

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015, 22 October 2015

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 1

Program: DFAT

Topic: Syria - humanitarian assistance

Question on Notice

Page: 6

Senator Dastyari

Question

In a table, provide a breakdown of our total humanitarian contribution to Syria and Iraq (\$230 million) in 2015-2016. Without going into specific detail, which partners has the contribution been allocated to and what has it provided assistance to?

Answer

SYRIA		
Partner	Funding	Details
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	\$60 million <i>(includes \$20 million in FY2015-16)</i>	Support to refugees and host communities in Syria's neighbouring countries, including registration and protection, providing emergency supplies and shelter. Includes education and psychosocial support through the No Lost Generation strategy in Jordan.
International Humanitarian Organisations <i>Undisclosed for security reasons</i>	\$38 million <i>(includes \$7 million in FY2015-16)</i>	Food assistance, household kits, emergency medical assistance and medical supplies to affected communities in Syria, including in response to the polio outbreak in 2014.
World Food Programme (WFP)	\$30 million <i>(includes \$4 million in FY2015-16)</i>	Food assistance delivered inside Syria and the region.
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	\$26 million <i>(includes \$3 million in FY2015-16)</i>	Access to clean water for people in Syria and immunisation of 25 million children across the region. Education, protection programs and psychosocial support for children inside Syria and neighbouring countries. Includes support through the No Lost Generation strategy in Lebanon.
Australian NGOs	\$13 million	Assist refugees and host communities in Jordan and Lebanon through CARE, Oxfam, Caritas, Save the Children and World Vision. This comprises \$6.4 million to Jordan and \$6.6 million to Lebanon, including support for No Lost Generation.

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World Health Organization (WHO)	\$7 million	Basic health care for over 3 million people and addressing critical shortages in basic medical supplies and essential medicines in Syria.
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)	\$3.5 million	Humanitarian coordination and planning in Syria.
	\$1 million	Syria Emergency Response Fund, managed by UNOCHA.
Australian experts, including through Australian Civilian Corps and RedR Australia	\$5.2 million	Enable the deployment of expert Australian personnel to support the delivery of humanitarian aid in the region. For example, working with UNICEF and UNHCR to assist Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon, including in the fields of gender, child protection, planning and shelter, public health, and water and sanitation.
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	\$3 million	Reproductive health services and psycho-social support, hygiene and emergency reproductive health kits to people in Syria. Respond to sexual and gender-based violence.
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)	\$2 million	Cash assistance and food vouchers to Palestinian refugees who had fled Syria to Lebanon.
Australian Red Cross	\$2 million	Support to refugees (including Palestinian refugees from Syria) through the Lebanese Red Cross and Jordan Red Crescent.
Total:	\$190.7 million	

IRAQ		
Partner	Funding	Details
World Food Programme (WFP)	\$21 million <i>(includes \$5 million in FY2015-16)</i>	Food vouchers and food distribution, including monthly food parcels for families who are temporarily settled and have access to cooking facilities.
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	\$9 million	Shelter, medical assistance, access to clean water and hygiene kits.
International Humanitarian Organisation <i>Undisclosed for personnel security reasons</i>	\$5 million <i>(includes \$5 million in FY2015-16)</i>	Food, water, health and protection.
Plan International Australia	\$3 million	Medical assistance in partnership with International Medical Corps (IMC), including protection support for women and children.
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	\$2 million	Reproductive health care, including obstetric services, and addressing the needs of displaced women, girls and survivors of gender-based violence.
Total:	\$40 million	

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Question No 2

Program: DFAT

Topic: Syria - humanitarian assistance

Question on Notice

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Senator Dastyari

Question

At 9 September, the UN requested over \$7.4 billion in funds for 18 million people. When were the UN requests to participate made and how (e.g. were the requests submitted to FMO or DFAT?)

Answer

The UN launched its 2015 appeals for Syria and the regional refugee response (covering Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq) on 18 December 2014, seeking US\$7.4 billion (plus an additional US\$1 billion for the Governments of Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt). This appeal did not correspond to any specific request for Australian funds. However, the UN has made numerous calls on donors throughout the year for further funding to help address chronic shortfalls for the appeals. This includes the annual donor pledging conference for Syria held in Kuwait on 31 March 2015, where Australia announced \$20 million, as well as a number of letters from UN agency heads sent to Minister Bishop and ad-hoc meetings with UN country offices and Australian Embassies in the region.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 3

Program: DFAT

Topic: Syria - humanitarian assistance

Question on Notice

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Senator Dastyari

Question

As late as 5 September, Minister Bishop was saying that we would not increase humanitarian assistance and she rejected calls to increase humanitarian assistance. Then an announcement was made on 9 September. Minister, what happened between 5 September and 9 September to change the government's view?

Answer

Since 2011 Australia has been a generous donor in response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

On 4 September the Minister said that “We are working with other countries in relation to the best way to resolve this humanitarian crisis. I think it is going to require a global response and Australia will certainly play its part”ⁱ.

ⁱ Press Conference – Africa Down Under Conference, Transcript, 04 Sept 2015

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 4

Program: DFAT

Topic: Humanitarian assistance

Question on Notice

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Senator Dastyari

Question

When were you advised that the decision had been made regarding the \$44 million?

Answer

The Department was advised of the decision to provide a \$44 million package of humanitarian assistance to Syria and Iraq on 8 September 2015.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 5

Program: DFAT

Topic: Humanitarian assistance

Question on Notice

Page: 10

Senator Wong

Question

*Senator WONG: How long prior to the announcement was the decision made?
Mr Isbister: As the secretary said, up until then there had been consistent advice going around on what the needs were and what our response would be. In terms of the actual decision on the \$44 million, we will take that on notice.*

Senator WONG: Who did you tell us the decision was made by?

Mr McDonald: The decision was made by the government.

Senator WONG: Thank you for that, no kidding. Was it a decision by the foreign minister? Was it a decision of a subcommittee of the cabinet? Was it a full cabinet decision? I am asking the level at which it was made. That is not an unreasonable question.

Mr Varghese: I am trying to recall the particulars. My understanding is that the decision followed a discussion at cabinet level or it appears to be NSC level and was subsequently announced. I do not know if that helps.

Senator WONG: So can people please provide us with the date of that NSC discussion?

Mr Varghese: I am not sure we are in a position to do that.

...

Senator Brandis: So I am taking your question on notice to get it clear. What I will try to do, because I think it will be helpful to the committee for the future, is, if on reflection the position is that the government does not propose to respond, I will set out the response with specificity the grounds.

Answer

The Department was advised of the decision to provide a \$44 million package of humanitarian assistance on 8 September 2015.

Proceedings of the NSC are sensitive and confidential. It has not been the practice of successive Governments to release dates of NSC discussions.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 6

Program: DFAT

Topic: NSC

Question on Notice

Page: 12

Senator Wong

Question

Can you take on notice whether the foreign minister or her office had any knowledge of this story [Daily Telegraph: spy chiefs to get a seat at the top table, Simon Benson] appearing prior to it appearing?

Answer

The Minister, the Minister's Office and the Department had no prior knowledge of the article.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 7

Program: DFAT

Topic: Public Diplomacy

Question on Notice

Page: 14

Senator Dastyari

Question

You said there are 70 different Twitter handles that you manage. Are you able to provide all 70 of them on notice?

Answer

The department currently operates 58 twitter accounts* with several new accounts currently going through the approvals process or waiting to go live. The current list of twitter accounts includes:

Handle	Link
1. @dfat	www.twitter.com/dfat
2. @aushouselondon	www.twitter.com/aushouselondon
3. @AusAmbJP	www.twitter.com/AusAmbJP
4. @DubesAustralia	www.twitter.com/DubesAustralia
5. @AusAmbUSA	www.twitter.com/AusAmbUSA
6. @AusHCIndia	www.twitter.com/AusHCIndia
7. @AusHCPNG	www.twitter.com/AusHCPNG
8. @AustraliaUN_GVA	www.twitter.com/AustraliaUN_GVA
9. @AusHCCanada	www.twitter.com/AusHCCanada
10. @MikeRann	www.twitter.com/Mike_Rann
11. @PosolAustralia	www.twitter.com/PosolAustralia
12. @EmbAusBrasil	www.twitter.com/EmbAusBrasil
13. @AustraliaUN	www.twitter.com/AustraliaUN
14. @AuHCSouthAfrica	www.twitter.com/AuHCSouthAfrica

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15. @OzinSG	www.twitter.com/OzinSG
16. @AusAmbPL	www.twitter.com/AusAmbPL
17. @AusHCNZ	www.twitter.com/AusHCNZ
18. @AusAmbIsrael	www.twitter.com/AusAmbIsrael
19. @EmbAustraliaBA	www.twitter.com/EmbAustraliaBA
20. @AusAmbUAE	www.twitter.com/AusAmbUAE
21. @Smartraveller	www.twitter.com/Smartraveller
22. @AusEmbZim	www.twitter.com/AusEmbZim
23. @AusAmbPH	www.twitter.com/AusAmbPH
24. @AusHCMalaysia	www.twitter.com/AusHCMalaysia
25. @AusDCMUSA	www.twitter.com/AusDCMUSA
26. @G20SR (CLOSED)	www.twitter.com/G20SR
27. @AusHCPak	www.twitter.com/AusHCPak
28. @AusAmbDK	www.twitter.com/AusAmbDK
29. @AusAmbTurkey	www.twitter.com/AusAmbTurkey
30. @AusHCCyprus	www.twitter.com/AusHCCyprus
31. @AusHCSrilanka	www.twitter.com/AusHCSrilanka
32. @AusOfficeTPE	www.twitter.com/AusOfficeTPE
33. @AusAmbBKK	www.twitter.com/AusAmbBKK
34. @AusAWG	www.twitter.com/AusAWG
35. @NewColomboPlan	www.twitter.com/NewColomboPlan
36. @AusEmbIre	www.twitter.com/AusEmbIre
37. @AusEmbEU	www.twitter.com/AusEmbEU
38. @AusAmbDili	www.twitter.com/AusAmbDili
39. @AusAmbGHA	www.twitter.com/AusAmbGHA
40. @AusEmbAfg	www.twitter.com/AusEmbAfg
41. @AusEmbPP	www.twitter.com/AusEmbPP
42. @AusAmbVIE	www.twitter.com/AusAmbVIE
43. @SafirAustralia	www.twitter.com/SafirAustralia
44. @AusDHCIndia	www.twitter.com/AusDHCIndia
45. @AusEmbEsp	www.twitter.com/AusEmbEsp
46. @AusConsulateLA	www.twitter.com/AusConsulateLA
47. @DFAT_IxC	www.twitter.com/DFAT_IxC
48. @AustraliaNow	www.twitter.com/AustraliaNow

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49. @AusMIKTA	www.twitter.com/AusMIKTA
50. @DFATVic	www.twitter.com/DFATVic
51. @DFATWA	www.twitter.com/DFATinWA
52. @DFATNT	www.twitter.com/DFATNT
53. @AustraliaOECD	www.twitter.com/AustraliaOECD
54. @australiaawards	www.twitter.com/australiaawards
55. @AusAmbUNESCO	www.twitter.com/AusAmbUNESCO
56. @AusAmbKuwait	www.twitter.com/AusAmbKuwait
57. @AusCOP21	www.twitter.com/AusCOP21
58. @AustraliaNow	www.twitter.com/AustraliaNow

*Figures current as at 11 November 2015

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 8

Program: DFAT

Topic: Public Diplomacy

Question on Notice

Page: 15

Senator Wong

Question

Explain to me what the public statement or message is in relation to the red face? Is it that we do not like him or are angry with him?

Answer

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, has provided the following explanation publicly.

"He self-describes as a hard man. In fact having met President Putin I think he'd be delighted with the application of the emoji that I used to describe him".

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 9

Program: DFAT

Topic: Communication guidelines

Question on Notice

Page: 17

Senator Wong

Question

Can a DFAT officer, under your guidelines/policy—whatever your management framework of that is—convey government or official information that is unclassified via such applications?

Answer

No. Currently under DFAT guidelines staff should not post information on personal or professional accounts which could be interpreted as an official position or statement on behalf of DFAT. DFAT websites remain the authoritative source and repository of information, with social media messages generally directing the public to links on the relevant website page.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 10

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid allocation

Question on Notice

Page: 19

Senator Wong

Question

Confirm whether the full - \$982million – cuts to the aid budget for 2015-16 have been implemented. Provide full breakdown.

Answer

Yes. A breakdown of 2015-16 aid budget allocations, including comparison to 2014-15 allocations, is available on the DFAT website at <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/corporate/portfolio-budget-statements/Pages/budget-highlights-2015-16.aspx#allocations>.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 11

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid allocation

Question on Notice

Page: 20

Senator Wong

Question

Provide information on every country page for those that have been impacted by budget cuts announced for 2015-2016.

Answer

This information can be found in response to question on notice 13.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 12

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid allocation

Question on Notice

Page: 21

Senator Ronaldson

Question

- A) *ActionAid was referring to the \$5.7 billion, which I understand was cut from the aid programs in the last 15 months of the last government—is that correct?***
- B) *We had a \$5.7 billion cut and a further \$750 million was taken out of the budget for the onshore processing of asylum seekers. Can you confirm that Australian aid to the following countries and regions was cut to pay for the onshore processing asylum seekers: the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, China, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives, the Palestine territories and the Sub-Saharan Africa?***
- C) *Did the cut include a reduction in the humanitarian emergency fund?***
- D) *Can you provide a list of projects that were delayed or cancelled as a result of the former Labor government's \$5.7 billion cut to the aid program and the \$750 million reprioritisation that occurred?***
- E) *According to OECD data, the majority of the OECD DAC countries reduced their foreign aid budgets in 2014. Do you know how that compared to previous years?***

Answer

- A)** Yes, total reductions of \$5.7 billion were made to the four years of estimates for Official Development Assistance in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 budgets.
- B)** A total of \$750 million was allocated during the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years for onshore processing of asylum seekers. The then Government redistributed \$375 million in ODA in December 2012 to support the costs of asylum seekers living in Australia. This resulted in reduced 2012-13 allocations to the countries listed in the question on notice. Details of the

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redistribution are published in *Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2012-13: Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio* (page 102-105), available on the DFAT website.

C) Yes

D) Refer to Questions on Notice responses 2, 4, 5 and 28 - Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee - Additional Budget Estimates (AusAID), February 2013.

E) Annual ODA contributions (in US dollars) by the 28 OECD donor countries since 1950 are available on the OECD website at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/Long%20term%20ODA.xls>. In recent years, the changes were as follows:

- between 2013 and 2014, 14 increased ODA and 14 decreased ODA
- between 2012 and 2013, 20 increased ODA and 8 decreased ODA
- between 2011 and 2012, 8 increased ODA and 20 decreased ODA.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 13

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid allocation

Question on Notice

Page: 23

Senator Wong

Question

What programs are affected, cancelled, rescope or altered as a result of the 2015-16 budget?

Answer

The following table lists the Australian aid programs (agreements) that have been affected, cancelled, rescope or altered as a result of the 2015-16 budget.

- Noting some agreements are still under negotiation with partners, the list below is accurate at the time of preparation of this response.
- Changes to annual funding allocations to multilateral agencies are already noted on DFAT's website <http://dfat.gov.au/aid/aid-budgets-statistics/Pages/default.aspx>

Country/Region	Agreement
Afghanistan	UNDP Law and Order Trust Fund
Afghanistan	World Bank Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
Africa	The Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme - Resource Facility
Africa	Australia Africa Partnerships Facility (AAPF)
Africa	Australia Africa Development Program (AADP)
Africa	Africa Food Security Initiative (CSIRO)
Africa	Transparency, Responsiveness, Accountability and Citizen Engagement Program (TRACE), Zimbabwe

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Asia Pacific	Support to the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions
Bangladesh	Primary Education Development Program Phase 3 (PEDP3)
Burma	Support to Improve Maternal and Child Health, Communicable Diseases and Strengthen the Health Systems
Burma	DFAT-ACIAR multidisciplinary research program for food security
Burma	Myanmar Education Consortium
Global	Institute for State Effectiveness
Global	Developmental Leadership Program
Global	Australia Awards
Global	Australian NGO Cooperation Program
Global	Australian Volunteers for International Development
India	DFAT-IFC South Asia Sustainable Development Partnership
Indonesia	HIV Cooperation Program for Indonesia
Indonesia	Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Pro-Poor Policy – The Knowledge Sector Initiatives
Indonesia	IndoBeef
Indonesia	SAIIG - Infrastructure Grant Municipal Sanitation
Indonesia	Improving the performance, oversight and monitoring of the Indonesian School System
Indonesia	Australia Indonesia Partnership for Health Systems Strengthening
Indonesia	Governance for Growth KOMPAK
Indonesia	Technical Assistance Cluster on Sustainable Infrastructure Assistance Program

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Indonesia	Rapidly Expanding access to Care for HIV (REACH) Program in Tanah Papua
Indonesia	Nationwide Professional Development for Education Personnel
Indonesia	Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice
Indonesia	Australia Indonesia Partnership for Maternal and Neonatal Health
Indonesia	Management of the Empowering Indonesian Women for Poverty Reduction Program (Indonesia)

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Country/Region	Agreement
Laos	Management of Human Resource Development and Australia Awards - Laos Australia Institute
Laos	Basic Education Quality and Access Managing Contractor
Laos	Learning Facility
Laos	Social Protection and Sustainable Livelihoods Managing Contractor
Mongolia	Australia Mongolia Extractives Program Implementation Service Provider
Mongolia	Mongolia-Australia Scholarships Program Phase II
Pacific	Australia-Pacific Technical College Stage 2
Pacific	Pacific Benchmarking Education Quality for Results
Pacific	Support to the Pacific Legal Information System (PacLII)
Pacific	State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program
Pakistan	Pakistan Australia Prevention of Avoidable Blindness - Inception Phase
Pakistan	UK Department for International Development (DFID) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Sector
Pakistan	Pakistan Partnership for Improved Nutrition Multi-Donor Trust Fund
Pakistan	Citizen Engagement for Social Service Delivery Project III
Palestinian Territories	Australia-Palestinian Authority Partnership Arrangement
Philippines	Basic Education Sector Transformation (BEST) Program
Philippines	Classroom Construction Support
South Asia	Climate-resilient farming systems in the Eastern Gangetic Plains
South East Asia	Australia Mekong Non-Government Organisation

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	Engagement Platform
Timor-Leste	Program to Support the National Program for Village Development
Vietnam	Vietnam climate innovation centre
Vietnam	World Bank Trust Fund - energy
Vietnam	Anti-corruption program
Vietnam	Water and sanitation

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 14

Program: DFAT

Topic: Gender

Question on Notice

Page: 25

Senator Wong

Question

[Pages 25, 27-28]

- a) Provide breakdown of \$15 million allocated to 'global programs.'
- b) Provide criteria document for \$26.5 million worth of proposals.
- c) How many proposals involved NGOs?
- d) Is it correct to say that, of the \$50million, \$35½ is essentially funding existing programs?

Answer

- a) The breakdown of funding is as follows:

Global Gender Equality Policy Programs 2015/16	AUD million
Ending violence against women in Pakistan	2.00
Ending violence against women including Engaging parliamentarians to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in East Asia UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women	4.50
Implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 – Women, Peace and Security (WPS) UN Women's Global Acceleration Instrument for WPS Research on gender equality and countering violent extremism	2.20
Women's Economic Empowerment – global programs	4.00
Partnerships, Research and Advocacy including International Women's Day partnership with UN Women Australia	0.70
Supporting Women's Leadership YWCA Power to Change Fund – Mobilising young women's leadership and advocacy in Asia	0.50
Gender Sector Specialists	0.80
Ambassador for Women and Girls	0.30
TOTAL	15.00

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- b) In 2015-16, an internal competitive funding process was established to increase support for investments that have a track record of delivering strong gender equality results, or can offer innovative ways to increase our impact on gender equality. For the internal round, all applications were assessed by a panel of senior departmental officers against the following criteria:
- The investment is committed to promoting gender equality as a principal or significant objective, and is aligned with the government's priorities on gender equality as outlined in the Aid policy;
 - The investment must have either an established track record of high performance and results in promoting gender equality and is committed to improvement, or be an innovative proposal that tests new ideas and approaches; and
 - The investment is not a once-off activity, program areas applying for funding must be committed to co-financing of the investment beyond the agreed one or two years.
- c) Of the 37 proposals submitted through the Gender Equality Fund internal competitive process, 15 involved NGOs.
- d) The total Gender Equality Fund allocation is \$50 million in the 2015/16 financial year. This brings together \$42.5 million of existing funding for gender equality initiatives and an additional \$7.5 million. This includes some new investment (Investing in Women Initiative, and Internal and External Competitive Mechanism) and ongoing programs including global programs.

