

OFFICIAL

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

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

Senator Jessica Collins

Question

Senator COLLINS: **As a question on notice, what is the Australian government doing to help dismantle the organised crime and transnational networks that are funding this war, the scam centres particularly?** And this is a yes or no question: did the government consider the current regime in Myanmar to be legitimate prior to the election? Thank you.

CHAIR: Thank you, Senator Collins.

Senator COLLINS: Sorry, that's just a yes or no answer.

CHAIR: I want to go to Senator Smith first.

Senator COLLINS: Can I just have a yes or no answer to that question?

CHAIR: Apologies.

Senator COLLINS: Prior to the election, did the Australian government consider the regime in Myanmar to be legitimate?

Ms Smith: We have a longstanding position of recognising states, not governments, but the position that the Australian government has consistently taken with respect to the regime really underscores our concern about the way in which they deposed a democratically elected government, came to power and have been acting with respect to the people of Myanmar since that time.

Answer

Australia is deeply concerned by the growth of scam operations in Southeast Asia and their links to transnational and serious organised crime.

Australia continues to work closely with our international partners to share intelligence, identify, and disrupt cyber scam syndicates and to protect scam victim-survivors in Australia and globally.

Australia provides support to strengthen the region's capacity to combat online scam operations through the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program, the Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime, the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program, and through our cooperation led by the Australian Federal Police, Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission and AUSTRAC. The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, which Australia co-chairs with Indonesia, is driving regional collaboration across borders to counter transnational crime, including online scam operations, through its mechanisms for cooperation, dialogue and practical support.