

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 46**

**Program No. Corporate**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

1. Do any contracts managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy? If so, please name each contact. When was it formed or created?
2. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
3. Do any agreements managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations on restrictions on advocacy or criticisms of Government policy? If so, please name each agreement. When was it formed or created?
4. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
5. For each of the contracts and agreements, are there any particular reason, such as genuine commercial in confidence information, for this restriction?
6. 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?
7. 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?
8. If no consultation has occurred, why not?
9. 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?

**Answers:**

1. No.
2. Not applicable.
3. No.
4. Not applicable.
5. Not applicable.
6. Grants and similar arrangements that the Department has administered over time may fall within the scope of this question. Accordingly, to attempt to provide this information would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
7. See answer to question 6.
8. See answer to question 6.
9. See answer to question 6.

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