For 2015/16, the Gender Equality Fund has been reorganized as follows:

Gender Equality Fund 2015/16	AUD million
Global Gender Equality Policy Programs	15.00
Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development	12.50
Investing in Women Initiative	6.00
Internal competitive round	14.50
External competitive round- Business Partnerships Platform	2.00
TOTAL	50.00

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 15

Program: DFAT

Topic: Innovation Xchange

Question on Notice

Page: 34

Senator Dastyari

Question

Senator DASTYARI: Let's take a step back and unpack this for me. There is innovation exchange. I got a little bit confused. I tried to get on top of this. I went through the different announcements that were made. In 2014-15, it was listed as a \$20 million item, but you are saying that is part of the \$140 million.

...

Senator DASTYARI: Mr Wood, how much of that \$20 million has actually been spent?

Mr Wood: It is \$20 million per annum. I would need to take that on notice in terms of what we spent this financial year. I think we spent about \$20 million last year.

Senator DASTYARI: Are these four programs the totality of the \$20 million budget? Can you give me a breakdown of what the dollar allocation for each of these four programs is?

Mr McDonald: We are happy to take that on notice and provide that.

Answer

I would need to take that on notice in terms of what we spent this financial year. I think we spent about \$20 million last year.

- Our actual expenditure was \$18.98 million.

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Are these four programs the totality of the \$20 million budget?

- No

Can you give me a breakdown of what the dollar allocation for each of these four programs is?

The four programs to which you refer have the following budget allocations in 2014-15:

- Global Innovation Fund – \$10 million
- Seed Pacific – Nil
- Bloomberg Data for Health – \$8.5 million (iXc)
- DFAT Ideas Challenge – Nil

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 16

Program: DFAT

Topic: PNG

Question on Notice

Page: 40

Senator Rhiannon

Question

[Pages 40-41]

A. Have any DFAT representatives had talks with Mr Tanis in his position as the interim secretary of the Department of Referendum, Veterans Affairs and Peace regarding the referendum proposal?

B. What dealings has DFAT had with Adam Smith International regarding mining in Bougainville?

C. Are advisors provided to the Autonomous Bougainville Government working on mining related activities?

Answer

A. Yes. Australian Government officials meet with the Autonomous Bougainville Government on a range of issues.

B. There have been no meetings with Adam Smith International regarding mining in Bougainville since those meetings detailed in the Department's response to QON no. 82 (part 10) of Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014.

C. No.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 17

Program: DFAT

Topic: PNG

Question on Notice

Page: 42 Senator Rhiannon

Question

[Pages 42-43]

- Does DFAT have an individual program that relates to post-traumatic stress?**
- Specific to training of Bougainville Police Service, where are the facilities being built and who makes the decision on where those police facilities should be built?**
- Is the decision on the possible location in the context of where the mining operations are and how that would need to be managed?**

Answer

A. Australia contributes funding to the UN Peace Building Fund (PBF) global trust fund (\$2 million in 2013/14). Australia is a member of the PBF Steering Committee that guides investments in Bougainville where a priority is to deal with conflict-related trauma and reconciliation.

B. Australia has supported the establishment and ongoing development of the Hutjena Bougainville Police Service (BPS) Training Centre in Buka. Australia has made decisions about the development of the Hutjena BPS Training Centre in consultation with the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the PNG National Government.

C. Mining operations have not been a factor in determining the location of the Hutjena Bougainville Police Service Training Centre in Buka.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 18

Program: DFAT

Topic: Samoa

Question on Notice

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Senator Williams

Question

How much ODA to Samoa is directed to roads?

Answer

Australia's ODA to Samoa in 2015-16 includes \$2.5 million directed to the rehabilitation of roads and bridges. Australian funding is delivered through the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 19

Program: DFAT

Topic: Rohingya

Question on Notice

Page: 51

Senator Ludlam

Question

If they are not recognised as citizens of Myanmar, are they effectively stateless? What would their status be in international law?

Answer

Responding substantively to the question of whether Rohingya are 'stateless' under international law would entail provision of legal advice.

Irrespective of their status under international law, the Australian Government has publicly expressed its concern about the situation of the Rohingya, and advocates to the Government of Myanmar to provide Rohingya with an effective pathway to citizenship.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 20

Program: DFAT

Topic: New Colombo Plan

Question on Notice

Page: 53

Senator McEwen

Question

- *Provide the number of applications received, number of acceptances so far, completion rate, and evaluation of the plan?*
- *Identify the country in which the student required consular assistance?*

Answer

The numbers of applications received and New Colombo Plan scholarships and mobility grants awarded under the 2014 (pilot phase), 2015 and 2016 rounds are below.

		2014	2015	2016
New Colombo Plan Scholarship Program	Number of applications received from Australian undergraduate students	124	225	226
	Number of scholarships awarded	40	69	100
New Colombo Plan Mobility program	Number of mobility project applications received from Australian universities	142	312*	835
	Number of mobility projects funded	72	254	461
	Number of student mobility grants offered	1,361	3,171	5,487

** For the 2014 and 2016 rounds, Australian universities submitted separate applications for each mobility project. Under the 2015 round, universities submitted one application for each New Colombo Plan location, which meant that there could be multiple projects within each application.*

Under the New Colombo Plan scholarships program, 32 scholars have completed programs (as at 13 November 2015). One scholar withdrew from the program. Of the 72 pilot phase mobility projects funded, 48 are complete and 24 are ongoing. Of the 2015 mobility projects funded, 12 are complete and 242 are ongoing or yet to commence. 2016 mobility projects will commence from 1 January 2016.

A monitoring and evaluation framework for the New Colombo Plan is in place to help ensure that robust information from a variety of sources informs reporting and ongoing implementation of the program. Monitoring and evaluation activities underway or under development include surveys of New Colombo Plan students and

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alumni; analysis of feedback from Australian universities, host organisations and host government representatives; and periodic evaluations. An independent evaluation of the pilot phase is underway, undertaken by ACIL Allen Consulting. Stage one was completed in September 2014 and focussed on New Colombo Plan application processes. Stage two is nearing completion, focusing on student experiences. The evaluation of the pilot phase will conclude in 2016-17.

To date, one instance of a New Colombo Plan student requiring consular assistance has been recorded. The student became ill in Hong Kong and received all appropriate consular assistance in accordance with the *Consular Services Charter*.

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Question No 21

Program: DFAT

Topic: New Colombo Plan

Question on Notice

Page: 54

Senator McEwen

Question

- *Was the process to invite all members and senators done in conjunction with the foreign minister's office?*
- *Were the invitation letters to coalition senators and members sent out on exactly the same day as those for labor senators and members? Could you clarify the date and timing of those invitations?*

Answer

Yes.

These questions should be directed to the Foreign Minister's office.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 22

Program: DFAT

Topic: Funding allocation

Question on Notice

Page: 55

Senator Dastyari

Question

Provide individual budget allocation for the Public Diplomacy Division.

Answer

DFAT's global public diplomacy budget is \$6,768,000. This is administered by the Public Diplomacy and Communications Division.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 23

Program: DFAT

Topic: Fashion diplomacy

Question on Notice

Page: 57

Senator Dastyari

Question

[Pages 57-58]

- 1. *Is the memorandum of understanding with the Australian Fashion Chamber publicly available?***
- 2. *Were instructions provided to departmental staff about how they should engage with, or how they should use #fashiondiplomacy?***
- 3. *Is it appropriate or not appropriate for them to be using #fashiondiplomacy and which photos they should or should not be using #fashiondiplomacy for?***

Answer

1. The Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Fashion Chamber is available on the DFAT website.
2. Instructions have not been given to DFAT staff about how they engage with or use #fashiondiplomacy.

Following the official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Fashion Chamber DFAT advised staff that Minister Bishop and the department had live tweeted the event using #fashiondiplomacy.

3. Instructions have not been given on which photos should or should not be used with #fashiondiplomacy.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 24

Program: DFAT

Topic: Scholarships

Question on Notice

Page: 61

Senator Rhiannon

Question

For the overall national education programs within the Australia Awards program, provide a breakdown of the funding allocation by specific program and country.

Answer

Funding allocation for DFAT administered Australia Awards in FY 2014-2015:

Country	Long-term awards*	Short-term awards**	Total costs (AUD)
AFGHANISTAN	\$386,944.82	\$27,516.16	\$414,460.98
ALGERIA	\$62,908.30	\$1,547.20	\$64,455.50
ANGOLA	\$32,585.08	\$0.00	\$32,585.08
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	\$138,947.93	\$15,935.39	\$154,883.32
ARGENTINA	\$316,298.68	\$175,289.24	\$491,587.92
BANGLADESH	\$8,969,400.17	\$541,803.11	\$9,511,203.28
BELIZE	\$341,567.03	\$15,935.39	\$357,502.42
BENIN	\$2,255.78	\$123,416.10	\$125,671.88
BHUTAN	\$5,670,011.71	\$780,833.89	\$6,450,845.60
BOLIVIA	\$400,575.24	\$0.00	\$400,575.24
BOTSWANA	\$1,509,332.64	\$224,369.96	\$1,733,702.60
BRAZIL	\$27,876.44	\$239,030.78	\$266,907.22
BURKINA FASO	\$105,844.38	\$64,227.05	\$170,071.43
BURUNDI	\$935,479.05	\$342,455.65	\$1,277,934.70
CAMBODIA	\$9,236,219.84	\$412,469.55	\$9,648,689.39
CAMEROON	\$1,255,063.23	\$418,554.80	\$1,673,618.03
CAPE VERDE	\$509,392.24	\$2,048.84	\$511,441.08

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	\$74,148.95	-\$767.89	\$73,381.06
CHAD	\$0.00	\$40,446.89	\$40,446.89
CHILE	\$659,880.12	\$95,612.31	\$755,492.44
CHINA	\$39,733.99	\$2,578,417.00	\$2,618,150.99
COLOMBIA	\$556,045.74	\$31,870.77	\$587,916.51
COMOROS	\$0.00	\$52,914.92	\$52,914.92
CONGO (DRC)	\$3,910.06	\$142,245.43	\$146,155.49
COOK ISLANDS	\$0.00	\$192,476.69	\$192,476.69
COSTA RICA	\$1,558,271.42	\$0.00	\$1,558,271.42
DOMINICA	\$65,166.39	\$15,935.39	\$81,101.78
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	\$186,522.11	\$0.00	\$186,522.11
ECUADOR	\$350,873.34	\$175,289.24	\$526,162.58
EGYPT	\$402,395.90	\$3,094.40	\$405,490.30
EL SALVADOR	\$787,671.94	\$0.00	\$787,671.94
ETHIOPIA	\$2,819,890.31	\$317,731.29	\$3,137,621.60
FIJI	\$6,840,246.91	\$698,054.42	\$7,538,301.33
FRENCH POLYNESIA	\$584,486.36	\$0.00	\$584,486.36
GABON	\$0.00	\$70,117.44	\$70,117.44
GAMBIA	\$712,250.33	\$24,662.67	\$736,913.00
GHANA	\$2,466,233.23	\$1,042,505.05	\$3,508,738.28
GRENADA	\$301,985.98	\$15,935.39	\$317,921.36
GUATEMALA	\$954,446.69	\$0.00	\$954,446.69
GUINEA (CONAKRY/REPUBLIC OF GUINEA)	\$0.00	\$42,578.24	\$42,578.24
GUYANA	\$585,963.76	\$47,806.16	\$633,769.92
HAITI	\$371,561.75	\$0.00	\$371,561.75
HONDURAS	\$860,286.15	\$0.00	\$860,286.15
IVORY COAST (COTE D'IVOIRE)	\$41,737.44	\$110,374.13	\$152,111.57
INDIA	\$631,079.00	\$286,836.94	\$917,915.94
INDONESIA	\$73,175,412.08	\$7,041,327.13	\$80,216,739.22
IRAQ	\$29,263.20	\$0.00	\$29,263.20
JAMAICA	\$804,075.85	\$15,935.39	\$820,011.23
KENYA	\$4,299,471.17	\$1,362,395.72	\$5,661,866.90
KIRIBATI	\$3,159,776.48	\$254,966.17	\$3,414,742.64
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	\$12,617,876.02	\$125,632.61	\$12,743,508.63
LESOTHO	\$1,212,053.31	\$172,011.31	\$1,384,064.62
LIBERIA	\$2,014,618.82	\$114,112.01	\$2,128,730.83
MADAGASCAR	\$178,929.30	\$393,334.20	\$572,263.50
MALAWI	\$2,241,680.65	\$438,869.88	\$2,680,550.52
MALAYSIA	\$0.00	\$223,095.40	\$223,095.40
MALDIVES	\$5,474,490.28	\$59,386.93	\$5,533,877.21
MALI	\$29,383.96	\$101,923.85	\$131,307.81

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MARSHALL ISLANDS	\$115,497.44	\$15,935.39	\$131,432.82
MAURITANIA	\$0.00	\$54,989.90	\$54,989.90
MAURITIUS	\$1,080,373.57	\$374,563.74	\$1,454,937.31
MEXICO	\$484,312.74	\$119,298.13	\$603,610.87
MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF	\$830,508.41	\$47,806.16	\$878,314.56
MONGOLIA	\$7,684,884.50	\$425,900.80	\$8,110,785.29
MOROCCO	\$639.26	\$0.00	\$639.26
MOZAMBIQUE	\$3,328,987.05	\$93,396.51	\$3,422,383.56
MYANMAR	\$4,648,933.80	\$1,417,650.90	\$6,066,584.70
NAMIBIA	\$362,413.75	\$0.00	\$362,413.75
NAURU	\$723,882.63	\$223,095.40	\$946,978.03
NEPAL	\$6,014,600.88	\$764,898.50	\$6,779,499.38
NEW CALEDONIA	\$690,148.68	\$0.00	\$690,148.68
NICARAGUA	\$553,912.51	\$0.00	\$553,912.51
NIUE	\$0.00	\$63,741.54	\$63,741.54
NIGER	\$0.00	\$306,710.94	\$306,710.94
NIGERIA	\$2,713,756.86	\$1,015,500.34	\$3,729,257.21
NORTH SUDAN (SUDAN)	\$19,067.35	\$341,020.82	\$360,088.17
PAKISTAN	\$7,106,142.86	-\$40,990.65	\$7,065,152.21
PALAU	\$59,053.13	\$31,870.77	\$90,923.90
PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, OCCUPIED	\$1,322,244.81	\$59,386.93	\$1,381,631.75
PANAMA	\$442,783.41	\$0.00	\$442,783.41
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	\$42,697,077.89	\$696,802.35	\$43,393,880.24
PARAGUAY	\$329,849.34	\$191,224.63	\$521,073.96
PERU	\$570,401.44	\$270,901.55	\$841,302.99
PHILIPPINES	\$10,749,564.85	\$1,575,752.69	\$12,325,317.54
REPUBLIC OF CONGO	\$11,312.84	\$20,731.97	\$32,044.81
RWANDA	\$1,011,297.66	\$372,712.76	\$1,384,010.42
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	\$73,187.73	\$47,806.16	\$120,993.88
SAINT LUCIA	\$332,643.22	\$31,870.77	\$364,513.99
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	\$329,211.50	\$31,870.77	\$361,082.27
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	\$1,119.62	\$47,313.81	\$48,433.43
SAMOA	\$4,685,025.47	\$164,362.13	\$4,849,387.61
SENEGAL	\$20,194.75	\$3,094.40	\$23,289.15
SEYCHELLES	\$802,634.11	\$57,069.51	\$859,703.62
SIERRA LEONE	\$1,371,222.31	\$119,230.48	\$1,490,452.79
SOLOMON ISLANDS	\$6,445,417.96	\$856,156.21	\$7,301,574.17
SOUTH AFRICA	\$786,581.52	\$207,120.76	\$993,702.29
SOUTH KOREA	\$0.00	\$39,621.20	\$39,621.20
SOUTH SUDAN	\$90,121.20	\$147,023.72	\$237,144.92
SRI LANKA	\$4,179,306.31	\$1,147,347.75	\$5,326,654.06
SURINAME	\$233,451.43	\$47,806.16	\$281,257.59

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SWAZILAND	\$1,447,309.43	\$61,800.48	\$1,509,109.91
TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF	\$3,115,553.03	\$1,387,136.24	\$4,502,689.27
THAILAND	\$112,969.29	\$27,516.16	\$140,485.46
TIMOR-LESTE	\$7,263,932.56	\$777,731.35	\$8,041,663.91
TOGO	\$105,098.98	\$165,478.05	\$270,577.03
TONGA	\$3,052,306.24	\$363,411.33	\$3,415,717.57
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	\$14,980.82	\$0.00	\$14,980.82
TURKEY	\$0.00	\$43,135.63	\$43,135.63
TUVALU	\$1,479,122.44	\$95,612.31	\$1,574,734.75
UGANDA	\$2,500,790.13	\$887,378.60	\$3,388,168.73
URUGUAY	\$303,525.86	\$31,870.77	\$335,396.63
VANUATU	\$4,034,162.63	\$347,475.94	\$4,381,638.57
WALLIS AND FUTUNA	\$154,889.91	\$15,935.39	\$170,825.29
VENEZUELA	\$318,865.68	\$0.00	\$318,865.68
VIET NAM	\$37,110,736.92	\$2,295,349.18	\$39,406,086.10
ZIMBABWE	\$38,241.15	\$220,367.96	\$258,609.11
ZAMBIA	\$2,368,396.15	\$186,300.03	\$2,554,696.18
TOTAL	\$333,315,167.58	\$37,969,655.87	\$371,284,823.45

*= Long-term awards include Australia Awards Scholarships and Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships.

**= Short-term awards include Australia Awards Fellowships, Africa Fellowships and Short Course awards.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 25

Program: DFAT

Topic: International organisations

Question on Notice

Page: 61

Senator Rhiannon

Question

[Pages 61-62]

What involvement does Pearson Australia, or any of its national or international branches, have with Australian aid programs—either bilateral or NGO funded programs or multilateral funded programs?

Provide a breakdown of for-profit companies delivering education programs. Out of the Australian aid budget for the current and last financial years, what amount in dollars and what proportion as a percentage is going to non-government organisations, international finance institutions and multilateral organisations other than the IFIs?

Answer

- DFAT has no record of directly engaging Pearson Australia or any of its national or international branches directly as a delivery partner for the Australian aid program.
- In 2014-15, approximately \$211.6 million of education expenditure in the Australian aid program was delivered through private contractors (for profit companies). The table below provides details:

**EDUCATION EXPENDITURE DELIVERED THROUGH PRIVATE CONTRACTORS
2014-2015**

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Contractor	Grand Total \$million
PALLADIUM INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD	79.9
COFFEY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PTY LTD	43.3
CARDNO EMERGING MARKETS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	38.9
HK LOGISTICS PTY LTD T/A HK SHIPPING INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD	21.1
SCOPE GLOBAL PTY LTD	12.3
URS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	9.1
INTERNATIONAL WATER CENTRE PTY LTD	1.4
DELOITTE (PNG)	1.2
Other *	4.4
Grand Total	211.6

* Approximately \$4.4 million of education expenditure was delivered through a wide range of small value contracts

Estimates of ODA expenditure by delivery partner type are not available for the current financial year (2015-16). Of the total Australian Government aid expenditure of \$5,031.9 million in 2014-15, funding for education investments included:

- \$112.1 million (2.2%) through NGOs
- \$241.1 million (4.8%) through Multilateral Development Banks (includes the contribution to the Global Partnership for Education)
- \$25.3 million (0.5%) through United Nations Organisations and Regional Organisations

Detailed information on specific projects can be obtained from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website: <http://dfat.gov.au/aid/Pages/australias-aid-program.aspx>

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 26

Program: DFAT

Topic: PNG

Question on Notice

Page: 62

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Some of the people working for the PNG government who are funded fully or partly by Australian aid money could be working on refugee programs. Is that correct or incorrect?

Answer

The Australian Government funds three long-term Department of Immigration and Border Protection advisers in the Papua New Guinea Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority, through the Strongim Gavman Program. These advisers provide strategic advice and capacity building in the areas of: visa and passport systems and processes; migration policy, including refugees; border management; and corporate systems and governance. Further queries on the specific details of work undertaken by these advisers should be directed to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 27

Program: DFAT

Topic: Palestinian Territories

Question on Notice

Page: 63

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- Referring to question 45 from February 2015 and how many projects funded by Australian aid were destroyed by the Israeli army during the 2014 war in Gaza, can you provide an update?

- Referring to question 46 from February 2015 and the homes that were demolished when Israel invaded Gaza, what is Australia's involvement in the reconstruction of homes?

