

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: ABS
Question: AET 2449-2457
Topic: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements
Reference: Written - 19 February 2016
Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

2449. 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?

2450. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?

2451. 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?

2452. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?

2453. For each of the contracts and agreements, are there any particular reason, such as genuine commercial in confidence information, for this restriction?

2454. 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?

2455. 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?

2456. If no consultation has occurred, why not?

2457. 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:

(2449 - 2453) There are no contracts or agreements managed by the ABS that contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy.

(2454 – 2457) The ABS has not made any changes to financial or resource support to services which advocate on behalf of groups or individuals in Australian society.