

Question on notice no. 285

Portfolio question number: 69

2019-20 Supplementary budget estimates

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Defence Portfolio

Senator Kimberley Kitching: asked the Australian Signals Directorate on 23 October 2019—

Action 20 of the 2016 Australia's Cyber Security Strategy is "Improve Government agencies' cyber security through increasing the Australian Signals Directorate's capacity to assess Government agencies' vulnerability, provide technical security advice and investigate emerging technologies".

Annex A of the "2020 Cyber Security Strategy: A Call for Views" reported that for Action 10, ASD acted on 600 individual service requests across Government since July 2017.

- (a) Which agencies requested ASD service?
- (b) For each financial year, how many times did each Department request service?
- (c) What proportion of the services were vulnerability assessments?
- (d) What proportion of the services were technical security advice?
- (e) What proportion of the services were advice on emerging technologies?

Answer —

a - b) Providing the names of agencies and the nature of the assistance that they have sought from ACSC may provide a level of detail which malicious actors may exploit and thus increase an agency's risk of cyber incidents.

c-e) In the 2016-17 and 2017-18, ASD did not maintain data according to these specific categories of service.

In 2018-19, ASD logged over 2,100 triaged events. Of these, approximately 360 requests were from Commonwealth agencies, and about 280 requests were from state and territory governments. A triaged event is defined as all requests and events received by ASD that were assessed as requiring ASD analysis, action or response.