Answer

- a) Communities supported by World Vision and Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA with Australian aid lost livelihood assets such as greenhouses, irrigation pipes, crops, livestock and fishing boats valued at around \$3.2 million during the Gaza conflict in 2014. \$30,000 of damage was sustained to Australian aid-funded infrastructure which had initially been constructed under UNICEF's water, sanitation and hygiene program for schools. Infrastructure managed by UNRWA (to which Australia contributes core funding) was also damaged.
- b) Australia provided \$15.7 million to UNRWA's Gaza reconstruction appeals which focussed on repairing infrastructure such as schools and homes. Australia also supported the development of the UN's Materials Monitoring Unit with \$120,000, which underpins the system for tracking the entry of construction materials to Gaza. This Unit is critical for the reconstruction of Gaza because it ensures cement and other dual use material is not diverted by radical groups.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 28

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mekong River Commission

Question on Notice

Page: 64

Senator Rhiannon

Question

[Pages 64, 89]

- *Does the Australian government have any involvement with that study that is being prioritised by the Mekong River Commission?*
- *What measures has the Australian government taken to ensure that the scoping study for the Theun-Hinboun expansion dam project in Central Laos is made public?*
- *Referring to the joint statement in June 2015 and the concerns that were outlined regarding the impact of the Don Sahong Dam, what actions has DFAT taken to ensure such a study is carried out?*
- *With respect to the consultation process, what is the Australian government's understanding of the status of the PNPCA being undertaken by the joint committee working group?*
- *What specific engagement has DFAT had with the Mekong River Commission since the June meeting?*

Answer

1. Australia is co-financing the MRC Council Study (\$0.5 million, 2014-16) on the environmental, social and economic consequences of development in the Mekong River Basin, to help identify mitigation measures for future development. The Study is due for completion in late 2016. Other donors to the Study include Finland, Germany, Switzerland, the United States and the European Union.
2. The Australian Government, including through the aid program, has no involvement with the Theun-Hinboun expansion dam project in Central Laos. It is not subject to the MRC Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

and Agreement (PNPCA). Theun-Hinboun Power Company project planning and implementation documents, including the environmental impact assessment, environmental management and monitoring plan, resettlement action plan and socio-economic data can be found on their website: www.thpclaos.com.

3. MRC donors requested an update on a planned review of the implementation of the PNPCA more broadly, not specifically on the Don Sahong dam. An update was provided by the MRC Secretariat after the meeting on the status of this review, advising that the MRC Secretariat is preparing a lessons learned document from the experience of implementing the PNPCA. A workshop is planned for December 2015/January 2016 (location tbc) to discuss the challenges and issues with PNPCA implementation. DFAT will continue to follow-up on progress through Australia's regular engagement with the MRC.
4. The MRC Secretariat is preparing a lessons learned document from the experience of implementing the PNPCA. Based on this document, a workshop is planned for December 2015/January 2016 to discuss the challenges and issues with PNPCA implementation with the MRC Secretariat and its Member Countries.
5. Australia engages regularly with the MRC Secretariat and Member Countries, through formal meetings such as the donor consultative groups and regular informal meetings. This engagement since June 2015 has focused on providing advice on MRC's organisational reform process, including advocating for a stronger focus on improving implementation of core functions (such as the PNPCA) in the next strategic plan 2016-2020. Australia has also been invited to MRC meetings on Council Study development and provided financial support for MRC attendance at key regional events where MRC Secretariat staff report on achievements and priorities and exchange lessons learned about approaches to stakeholder relations, including on the PNPCA process for Don Sahong. Australia also engages with the MRC in relation to MRC programs we are funding on capacity development, gender, water modelling and implementation of MRC regulations across the four Member Countries. The EU is currently Chair of the MRC donor group. As former and incoming Chairs respectively, Australia and Switzerland are currently part of a troika arrangement. The troika is responsible for coordinating donor positions on all MRC issues, ongoing liaison with the MRC as well as representing all donors in the MRC's budget committee with Member Countries and the MRC Secretariat.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 29

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid

Question on Notice

Page: 67

Senator Gallacher

Question

Senator GALLACHER: There are a few issues I want to speak about—and to do them justice, Mr McDonald, you probably need to take them on notice—and they go specifically to our programs in Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. In particular, if these statistics are correct, the awful statistics that more than half, 58 per cent, of all Timorese children have had their growth permanently stunted by malnutrition; that half, or 49.5 per cent, of all children in Papua New Guinea have had their growth permanently stunted by malnutrition; and that more than a third, 36 per cent, of all Indonesian children had had their growth permanently stunted by under nutrition. We have had aid programs in all those places for a very long time. They are significant recipients of our aid.

The other interesting statistics are their economic growth: in Papua New Guinea's case, a growth rate of 5.8 per cent from 2004 to 2013; Timor-Leste, an annual growth rate of 14.6 per cent from 2007 to 2012; and Indonesian, an annual growth rate of 5.8 per cent from 2004 to 2013. In summary, we have been there a long time. We have had aid programs a long time. The stats are appalling—my word not yours. Their economic growth rates are reasonable, in fact, they are very respectable in world terms. Where are we failing in achieving reductions in these appalling outcomes after the such a long investment? I appreciate it is a very complex question, but I would appreciate if you could take it on notice unless you want to make comments straightaway.

Mr McDonald: We will check those statistics but, if you want to have a discussion on it now, I will have one of my health people come to the table to speak about it. But nutrition, particularly in Timor-Leste, is one that I am familiar with and is one that we have been focused on with the aid program. You are absolutely correct in terms of the improvement you need because, as you know, that impacts on learning and everything else that occurs in the country. One thing we are trying through the innovationXchange is a nutrition new initiative that links up various aspects of nutrition. It is not just health; it is about education, water and sanitation. And we use mobile technology to help inform people about nutrition and what they should be

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

and should not be eating and those sorts of things. I am happy to provide you with more detail on that.

Answer

Under-nutrition has many underlying causes operating at the level of the individual, household and society. While economic growth provides the resources for a country to meet the needs of its citizens, under nutrition is a complex issue requiring coordinated action across many levels and partners, supported by strong leadership.

Aid programs can and do help, but ultimately if partner countries do not have the leadership, the policy and the institutions to address the underlying drivers then conditions are unlikely to improve, and can get worse.

Australia's support to nutrition programs has achieved strong results.

In PNG, Australia is funding: health services that provide support to women to exclusively breastfeed; the supply of therapeutic food; provision of micronutrient supplements; management of severe malnutrition; and the development and delivery of nutrition training programs including a Post Graduate Diploma in Nutrition and Dietetics.

This support has contributed to: the development of new national guidelines and training manuals for Infant and Young Child Feeding; 15 provincial hospitals provided with therapeutic foods; and a study of nutrition in East Sepik which provides evidence for future program decisions.

In Timor-Leste, Australia's newly announced agricultural program, TOMAK (2016-2021), has a specific focus on promoting good nutrition, including dietary diversity, and improving agricultural practices to ensure a year round supply of locally-available nutritious food.

The Timor-Leste program also received funding from the InnovationXChange to pilot new technology to enhance nutrition work, including by drawing on approaches such as mobile phones to deliver nutrition messages through existing investments.

In Indonesia, Australia is supporting a new AUD 1.4 million grant to the Micronutrient Initiative over four years to help address the issue of malnutrition in Indonesia. This program, also funded by Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, will reduce iron deficiency anaemia in pregnant women and reduce mortality and morbidity in children under five.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 30

Program: DFAT

Topic: Green Book

Question on Notice

Page: 69

Senator Gallacher

Question

Senator GALLACHER: *Will the green book include all the data and detail previously provided in the blue book?*

Mr McDonald: *I think the answer to that is that the website includes information that is consistent with the blue book. I think in the green book you will have the budget allocations—the way I understand it—the statistical information, which will be the same, but it will have additional information in it for these other agencies. Can I just say that the other reason for this is that some countries currently include in their public representation the whole-of-government efforts. The UK comes to mind for me. We might be able to take it on notice, but other countries do a similar thing to the green book.*

Answer

The purposes of the publications are different. The 'Blue Book' provided prospective Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget allocations for the coming financial year. Comparable detail is available on the DFAT website on the *Budget highlights 2015-16* page (<http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/corporate/portfolio-budget-statements/Pages/budget-highlights-2015-16.aspx>) and in country Aid Investment Plans, available on each country page (<http://dfat.gov.au/aid/where-we-give-aid/Pages/where-we-give-aid.aspx>).

The 'Green Book' is a retrospective annual statistical publication that reports on the previous financial year's ODA expenditure. The Green Book on the 2013-14 financial year is available on the DFAT website at <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/aid/statistical-summary-time-series-data/Pages/statistical-summary-and-time-series-data-2013-14.aspx>.

For the 2014-15 Green Book, DFAT aims to supplement the usual aid expenditure reporting with data on non-ODA expenditure that benefits other countries, as well as a range of additional statistics on our foreign affairs, aid and trade relationship with countries.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 31

Program: DFAT

Topic: SDG

Question on Notice

Page: 71

Senator Gallacher

Question

Regarding total official support for sustainable development and the proposal for the post-2015 measurement:

- 1. Has the Australian government made any submissions or provided any advice to the OECD on that proposal for the post-2015 measurement?***
- 2. Does DFAT have a view on the potential usefulness of the TOSSD framework?***
- 3. Have you made any representations?***
- 4. Do you have a formal view on it?***
- 5. Has DFAT made any assessment of the likely inputs to measurement of Australia's TOSSD?***
- 6. Will Australia be making a contribution to settling an approach to TOSSD at the OECD DAC high-level meeting in 2016?***

Answer

1. Australia has been involved in consultations with other donors and the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) on the development of a new statistical measure, provisionally titled Total Official Support for Sustainable Development.
2. The proposed TOSSD measure is at an early stage of development and consultation. In principle, we welcome work on TOSSD to complement (not replace) ODA.
3. See response to Part 1 above.
4. See response to Part 2 above.

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5. In additional to reporting Australia's ODA we are required to report Australia's Other Official Flows (OOF) to the OECD. While the scope of TOSSD is not yet defined, we would expect current systems to be sufficient with some modifications.
6. While the agenda for the next OECD DAC high level meeting has not yet been set, we expect a discussion on TOSSD is likely and that Australia will make a contribution.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 32

Program: DFAT

Topic: Enterprise Bargaining Agreements (EBAs)

Question on Notice

Page: 76

Senator McEwen

Question

Regarding domestic violence leave provisions, could you clarify the status of either the guidelines or whatever else you are proposing that you think would equate to having an actual clause in the enterprise agreement?

Answer

DFAT has developed *Guidance on Workplace Responses to Domestic and Family Violence* which aligns with APSC circular 2012/3 on Supporting Employees Affected by Domestic or Family Violence. The Guidance was launched by DFAT Secretary, Peter Varghese AO on 25 November 2015.

The Guidance promotes access by staff who are affected by domestic and family violence to existing Personal/Carer's Leave (PCL) entitlements for reasons such as attending medical or counselling appointments; moving into emergency accommodation and seeking more permanent safe housing; attending court hearings; attending police appointments; accessing legal advice; and organising alternative care and educational arrangements for their children, or other family members, including pets. In circumstances where personal leave does not apply, or if employees have exhausted their PCL entitlements, the Guidance provides that a reasonable allowance may be made for employees affected by domestic and family violence.

PCL entitlements are set at 20 days per year in line with the *Australian Public Service Enterprise Award 2015* which remains unchanged in DFAT's proposed Enterprise Agreement.

Amendments to the DFAT Human Resources Manual, clarifying that PCL can be accessed for these purposes, will be implemented in-line with the Guidance. Policy guidance complements but is not legally equivalent to the contents of any enterprise agreement.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 33

Program: DFAT

Topic: Graduate Intake

Question on Notice

Page: 77

Senator McEwen

Question

Provide details on the graduate intake for the years 2008 to 2014 (inclusive), as well as the retention rate of graduates. This should include former AusAID and DFAT.

Answer

Table 1 provides details of DFAT graduate intakes for 2008 – 2014 (inclusive) and the retention rate for each cohort. Table 2 provides details of former AusAID graduate intakes for 2008 – 2014 (inclusive) and the retention rate for each cohort. The data represents information available as at September 2015.

Table 1: DFAT Graduates

Year	Number of Graduates	Rate of Retention (Percent)
2008	37	65
2009	48	81
2010	47	72
2011	55	93
2012	53	94
2013	39	90
2014	43	100

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Table 2: Former AusAID Graduates

Year	Number of Graduates	Rate of Retention (Percent)
2008	16	88
2009	16	81
2010	13	92
2011	19	74
2012	33	82
2013	33	91
2014	N/A	N/A

Question No 34

Program: DFAT

Topic: Strategic workforce plan

Question on Notice

Page: 78

Senator McEwen

Question

Provide a copy of DFAT's strategic workforce plan 2015-19.

Answer

The workforce plan is an internal working document.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 35

Program: DFAT

Topic: India - Adani

Question on Notice

Page: 79

Senator Waters

Question

- 1. Provide the date of the meeting between the Secretary and the Queensland government, where either the infrastructure facility or matters pertaining to northern Australia, specifically the Adani project, were discussed***
- 2. Provide the date of the meeting between the Secretary and Mr Adani or any associates.***

Answer

Queensland government

On 13 July 2015 the Secretary met with:

- the CEO and General Manager International Operations of Trade and Investment Queensland; and
- the Director-General of the Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet.

On 21 September 2015 the Secretary met with the Hon Jackie Trad MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade.

Adani

Since becoming Secretary, Mr Varghese has met with representatives of Adani on the following occasions:

On 13 July 2015 the Secretary met with Mr Samir Vora (Chief Operating Officer) and Mr Jeyakumar Janakaraj (CEO) of Adani Mining Australia.

On 9 June 2015 the Secretary met with Mr Gautam Adani.

On 17 July 2014 the Secretary and Mr Gautam Adani both attended the B20 official dinner in Sydney.

On 16 July 2014 the Secretary met with Mr Gautam Adani , Mr Samir Vora (Chief Operating Officer) and Mr Jeyakumar Janakaraj (CEO) of Adani Mining Australia.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 36

Program: DFAT

Topic: West Sahara

Question on Notice

Page: 80

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- A. What is the government's official position regarding the status of West Sahara?***
- B. Does Australia consider Western Sahara to be part of the sovereign territory of the Kingdom of Morocco?***
- C. What is the total funding of aid projects in Western Sahara? What are those projects?***

Answer

- A. Australia recognises the UN classification of Western Sahara as a non-self-governing territory, and its people's right to self-determination.
- B. Refer to Answer A.
- C. The Australian Government does not have an aid program in Western Sahara.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 37

Program: DFAT

Topic: PNG - Bougainville

Question on Notice

Page: 80

Senator Rhiannon

Question

The PNG Auditor-General has raised serious questions about the Bougainville government. Does DFAT have any knowledge about this report?

Answer

The Department is aware of the report.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 38

Program: DFAT

Topic: PNG - Mining

Question on Notice

Page: 81

Senator Rhiannon

Question

(Pages 81 and 83)

- A. Under the Mining Act, can landowners control access granted to their lands under an exploration licence by executing a land access and compensation agreement?***
- B. Are you aware that the Mining Act overrules the customary law principle that entry onto land is only permitted once consent from landowners has been obtained?***
- C. The Mining Act authorises trespass without permission onto land in certain circumstances. Is this the correct interpretation?***

Answer

Questions relating to the Bougainville Mining Act are best directed to the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 39

Program: DFAT

Topic: PNG

Question on Notice

Page: 83

Senator Dastyari

Question

Provide the website link for guidelines APS employees in overseas advisor positions.

Answer

The whole of Government aid program deployees (APS employees) are covered by the APS Code of Conduct as well as DFAT's code of conduct for Overseas Service.

DFAT's Code of Conduct for Overseas Service is available at: <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/dfat-code-of-conduct-for-overseas-service.aspx>. Individual terms of reference also apply to adviser positions.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 40

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid advisers

Question on Notice

Page: 83

Senator Gallacher

Question

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- A. How many advisers funded by the Australian aid program are classified as international—that is, where the required expertise cannot be sourced locally or the required skills being transferred to the beneficiary country can only be obtained from abroad?*
- B. Are any international advisers working in positions based in Australia?*
- C. Are any Australians engaged as international advisers?*
- D. Are any current advisers former employees of AusAID or DFAT? How many?*
- E. Are any international advisers funded by the aid program in Australia on specific employment related visas?*
- F. Provide a breakdown of the number of advisers classified as international by duration—short- or long-term over six months—country, program, project.*
- G. Provide a breakdown of cost per position.*
- H. Provide a breakdown of the number of Australian public servants engaged in aid funded advisory roles through employment arrangements or contracts on Australian Public Service terms and conditions.*
- I. Which Australian government agencies have contributed personnel? Are you taking that on notice?*
- J. What programs and projects are the advisers working with, in which countries and at what cost?*

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- K. How many current advisers are direct sourced and how many participated in a competitive selection?***
- L. How many current advisers are paid more than the maximum rate for each category and job level?***

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- M. How many advisers in each category and job level are paid the maximum rate?***
- N. Who is responsible for verifying that the contractor and adviser performance register is both up to date and checked by DFAT staff prior to an offer of employment being made?***
- O. Does a good performance record mean that referee reports are not necessary to conclude an offer of employment?***
- P. In addition to the remuneration rate agreed to for the discipline group and job level, what additional entitlements or allowances an adviser might be eligible for, and the guidelines and rates that apply to these?***
- Q. Is the cost of advisers, their allowances and support costs, exclusively met as administered expenses, or are departmental resources used to meet some of these costs?***

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- R. Provide any information specifically for people working in PNG and Bougainville to be provided to the committee.***

Answer

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A. In Financial Year 2014-15, 2,133 international advisers were funded by the Australian aid program.

B. Yes. DFAT and its managing contractors engage short and long term advisers under the aid program, principally to work overseas. There is sometimes a need for program support, policy or other analytical work that is Australia-based.

C. Yes. In Financial Year 2014-15, 1,351 Australians were engaged as international advisers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

D. Former employees of AusAID or DFAT are occasionally engaged as advisers under the Australian aid program, however, DFAT does not monitor the number. DFAT's human resources and procurement policies outline post-separation employment requirements. These preclude former employees, whose employment ceased within the last nine (9) months, from being engaged on aid projects where they were formerly substantially involved in the design, preparation, appraisal, review and or daily management of the program or activity, or where a real or apparent conflict of interest between their former official duties and the proposed employment could arise.

E. DFAT does not monitor this.

F. & G. In Financial Year 2014-15, 1,311 short term international advisers and 822 long term international advisers were engaged. The time and staff required to provide the remainder of the information requested would entail a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources.

H. DFAT manages the deployment of officers from Australian government agencies into whole of Government aid-funded programs. There are currently 46 APS deployees across five countries: Papua New Guinea (33), Indonesia (6), Solomon Islands (5), Timor-Leste (1) and Fiji (1). The number of deployees by agency are detailed in the following table.

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Deployees by Department					
(As at 9 November 2015)					
	Papua New Guinea	Indonesia	Solomon Islands	Timor-Leste	Fiji
HOME AGENCY	Number of deployees in country	Number of deployees in country	Number of deployees in country	Number of deployees in country	Number of deployees in country
Attorney-General's Department	11	0	0	0	0
AUSTRAC	0	2	0	0	0
Australian Bureau of Statistics	0	0	0	1	0
Australian National Audit Office	1	0	0	0	0
Australian Office of Financial Management	1	0	1	0	0
Australian Taxation Office	1	0	0	0	0
Australian Transport Safety Bureau	1	0	0	0	0
Department of Environment	1	0	0	0	1
Department of Infrastructure	3	0	0	0	0
Department of Immigration and Border Protection	6	0	0	0	0
Department of Finance	3	1	1	0	0
Treasury	5	3	3	0	0
TOTAL	33	6	5	1	1
TOTAL WoG	46				

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I. See the above table.

J. The APS deployees are deployed under the following programs:

- Strongim Gavman Program in Papua New Guinea
- Government Partnership Fund in Indonesia
- Solomon Islands Economic and Public Sector Governance Program
- Governance for Development Program in Timor-Leste
- Government Partnership for Development Program in Fiji

APS deployees receive entitlements for serving overseas, which are aligned with DFAT overseas conditions of service provisions.

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K. DFAT does not monitor the total number of advisers that are direct sourced or competitively sourced. The Adviser Remuneration Framework encourages competitive sourcing of advisers, by requiring that adviser positions are defined according to the requirements of the role, not a particular individual's skills or work history. Furthermore, use of the Aid Advisory Services Standing Offer is mandatory to engage aid advisers, for activities covered by one of its 18 categories, unless a defined exemption applies. The Aid Advisory Services Standing Offer includes a wide range of suppliers selected through a competitive open tender process.

