam	<p>Has the Department raised human rights concerns with its counterparts in the Vietnamese Government?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On what dates, and at which levels? • Did discussions on preparing the Third Plan of Action under the Strategic Partnership with Vietnam include discussion of human rights violations in either country? 	WRITTEN	
227	Rice	World Vision	<p>Mr Mohammad El Halabi was the operations manager of World Vision International in Gaza until his arrest by Israel in August 2016. In March 2017, DFAT issued a statement about the case which reads "DFAT has reviewed the management of its funding to World Vision in the Palestinian territories. The review uncovered nothing to suggest any diversion of government funds. Australia's funding to World Vision in the Palestinian territories remains suspended until we have considered the outcomes of the court case against Mr El Halabi and reviews being undertaken by World Vision Australia and World Vision International into this issue."</p> <p>a. Can DFAT indicate the current status of this matter?</p>	WRITTEN	

			<p>b. What were the outcomes of the reviews by World Vision Australia and World Vision International?</p> <p>c. I understand that Mr El Halabi is still awaiting trial by Israel. Has DFAT communicated the findings of our internal investigations to Israel?</p> <p>d. Given the court proceedings against Mr Halabi are continuing, does funding to World Vision in the Territories remain suspended?</p> <p>e. Have any Australian officials attended any of his court hearings?</p>		
228	Rice	International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance	<p>Australia became a signatory to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) on 4 June 2019. According to media reports, the Government has established an interdepartmental committee to ensure Australia upholds the requirements of the IHRA. Has the interdepartmental committee identified any instances where Australia has failed to uphold the requirements?</p> <p>o If so, please detail these.</p> <p>What is the Government doing to ensure that our membership of the IHRA is used to take critical action against anti-Semitism, while also not limiting legitimate discussion of human rights abuses committed by the Israeli Government given the breadth of examples included in the definition?</p> <p>Recently an Inter-Parliamentary Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism has been established, with some Australian participation. Has there been any formal Australian Government involvement in this Task Force?</p> <p>- What, if any, resources have been allocated to this Task Force?</p>	WRITTEN	
229	McKenzie	EU FTA/Prosecco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How confident is the government/department in a favourable outcome for Australian Prosecco winegrowers? • What level of consultation has there been within the wine industry including regional/north-east Victoria? • Is the government/department <p>2. It's understood the domestic 'Prosecco' market is currently worth about \$60 million to Australia – about half of that coming from Victoria's north-east region specifically the King Valley. It's also reportedly expected to grow to around \$200 million within five years and \$500 million in the next decade plus the tourism, employment and other flow on benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Australian wine growers were to lose the naming rights to 'Prosecco', there's concern all of this is at risk including flow on effects in our regions such as tourism and employment, noting the added impacts of smoke taint from last summer's bushfires and drought still being felt. • Is the department aware of such concerns and if so, what, if any, forecasting has been done given GI protection of Prosecco is being negotiated as part of the EU FTA? <p>3. Australian Grape and Wine, in its pre-budget submission to the Treasurer, states the diversity of grape</p>	WRITTEN	

		<p>varieties and their availability provides a significant growth opportunity for Australian wine producers in domestic and international markets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the government agree? • What approach is the government/department taking in ensuring this as part of its EU FTA negotiations? <p>4. There's concern any success by Italy to protect the naming rights of 'Prosecco' could set a precedent for future attempts to restrict common grape variety names – does the government have a view, factoring in the existing long-standing EU-Australian wine agreement?</p> <p>5. King Valley wine growers explain they grow Prosecco not to compete against the Italian growers but to bring the Italian experience to Australia – a celebration of Europe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have Chinatown, Little Italy...our wine makers ask how is the 'Prosecco Road' experience any different and should rather be welcomed than be seen as a threat. What is the government's view? . 6. What is the current production of the Australian Prosecco market? <p>§ What per cent is sold domestically and what per cent is exported, and to which markets? How does this compare with the Italian Prosecco export industry?</p> <p>§ How much of a threat, or not, is the Australian Prosecco export market to the Italian industry? 6. What is the current production of the Australian Prosecco market?</p> <p>§ What per cent is sold domestically and what per cent is exported, and to which markets? How does this compare with the Italian Prosecco export industry?</p> <p>§ How much of a threat, or not, is the Australian Prosecco export market to the Italian industry?</p>		
230	McKenzie	<p>Trade with China</p> <p>1. North east wine growers are concerned about current Australian-China trade relations with direct impacts on their exports including orders being cancelled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the government aware of such cases? • In an ABC interview with David Speers (9/11/20) Minister Birmingham said "we're seeing some positive signs in relation to the wine sector which had been talked about as well" in regards to China's supposed import bans – can you please elaborate in terms of the level of access Australian wine is getting? • What, if any, signs is the government/department getting that more access will be granted? <p>2. Local wine growers advise, based on what they've heard from their Chinese contacts, that customs agents at the ports are 'making up their own rules' in regards to any wine coming into the ports and even putting their own 'fees and charges' onto the shipments. It has resulted in customers deciding to delay or cancel all their orders for the time-being with an obvious financial hit to Australian winemakers like those in north-east Victoria. Is the government/department aware of this practice?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, what action is being taken if any?. <p>3. The industry has been made aware of Chinese hotel chains being told to cancel orders of Australian</p>	WRITTEN	

			<p>produce including wine – is the government/department aware of this as well and able to confirm it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, what action is being taken if any? <p>4. Wine producers have spent years building markets to China and are wondering now if it's been lost for good – what advice does the government/department have?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the government/department doing to protect this valuable market for our producers and in improving relations between Australia and China? <p>5. What threat is there of the wine industry being hit with tariffs as reported?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the government/department doing in efforts to avert this? 		
231	McKenzie	Markets for Australian wine	<p>What is the government/department doing in securing other markets for Australian producers including wine growers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which markets have been identified? • What is the progress with negotiations? • What is the level of consultation/engagement with the wine industry? • Are you able to give an estimated timeline on an outcome? 2 . As a result of trade tensions with China, wine growers advise bulk wine that was destined for Chinese market is now starting to flood domestic market. <p>- Is the government/department able to confirm?</p> <p>- If so, what impact will it have on growers and prices?</p> <p>- What is the government/department doing, or can do to mitigate the impact?</p>	WRITTEN	
232	Wong	Support to stranded Australians	<p>Senator WONG: And I'm asking for a fact. I'm asking whether you were advised prior to the Prime Minister articulating a goal of getting Australians home by Christmas. Were you advised that he was going to do so?</p> <p>Senator Payne: The secretary and Dr Webster have taken the specific timing of any advice on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I bet they have. When did you know?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I'm taking it on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Because you can't remember whether the PM spoke to you before he announced it? Surely you would remember that.</p> <p>Senator Payne: As I have said, maybe there has been one week when we have not had a meeting that has canvassed this issue since February or March. These issues have been discussed amongst the committees of government, senior officials interdepartmental committees every single week—and, in some cases, every single day.</p>	Hansard	P 62
233	Wong	World Health Organisation	<p>Senator WONG: Ms Peak, can you confirm, in relation to the paragraph you read to me, there's no relationship or similarity between those words and any of the words which have been used to ground UN Security Council decisions enabling weapons inspector powers?</p>	Hansard	p 84

			Ms Peak: I'd have to take that specific question on notice, but, in the broad, we believe that that clause in the resolution does enable consideration of the mechanisms at the WHO's disposal, including the legal basis for its powers, which are centred in the international health regulations. These will be considered thoroughly, including recommendations flowing from the independent panel.		
234	Rice	Pacific Islands Forum	<p>Mr Williams: Usually the discussions around Papuan issues, given the strong interest of certainly Melanesian members of the forum, is a regular item on forum discussions. But I have to say that this year at the recent foreign ministers meeting on 14 October, while Papua was the subject of a paper provided by the secretariat, it wasn't actually discussed as an agenda item this year. There was a focus at that meeting on responses to the COVID pandemic.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Thank you. Is that paper available?</p> <p>Senator Payne: No, Senator. It's a paper for the forum itself. It's not produced by us. It's not our paper and it's not produced by us.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Is it available to us, to the Australian public?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I don't believe so.</p> <p>Mr Williams: It is forum eyes only.</p> <p>Senator Payne: It is not a paper which is a public document</p> <p>CHAIR: You may or may not have heard, but Mr Williams said, 'for forum eyes only'.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Okay. Can you take on notice whether even just a summary or a precise of that paper could be made available?</p> <p>Senator Payne: It is not a paper which is the property of Australia. But, if there is any availability, I will check that.</p>	Hansard	p 29
235	Rice	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	<p>. In 2018, the Australian Government advised the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that there were 132 stateless persons in Australia at that time. This statistic was published in the UNHCR's annual report – 'Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2018 (2019) .' What was the source of this figure of 132 stateless persons?</p> <p>2. In the 2019 UNHCR Global Trends Report (published 2020) Australia's annual statistical recording for stateless persons is marked as "--",– indicating that either the value is zero or Australia did not provide any data on the number of stateless people . This statistic was published in the UNHCR's annual report – 'Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2019 (2020) based on numbers reported to UNHCR by the Australian Government . '</p> <p>a. Did the Australian Government report zero stateless persons in Australia to UNHCR for the purposes of this Report? If so, what is the source for this statistic?</p> <p>b. Alternatively, did the Australian Government fail to provide UNHCR any data on the number of stateless people in Australia, and if so, why?</p>	WRITTEN	

236	Wong	Foreign Relations Bills	<p>Senator WONG: Did you tick off on those drafting instructions or did you just get a copy of them?</p> <p>Mr Newnham: I would have to check. I believe, though, that AGD was basically reflecting inputs across government, frankly, including from the department.</p>	HANSARD	107
237	Keneally	Cyber sanctions	<p>Has the Australian government considered the use of cyber sanctions of the kind recently employed by the European Council to impose travel bans and freeze the assets of a range of cyber criminals?</p>	Written	
238	Wong	Procurement of security services	<p>Senator WONG: Sure. On Wednesday, a contract notice was published on AusTender relating to a \$71 million contract for security services, awarded to Aegis Defence Services, based in London. The contract has a start date of 21 September 2020. That's obviously a lot of money—\$71 million.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Perera: The contract that you're specifically talking about is in relation to security services provided in our embassy in Kabul.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Venugopal: However, the application of this particular clause as it applies to international security and peace and order, how that was applied to this particular procurement—it's not necessary that that's the same application to all overseas security procurements. It has to be looked at on a case-by-case basis, I'm sure. In this case, of course, that is the case. That's all.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Yes. Well, it says, 'Limited from the contract notice, limited tender exemption, paragraph 2.6 was applied in part.' Are you able to come back to me on the procurement process, the time line and so forth?</p> <p>Ms Perera: Of course</p>		