

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 169
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: PORTFOLIO WIDE - CONDITIONS OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 11 June 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since 7 September 2013;

Do any contracts managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy? If so, please name each contract. When was it formed or created?

- a) What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
- b) Do any agreements managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticisms of Government policy? If so, please name each agreement. When was it formed or created?
- c) What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
- d) For each of the contracts and agreements, are there any particular reason, such as genuine commercial in confidence information, for this restriction?
- e) Have any changes to financial or resource support to services which advocate on behalf of groups or individuals in Australian society been made? If so, which groups? What was the change?
- f) Has any consultation occurred between the Department/Agency and any individuals and/or community groups about these changes? If so, what consultation process was used? Was it public? If not, why not? Are public submissions available on a website?
- g) If no consultation has occurred, why not?
- h) Did the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary meet with any stakeholders about changes to advocacy in their contracts and/or agreements? If so, when? Who did he/she meet with?

Answer:

The Department and its Portfolio Agencies are not aware of any contracts or agreements that contain limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy.

(a – h) Not applicable.