

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—BUDGET ESTIMATES, June 2015.

Defence Housing Australia

Q No.	Department/ Agency	Senator	Title	Questions	Proof Hansard, page & hearing date <i>or</i> Written Q	Date rec'd	Date tabled
1.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village survey	<p>Senator CONROY: So if we draw an average of seven in your five focus groups that comes to 35 people who attended as part of the families out of 153 family homes.</p> <p>Ms Dermatossian: I do not have the exact details of the final numbers, but I can take that on notice.</p>	102, 1 June	31/07/15	13/08/15
2.				<p>Senator CONROY: No, I am just using an average of between six and 10. If there were nine at each of them, then that would be 45. Did you write to them all, or did you write to groups of them? So they all got an invitation to five or some got an invitation to each one?</p> <p>Ms Dermatossian: Horizon, the group that we engaged, organised all of the focus groups. I can take that question on notice.</p>	103, 1 June		
3.				<p>Senator CONROY: I look forward to hearing back about that. In addition, I have heard that at some focus groups that were held people were paid a small fee of \$80 to participate—is that true?</p> <p>Ms Dermatossian: Again, I will have to take that question on notice.</p>	103, 1 June		

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4.				<p>Senator CONROY: That is normally how a focus groups works. In a political sense, when we talk about a focus group, people are paid to come in for the evening to talk. Was \$80 offered to the military families or only to the civilian families?</p> <p>Ms Dermatossian: I am not aware if anything was offered to any attendee at the focus groups. I will have to take that question on notice.</p>	103, 1 June		
5.				<p>Senator CONROY: Outside of Seaward Village? You paid people to come to a focus group about a redevelopment on the base site, and they were not residents of the base? Why would you pay money for people who were not living there to come and tell you their views? That just seems preposterous. You have to pay people to turn up to a focus group about a redevelopment in a specific area, and they do not live in the area?</p> <p>Ms Dermatossian: I will have to take that question on notice.</p>	103, 1 June		
6.				<p>Mr Howman: DHA is not in charge of the surveys with the members on the married patch; that is being undertaken by Defence.</p> <p>Senator CONROY: Chief, are you able to take that on notice and find out what is going on there?</p> <p>Lt Gen. Campbell: Yes.</p>	104, 1 June		

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7.				Senator CONROY: How much money is DHA spending on the firm? Mr Howman: I do not know that answer. I will have to take that on notice.	104, 1 June		
8.				Senator CONROY: Do you know what the scope of the assessment is? Lt Gen. Campbell: I will have to take that on notice.	107, 1 June		
9.				Mr Howman: The CFO has looked at that. Mr Brocklehurst: I will need to take the specifics of that on notice, I am sorry.	112, 1 June		
10.				Ms Dermatossian: One of the outcomes of the focus groups of the Seaward Village residents is that they are happy to relocate on the village as long as they remain on the village. Senator LINES: What percentage of families have said that? Ms Dermatossian: I would have to take that on notice.	112, 1 June		
11.	DHA	Lambie	Raiders Marketing agreement	Senator LAMBIE: What do you and the Defence Force personnel receive back for the sponsorship of that logo? What do you actually get out of it? Mr Howman: DHA does not take that as a sponsorship. As I say, we take that as a marketing agreement, so we do not take the sponsorship arrangements that comes with a general sponsor.	113, 1 June	31/07/15	13/08/15

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				<p>Senator LAMBIE: Okay, can you take that on notice. Mr Howman: I will take that on notice.</p>			
12.	DHA	Ludwig	Non-Australian Citizens Employed by the Department/Agency	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the Department/Agency's policy with regard to hiring non-Australian citizens? 2. Does the agency have a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) policy? If yes, please provide a summary. 3. How does the Department/Agency determine whether a person is a non-Australian citizen? 4. How many staff who were not Australian Citizens have been hired by the Department/Agency since the Federal Election in September, 2013? Please break the numbers down by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Levels at which they are employed 2. Immigration Status (Visa) 3. Cultural Background 4. Linguistic Background 5. How many were hired to satisfy CALD targets? 	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15
13.	DHA	Ludwig	Departmental Dispute Resolution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are disputes between departmental and/or agency staff mediated? 2. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc). 	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15

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				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Amount paid to each firm since the last budget. 3. When the contract with the firm commenced. 4. When the contract with the firm will expire. 5. Why the firm was selected to provide the service. 6. Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. How are code of conduct violations by departmental and/or agency staff mediated? 4. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc). 2. Amount paid to each firm since the last budget. 3. When the contract with the firm commenced. 4. When the contract with the firm will expire. 5. Why the firm was selected to provide the service. <p>Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.</p>			
14.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	<p>During Senate Estimates on 1 June 2015, the Deputy Secretary of Defence Support and Reform said the following:</p> <p><i>Mr Grzeskowiak: I am the Deputy Secretary of Defence Support and Reform. As part of that portfolio, I manage the department's commercial relationship with DHA. Defence has conducted a survey. It has been led by Army Special Forces Command. I have not seen the results of that</i></p>	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15

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				<p><i>survey. I am sure they will be passed to DHA at some point in the not too distant future. Special Forces Command were very keen to take the lead with the families of the people there. My understanding is that, as we go forward, DHA will become more and more deeply involved with the community through the normal process of—</i></p> <p>In regard to the survey that was conducted by Army:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please advise why the survey was not confidential. b. Please outline the process used to develop the questions in the survey. c. Why did the survey only pose questions about a new development at the village? d. Why didn't the survey pose questions about whether members would prefer a renovated house within the existing Village rather than a new house on a smaller block as part of a full redevelopment? e. Please confirm why the survey was sent out only through the Liaison Officer of SASR to the serving members and not directly to the families. 			