L. In Financial Year 2014-15, two (2) advisers were paid more than the ARF's maximum rate. Both advisers were engaged under Professional Discipline Category D and Job Level 4.

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M.

Short Term Advisers

- One (1) in Professional Discipline Category B at Job Level 3;
- Four (4) in Professional Discipline Category B at Job Level 4;
- One (1) in Professional Discipline Category C at Job Level 2;
- Twenty-two (22) in Professional Discipline Category C at Job Level 4;
- One (1) in Professional Discipline Category D at Job Level 2; and
- Twenty-three (23) in Professional Discipline Category D at Job Level 4.

Long Term Advisers

- One (1) in Professional Discipline Category A at Job Level 3;
- One (1) in Professional Discipline Category B at Job Level 2;
- One (1) in Professional Discipline Category B at Job Level 3;
- One (1) in Professional Discipline Category D at Job Level 3; and
- Nine (9) in Professional Discipline Category D at Job Level 4.

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N. DFAT's Contracting Services Branch is responsible for receiving completed Adviser Performance Assessments, and consolidating them in the central performance register. DFAT's Commercial Partner Performance Assessment Guideline, Adviser Remuneration Framework and Aid Advisory Services Standing Offer Guideline require that DFAT staff check the register for adviser performance information prior to an offer of employment being made. DFAT Tender Evaluation Committees responsible for evaluating tender responses or quotes, are required to consider Adviser Performance Assessments for specified personnel.

O. No. Referee checks may be conducted at any point prior to an offer of employment, and are undertaken not only to verify the adviser's past performance, but also to confirm their capacity to undertake the role in question.

P. Advisers are eligible for allowances and support costs, as outlined in the *Adviser Remuneration Framework*, available on the DFAT website at: <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/adviser-remuneration-framework.aspx>.

Q. The cost of advisers, their allowances and support costs are treated as administered expenses where the adviser's engagement directly benefits those countries where DFAT has been directed by Government to provide aid, for example to provide technical or specialist advice to assist a developing country government agency. Adviser costs, allowances and support costs are treated as departmental expenses where the adviser's engagement provides advice to DFAT, for example, to strengthen its core capability to manage Australia's aid program.

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R. Advisers working in PNG, including Bougainville, are engaged under the same arrangements as advisers working elsewhere: APS deployees are covered by the APS Code of Conduct and DFAT's Code of Conduct for Overseas Service and contracted advisers are engaged under the Adviser Remuneration Framework.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 41

Program: DFAT

Topic: HOM/HOP - Appointments

Question on Notice

Page: 89

Senator Gallacher

Question

Provide updated version of QoN 35 from budget estimates, 3-4 June about appointments made and upcoming posts that will be vacated.

Answer

Which individuals have been appointed to the position of Ambassador or High Commissioner in 2015?

The following individuals have been appointed this year.

Name	Position	Post
Arthur Spyrou	Ambassador	Abu Dhabi
Paul Lehmann	High Commissioner	Abuja
Christopher Langman	Ambassador	Baghdad
Glen Miles	Ambassador	Beirut
Jan Adams	Ambassador	Beijing
Neil Hawkins	Ambassador	Cairo
Bryce Hutchesson	High Commissioner	Colombo
Suzanne McCourt	Ambassador	Harare
Brett Mason	Ambassador	The Hague
Margaret Adamson	High Commissioner	Islamabad
Paul Grigson	Ambassador	Jakarta
Matthew Anderson	Ambassador	Kabul
Warren Hauck	Ambassador	Kuwait City
Doug Trappett	Ambassador	Kyiv
John Feakes	High Commissioner	Nairobi
Alan Sweetman	High Commissioner	Nicosia
Gillian Bird	Ambassador	New York (UN)
Tony Negus	High Commissioner	Ottawa
Nicholas Coppel	Ambassador	Rangoon
Ralph King	Ambassador	Riyadh
Brian Pontifex	Ambassador	Paris OECD
Adam McCarthy	High Commissioner	Pretoria

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Virginia Greville	Ambassador	Madrid
Peter Tesch	Ambassador	Moscow
Paul Wojciechowski	Ambassador	Warsaw

Which Ambassador and High Commissioner postings will be due for new personnel in 2015?

Ambassador and High Commissioner appointments are determined by the Government of the day. We expect the following Ambassador and High Commissioner positions will fall vacant in 2015:

Post	Position
Accra	Ambassador
Mexico City	Ambassador
Pohnpei	Ambassador
Port Moresby	High Commissioner
Tarawa	High Commissioner

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 42

Program: DFAT

Topic: Minister's register

Question on Notice

Page: 90

Senator Gallacher

Question

- A. *Was the minister's media pad ever connected to the APH system?***
- B. *Did the minister ever return or dispose of it at any stage?***
- C. *Has the Foreign Minister taken the Prime Minister's advice and started using Wickr or Confide to communicate private messages?***

Answer

- A. No.
- B. Ms Bishop has had one iPad replaced due to an operating fault.
- C. The matter of applications used by the Foreign Minister on her electronic devices is a question for the Minister.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 43

Program: DFAT

Topic: Salaries

Question on Notice

Page: 91

Senator Gallacher

Question

- A. *Is any part of any salary of DFAT locally engaged staff funded as an administrative expense?***
- B. *If so, under what provision has this been approved within DFAT and the Department of Finance?***
- C. *-Provide details of the number and level of positions funded as an administrative expense.***
- D. *Provide the rationale for the use of the administered funding for each of the positions against specific program outcomes.***
- E. *Provide details on the number of DFAT employees and DFAT locally engaged staff whose salary is funded in part or whole as an administrative expense as of 1 March 2014 and 1 March 2015.***

Answer

See response to Question 86, Part B.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 44

Program: DFAT

Topic: Dr Lomborg

Question on Notice

Page: 92

Senator McEwen

Question

- A. *Advise whether Dr Lomborg's appointment on the international reference group is for an initial period of 12 months.***
- B. *Advise whether there is the possibility of an extension to the initial appointment period beyond 12 months.***

Answer

- A. Yes
- B. There is an option to extend the term of all International Reference Group members when their current term ends.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 45

Program: DFAT

Topic: Overseas post staff - New posts

Question on Notice

Page: 93

Senator Gallacher

Question

Provide the number of staff that will be attributed to new embassies in Ulaanbaatar, Phuket, Doha and Makassar.

Answer

Approved staffing profiles for the four new posts (Ulaanbaatar, Phuket, Doha and Makassar) total 10 A-Based staff and 23 Locally Engaged Staff.

These numbers do not include Head of Mission Domestic Staff and contracted Security Guards.

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No 46

Program: DFAT

Topic: Wong motion

Question on Notice

Page: 94

Senator Wong

Question

Senator WONG: I have one question. Did anybody go through the answers to questions on notice?

Mr Varghese: No.

Senator WONG: So 100 of 159 were not answered by the committee's due date. Can you give me an explanation for that, Secretary?

Mr Varghese: I think we have indicated to the committee, as we are obliged to, when draft replies went to ministerial officers and then when the replies were lodged. As to an explanation for any delays, I would have to take that on notice and consult the relevant minister.

Senator WONG: I have looked at the letter. You provided 59 by 17 July. Paragraph (c) sets out time frames in which you say you provided it to the ministerial offices. But it is a very low compliance rate—59 out of 159.

Mr Varghese: I cannot add to the information in the letter.

Senator WONG: Are we likely to see an improvement next time?

Mr Varghese: I am always striving for improvement in everything.

CHAIR: I remind colleagues that at the last budget Senate estimates the department had provided all answers to questions on notice, so I concur that there is always room for improvement, and we will await with interest the explanation this time. But, as I say, in June we had them all.

Mr Varghese: I think we were late in June on a few as well.

Senator WONG: I only have the more recent ones which are the budget estimates with a due date of 17 July 2015. For the department, 100 of 159 were late.

CHAIR: What was the number as at the beginning of this week. Do we have that figure?

Senator WONG: I think they have done them now.

QUESTION ON NOTICE

CHAIR: *They have?*

Senator WONG: *Yes.*

CHAIR: *So they are complete now. So you will provide us with that information on notice.*

Mr Varghese: *I will have to consult our ministers. The department lodged the draft replies within the deadline.*

CHAIR: *So the department lodged them within the deadline?*

Mr Varghese: *Yes.*

CHAIR: *Okay, that is the information we will be requiring. So they were all lodged by the department within the deadline, but they were not provided to the—*

Senator WONG: *No, that is not right. Under the standing orders, there is a letter which is provided that sets out the dates on which letters went to the minister, of those which were late. Of the remaining 100 questions which were filed late, 43 went to the minister on 10 July, 34 went to the trade minister on 9 July and 23 were provided on the ninth and 10th. You had filed on 31 July and 23 September 2015, which is obviously some months after the due date.*

Mr Varghese: *The point I was making was that the departmental draft responses had gone to ministerial offices by 10 July in two tranches, which was within the 17 July deadline. That was the only point I was making to the chair.*

Senator WONG: *Perhaps then it is an issue in the ministers' offices.*

Mr Varghese: *That is the point—I would need to consult.*

Answer

DFAT provided all 159 draft responses to Questions on Notice from Budget Estimates, 3-4 June to the Offices of the Foreign Minister and Trade and Investment Minister by 10 July. This was within the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee's tabling deadline of 17 July. Further questions should be directed to Ministerial Offices.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 47

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP

Question on Notice

Page: 101

Senator Wong

Question

Are there any differences between the draft investment chapter to the TTIP and the TPP investment chapter?

Answer

The European Union and the United States have not made public any formal text proposed for investment protection in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations. From time to time, the European Commission releases on its website internal documents that the Commission uses to discuss the EU's position with its Member States in the Council and the European Parliament. This text is not the draft negotiating text between the EU and the US. The latest internal document relating to investment protection is available at http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/september/tradoc_153807.pdf.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 48

Program: DFAT

Topic: PACER Plus

Question on Notice

Page: 102

Senator Rhiannon

Question

What were the outcomes from the meeting in October?

Answer

The negotiating parties closed negotiations on a Chapter on Consultation and Dispute Settlement bringing to ten the number of chapters now provisionally finalised. The negotiating parties made progress on the remaining chapters, including by formally capturing progress made in discussions between meetings.

Market access negotiations on tariffs, services and investment commenced with the first exchanges of offers and requests occurring before and during the meeting.

Bilateral discussions also took place in the margins of the meeting.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 49

Program: DFAT

Topic: FTA Tariff Portal

Question on Notice

Page: 109

Senator Wong

Question

What was originally budgeted for the portal and how does the \$1.02 million expenditure compare to this?

Answer

DFAT budgeted \$995,600 for the development, delivery and servicing of the FTA Portal over 2015-16 and 2016-17. The FTA Portal contract provides for a maximum expenditure of \$1.02 million.

Any difference between the maximum contract amount of \$1.02 million and the budget allocation will be met from within existing funds.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 50

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP - Sugar

Question on Notice

Page: 110

Senator Wong

Question

Specific to sugar access, how often has additional quota allocation been made historically?

Answer

The United States has made additional allocations to its World Trade Organization (WTO) Sugar Quota obligations in six of the years since 2005.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 51

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP - Labour market testing

Question on Notice

Page: 112

Senator Xenophon

Question

- A. Referencing Professor's Howes' piece on ChAFTA, will the same level of transparency apply to work agreements where foreign workers are brought in, even with labour market testing?***
- B. Professor Howe gives specific instances of electricians, plumbers, welders, engineers and nurses where Chinese workers can replace Australians in our labour market, and says that it is a break from other agreements. What is your understanding of this?***

Answer

A. Dr Howe's report on ChAFTA references labour agreements in the context of the Memorandum of Understanding that was negotiated on Investment Facilitation Arrangements. There is no Memorandum of Understanding or equivalent on Investment Facilitation Arrangements associated with the TPP.

The amendments to Australia's migration regulations that the Government agreed to in order to ensure passage through the Parliament of implementing legislation for ChAFTA will prescribe the existing requirement under policy that employers seeking to sponsor skilled workers on 457 visas under work agreements must provide evidence of labour market testing. This provision will apply to all work agreements, including those under Investment Facilitation Arrangements (IFAs).

B. ChAFTA will not allow "unrestricted" access to the Australian labour market by Chinese workers in any trade-related or professional occupation. The approach to labour mobility in ChAFTA is not new. Commitments on labour mobility have been included in FTAs concluded under both Coalition and ALP governments. Labour mobility provisions in ChAFTA, including the commitment to not apply labour

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market testing for certain categories of Chinese workers and business people, are consistent with Australia's existing immigration policy settings and will be facilitated through existing visa systems (including the 457 visa program) and employment frameworks.

ChAFTA will not remove the need for employer nomination and sponsorship under the 457 visa program. Chinese and other overseas workers will still need to demonstrate that they have the necessary qualifications, skills and work experience to meet Australia's standards for their occupation.

ChAFTA will not allow Australian employment laws, salaries or conditions to be undermined, or allow companies to avoid paying Australian wages by using foreign workers. The existing requirement under policy that companies seeking to enter into work agreements (including under Investment Facilitation Agreements) must demonstrate evidence of labour market testing will be clarified in Australia's migration regulations, as per the Government's 21 October 2015 agreement with the Opposition.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 52

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP - Labour standards

Question on Notice

Page: 113

Senator Whish-Wilson

Question

If there is a violation, for example, of labour standards in a TPP country, how do you actually prove that? Who polices it?

Answer

Each Party of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement is responsible for compliance with its obligations under the TPP, including the Labour Chapter.

Should a dispute arise between TPP Parties under the Labour Chapter, the Parties must make every effort to resolve the dispute through cooperation and consultations. However, should that process fail to resolve the dispute, TPP Parties have access to the state-to-state dispute settlement procedures under the Dispute Settlement Chapter of the TPP Agreement.

The Dispute Settlement Chapter provides for the disputing Parties to establish a panel to examine the issues in dispute, make findings or determinations (and recommendations, if requested) and produce a written report. Panellists are required, among other things, to have expertise or experience in law, international trade or other matters covered in the TPP, be independent and comply with a code of conduct.

In line with international practice, including World Trade Organization (WTO) disputes, the Party claiming a violation of a provision of the TPP Agreement must assert and prove its claim. The panel established pursuant to the Dispute Settlement Chapter is to make an objective assessment of the matter before it, including an examination of the facts of the case and the applicability of, and conformity with, the Agreement. The panel is to consider the Agreement in accordance with applicable rules of interpretation under international law as reflected in Articles 31 and 32 of the *Vienna Convention of the Law of Treaties 1969*.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 53

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP - Labour market testing

Question on Notice

Page: 113

Senator Whish-Wilson

Question

Which countries out of the 11 other TPP countries has Australia committed not to apply labour market testing to? Which categories has Australia committed not to apply labour market testing?

Answer

Australia has commitments under existing free trade agreements and the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) to exempt some categories of business persons from TPP countries from labour market testing. Beyond those commitments, Australia will, as a result of the TPP, also waive labour market testing for:

- . Canada, Peru, Mexico – for intra-corporate transferees (that are specialists) and contractual service suppliers
- . Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Vietnam – for contractual service suppliers.
- . Importantly, Australia has extended commitments on contractual service suppliers, including an exemption from labour market testing, only to those TPP countries that have offered similar substantive commitments in sectors and occupations of interest to Australian businesses and business persons.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 54

Program: DFAT

Topic: China Australia Free Trade Agreement - 457 visas

Question on Notice

Page: 114

Senator Whish-Wilson

Question

With reference to the 457 visa program:

- A. What government regulatory measures are prohibited by other procedures of similar effect?***
- B. What government regulatory measures are permitted?***

Answer

Questions regarding regulatory measures associated with the 457 visa system should be directed to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 55

Program: DFAT

Topic: Scottish Pacific Business Finance

Question on Notice

Page: 130

Senator Wong

Question

- A. How did the Scottish Pacific Business Finance eventuate?***
- B. Who was it initiated by (was it Efic or them?) and what reviews and due diligence were undertaken?***
- C. What was the decision-making process?***
- D. Are there any ex-EFIC staff working at Scottish Pacific?***
- E. Are there any former directors of EFIC who are currently working at Scottish Pacific?***

Answer

These questions are replicated in Question on Notice 148; we refer to the answers to QON 148.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 56

Program: DFAT

Topic: SMEs

Question on Notice

Page: 132

Senator Fawcett

Question

- A. *There was an intention at previous estimates to decrease the amount of support to major resource projects. Has that occurred?***
- B. *What has been the impact on SMEs that have been engaged in the supply chain for resource projects?***

Answer

- A. Yes. Minister Robb issued Efic with its revised Statement of Expectations on 13 November 2014. Efic's Board responded with its Statement of Intent on 26 February 2015. Efic has ceased support for large domestic resource projects (and related infrastructure). Efic can only support overseas resource projects if Efic's Board is satisfied that the project has substantial Australian content, including through SME supply chain participation.
- B. We refer to the answer given during the hearing (pages 131 and 132 of the transcript). Pursuant to Efic's revised Statement of Expectations, Efic can support SMEs engaged in the supply chain for domestic resources projects, where the goods or services provided under the relevant contract are integral to the ultimate export. In FY14-15, Efic provided 100 facilities in support of SMEs, which included 7 new facilities in relation to domestic resource projects. These transactions are published on the Efic website and in Efic's Annual Report.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 57

Program: DFAT

Topic: Emergency Fund

Question in Writing

Senator Back

Question

(1) *Regarding the Emergency Fund (also known as the Emergency Humanitarian Fund) administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:*

(a) What is the intended purpose of the Fund?

(b) What was the budget allocated to the Fund in:

- (i) 2010-11;***
- (ii) 2011-12;***
- (iii) 2012-13;***
- (iv) 2013-14;***
- (v) 2014-15;***

(c) For any changes to the budget profile noted in (b):

i) What was the reason for this change in budget?;

(ii) What other government priorities were funded (more) or (less) because of this change?;

(iii) What is the page number and what is the official budget document this change in budget was published in?;

(iv) What is the website or other public document this change in budget was published in?

Answer

(1) (a) To facilitate the rapid mobilisation of Official Development Assistance (ODA) resources for humanitarian responses.

(b)

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- (i) 2010-11: \$90 million
- (ii) 2011-12: \$90 million
- (iii) 2012-13: \$90 million
- (iv) 2013-14: \$120 million
- (v) 2014-15: \$120 million

(c)

- (i) The government decides as part of the budget process for each financial year how much to allocate to the Fund.
- (ii) None.
- (iii) Prior to 2015-16, the budget allocation to the Fund was not published as a separate line item. The 2015-16 allocation to the Emergency Fund is included as part of ODA budget documentation on the DFAT website at <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/corporate/portfolio-budget-statements/Pages/budget-highlights-2015-16.aspx>.
- (iv) See response to part (iii) above.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 59

Program: DFAT

Topic: Trade

Question in Writing

Senator Leyonhjelm

Question

- 1. *By what criteria does the Government determine whether it should pursue a free trade agreement with a country?***
- 2. *In what ways does Taiwan satisfy those criteria? In what ways does it not?***
- 3. *Is the Government aware of any interest from Taiwan in pursuing a free trade agreement with Australia?***
- 4. *Will the Government consider pursuing a free trade agreement with Taiwan? If not, why not?***
- 5. *Is the Government aware of any interest from Taiwan or Cambodia in being included in the Trans-Pacific Partnership? Has the Government canvassed, or will it canvass, with other TPP countries the future inclusion of Taiwan or Cambodia?***
- 6. *Could Australia pursue a free trade agreement specifically with Cambodia, to operate alongside the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement? What potential benefits not achieved in the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement could be achieved in a free trade agreement between Australia and Cambodia?***

Answer

1. The Government considers a range of factors when determining whether to pursue a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA). Australia seeks to conclude FTAs with partners that have shared interests in FTAs that are high quality and comprehensive, are genuinely trade liberalising and which advance our broader objectives, including at the multilateral level in the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Government also considers the opportunity for Australian exporters

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

and investors to secure commercial benefits, including by competing on level terms with other countries that already have FTAs with that country.

2. This would be the subject of an assessment once a decision had been made to consider an FTA with Taiwan.

3. Yes.

4. Yes.

5. The Government is not aware of any interest in being included in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement from the Government of Cambodia; nor have we canvassed the future inclusion of Cambodia with other countries. The Government is aware that Taiwan has expressed interest in joining the TPP. Australia supports the expansion of TPP membership over time to include other Asia-Pacific economies, to amplify the benefits of the Agreement across the region. Future membership will be a matter for all 12 TPP Parties to consider. It is too early to say when new members can join the TPP in practice, as negotiations have only just concluded.

