



Submission No 10

Review of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Annual Report 2009 - 2010

Name: Mr Dennis Richardson

Organisation: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade -
Answers to Questions on Notice



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Secretary

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File Number:

5 June 2011

Dr John Carter
Secretary
Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee
House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear John,

I refer to your letter of 31 May 2011 advising of the request by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade for a response to two proposals made in the context of the Committee's review of DFAT's Annual Report 2009-10.

The proposals, made in public submissions to the Committee, relate to the appointment of a human rights ambassador and a women's rights ambassador.

I attach the Department's response to these proposals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dennis'.

Dennis Richardson

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's response to the issues raised in the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee's letter of 31 May 2011, following on from the public hearing on the review of DFAT's Annual Report 2009-10 on 27 May 2011

Submissions 2, 4 and 7 to JSCFADT recommended the appointment of an Australian Human Rights Ambassador and an Ambassador for Women's Rights.

Australian Heads of Mission and other staff regularly make representations on human rights concerns, including on women's rights, to foreign governments bilaterally and in regional and multilateral fora.

Posts conduct human rights promotion activities and regularly report to Canberra on human rights concerns.

Given the wide range of existing human rights activities supported by the Department and posts, the Department does not consider the additional costs associated with these positions to be warranted at this time.