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				f. Please advise whether the results of that survey will be released and to whom they will be released.			
15.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	<p>In regard to the focus groups conducted by DHA:</p> <p>g. Please advise why defence families were not paid to attend the DHA organised focus groups while other local community members were paid.</p> <p>h. Please confirm the numbers of defence families that attended the focus groups, and the numbers of local community members that attended.</p> <p>i. Please confirm the key outcomes from the focus groups.</p> <p>j. Please confirm how many serving members of SASR attended the focus groups.</p> <p>k. Please advise whether the results of the focus groups will be released and to whom they will be released.</p> <p>l. Did DHA receive any opposition regarding the redevelopment concept at the focus groups?</p>	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15

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16.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	<p>Please detail the costs to date for the redevelopment concept.</p> <p>a. Please also provide costs to date for each third party organisation involved in the concept, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. marketing and public relations organisations. ii. consultants for traffic, environment, engineering, planning, childcare developments. iii. builders. iv. quantity surveyors. 	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15
17.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	<p>Please advise when each third party organisation was engaged?</p> <p>a. What was the scope and the terms and conditions under which each of these third party organisations were engaged?</p>	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15
18.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	<p>What is the status of the covenant that currently applies to Seaward Village?</p> <p>a. Please advise how this covenant currently applies to the Village.</p>	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15

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19.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	<p>Please provide the average stay in Seaward Village for ADF members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide the average stay in the village for members of SASR and their families. b. Please provide the number of ADF families in the Village. c. Please provide the number of SASR families in the Village. 	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15
20.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	<p>Please confirm the average maintenance costs for existing DHA housing stock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Can DHA confirm what proportion of the maintenance costs are from items that would be replaced as part of the renovation scheme? b. Please provide the average maintenance costs in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Tindal; ii. Puckapunyal; and iii. Cerberus. 	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15

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21.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	What is the payback period for the renovations undertaken at: a. Tindal; b. Puckapunyal; and c. Cerberus?	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15
22.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	Based upon the figure of 66 years to payback renovation costs – what is the ‘payback period’ for the construction of the new homes?	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15
23.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	How is the payback period of 66 years for renovations calculated?	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15
24.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	At a 1991 Hearing of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, the Committee asserted that due to the “ <i>day to day training and preparation for current operations</i> ” there was a need for families of SASR personnel to be co-located with Campbell Barracks. <i>QUOTE: “Training and operational tasks place high demands on SASR personnel and their families. Personnel are trained to a high level of fitness and skill and are required to be available for callout at short notice. Callouts are conducted often and at irregular times outside normal working hours.”</i>	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15

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				<p>The Committee also stated:</p> <p>QUOTE: <i>“The Authority has agreed to conditions that principally mean that the housing and land will not be sold into the private sector while the SASR or a similar special unit is maintained at Swanbourne.</i></p> <p><i>The approach being adopted for the site at Swanbourne recognises the scope and special conditions applying, particularly that there will be no avenue for sales of land or houses while the SASR remains at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne.”</i></p> <p>a. Please confirm how this commitment from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works applies to Seaward Village and the SASR families residing there today.</p>			
25.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	<p>In the <i>‘Seward Village Redevelopment Project Update Autumn 2015’</i> newsletter it is stated that:</p> <p>QUOTE: <i>“Defence Housing Australia is currently preparing for the redevelopment of Seaward Village”</i></p> <p>It also stated that:</p>	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15

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				<p>QUOTE: <i>“The redevelopment involves the phased demolition of 153 existing homes.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide the current timeline for the Seaward Village redevelopment plan. b. Please explain the process to transition the Seaward Village redevelopment from a ‘concept’ to a ‘plan’. c. Will the redevelopment proposal need to be assessed by the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC)? d. How will the redevelopment provide better outcomes for SASR families than a renovation program? 			
26.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	<p>The newsletter also states:</p> <p>QUOTE: <i>“residents who choose to stay within the Village during construction will need to move at least twice within the Village during the redevelopment period. Residents should also be aware, they will be residing adjacent to a construction site for the duration of the development.”</i></p> <p>If the redevelopment goes ahead:</p>	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What efforts will DHA make to ensure families that stay in the Village will have a reasonable environment to live in? b. How will DHA manage the moves of ADF families during the construction period? c. How will DHA manage access to and from Seaward Village, given the number of construction vehicles, contractors' cars and trucks etc. coming and going from the redevelopment site? d. How will DHA manage the health and safety of the childcare workers and children for the 5-6 years that the childcare centre will be located on a construction site? e. How will DHA maintain the commitment made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works that <i>“the housing and land will not be sold into the private sector while the SASR or a similar special unit is maintained at Swanbourne”</i>? f. How will DHA ensure that SASR families are co-located with the SASR members at Campbell Barracks? 			

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27.	DHA	Conroy	Seaward Village	<p>How did the Commonwealth come to own Seaward Village?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Was it purchased and, if so, when? b. Was it gifted and, if so, when and what are the conditions of the gift? c. Was it bequeathed and, if so, when and what are the conditions of the bequeathment? 	Written	31/07/15	13/08/15