6. Bilateral FTAs can and do co-exist with regional FTAs. The Government will take into consideration a range of factors in determining whether to pursue FTAs, including the potential to achieve an outcome that is high-quality and comprehensive, genuinely trade liberalising and which advances our broader economic and trade objectives.

Australia has an FTA with Cambodia through the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA. We are also working closely with Cambodia on concluding the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which includes the 10 ASEAN members and six ASEAN Free Trade Partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea).

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 60

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid to Cambodia

Question in Writing

Senator Hanson-Young

Question

- A. How will the \$40 million dollars in increased aid be spent in Cambodia?**
- B. What projects have been funded, specifically with that \$40 million, to this point?**

Answer

- A. The additional \$40 million aid will be delivered through existing mechanisms and according to agreed priorities including programs in rice milling and export, electoral reform, and land mine clearance.
- B. Specifically, the additional budget has contributed to the following:
 - enhancing the competitiveness of Cambodian rice production by supporting the existing Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain (CAVAC) program
 - continuing to assist the land-mine clearance program Clearing for Results Phase II, managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and
 - contributing to electoral reform by supporting improvements to Cambodia's civil registration system, implemented by the United National Children's Fund (UNICEF).

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 61

Program: DFAT

Topic: Montara oil spill

Question in Writing

Senator Siewert

Question

- 1. *Since the Indonesian Government's formal request for assistance to resolve the Montara oil spill situation in 2014, what further communication has taken place regarding this issue between the two nations?***
- 2. *What action has the Australian Government undertaken since this formal request for assistance?***
- 3. *Are there any future steps planned regarding this issue?***

Answer

1. DFAT provided a response, in October 2014, to the Indonesian Government's request for assistance in 2014. The issue was not raised again until July 2015, when DFAT received a letter from the Indonesian Government, a response to which was provided in September 2015. The matter was also raised by a member of the Indonesian Government during a meeting with Embassy officials in Jakarta in September 2015. The Australian Government remains willing to assist and DFAT continues to engage with the Government of Indonesia on this issue.

2. DFAT has been active in encouraging the relevant parties, including PTTEP Australasia, to re-establish discussions in order to resolve outstanding issues. However, the Australian Government has no jurisdiction to compel an Australian company to settle a dispute with another government.

3. The Australian Government will continue to engage with the Indonesian Government on this issue and encourage the relevant parties to re-establish discussions.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 62

Program: DFAT

Topic: PNG

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

1. *With regards to the Bougainville Mining Act, what issues been raised about the consent mechanisms and the lack of independent safeguards in the Act?*
2. *Given DFAT's stated commitment to opening up markets and creating business friendly environment – please provide a list of what activities will investment be mostly directed on Bougainville?*
 - a) *Please provide details of consideration or support for any economic activity outside of minerals?*
3. *Has any consideration been given to supporting the development of mechanisms to improve revenue collection on Bougainville, particularly from overseas companies in Bougainville?*
4. *What funding requirements exist with regard to fiduciary and governance frameworks to ensure minimisation of financial waste and mismanagement?*
 - a) *Are any projects being funded that address these issues in Bougainville?*
5. *Is corruption is a serious barrier to reaching development goals in Bougainville?*
6. *Are there any concerns about the Australian, Filipino and Chinese companies coming in to Bougainville via non-transparent mechanisms to win exploration licences and agro-industry deals there?*
7. *How secure is the Bougainville Peace Agreement?*
8. *What barriers and constraints exist in relation to ensuring the Bougainville referendum will be held within the window period?*

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

- a) ***Are there any signs Is the Department confident of opposition from PNG with regards to this?***
- b) ***Is the Department confident the ABG can realistically take the reins of statehood in a 20-30 year window?***

Answer

1. Questions relating to the Bougainville Mining Act are best directed to the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG).

2. Increasing private sector and economic development in Bougainville is one of Australia's priority objectives in its assistance to the ABG. There are three main areas of this support:

- improving the enabling environment, through our education, law and justice, and transport infrastructure assistance.
- assistance on economic, trade and investment policy settings, by helping the ABG to identify key areas of the policy and regulatory environment that could be improved to promote greater investment and private sector development. This includes establishing an Inwards Investment Bureau to facilitate and enhance the transparency of investment in Bougainville, and assisting to identify sources for revenue generation.
- direct interventions to promote private sector development, by assisting the ABG to develop an Economic Development Strategy, partnering with the Australian Centre of International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) to enhance cocoa production, and piloting a Commodity Support Facility to establish private sector partnerships across all parts of the cocoa industry, from planting materials to marketing. In 2016, the Commodity Support Facility will begin to expand to other areas of agriculture.

There are no programs that relate to minerals development.

3. Australia is providing advisory support to assist the Autonomous Bougainville Government's (ABG) response to the findings and recommendations of the 2014 ABG Taxation Review, to support the Office of the Taxation Commissioner and to increase revenue by improving the collection of ABG taxation entitlements.

Australia is also assisting the ABG to identify sources for revenue generation by undertaking feasibility assessments in areas such as fuel import and distribution, fisheries licenses, airports, and electricity generation and supply. Australia will help the ABG prepare business plans for areas determined as priorities, and assist in connecting the ABG with sources of development finance.

4. Australia is providing support to strengthen the Autonomous Bougainville Government's (ABG) financial systems, including by funding three in-line accountants in the ABG Department of Finance, supporting the ABG Program

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Management Unit, and providing a Strategic Public Financial Management Adviser to support the ABG's 2016 budget process. Australia is working with the ABG to develop a Bougainville Senior Executive Training Program that will include financial management, budgeting and ethical leadership.

5. As noted in Australia's Aid Investment Plan Papua New Guinea: 2015-16 to 2017-18 (<http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/papua-new-guinea-aid-investment-plan-2015-18.pdf>), governance, fraud and corruption continue to be challenges in PNG.

6. Commercial investment in Bougainville is governed by PNG and Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) law, and is subject to approval by the ABG. Questions about this process are best directed to the ABG.

7. The Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) is given binding effect through amendments to the Papua New Guinea Constitution.

8. The Bougainville Peace Agreement sets out a number of steps which the PNG and Autonomous Bougainville governments will need to implement before the referendum can be held. Bougainville's future political status will be a decision for the people of Bougainville in accordance with the provisions of the BPA. As a witness to the BPA, Australia is continuing to encourage and support the PNG and Autonomous Bougainville governments to work together to implement the BPA.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 63

Program: DFAT

Topic: #fashiondiplomacy

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

DFAT and the Australian Fashion Chamber have entered into an MoU agreement:

- ***What was the total cost of holding the MoU signing event on 31 August?***
- ***Were the costs shared with the Australian Fashion Chamber? In what ratio?***
- ***How many people were invited?***
- ***How many attended?***
- ***How was the invite list determined?***
- ***What there catering?***
- ***What did it consist of?***
- ***What was the per head cost of catering?***
- ***Were there security costs?***
- ***Was the event held in Sydney?***
- ***How many DFAT personnel flew to Sydney for the event?***
- ***How many Ministerial staff?***
- ***Did the AFC present the Minister with a gift at this event or at any stage? What was it? What was its approximate value?***

Answer

What was the total cost of holding the MoU signing event on 31 August?

The cost to DFAT was AUD\$8,007.

Were the costs shared with the Australian Fashion Chamber?

Yes.

In what ratio?

Sponsorship secured by AFC was worth the equivalent of AUD\$11,760. The ratio was approximately 40 per cent DFAT and 60 per cent AFC.

How many people were invited?

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133.

How many attended?

Approximately 70.

How was the invite list determined?

The invite list was drafted by DFAT (Canberra and the NSW State Office) and the Australian Fashion Chamber. It was finalised in consultation with the Foreign Minister's Office.

What (was) there catering?

Yes.

What did it consist of?

Canapés, tea, coffee, wine, beer and juice.

What was the per head cost of catering?

\$61.93.

Were there security costs?

Yes.

Was the event held in Sydney?

Yes.

How many DFAT personnel flew to Sydney for the event?

Two (day trip).

How many Ministerial staff?

Two.

Did the AFC present the Minister with a gift at this event or at any stage?

No.

What was it?

N/A.

What was its approximate value?

N/A.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 64

Program: DFAT

Topic: Cultural diplomacy funding

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *How much funding is provided to the AFC in total through the DFAT Cultural Diplomacy Program?***
- B. *Besides the AFC, have other organisations been awarded fashion-related grants? To what total value?***
- C. *Where else in the DFAT budget is there spending related to fashion? How are the fashion events held at diplomatic missions funded?***
- D. *How much in total is the Department spending on fashion diplomacy this year and across the forwards?***

Answer

- A. A grant of AUD\$55,000 (ex GST) was given to the Australian Fashion Chamber under the Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grants Program. Grants are provided under this program through a competitive, merit-based selection process, with the final decision made by representatives from the Ministry for the Arts, Austrade, the Australia Council for the Arts and DFAT.
- B. Yes

AUD\$62,000.
- C. From the post public diplomacy budget, representational funds, International Relations Grants Program and small-scale development initiatives related to the economic empowerment of women, improving labour standards and reducing gender discrimination in garment factories in developing countries.

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- D. In 2015–16, DFAT is projected to spend AUD\$314,414 on fashion-related events.

An estimate of spending across the forwards is not able to be made at this time.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 65

Program: DFAT

Topic: #fashiondiplomacy

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. Does #fashiondiplomacy [Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy] extend beyond the Department's engagement with the AFC?***
- B. How does the Department define #fashiondiplomacy [Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy]?***
- C. Is #fashiondiplomacy [Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy] hard or soft diplomacy?***
- D. Does #fashiondiplomacy [Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy] affect what employees of the department wear?***
- E. Do overseas staff wear Australian made fashions?***
- F. What instructions have been provided to DFAT employees re: #fashiondiplomacy [Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy] and their personal engagement with it?***

Answer

- A.** Yes.
- B.** A hashtag is used on social media sites such as Twitter to identify messages on a specific topic. It is a way to consolidate attention on a particular theme. DFAT does not 'own' the hashtag #fashiondiplomacy.

DFAT uses #fashiondiplomacy to promote Australia's fashion industry and participate in conversations about #fashiondiplomacy.
- C.** Fashion diplomacy complements Australia's interests by projecting our creative, innovative and contemporary qualities.
- D, E** There are no instructions on what staff wear.
- F.** None.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 66

Program: DFAT

Topic: Public Diplomacy - Budget

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *How much of the annual Public Diplomacy Budget (\$5 million in 2015-16) goes toward #fashiondiplomacy [Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy]?***
- B. *One of Program 1.1's deliverables is: "promotion of high-quality public diplomacy, international media and cultural visit programs which improve understanding of Australia and Australian Government foreign and trade policies;"***
- *How does #fashiondiplomacy [Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy] reflect Australian Government foreign policies?***
 - *How does #fashiondiplomacy [Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy] improve understanding of Australia in a non-trade/economic sense?***
 - *How does #fashiondiplomacy [Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy] reflect Australian Government trade policies?***
 - *Does the Department believe that #fashiondiplomacy [Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy] accurately reflects a broad and diverse range of Australian people, cultures and values?***

Answer

- A. #fashiondiplomacy is not a program of funding. The department is projected to spend AUD\$314,414 on fashion related projects and events in 2015–16.**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

- B. #fashiondiplomacy is not a funding program. It is a hashtag.

DFAT is projected to spend AUD\$314,414 on fashion-related activities and events in 2015–16.

All DFAT fashion-related events and activities are held to promote Australia's fashion industry, to open new markets and promote Australia as a creative and innovative nation.

Fashion diplomacy is an important platform to project contemporary Australia around the world. For example, events have included promoting Indigenous Australian designers and 'modest wear' by Muslim Australian designers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 67

Program: DFAT

Topic: Overseas Fashion Events

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Fashion related events have been held over the past 12 months in New York, London, Paris, Istanbul, Jakarta and New Delhi:

- 1. Were there more than six events? Please provide a comprehensive list of events of this type over the last 12 month period.*
- 2. Who were the invitee and attendees of each event?*
- 3. Who managed the guest list for each event?*
- 4. What were the overhead costs, costs of catering, security costs, etc. for each event?*
- 5. What was the purpose of each event?*
- 6. What were the outcomes of each event?*
- 7. Can the Department provide any examples of Australian designers or labels being picked up overseas as a result of these events?*
- 8. Were DFAT Heads of Mission (HoM) instructed to hold these events?*
- 9. Were the events held in HoM Residences or in the embassies/high commissions?*
- 10. What instructions have been provided to Heads of Mission regarding fashion diplomacy and associated events?*
- 11. Future events – which missions will hold future events? What is planned?*

Answer

Fashion related events have been held over the past 12 months in New York, London, Paris, Istanbul, Jakarta and New Delhi:

1. Yes.

Listed below.
2. Key stakeholders as determined by post.
3. Post with relevant partners (if an event was co-hosted).

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4. Listed below.
5. All fashion-related events were held to promote Australia's fashion industry, to open new markets and promote Australia as a creative and innovative nation.
6. Increased awareness of the Australian fashion industry and contemporary, creative Australia.
7. The Australian Fashion Chamber advise that as a result of Paris *Michael Lo Sordo* has secured new accounts in Qatar, China, Taiwan, UK and the United Arab Emirates. *Romance Was Born* has secured an account with Moda Operandi a large online US store. Note that contracts can take many months to be negotiated.
8. No.
9. Yes and some were held in public venues.
10. Posts are guided by the DFAT Public Diplomacy Strategy when holding public diplomacy events. <http://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/public-diplomacy/Pages/public-diplomacy-strategy.aspx>
11. Athens, Beijing, Jakarta, London, Los Angeles, Nairobi, New Delhi, New York CG, Paris, Suva, Tokyo and Washington posts have indicated they will hold fashion-related events.

A range of fashion activities including visits, delegations, receptions and runway shows.

Overseas Fashion Events held between November 2014 and October 2015

Post	Costs – if available	Activity
Abu Dhabi	Total cost to post: AUD\$8,335.53 (including catering, flowers, photographer, hire of catwalk & lights, AV, staff, pictures) Venue: HOM residence	Post hosted a successful fashion and art show for Fashion Advocate's International Leadership Tour, which brought eight young, Indigenous women and their mentors to the UAE.

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Istanbul	<p>Total cost to post: AUD\$200</p> <p>(Post covered the cost of the security guard and provided the venue free of charge. All other costs were met by Cotton Australia)</p> <p>Venue: Australian Consulate-General Istanbul</p>	<p>Austrade post supported a networking event hosted by Cotton Australia. The event promoted Australia's capability in sustainable cotton production, and capacity for meeting long-term global demand for cotton.</p>
Jakarta	<p>Total cost to post: AUD\$26,729</p> <p>(including catering, grants for designers, display booths for designers, Australian ICON booth, freight and overheads)</p> <p>Venue: Jakarta Convention Centre</p>	<p>Post supported the participation of four Australian 'Modest Wear' designers at the Jakarta Islamic Fashion Festival 2015 (JIFF).</p>
Jakarta	<p>Total cost to post: AUD\$2,716</p> <p>(including catering and overhead costs)</p> <p>Venue: Jakarta Convention Centre and HOM residence</p>	<p>Indonesia Fashion Week</p>
Jakarta	<p>Total cost to post: AUD\$5,677</p> <p>(including models, catering, AV, grants for designers and overhead costs)</p> <p>Venue: Senayan City</p>	<p>Jakarta Fashion Week: Runway Show by AIC Fashion Design Winners (Pageant) Runway Show – Young Indonesian Designers featuring Australian Wool.</p>

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	Shopping Mall and HOM residence	
London	Total cost to post: AUD\$0 (post provided venue free of charge) Venue: Exhibition Hall at Australia House	Post participated in London Fashion Week by staging an event to promote Australian business and fashion.
Los Angeles	DFAT's contribution went to G'DAY USA which had various sponsors providing funding. The total cost of the event (to which DFAT was a contributor) was approximately USD\$85,000.	G'Day USA hosted its inaugural Australian Fashion Showcase at LA Fashion Week.
Manila	Total cost to post: AUD\$8,000 Venue: Ayala Malls	DFAT and Austrade jointly organised a retail fair and community fashion show to help promote prominent Australian brands in the Philippines.
Mumbai	Total Cost to Post: AUD\$0 (costs were met by the South Australian Government) Venue: Taj Mahal Palace	Post supported a South Australian fashion showcase during the South Australia Gala Dinner in Mumbai.
New Delhi	Total cost to post: AUD\$5,000 (including catering, beverages and staff) Venue: High Commissioner's	HOM hosted the Woolmark fashion parade at the Australian High Commission to promote Australian merino wool.

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	residence	
New York CG	Total cost to post: AUD\$581.47 (including catering) Venue: Consul- General's residence	Three of the young women from The Dreamtime Project walked in a show at New York Fashion Week to present a collaboration between fashion designer Mauricio Alpizar and Aboriginal artist Rebekah Treacy.
New York CG	Total cost to post: AUD\$1,317 (including catering and wait staff) Venue: Consul- General's residence	HOP hosted a reception for Australian and US fashion industry representatives to coincide with the visit to New York by the Chair of the Australian Fashion Chamber (Edwina McCann).
Paris	Total cost to post: AUD\$1,778 (including catering, staff and security overtime) Venue: Main Foyer of the Embassy building	Post hosted an industry event as part of Paris Fashion Week 2015.
Paris	Total cost to post: AUD\$0 (costs were met by the Australian Fashion Chamber) Venue: Ambassador's residence	Australian Fashion Chamber - Australian Designers Abroad - Paris.
Port Moresby	Total cost to post: AUD\$10,561 Venue: Gateway Hotel	Post supported Stella Magazine's Runway 2015 in Port Moresby. Australian Indigenous designer Grace Lillian Lee curated RUNWAY2015.

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Question No 68

Program: DFAT

Topic: Role of DFAT - government in promoting fashion

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

The Foreign Minister, Ms Bishop has said, “It is clear to me that government has a clear role. Of course the fashion industry hasn’t been sitting around waiting for government to assist. They’ve been out there pretty much on their own, being able to promote themselves, promote their industry.”

- 1. Is the fashion industry in need of government assistance?*
- 2. What criteria make the fashion industry more worthy of this support than another industry?*
- 3. Has the Department done modelling on the economic benefit of supporting the fashion industry?*
- 4. Has this modelling been compared to other industries?*
- 5. How does it compare 1.) in terms of scale of economic benefit and 2.) in terms of benefit to the greatest range of people including a positive impact on marginalised or disadvantaged people?*

Answer

1. Fashion diplomacy embraces innovation, style and creativity, all of which are key themes in terms of the way in which we wish to project Australia abroad.
2. The department promotes Australia’s fashion industry in line with our public and economic diplomacy agendas. DFAT promotes sectors and industries including (but not limited to) sport, visual and performing arts, film, science and design, as well as fashion.
3. No. The fashion industry employs 220,000 people and contributes around \$12 billion to Australia’s economy per annum.
4. N/A.

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5. The department's Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Fashion Chamber identifies areas where they will work together to strengthen, promote and develop Australian fashion and design, including achieving effective and sustainable development outcomes in the Indo-Pacific Region; enhancing global recognition of Australian fashion; nurturing future fashion leaders; and leveraging business development, trade and investment opportunities.

The Australian aid program is funding two initiatives which are related to the Textiles, Clothing and Footwear sector:

- The Economic Empowerment of Women in the Pacific Region program with the International Trade Centre (AUD\$1.5 million from 2014–18).
- The Better Work Programme State III with the International Labour Organization helps improve labour standards and reduce gender discrimination in garment factories in developing countries in partnership with the private sector (USD\$3 million from 2016–18).

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 69

Program: DFAT

Topic: Attendees of Paris Fashion Week under Cultural Diplomacy grant

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

DFAT has supported five established and one emerging designer in attending Paris Fashion Week through the Cultural Diplomacy Program:

- 1. What was the application process?*
- 2. How were the winners chosen?*
- 3. Why five established and one emerging rather than the other way around? Aren't emerging designers more in need for the financial support that comes through a Cultural Diplomacy grant?*
- 4. What was the value of the grant given to each of the six recipients?*

Answer

DFAT has supported five established and one emerging designer in attending Paris Fashion Week through the Cultural Diplomacy Program:

DFAT supported six established and one emerging designer to attend Paris Fashion Week.

1. The Australian Fashion Chamber ran an application process with set criteria covering industry skills, strength of current seasonal collection and potential for success in the international market. The judging panel determined the top 10 designers and judges visited the designers' studios to examine collections and planning processes. Seven designers were selected.
2. By a judging panel of industry professionals which included Australian Fashion Chamber Deputy Chair and Editor-in-Chief of Harper's BAZAAR Kellie Hush, designer Carla Zampatti and founder of Sass and Bide Sarah-Jane Clarke.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

3. Six established and one emerging designer were selected. Due to the expense and difficulty involved in entering into the global market, designers must be prepared to return multiple times. International buyers will usually watch a designer for multiple seasons (usually between three and four) before they decide to stock their garments to ensure consistency and brand longevity. The potential economic benefits of supporting established designers is likely to be greater. The Australian Fashion Chamber is developing ways to assist emerging designers to ensure they reach a level in which they are able to participate in the *Australian Designers Abroad* program and be capable of delivering orders, managing international pricing and following on key relationships.
4. The grant funding was given to Australian Fashion Chamber and not the recipients. The total grant to the Australian Fashion Chamber was \$55,000 (ex GST). The grant was subject to a competitive selection process under the Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grants Program. Applications were assessed by a selection panel comprising representatives from DFAT, Ministry for the Arts, Austrade and the Australia Council for the Arts.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 70

Program: DFAT

Topic: #fashiondiplomacy overall programing

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. How does the Department characterise the purpose and objectives of the Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy program?**
- 2. Whose idea was Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy? Was it the Minister's own idea?**
- 3. How has the Department supported this idea?**
- 4. When did the Department first begin working on #fashiondiplomacy [Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy]?**
- 5. What are the Department's expectations of the Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy initiative? What are the expected outcomes and achievements?**
- 6. Has the Minister received any fashion related gifts?**
- 7. Have these all been properly declared on her register?**

Answer

1. Hashtag fashion diplomacy is not a program. It is a hashtag, used on social media to identify messages on fashion.
2. The Department does not 'own' Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy. It is a hashtag which has been used on social media for more than 12 months to identify messages on fashion. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between DFAT and the Australian Fashion Chamber formalised the Government's engagement with the fashion industry. This engagement with the Australian Fashion Chamber was an initiative of Minister Bishop.
3. The Department is promoting the Australian fashion industry to open new markets, increase trade and generate a positive perception of Australia as a creative and innovative nation. DFAT promotes the Australian fashion industry through events, on websites and through social media accounts.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

4. Promotion of the Australian fashion industry through the public diplomacy program is not new. It has been a feature of our public diplomacy activities for many years, particularly during international Australia Day events and focus country programs. Examples include events held during IN2OZ: Creative Australia (Indonesia, 2008); OzFest India (2012) and Yeosu Expo (Republic of Korea, 2012). The Department's funding for the former Australia Network also included a fashion element through the *Oz Fashion Asia* program.
5. DFAT's fashion and design work is leveraging a creative industry with strong links to the Government's economic diplomacy and innovation agenda as well as development assistance priorities.
6. Gifts to the Minister for Foreign Affairs are declared in accordance with the Department of Finance Guidelines relating to Official Gifts Received.
7. Yes.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 71

Program: DFAT

Topic: Funding

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *The 2014-15 Budget listed an Innovation Fund of \$20 million for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 years. Does all of the “Innovation Fund” budget line go toward the innovationXchange?*
- *Is all of the innovationXchange funding (\$140 million over 4 years) classified as ODA? If not, what percentage of the \$140 million is ODA?*

Answer

- Yes
- Yes

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 72

Program: DFAT

Topic: Activity

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Besides the specific projects discussed in estimates, what else is the innovationXchange responsible for?*
- *What is its role within DFAT exactly?*
- *Whose idea was the innovationXchange?*
- *Was this pitched by the FMO to the Department or vice versa?*
- *What are the achievements of the innovationXchange?*

Answer

- The innovationXchange is responsible for developing new partnerships to ensure our aid program takes advantage of new approaches and technologies to deliver better outcomes for development impact. iXc staff regularly meet with innovators, private sector organisations and entrepreneurs who offer new approaches to aid delivery. iXc also seeks to identify innovations applied in other sectors/contexts and countries and looks for ways to apply them in a developing country context in our own region. The overall aim is to ensure that our aid program is more effective.
- As above.
- It was the idea of Foreign Minister Bishop.
- It was a commitment of the Foreign Minister which was announced in June 2014.
- The iXc was launched in March 2015. Achievements to date include a partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies, a first for Bloomberg (in partnering with Government) and a first for DFAT; a partnership with the US, Canada, Sweden, UK and Omidyar Foundation to establish the Global Innovation Fund; the establishment of two challenge funds, one for humanitarian response and one for aquaculture to grow the blue economy; a very successful internal Ideas Challenge, with multiple ideas now being implemented or tested from that challenge; and investment in a pilot in Timor-Leste to tackle malnutrition through multi-sector collaboration and

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mobile phone-based information sharing. A significant international and domestic network of organisations and individuals has been established to share knowledge and skills.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 73

Program: DFAT

Topic: Comments by the Foreign Minister - innovation Xchange

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

The Foreign Minister, Ms Bishop has describing the innovationXchange as a "gorgeous little funky, hipster, Googly, Facebooky-type place".

- *What does "gorgeous" mean in the context of our aid program?*
- *What does "funky" mean in the context of our aid program?*
- *What does "hipster" mean in the context of our aid program?*
- *Would the Department describe the innovationXchange as "hipster"?*
- *Are "gorgeous", "funky", and "hipster" qualities the Department seeks in its innovationXchange staff?*
- *What does "Googly" mean and how does it relate to aid delivery with effective outcomes?*
- *What does "Facebooky" mean and is this a quality the Department is looking for in the aid program?*

Answer

- The Foreign Minister's description relates to a collaborative workspace and a new way of working that encourages creativity and innovation.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 74

Program: DFAT

Topic: Outfitting of the innovationXchange office space

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Does the innovationXchange office space have bean-bags?*
- *How many bean bags?*
- *How much did each one cost?*
- *Has an OH&S evaluation been done on the bean bags?*
- *Does the innovationXchange office space have a ping pong table?*
- *How is this ping pong table contributing to the goals and targets of our aid program?*
- *Is this ping pong table assisting in the expansion of our diplomatic footprint?*
- *How much did the ping pong table cost?*
- *Who can use it?*
- *How often is it used?*
- *Are there rules around its use?*
- *What are those rules?*
- *How are those rules enforced?*
- *Has an OH&S evaluation been done of the table?*

Answer

- Three bean bags were purchased for iXc staff use instead of a couch. The cost was \$590 each. This was cheaper, more practical and adaptable than a three-seat couch, which was valued at approximately \$2300. The decisions on the choice of furniture purchased were made by DFAT. All furniture is designed for commercial/office use and meets Australian standards.
- The innovationXchange has a large conference table which can be used to play table tennis by placing a net on top of the table. The table is used for meetings and workshops throughout the working day.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 75

Program: DFAT

Topic: Leadership of the innovationXchange

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Who is in charge of the innovationXchange?*
- *Who is on the board of the innovationXchange?*
- *How often do they meet?*
- *Do they ever all meet in person?*
- *Do they produce reports?*
- *Can those reports be provided publicly?*

Answer

- iXc is headed by First Assistant Secretary Lisa Rauter
- iXc does not have a board.
- Not applicable.
- Not applicable.
- Not applicable.
- Not applicable.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 76

Program: DFAT

Topic: Bloomberg

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Michael Bloomberg has put \$20 million toward an innovationXchange project:

- A. Where will those funds appear in the Budget statements?***
- B. How will the spending be accounted for?***

Answer

iXc has partnered with Michael Bloomberg's philanthropic foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, on their Data for Health (D4H) initiative. The initiative seeks to improve vital health information in developing countries. This is a USD100 million initiative, to which the Australian Government has committed AUD20 million. In addition to accessing Bloomberg's renowned expertise in data collection and analysis to solve a development challenge, Australia's participation also enables countries in our immediate region including Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar and Solomon Islands to benefit from this global initiative.

- A. The Australian Government's contribution to this co-investment will be drawn jointly from the InnovationXchange budget allocation and the Health aid budget allocation.
- B. Regular progress reports and joint steering committee meetings.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 77

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid Funding

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

In the Senate Estimates in June DFAT provided a table which revealed that in Vietnam, Philippines, Burma, Laos, Mongolia and Pakistan that for the 2015-16 financial year more money had been ‘committed expenses’ (where contracts are in place) than the subsequent budget allocations in the 2015-16 budget. This has presumably meant that contracts have had to be terminated or renegotiated:

- *Can the Department please advise what specific programs have been impacted by those terminations/renegotiations?*

Answer

Refer to response to QoN No. 13 for details.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 78

Program: DFAT

Topic: PNG

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

In the 2014-15 budget outcome there was a \$50 million underspend to the budget estimate in PNG.

- ***What is the reason for that?***
- ***What programs were not implemented as a result of the underspend?***

Answer

This reflects a reprofiling of the budget for the *Joint Understanding on further bilateral cooperation on health, education and law and order* (the JU) to 2019-20 rather than an underspend. Australia will meet its commitment under the JU, but over a longer time. This change was required to allow for completion of comprehensive planning processes for the complex infrastructure projects to be delivered under the JU at the Lae ANGAU Memorial Hospital and the University of Papua New Guinea. These processes are now nearing completion and tenders for technical design and construction works on these priority projects are expected to be released during 2016.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 79

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid Investment Plans

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- a) Why do the Aid Investment Plans report varying benchmarks and criteria?*
- b) Does our aid program not have overarching measures?*
- c) Why does each country program not report to those?*
- d) Will future Aid Investment Plans report against the Global Development Goals (or SDGs)?*

Answer

- a) Aid Investment Plans set out Australia's strategic objectives in each country or regional development program. The choice of strategic objectives in each country or region will be determined by the four tests set out in the Government's aid policy (Australian Aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability).

AIP performance benchmarks assess performance against country and regional program objectives and are therefore specific to each AIP.

- b) The aid program does have overarching performance measures. In June 2014 the Government released the new performance framework for the Australian aid program, Making Performance Count. This framework sets out ten high-level whole-of-aid-program strategic targets against which the aid program is assessed.

The targets are: promoting prosperity; engaging the private sector; reducing poverty; empowering women and girls; focusing on the Indo-Pacific region; delivering on commitments; working with the most effective partners; ensuring value for money; increasing consolidation; and combatting corruption.

Progress against the targets is reported annually in the Performance of Australian Aid report.

- c) See response to Question 79 a.
- d) Like all countries, Australia is considering how it will report on the Sustainable Development Goals.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 80

Program: DFAT

Topic: Health Spending

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. Could the Department please confirm the current percentage of bilateral ODA allocated by DFAT to health programs?***
- 2. What was the percentage of bilateral ODA allocated by DFAT to health programs in FY2014-15?***
- 3. Could the Department please confirm how much bilateral ODA allocated by DFAT to health programs has been cut as a result of the cuts announced in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook in December 2014 and implemented in the 2015-16 budget?***
- 4. Could the Department please confirm the quantum and percentage of bilateral ODA administered by DFAT invested in health programs in East, South and West Asia in FY2015-16?***
- 5. Could the Department please confirm the quantum and percentage that has been cut from health programs in East, South and West Asia since FY2014-15?***
- 6. Given the vulnerability of the Asian region to diseases such as SARS, Avian Flu, Tuberculosis, how have these cuts affected the ability of countries in the region to tackle potential disease outbreaks?***
- 7. Have these cuts increased the risk of diseases travelling to Australia from countries in the Asian region?***

Answer

1. In 2015-16, an estimated 12.8 per cent of bilateral and regional ODA will be spent on health. All 2015-16 estimates are indicative and will be confirmed at the end of the financial year.
2. In 2014-15, 14.5 per cent of bilateral and regional ODA was spent on health.
3. Bilateral and regional health spending will decrease from \$445.7 million in 2014-15 to an estimated \$284 million in 2015-16, representing an estimated decrease of \$161.7 million.
4. The estimated health expenditure in East, South and West Asia in 2015-16 is \$61.4 million or 12.7 per cent.
5. Since 2014-15, the estimated decrease in East, South and West Asia is \$84.6 million or 57 per cent.
6. There has been minimal impact given that on average ODA is responsible for less than two per cent in developing South East Asian countries' health expenditure.
7. No.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 81

Program: DFAT

Topic: Climate Change and disaster Risk Reduction

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Can the Department please provide a breakdown on how much it will spend on climate change action in 2015-16, including funding to the Green Climate Fund?*
- *Can the Department please provide a breakdown on how much it will spend on disaster risk reduction in 2015-16, and how this compares to the level of spending in 2014-15?*

Answer

The Department will not be in a position to provide accurate figures on its total international climate finance for 2015-16 until after the end of the financial year. The Department expects to provide \$60 million to the Green Climate Fund in 2015-16, on top of the \$70 million provided in 2014-15.

The Department is not in a position to provide accurate figures on spending on disaster risk reduction in 2015-16 until after the end of the financial year. The Government provided \$91.8 million in disaster risk reduction support in 2014-15.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 82

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid to Delivery Partners

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *Can the Department confirm whether any repayments to any multilateral partners such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank will be reduced in FY2016-17?***
- B. *What is the proportion of DFAT ODA delivered by NGOs, contractors and multilateral organisations for 2014-15?***
- C. *What is the estimated proportion DFAT ODA delivered by NGOs, contractors and multilateral organisations for 2015-16?***

Answer

- A. See response to Question 114, Part 3.
- B. In 2014-15, Australian and international NGOs delivered approximately 14 per cent of DFAT ODA; contractors delivered approximately 20 per cent; and multilateral organisations delivered approximately 42 per cent.
- C. Estimates for ODA delivered by NGOs, contractors or multilateral organisations for 2015-16 are not available.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 83

Program: DFAT

Topic 487

Question in Writing

Senator 81

Question

- a) The Foreign Minister released a press release on budget night which stated that the 'Government will also establish a \$50 million competitive gender equality fund'. Could the Department please specify the amount of new/unallocated money that will form part of this fund?*
- b) Could the Department provide information on how the gender equality fund will work?*
- c) What is meant by a 'competitive' fund?*
- d) When will the fund be established?*

Answer

- a) Refer to response to QoN 14.
- b) In 2015-16, we established a competitive funding process to build a new approach to addressing gender equality and delivering stronger results. This will increase support for investments that have a track record of delivering strong gender equality results, or can offer innovative ways to increase our impact on gender equality. The new competitive mechanism comprises \$16.5 million of total Gender Equality Fund funding. An internal competitive round of \$14.5 million will support innovation and reward high performance in investments managed and funded by DFAT. Additionally, through a \$2 million contribution from the Fund to the Business Partnerships Platform, the department will provide dollar for dollar matching grants to businesses and non-government organisations for work that promotes gender equality as good for business and growth, and strengthens connections between civil society and the private sector.

The remaining \$33.5 million will continue to be used to support flagship gender equality investments and global commitments such as the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, and the UN Women's Global Acceleration Instrument for Women, Peace and Security and some new and ongoing programs. (See response to QON 14).

- c) Under the 'competitive' component of the Fund, money will be allocated through a competitive process, whereby applicants must bid for funding and the strongest proposals are supported. For the internal round, applicants were assessed by a panel of senior departmental officers against the following criteria:

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

- The investment is committed to promoting gender equality as a principal or significant objective, and is aligned with the government's priorities on gender equality as outlined in the Aid policy;
- The investment must have either an established track record of high performance and results in promoting gender equality and is committed to improvement, or be an innovative proposal that tests new ideas and approaches; and
- The investment is not a once-off activity, program areas applying for funding must be committed to co-financing of the investment beyond the agreed one or two years.

For the external round, an expression of interest was issued on 18 November 2015, through the newly established Business Partnership Platform.

d) The Fund has already been established.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 84

Program: DFAT

Topic: Green Book

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. *The Minister has announced that DFAT will produce an aid “Green Book”. When will the Department release a Green Book?***
- 2. *How regularly will a Green Book be updated and released?***
- 3. *What consultation has occurred domestically and internationally on the framework for a Green Book?***
- 4. *Will the Green Book present information consistent with an OECD TOSSD framework?***
- 5. *Will the aid sector be consulted on the production of a Green Book?***
- 6. *Will the Green Book result in any changes to the classification or presentation of Federal Budget documentation.***
- 7. *Is DFAT consulting other Government agencies on presentation of information in a Green Book? If so which Departments?***
- 8. *Will the Green Book include all of the data and detail previously provided in Blue Books?***
- 9. *Will the Green Book improve transparency and accountability in the aid program?***

Answer

1. The Green Book is currently in development and will released shortly.
2. Annually.
3. DFAT has consulted the government departments that administer Official Development Assistance (ODA) expenditure and the Australian Council for International Development.
4. DFAT complies with OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) reporting requirements. The OECD DAC’s proposed Total Official Support for Sustainable Development framework is still in development.
5. Yes.

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6. No.
7. Yes, DFAT has consulted the government departments that administer ODA expenditure. A list of these is available on the DFAT website at <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/corporate/portfolio-budget-statements/Pages/budget-highlights-2015-16.aspx#OGD>.
8. No, the purposes of the publications are different. See response to Question 30.
9. Yes.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 85

Program: DFAT

Topic: Fraud in the Aid program

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. Why did Secretary Varghese write to the Australian newspaper on 27 August about reporting of fraud and corruption in the aid program?**
- 2. Are there potential impacts on DFAT or the delivery of Australia's aid program in allowing misinformation to be reported about willingness to address fraud and corruption?**
- 3. When did the Department first find out about the investigations by this newspaper, which was based on FOI requests?**
- 4. What options for a public response to the release of these FOI requests and likely reporting around them were prepared internally within the Department?**
- 5. What decisions were made on those options?**
- 6. Was there an opportunity to provide comments in the original story of 24 August which would have corrected the claims addressed in Secretary Varghese's letter of 27 August?**

Answer

1. The Secretary wrote to correct claims that corruption and incompetence were rife in the aid program that were published in *The Australian* editorial "AusAID reform was essential" of 25 August 2015, and in a related article "Bishop cracked heads over AusAID fraud" in *The Australian*, 24 August 2015.
2. Claims that corruption and incompetence were rife in Australia's aid program are grossly inaccurate and misleading. Such claims have the potential to undermine public confidence in the management of Australia's aid and damage support for aid and international development cooperation. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and AusAID before it, has a zero tolerance approach to fraud and corruption in Australia's aid program.
3. DFAT received the original FOI request from Mr Ean Higgins (Senior Reporter, *The Australian*) on 27 November 2014.
 - a. This FOI request lapsed when the applicant failed to pay the relevant processing fees.

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- b. The FOI request was revived on 19 May 2015 and the department processed the request within the statutory timeframe.
- 4 & 5. Consistent with departmental process, the department prepared media talking points in anticipation of media enquiries or commentary following the release of these documents under FOI.
- 6. No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 86

Program: DFAT

Topic: Administered Funds

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- Is any part of the salary of any DFAT employee employed under the provisions of the Public Service Act funded as an administered expense? If so, under what provision has this been approved within DFAT, and by the Department of Finance?
- Please provide details of the number and level of positions funded as an administered expense.
- Please provide the rationale for the use of administered funding for each of the positions against specific program outcomes.
- Is any part of any salary of DFAT locally engaged staff funded as an administered expense? If so, under what provision has this been approved within DFAT, and by the Department of Finance?
- Please provide details of the number and level of positions funded as an administered expense.
- Please provide the rationale for the use of administered funding for each of the positions against specific program outcomes.
- Please provide information on the number DFAT employees and DFAT locally engaged staff whose salary was funded in part or in whole as an administered expense as at 1 March 2014 and 1 March 2015.

Answer

A. Yes. DFAT's Financial Management Manual Section 8.9 states that:

"If an employee predominantly (50% or more of the time) works on the direct delivery of aid (with a strong indicator being they work in-line or mainly with partner governments or other donors), or they are working predominantly on designing aid initiatives or activities (which have Government endorsement) then they are classified as an administered expense.

The total cost of the employee, including salary, allowances, travel, office accommodation, residential accommodation (if at post), etc., should be

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attributed to the aid initiative or activities that person is directly working on (i.e. expensed from the same project funding).”

- (i) See response to Part B(iii) below.
- (ii) The rationale for a position to be funded from Administered expenses is the application of the aid delivery test as described in B above.

B. Yes. The same aid delivery test is applied to both DFAT employees employed under the provisions of the Public Service Act and locally engaged staff who are not employed under the Act. See Response to Part A above for details.

