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Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Topic: FADT References Committee - Democracy and Human Rights in Myanmar - Spoken QoN - Public Hearing
13Feb26

Senator David Shoebridge

Question

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: I totally understand. I asked about the development cooperation fact sheet, but **could you provide to the committee, on notice, a breakdown of how much of the current aid budget is going through areas controlled by the junta, as far as you understand it, and how much of it is going to areas controlled by non-state actors in the other third of the country.** I know it might be difficult because of some of the programs, but to the best of your ability.

Mr Zurbrugg: **Yes, we will try our best.** As I indicated earlier, we do need to be careful about how much information we release—

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: I heard you.

Mr Zurbrugg: in terms of how much we fund, where we fund and who we fund, for safety and so as not to inadvertently identify and put at risk our implementing partners. But our funding does reach every province in Myanmar, and that includes the regime-controlled areas as well as the non-regime-controlled areas.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: With as much granularity as you can without putting anyone at risk. Thank you.

Ms Smith: Thank you, Senator. We will.

Answer

Australia takes proactive steps to ensure that Australian assistance is not diverted to the regime and does not legitimise nor give credibility to the regime.

Australia's development assistance reaches every state in Myanmar and is based on need. We do not allocate assistance based on geography, ethnicity, religion or political affiliation.

We do not publicise details of the quantum of our funding provided to different locations in Myanmar, as this information can be used to identify our partners and potentially put them and the intended beneficiaries at risk.