

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000841

OUTCOME: 10 - Sport and Recreation

Topic: FFA/World Cup bid

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

I refer to the German newspaper 'Der Spiegel' which had a 15-page report in October 2015 on the machinations behind the power elite of German football following what is, essentially, a 15-year investigation by German investigative journalist, Jens Weinreich.

I understand Governments are required to sign-off on Government Guarantees which are a series of guarantees covering areas such as tax, entry and exit permits, indemnity, work permits, foreign exchange operations, customs and passport control and so forth. I understand these guarantees as part of a bidding nation's bidding agreement submitted prior to the bid being considered.

Did the Australian Government sign the Government Guarantees issued by FIFA for the 2018/2022 World Cup bids?

If yes, who signed them on behalf of the Australian Government?

Were there any amendments, caveats or side letters to the Agreements? If so, what were they in relation to?

Answer:

The then Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, signed the 2018/2022 World Cup bid Government Guarantees.

A side letter was provided with the Government Guarantees outlining Australia's Constitutional and legal limitations in signing the Guarantees, along with an indicative list of high level issues that would need to be resolved with FIFA, should Australia's bid be successful. These included matters in relation to national and domestic security, legislative requirements and timeframes, and fiscal policy.

As the bid was ultimately unsuccessful, these Guarantees were not implemented.