- (i) See response to Part B(iii) below.
- (ii) See response to Part A(ii) above.
- (iii) See tables below

DFAT (A-based and LES) staff paid from administered budget as at 31 March 2015

Entity/Agency	Level		Employee count
DFAT	BB2	APS Level 4	2
	BB2 AP6	APS Level 5	5
		APS Level 6	34
	EL1	Exec. Level 1	69
	EL2	Exec. Level 2	33
	SES	Band 1	1
Locally Engaged Staff at Post			171
	Grand Total		315

DFAT (A-based and LES) staff paid from administered budget as at 31 March 2014

AusAID	A4	APS Level 4	1
	A5	APS Level 5	4
	A6	APS Level 6	37
	E1	Exec. Level 1	89
	E2	Exec. Level 2	53
	S1	Band 1	3
Locally Engaged Staff at Post			165
	Grand Total		352

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 87

Program: DFAT

Topic: DFAT Leadership

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Has DFAT ever had four portfolio Ministers previously?*
- *Has this meant that internal readjustments need to be made?*
- *Has this been difficult or caused any complications?*

Answer

- No.
- No. The department provides staff and logistical support to ensure the smooth functioning of portfolio Ministers' offices.
- No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 88

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial travel

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Please provide an updated version of the table provided in Budget Estimates 2015, QoN #33 including the following information on Minister Bishop and Minister Robb's travel over the period from 4 June 2015 to present:*
 1. *How many days did the Minister spend in country?*
 2. *Did s/he travel on a commercial or RAAF (VIP) flight?*
 3. *What was the purpose of the visit?*
 4. *How many staff travelled with him/her?*
 5. *Which staff members travelled with him/her?*
 6. *Who did s/he meet with in country?*
 7. *What were the outcomes of those meetings?*

Answer

Details of Ministerial overseas travel from 4 June 2015 to 22 October 2015:

In relation to Ms Bishop:

Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
United States (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, Washington)	8-17 October 2015	10	<u>Los Angeles</u> : 8-9 October <u>San Francisco</u> : 9-11 October <u>Boston</u> : 11-14 October <u>Washington</u> : 14-15 October No. of Advisers: 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Los Angeles: Attended economic diplomacy roundtable lunch. Met representatives of Walt Disney Studios. Attended Australian Fashion Showcase Reception.- San Francisco: Delivered Asia-Foundation speech. Met CEO and Founder of Nitro and toured company premises. Attended roundtable dinner with Australian and United States female entrepreneurs and executives. Met with CEO of CISCO. Met CEO of Hewlett Packard. Attended Lunch and academic roundtable at Stanford			

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
<p>University. Tour of Microsoft and briefing by Corporate Vice President. Attended dinner hosted by former US Ambassador to Australia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boston: Visited Boylston Street and paid respects to victims of Boston Marathon bombing. Attended AUSMIN dinner. Attended AUSMIN. Toured MIT centre for commercial and development innovation. Attended event with Australian-American Association's New England Chapter. Attended roundtable discussion with leading foreign policy thinkers. Delivered speech at Kennedy School of Government, Harvard. - Washington: Hosted reception celebrating 75th anniversary of establishing Australia-United States Diplomatic Relations. 			
Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
United States (New York)	22 September-2 October 2015	11	<u>New York:</u> 22-30 September No. of Advisers: 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New York: Met Ministers of Foreign Affairs from Sri Lanka, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. Met United Nations Secretary-General. Met Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Philippines. Met United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Met President of the International Crisis Group. Met Executive Director of UNICEF. Met United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights. Met President of World Bank. Met President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Met The Queen's Principal Private Secretary. Met Under Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator. Met CEO Bloomberg. Met New York Times Editorial Board. Hosted Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey, Australia (MIKTA) Ministerial Meeting. Attended Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Attended Papal address to the United Nations. Attended opening session of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit. Met Administrator of United Nations Development Program. Participated in panel discussion at Asia Society/UNESCO event. Delivered statement at Sustainable Development Goals Summit. Delivered statement at High-Level event on Afghanistan. Participated in Global Education First Initiative panel discussion. Delivered statement at Global Counter-Terrorism forum ministerial meeting. Delivered closing keynote address at USAID event. Delivered statement at Sustainable Development Goals Summit. Attended opening of General Assembly. Attended Informal working lunch on Climate Changes hosted by United Nations Secretary General. Attended Reception hosted by President Obama. Hosted breakfast event with Pacific Island Foreign Ministers. Delivered statement at Counter-ISIL/Countering Violent Extremism Summit. Delivered statement at Biennial Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Conference. Attended lunch with MH17 Joint Investigation Team leaders. Delivered statement on climate change at the Major Economies Forum. Delivered National Statement at the UN General Assembly. Attended lunch with the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan. Delivered statement on countering violent extremism at the Annual Ministerial Event on R2P. Attended Gulf Cooperation Council Troika-Australia Joint Ministerial Meeting. Attended Forum on Investment opportunities in Australia with Business Council for International Understanding. Attended United Nations Secretary 			

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
General's Official Luncheon.			
Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)	4-8 August 2015	5	<u>Kuala Lumpur</u> : 5-7 August No. of Advisers: 2
<p>- Kuala Lumpur: Met Foreign Ministers of Malaysia and Myanmar; Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Cambodia; Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore; Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines; Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand; Minister of Foreign Affairs of China; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Laos; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam; Secretary of State of the United States. Attended ASEAN-Australia Ministerial Meeting; Southwest Pacific Dialogue Ministerial Meeting; EAS Foreign Ministers' meeting; ARF Foreign Ministers' Meeting – retreat. Attended Official Dinner hosted by Malaysian Foreign Minister. Attended New Colombo Plan launch. Delivered speech at the Institute of Strategic and International Affairs. Attended Women in Leadership roundtable luncheon. Visited Selangor Science Secondary School. Attended dinner with Australian and Malaysian business representatives.</p>			
Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
United States (New York)	24-30 July 2015	7	<u>New York</u> : 24-28 July No. of Advisers: 2
<p>- New York: Met Foreign Minister of New Zealand. Met permanent representatives of Russia, Angola, China, United States, Jordan, Chad, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Netherlands and Belgium. Attended dinner with Joint Investigation Team Ministers. Attended Joint Investigation Team Ministers' meeting with United Nations Secretary-General; attended JIT ministers' meeting with UNSC President. Attended Joint Investigation Team Ministers' caucus. Attended United Nations Security Council session on MH17.</p>			
Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
New Zealand (Auckland), Chile (Santiago), Peru (Lima and Paracas), Brazil (Brasilia and São Paulo) and Canada (Calgary and Vancouver)	29 June-9 July 2015	11	<u>Auckland</u> : 29 June-1 July <u>Santiago</u> : 1-2 July <u>Lima</u> : 2 July <u>Paracas</u> : 2 July <u>Brasilia</u> : 3 July <u>São Paulo</u> : 3-4 July <u>Calgary</u> : 5-6 July <u>Vancouver</u> : 6-7 July

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
			No. of Advisers: 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Auckland: Met Minister for Trade and Climate Change of New Zealand; Premier of Niue; Civil Defence Minister of New Zealand; Foreign Minister of New Zealand; Prime Minister of Tuvalu. Met Secretary-General of the International Federations of the Red Cross and Red Crescent; United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator; Assistant Secretary of US State Department; United Nations Development Program Administrator. Attended joint media conference for WHS Pacific Consultations; attended working lunch Women's Leadership in Humanitarian Disasters roundtable; attended WHS Consultations Reception; breakfast with the Trans-Tasman Business Circle. Co-hosted World Humanitarian Summit; attended Foreign Ministers' Consultations; attended lunch hosted by New Zealand Foreign Minister. - Santiago de Chile: Met President of Chile; Vice Minister for Education; Minister for Foreign Affairs; Economy Minister; Mining Minister. Opened CSIRO Chile Headquarters; attended Australian Business Networking event - Paracas: Attended Pacific Alliance Summit; - Brasilia: Met Foreign Minister and Minister for Education. Attended lunch hosted by Brazilian Foreign Minister; signed Memorandum of Understanding on Education, Research and Vocational Training. Attended Alumni Reception. - São Paulo: Met Minister for Water and Sanitation, São Paulo. Met Executive Producer of 2016 Australia Now Focus Country Cultural Program; met Australian business people to discuss doing business in Brazil. Attended lunch with influential Brazilian women; attended Economic Diplomacy event. - Calgary: Met Prime Minister of Canada and Minister of National Defence. Attended welcome to Calgary ceremony. Attended Energy Roundtable; lunch with prominent Albertan Women. - Vancouver: Met Minister of Foreign Affairs and signed Joint Declaration on Diplomatic Cooperation. Attended lunch with representatives of Canadian pension funds and institutional investors; attended Australia-Canada Economic Leaders Forum reception; attended Australia-Canada Economic Leaders Forum dinner and gave keynote address. 			
Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
France (Paris)	31 May-4 June 2015	5	<u>Paris:</u> 31 May-2 June No. of Advisers: 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paris: Attended the second Small Group Ministerial Meeting of the International Coalition against Daesh. Met Minister for Foreign Affairs of France; Minister for Foreign Affairs, Germany; Prime Minister, Iraq; Minister for Foreign Affairs, Saudi Arabia; Deputy Secretary of State, United States; Foreign Secretary, United Kingdom. Met President of Foreign Affairs Commission, France; General John Allen. Launched Australian Dance Focus; delivered keynote address to World Gas Conference. 			

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Ms Bishop travelled by commercial means on all official overseas flights, with the exception of:

- On 2 July 2015 when she travelled from Santiago de Chile to Paracas on the Chilean Foreign Minister's aircraft (there is no commercial option on this route);
- On 2 July 2015 when she took a charter flight from Paracas to Lima (there is no commercial option on this route).

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In relation to Mr Robb:

Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
Hong Kong	13 to 16 October 2015	2	<u>Hong Kong</u> : 14 to 15 October 2015 No. of advisers: 2
<p>- Hong Kong: Attended the Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific (HICAP). Met business leaders. Attended the Australian Hotel Investment VIP Lunch, an AustCham lunch, a dinner hosted by InterContinental Hotel Group and an Australian Sustainable Seafood Promotion. Held a roundtable meeting with Tourism Australia's key distribution partners in Hong Kong, a Q&A session on Investment Opportunities in Northern Australia and a media interview with Bloomberg TV.</p>			
Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
United States (Atlanta)	28 September to 3 October 2015	5	<u>Atlanta</u> : 28 September to 1 October 2015 No. of advisers: 2
<p>Atlanta: Attended TPP Plenary meetings. Met the Japanese Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy, US Trade Representative, New Zealand Trade Minister, Peruvian Vice Minister for Foreign Trade, Malaysian Minister for Trade and Industry. Attended a plurilateral meetings with Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand and Peru on intellectual property Issues. Attended informal events with stakeholders. Conducted interviews with Sky News, CNN International, ABC and 2GB.</p>			
Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
Indonesia (Jakarta)	20 to 22 September 2015	2	<u>Jakarta</u> : 20 to 21 September 2015 No. of advisers: 1
<p>- Jakarta: Attended breakfast with Indonesian bankers. Met representatives. Attended lunch meeting with significant Indonesian investors. Met Minister for Industry; Minister for Communications and Information; Minister for Trade.</p>			

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) and China (Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing)	22 to 30 August 2015	8	<u>Kuala Lumpur</u> : 22 to 24 August 2015 <u>Hong Kong</u> : 25 August 2015 <u>Shanghai</u> : 26 to 27 August 2015 <u>Beijing</u> : 28 to 29 August 2015 No. of advisers: 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kuala Lumpur: Attended the 20th ASEAN Economic Ministers-Closer Economic Relations Consultations and 3rd RCEP Participating Countries Ministerial Meeting. Met US Trade Representative, Chinese Minister of Commerce, New Zealand Minister of Trade and Malaysia Minister of International Trade and Industry. Met Malaysian investors in Australia. Conducted an interview and attended a luncheon with the Malaysia Australia Business Council. - Hong Kong: Met senior officials from government and business. Conducted media interviews with ABC Radio, The Hong Kong Economic Journal, Bloomberg TV, The South China Morning Post and Radio Television Hong Kong. - Shanghai: Attended an Agri-Food Investment Workshop hosted by Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce (SCOFCOM), AustCham Shanghai Breakfast with the Australian Business Community and an E-Commerce Networking Lunch. Attended the opening ceremony of AustCham Shanghai's new office. Conducted interviews with the 7:30 Report, Australian Financial Review and Chinese Media (21st Century Business Herald, 21st Century Business Herald, Shanghai Morning Post and Shanghai Daily). - Beijing: Met Chinese Vice-Premier and Minister for Commerce. Led a business delegation. Attended a ChAFTA Lunch and commercial signings. Visited the 798 Art Zone. 			

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
United States (Maui)	25 July to 2 August 2015	8	<u>Maui</u> : 25 July to 1 August 2015 No. of advisers: 2
<p>- Maui: attended TPP Ministerial meetings. Met the US Trade Representative, New Zealand, Japan Minister for Trade and Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy, Chile Vice Minister of Trade, Peru Vice Minister of Foreign Trade, Malaysia Minister of Trade and Industry, Brunei Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mexico Secretary of Economy and Japanese Diet Members. Conducted telephone call with Australian agricultural stakeholders. Conducted an informal meeting with the Canadian Minister for International Trade. Conducted interviews with Double J, Radio National, Politico Magazine, Thomson Reuters, Inside US Trade, The 7.30 Report, The Australian Financial Review, The Australian.</p>			
Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
Malaysia	12 to 14 July 2015	2	Kuala Lumpur: 12 to 13 June 2015 No. of advisers: 1
<p>- Kuala Lumpur: Attended the RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting. Met the New Zealand Minister of Trade and Minister of Climate Change Issues; ROK Assistant Minister for Trade and Chief Negotiator for FTAs, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy; and China Vice Minister of Commerce.</p>			
Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
Singapore	27 to 30 June 2015	2	<u>Singapore</u> : 28 to 29 June 2015 No. of advisers: 2
<p>- Singapore: Attended the signing ceremony of the “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership” and MOUs by Prime Minister Abbott and the Prime Minister of Singapore including a joint press conference. Attended Prime Minister Abbott’s delivery of the 35th Singapore Lecture. Attended a reception with the Prime Minister, First Ministers and Business Delegation, a dinner for First Ministers and Business Delegation and a dinner with the Prime Minister and his party. Attended an AustCham Business breakfast. Held an investment roundtable on Northern Australia. Attended the opening of the James Cook University Campus.</p>			

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
India (New Delhi)	21 to 25 June 2015	4	<u>New Delhi</u> : 21 to 24 June 2015 No. of advisers: 2
- New Delhi : Met the Prime Minister of India, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and Minister for Commerce and Industry. Attended an Australia-India CEO Forum meeting and a lunch and a dinner with Australian CEO Forum members. Held a media roundtable and conducted interview with Bloomberg.			

Mr Robb travelled by commercial means on all official overseas flights.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 89

Program: DFAT

Topic: Diplomatic footprint

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- ***“On 31 January 2015, DFAT had 803 A-based positions overseas.” In the context of the latest staffing review conducted by Secretary Varghese:***
 - ***Has this number changed?***
 - ***Is it likely to change with new embassies opening?***
 - ***By how much?***
 - ***What posts are changing in size - growing or shrinking?***
- ***Overseas posts - embassies and high commissions***
 - ***Are there any embassies and high commissions which are planned to be closed?***
 - ***Are there any embassies and high commissions that are expected to be merged with one another?***
 - ***The post in Kiev was established following the crash of MH17 and the funding was due to conclude in September:***
 - ***Has funding for this post been continued beyond 2015-16?***
 - ***Will this post be made permanent?***
 - ***Will the post be shut down?***

Answer

A. DFAT's overseas A-based position allocation at 31 Oct 2015 was 835. This allocation includes new positions for opening posts. It has been a long-standing departmental practice not to provide details of A-based staffing numbers at individual posts

B. There are no plans to close or merge any embassies or high commissions. Future arrangements for Australia's interim embassy in the Ukraine are being considered.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 90

Program: DFAT

Topic: Appointments and postings

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Please provide an updated version of the tables provided in Budget Estimates QoN #35*
- *Have further appointments been made since the last Estimates?*

Answer

Refer to the response for question on notice 41.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 91

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government Partnerships for Development

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Government Partnerships for Development (GPFD) is a competitive funding program which provides funds to eligible Australian public sector organisations to partner with public sector organisations in developing countries:

- 1. How many expressions of interest (EOI) were received?*
- 2. When did the Department assess that there would be no funding to proceed with any of the EOIs received?*
- 3. Who made the decision that there would be no funding available for GPFD Round Three? Was this at a departmental or ministerial level?*
- 4. How much departmental resources were used administering the Round Three process?*
- 5. What outcomes did these resources deliver, including the assessment of individual EOIs?*
- 6. Was there any assessment about the other negative consequences of not proceeding with Round Three, including wasted time by other public sector agencies, wasted resources by universities or NGOs, or raised expectations with international partners?*

Answer

1. 172 applications were received.
2. The Department reviewed the FY 2015/16 aid budget allocations following the release of the May 2015 DFAT budget appropriation.
3. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the recommendation of the department.

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4. The EOIs were received on 22 April 2015 by the GPFD Secretariat, which consists of three staff and one consultant.
5. All of the EOIs were assessed but no short-listing was undertaken.
6. Applicants were advised prior to the opening of Round 3 that finalisation of the 2015 round would be subject to budget availability.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 92

Program: DFAT

Topic: 3 September parade in Beijing

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. On 3 September China hosted a parade commemorating the end of World War II. Who represented Australia?*
- 2. When did China invite Australia to send representation?*
- 3. When did we confirm we would have representation?*
- 4. Who decided who would represent Australia?*
- 5. Was the Department consulted in the process of deciding who would attend?*
- 6. Did DFAT officials or the Australian Ambassador to China attend? If yes, who and how many?*

Answer

1. The Australian Government was represented by the then Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson.
2. Chinese officials first raised Australia's attendance with DFAT officials in March 2015.
3. We notified China of our attendance on 20 August 2015.
4. This question falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.
5. Yes.
6. The Australian Ambassador attended the parade. No other DFAT officials attended the parade.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 93

Program: DFAT

Topic: SSM and relations in Asia

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

In July, Barnaby Joyce linked our relations with Asia to a case against same-sex marriage, saying that Asians will see Australia as “decadent” if a bill for same-sex marriage goes forward in Parliament:

- 1. Is the Department aware of these views?*
- 2. Can the Department cite any cases where the Department has found this to be true?*
- 3. Have any of our Asian neighbours raised Barnaby’s comments with the Department?*

Answer

1. The Department is aware of media reports of these comments.
2. We are not aware of representations made by foreign governments on Australia’s marriage equality debate or same-sex marriage.
3. See answer to (2).

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 94

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australian in the Asian Century white paper

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. *What are the Secretary's views on the AiAC white paper?***
- 2. *Does the Department still refer to or use the white paper?***
- 3. *Is there any record of the paper on the DFAT website?***

Answer

1. The AiAC White Paper was a statement of the previous Government's policy and the Secretary's view is that it would accordingly not be appropriate for him to provide a commentary on it.
2. Departmental officers refer to the AiAC white paper on occasion as a record of the policy of the Australian Government at the time.
3. The AiAC White Paper was undertaken by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. There are some references to the AiAC white paper in annual reports, archived speeches and other public material on the DFAT website that reflect the policy of the Australian Government of the time.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 95

Program: DFAT

Topic: Indonesia

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *How did the Department first hear of the reduction in cattle quotas made by Indonesia (in July this year)?*
- *What was the diplomatic response of the Department when Indonesia dramatically reduced its permits for live cattle exports around 15 July 2015?*
- *Did the Department provide advice to Minister Joyce on his public response to the reduction?*
- *What were the exact dates of Minister Joyce's visit to Indonesia?*
- *What were the purpose and outcomes of his visit?*
- *How many days was he in Jakarta?*
- *What sites or locations did he visit?*
- *Did he visit a farm?*
- *Who did he meet with?*

Answer

The Department became aware of the reduction in live cattle import permits for the third quarter of 2015 through the Australian Embassy in Jakarta's contact with industry representatives. Officials from the Embassy raised Australia's concerns about the unexpected reduction in import permits with senior Indonesian Government ministers, advisers and officials. The Department did not provide advice to Minister Joyce on his public response to the reduction. Questions about Minister Joyce's travel should be referred to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 96

Program: DFAT

Topic: AUSMIN

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Did the Department provide advice on the language in the recent AUSMIN statement?*
- *In a press conference before the meeting Minister Bishop referred to aircraft rules for operation in Syria as a priority but there is no sign of it in the communique. What caused this issue to drop off the agenda?*

Answer

- Yes.
- The AUSMIN 2015 Joint Statement of 13 October refers to our bilateral defence cooperation with the United States and specifically to “our work together as part of the Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)”. The Joint Statement notes that “Australia and the United States reiterated their strong commitment to the collective defence of Iraq by degrading and defeating ISIL in Iraq and Syria”. Ms Bishop affirmed in the press conference following the meeting that “we spoke in depth about the conflict in Syria and Iraq”.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 97

Program: DFAT

Topic: Expo Milan 2015 - World Fair

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. *Australia has opted not to participate in this year's World Fair. Who made this decision?***
- 2. *Was the Department consulted?***
- 3. *Did the Department do a cost benefit analysis of participation? Please provide a copy of that analysis's findings.***
- 4. *Is the Department aware of the theme of this year's World Fair - "Feeding the planet. Energy for life." Is this a theme to which Australia could make a meaningful contribution?***
- 5. *Of the 130 countries participating, some of our nearest neighbours including Indonesia and Timor-Leste are represented.***
 - a. *What are the implications for our role in the region given that Australia is not amongst those representing the Indo-Pacific?***
- 6. *Of the 130 countries participating, all members of MIKTA with the exception of Australia are represented (Mexico, Indonesia, Turkey, and South Korea).***
 - a. *What are the implications for our role as a middle power given that Australia is the only member of MIKTA not participating?***
 - b. *Have members of MIKTA raised this with the Minister or with the Department?***
- 7. *Previous expos***
 - a. *How was the decision made for Australia to have a pavilion in the Shanghai Expo in 2010?***

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

- b. What were the benefits of participating in Shanghai five years ago?*
 - c. How have we seen evidence of those benefits?*
 - d. Was participation in the Shanghai Expo worthwhile?*
 - e. How and why is the 2015 Expo different to the 2010 Expo?*
 - f. How was the decision made for Australia to have a pavilion in the Aichi Expo in 2005?*
 - g. What were the benefits of participating in Japan ten years ago?*
 - h. How have we seen evidence of those benefits?*
 - i. Was participation in the Aichi Expo worthwhile?*
 - j. How is the 2015 Expo different to the 2005 Expo?*
- 8. In 1988, Australia hosted the World Expo in Brisbane. Does Australia's non-participation this year reduce our chances are successfully bidding and hosting the Expo in a future year?**

Answer

- 1.** The Australian Government.
- 2.** Yes
- 3.** No and N/A
- 4.** Yes and N/A
- 5.** **a)** None.
- 6.** **a)** None.
b) No.
- 7.** **(a-i)** As for Milan, in considering participation at previous Expos (including Shanghai and Aichi), Governments have balanced the cost of participation against the benefits for trade, investment and foreign relations.

j) Australia's participation at future World Expos is assessed on a case-by-case basis, balancing potential trade and investment benefits against the cost of participation. Consideration includes strong economic links, compelling business benefits and private sector support; and the right fiscal environment in Australia for Government to finance participation.
- 8.** No

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 98

Program: DFAT

Topic: Russia

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

On 27 September it was reported that Julie Bishop would “buttonhole” President Putin at the UN:

- **Does buttonholing have something in common with shirt-fronting?**
- **Did Julie Bishop buttonhole President Putin?**
- **Was it more or less successful than when Mr Abbott shirtfronted President Putin?**
- **Was a photo opportunities with koalas a part of the buttonholing process?**

Answer

- **Foreign Minister Bishop did not meet with President Putin at the UN.**

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 99

Program: DFAT

Topic: Africa AIPs

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Why was there not individualized Aid Investment Plans for any African countries?

Answer

All of Australia's assistance to African countries is provided through the Sub-Saharan Africa regional program, with a total 2015-16 ODA value of \$93.9m. An Aid Investment Plan was produced for this program.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 100

Program: DFAT

Topic: Pacific - Buka post

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

The 2015-16 Budget included an announcement on Expanding Australia's Diplomatic Footprint which will include a new post in Buka (Papua New Guinea). The Budget notes: "A new post in Buka will provide greater focus for Australia's development assistance to Bougainville".

- What is the cost of the new post in Buka?
- What staffing arrangements will be made for the new post in Buka?
- How many staff?
- What levels?
- Who will head the post?
- What is the planned address of the new post in Buka?
- What progress has been made with the PNG Government since the botched announcement after the budget?
- On Thursday 14 May 2015 Radio Australia ran a report stating: "A spokesperson for Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has denied allegations the Abbott Government failed to consult with Papua New Guinea over a decision to open a new diplomatic mission in Bougainville. According to Ms Bishop's office, Australia's High Commissioner to PNG had also formally advised the O'Neill government of its intention to announce a new diplomatic presence in the lead-up to the 2015 budget."
 - Was Mr O'Neill lying in his public statements?
 - Why would Mr O'Neill make such clear public statements if his government was properly consulted about the proposed post in Bougainville?
- Was the Buka post raised at a Prime Ministerial level during the recent PIF leaders meeting in Port Moresby?

Answer

We continue to discuss with the PNG Government how we can best support our aid program in PNG, including in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

In his public statements, Prime Minister O'Neill was expressing his view.

The Buka post was not raised at Prime Ministerial level during the recent PIF leaders meeting in Port Moresby

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 101

Program: DFAT

Topic: Coca Cola Aid Delivery

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Does the Australian Government still intend to utilise Coca-Cola to distribute medical aid in the Pacific?*
- *What level of funding does the Australian Government plan to give Coca Cola to perform this task?*
- *Have any meetings occurred between DFAT and Coca Cola in relation to Aid distribution?*

Answer

(a) No commitment has been given for Coca-Cola to distribute medical aid in the Pacific. Coca-Cola was cited as an example to illustrate opportunities presented by the private sector. The Australian Government continues to explore ways to better utilise the private sector to deliver the aid program.

(b) There is no commitment to fund Coca-Cola to distribute medical aid in the Pacific.

(c) Two meetings between DFAT and Coca-Cola Amatil have occurred in relation to the aid program that included aid distribution. DFAT's Post in Papua New Guinea (PNG) met with Coca-Cola Amatil PNG in August 2015 and DFAT's innovationXchange had an introductory meeting with Coca-Cola Amatil in October 2015 to provide information on innovationXchange's programs. No formal agreements arose from either meeting.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 102

Program: DFAT

Topic: Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- ***On May 7 this year Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama named Australia as being among the “coalition of the selfish”. He went on to say “We do not see Fiji’s interests reflected in the stance being taken by Australia and New Zealand ... especially on the biggest threat to our security we have ever faced collectively as Pacific islanders — the rising sea levels caused by climate change,” he said.***
 - ***What was the Australian Government’s response to these comments?***
- ***Mr Bainimarama called for an end to Australia and New Zealand’s “undue influence” on the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and said he would continue to personally snub the forum while Canberra and Wellington’s dominance continued.***
 - ***What was the Australian Government’s response to these comments?***

Answer

The Australian Government recognises that climate change is a critical issue for our region, with significant potential to impact prospects for economic growth. Our 2030 target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 26-28 per cent below 2005 levels is strong and responsible. The Australian Government is committed to securing an ambitious and effective agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in November-December 2015. The *Pacific Islands Forum Leaders’ Declaration on Climate Change Action* provides an important stepping stone.

The Australian Government will continue to work with Pacific countries on resilience measures through our aid program. We have over \$50 million invested in climate resilience related projects throughout the Pacific and recently signed a contribution arrangement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), formalising a \$200 million pledge. In November 2015, the GCF approved a Urban Water Supply and Wastewater Management project for Fiji worth USD31 million, managed through the Asian Development Bank.

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Australia has been a constructive member of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) since its establishment in 1971. We are committed to remaining a member and support the vital role the Forum plays in addressing common challenges to governance, security and economic prosperity.

We welcome Fiji's re-engagement in PIF activities including Foreign Minister Kubuabola's participation in the PIF Leaders Meeting in Port Moresby in September 2015.

The Australian Government has not responded to Prime Minister Bainimarama's comments.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 103

Program: DFAT

Topic: Climate Change - Pacific leaders - Australia

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Many Small Island Pacific States publicly called for Australia to do more on Climate Change in the lead up to this year Pacific Island Forum leaders meeting which the then Prime Minister Tony Abbott attended on Australia's behalf. Kiribati's president Anote Tong was quoted as saying (in relation to climate change) "I think they need to come to the party, if they really are our friends then they should be looking after our future as well. What we are talking about is survival, it's not about economic development... it's not politics, it's survival." Tuvalu's prime minister Enele Sopoaga was quoted as saying (in relation to climate change), "We're simply seeking for the rights of small island states to survive."*
 - *Is there a feeling amongst some Pacific Island states that Australia has abandoned them?*
 - *Did Australia formally contact Fiji, Kiribati or Tuvalu's governments following these statements? If so when? Who made contact?*

Answer

Australia is committed to working closely with the Pacific Islands on climate change and as a member of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) was pleased to support the PIF Leaders Declaration on Climate Change Action. The Declaration was supported by all leaders and reflects their discussions at the PIF leaders meeting in Port Moresby in September 2015.

Australia has not abandoned the Pacific Islands. We continue to be heavily engaged in the region on climate change. We have over \$50 million currently invested in

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climate resilience related programs throughout the Pacific and recently signed a contribution arrangement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) formalising a \$200 million pledge. Australia is pleased that a Fiji project is one of the first eight GCF projects approved. We advocated strongly in favour of the project in board deliberations. It is an adaptation project that will take a climate-proof approach to urban water supply and wastewater management in Fiji - delivered through a grant to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) of US\$31 million.

Australian Ministers and officials continue to discuss climate change issues with their Pacific counterparts. There has been no formal contact with the Fiji, Kiribati or Tuvaluan Governments on the above statements.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 104

Program: DFAT

Topic: Pacific Islands Forum (held September 2015 - Port Moresby)

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *At this year's forum the leaders released a communiqué entitled - Pacific Island Forum Leaders Declaration on Climate Change Action 46th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Summit – Port Moresby 2015*
- *Were Australian officials involved in the drafting of this communiqué?*
- *What was Australia's position on this element of the document?*

Answer

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders Declaration on Climate Change Action was drafted, negotiated and agreed by Pacific Islands Forum members, including Australia.

As an outcome from the PIF Leaders Meeting, the Declaration was supported by all PIF Leaders and reflects their discussions at the meeting.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 105

Program: DFAT

Topic: Peter Dutton - Sea Level Joke

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Upon returning to Australia the then Prime Minister Tony Abbott and the Minister for Immigration Peter Dutton were overheard joking about rising sea levels in the Pacific Islands:

- *Were Australian officials onshore or offshore contacted regarding the Dutton gaffe?*
 - *If so who? when? How was it received?*
- *Did Australian offer any formal apologies to any Pacific Island countries as a result of the Dutton gaffe?*
 - *If so who? when? How was it received?*
- *Did either the former Prime Minister or the Immigration Minister call members of the PNG Government to apologise for the gaffe?*
- *If so who? when? How was it received?*

Answer

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is not aware of any Australian officials onshore or offshore being formally contacted regarding the remark by the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon. Peter Dutton MP.

DFAT officials did not offer a formal apology to any Pacific Island countries.

Questions regarding the former Prime Minister and the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection should be directed to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 106

Program: DFAT

Topic: Pacific Islands Development Forum

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- ***The Third Pacific Islands Development Forum Summit of Leaders ended in Suva Friday 4th September 2015. This meeting approved the Pacific Islands Development Forum Charter and launched the PIDF as an international organisation.***
- ***How does the Government view the PDIF as a regional organisation? What role does the Government see for Australia in the PDIF?***

Answer

The Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) characterises its role as a platform bringing together leaders from the public and private sectors and civil society to address regional development challenges. Australia is comfortable with the PIDF performing this role, but as with all regional organisations, believes it should not duplicate work already underway in the region.

Australia attended the third summit of the PIDF as an observer.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 107

Program: DFAT

Topic: Vanuatu

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

On 23 May 2015 the Foreign Minister announced additional support to the long-term recovery of Vanuatu from Tropical Cyclone Pam, the most powerful cyclone ever recorded in Vanuatu:

- A. Provide a breakdown of the \$35 million in additional aid.**
- B. How did the government come to the figure of \$35 million for the additional recovery package?**

Answer

A. The Australian funding supports the Vanuatu Government's National Recovery Plan and will be allocated to recovery activities as they are developed and approved through Government of Vanuatu processes. The Australian and Vanuatu Governments have agreed that priority will be given to education, health, infrastructure, and livelihoods with a particular focus on women and girls.

B. Cyclone Pam caused more than \$600 million in damage and loss to Vanuatu, meaning that Vanuatu suffered a shock equivalent to 64 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product. The size of the recovery package was influenced by a range of factors, including consideration of previous similar disasters.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 108

Program: DFAT

Topic: Death Penalty (Pacific)

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop in April this year was quoted in the Herald Sun saying Australia's opposition to the death penalty was "an issue we can discuss with nations in our region". "It is an important issue... I think it is time for us to have a significant discussion about the application of the death penalty for drug offences in our region," she said. In Budget Estimates, Secretary Varghese noted that this was still a work in progress:

- *Since making that statement has Ms Bishop discussed Australia's stance on the death penalty with Governments in our region?*
- *Which Governments has she discussed that issue with?*
- *Whom within that Government has she discussed that issue with?*
- *What benefit has come from those discussions?*
- *In 2014 another of our immediate neighbours to the north - Papua New Guinea - reinstated the death penalty. Has Ms Bishop had discussions with the PNG Government about Australia's stance on the death penalty?*

Answer

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has raised the issue of Australia's opposition to the death penalty with her PNG counterpart, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Mr Rimbink Pato. Australia has regularly made its position known to the PNG Government at senior levels and will continue to raise it with Papua New Guinea.

Details of the Australian Government's advocacy on the abolition of the death penalty, including the benefits of this advocacy, are contained in DFAT's submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade inquiry into Australia's advocacy for the abolition of the death penalty.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 109

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ambassador for Women and Girls

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Please provide an updated version of Budget Estimates QoN #118 - an updated table of Natasha Stott Despoja's travel and international engagement since May 2015.

Answer

Below is an updated version of the table which provides a summary of the Ambassador for Women and Girls' international travel, the purpose of each visit and the outcomes.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Nature and purpose</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>
2015			
November	Solomon Islands	Bilateral visit to chair Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Advisory Board meeting	Chaired the first Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Advisory Board meeting to be held outside Australia. Advanced Australia's bilateral cooperation with Solomon Islands to end violence against women, including through the launch of two aid projects.
October	Bhutan and India	Bilateral visit to mark International Day of the Girl Child (11 October)	Advanced bilateral cooperation with Bhutan on violence against women: announced funding for a national outreach campaign to address gender based violence. Keynote addresses to International Day of the Girl Child events in Bhutan and India. Launched new gender equality program in India. Extensive positive media coverage.
September	New York	Attended UN	Represented Australia at the UN

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		Summit for Sustainable Development/ UNGA Leaders' Week	Global Leader's Meeting on Gender Equality to mark Beijing +20. Promoted Australia's national and international programs to advance gender equality and showcased our position as a global leader on these issues, including through presentations at UK/UN Women side event on economic empowerment and participation in 14 bilateral meetings.
August	Seychelles and Kenya	Co-chaired the second IORA women's economic empowerment event in Seychelles and bilateral visit to Kenya	Negotiated a high level statement of principles on women's empowerment for IORA members. Launched projects to promote women entrepreneurs in IORA countries. Advanced Australia's bilateral engagement with Kenya on women's political participation and addressing gender based violence. Significant positive media coverage.
June	Samoa	Bilateral visit	Advanced bilateral cooperation with Samoa on gender equality with a focus on addressing violence against women and women's economic empowerment. Positive local media coverage.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 110

Program: DFAT

Topic: G20 - privacy breach

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

In Budget Estimates Secretary Varghese indicated that the privacy breach around the time of the G20 was not the Department's responsibility. However, it is a diplomatic matter with diplomatic consequences:

- **Even though the breach was not caused by DFAT, has the Department taken diplomatic steps to remedy the situation?**
- **Which Governments have DFAT apologised to or communicated with about the breach?**
- **What steps have been taken to ensure it does not occur again?**
- **Was the Minister briefed?**

Answer

The Department is in regular contact with government officials in G20 member countries. No concerns about a privacy breach have been raised.

This is a matter for the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 111

Program: DFAT

Topic: Death Penalty

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- What steps had the Government taken to develop a regional response on the death penalty?
- How have these steps been taken?
- In what forums?
- How many personnel have worked on this?
- What has been done at the leadership level?
- What further steps are planned?

Answer

The Foreign Minister has directed that DFAT:

- develop a public, whole-of-government strategy on death penalty abolition that includes country-sensitive approaches in the region and around the globe to guide bilateral advocacy;
- work more intensively with likeminded countries and increase our diplomatic engagement for events such as World Day Against the Death Penalty; and
- provide financial support to regional civil society organisations and national human rights institutions to end the death penalty or limit its use.

The strategy will guide the Australian Government's international advocacy efforts on the death penalty. In developing the strategy, DFAT will take into account the recommendations flowing from the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Human Rights Subcommittee inquiry *Australia's Advocacy for the Abolition of the Death Penalty*, which is currently underway. The Subcommittee has not announced a deadline for the conclusion of its deliberations. Once DFAT has considered the recommendations of the Subcommittee and publicly consulted on the draft strategy, DFAT will make recommendations to Government on next steps.

In the meantime, the Government has continued its strong record of promotion of death penalty abolition. We have raised our concerns bilaterally with a number of countries, and continued our strong advocacy through multilateral avenues. We make recommendations on the death penalty in all relevant Universal Periodic Reviews. We also co-sponsored the September 2015 Human Rights Council resolution on 'The question of the death penalty'.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

In the 2015-16 financial year, the Australian Government provided financial support to the following organisations:

- . Together Against the Death Penalty (Ensemble contre la peine de mort, ECPM). In June 2015, DFAT supported the ECPM-organised Second Asian Regional Congress in Kuala Lumpur. The Congress brought together legislative, legal and executive officials from abolitionist and retentionist countries, regional and international organisations, media, and relevant academic networks. Around 300 people participated. We have provided ECPM with \$150,000 in 2015-16 for the Sixth World Congress Against the Death Penalty (Oslo, June 2016). We are in the process of providing a further €100,000 in support of this activity.
- . The Asia-Pacific Forum on National Human Rights Institutions (APF). The APF brings together national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific and is a longstanding partner of DFAT. NHRIs have the capacity to progress human rights issues while remaining independent of government. The APF has a record of working with its members to support abolition work. DFAT financial support of \$150,000 will reinvigorate the APF's engagement on the issue.
- . Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA). PGA has established a Global Parliamentary Platform on the death penalty to encourage meaningful action and to exchange information by political decision-makers. The Platform is the only international grouping or network of parliamentarians devoted to abolition of the death penalty. DFAT financial assistance of \$100,000 is supporting PGA's death penalty work in the Asia-Pacific region

Australia is a candidate for membership of the HRC for the term 2018-2020 – the first time we have sought a seat on the HRC. If elected, the Foreign Minister has stated that death penalty abolition advocacy will be a priority for our term on the HRC.

The Department's efforts are led by the Multilateral Policy Division in Canberra, with support from our diplomatic network.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 112

Program: DFAT

Topic: Financing for Development Conference

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

The Third International Conference on Financing for Development was held in Addis Ababa on 13-16 July 2015. This Conference was a major summit in the lead up to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals at the UN in September:

- **When was the Minister's last trip to Africa?**
 - **Which countries did she visit?**
 - **What was the purpose of the trip?**
 - **Who did she meet with?**
- **What level of representation has Australia sent to conferences of similar status to the UN Financing for Development conference in previous years?**
- **What level of representation did other countries send to Addis Abbaba this year?**
- **On what basis did DFAT decide to that the most senior Australian representative would be Deputy Secretary Ewen McDonald?**
- **There was a joint statement issued at this summit by MIKTA (Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey, and Australia).**
 - **Who were the other governments represented by?**
 - **Were they more or less senior than the Australian representative?**
- **Deputy Secretary Ewen McDonald talked about 'investment' a total of 10 times in his speech at Addis Abbaba, but didn't mention that the Australian government had cut Australia's aid program in Africa by 70 per cent.**
 - **Were the aid cuts to Africa raised with the Australian delegation?**
 - **Or aid cuts more generally?**
 - **What discussions were held about the obligation of countries to increase their ODA, in line with long standing international targets?**

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Answer

Ms Bishop visited South Africa on 11-12 September 2014 and Madagascar and Mauritius on 12-15 September 2014.

The purpose of the visit was to galvanise support for regional cooperation through the Indian Ocean Rim Association and, in the case of South Africa, also to advance our G20 reform agenda in the lead-up to the Brisbane G20 Leaders' Summit held in November 2014.

Ms Bishop met with:

- Hon Ms Maite Nkoane Mashabane, Minister for International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa
- Hon Mr Hery Rajaonarimampianina, President, Republic of Madagascar
- Hon Dr Roger Kolo, