

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

Attorney-General's Department

Hearing date: 08 April 2024

Hansard page: 57

David Pocock asked the following question:

Senator DAVID POCOCK:.... Earlier we heard from APGRA, the peak body for government relations, and they said that they meet with the department quarterly to address administrative issues. I'm interested in those meetings. Have they advocated for or against reform to the code and the register?

Mr Still: Generally those meetings are more administrative in character. We've discussed matters such as helping lobbyists to understand exactly how to execute statutory declarations, which is part of the registration process, outreach activities to help lobbyists fully understand their obligations under the code and matters like that. I'm not aware that they have advocated changes to us, but I'd have to take that on notice to confirm.

The response to the question is as follows:

The Attorney-General's Department meets with the Australian Professional Government Relations Association (APGRA) to build and maintain awareness of the Lobbying Code of Conduct (Code) among their membership and publish information about the Code in APGRA's newsletters.

APGRA has taken the opportunity, from time-to-time, to express its views on the operation of the Code and Register, including possible improvements.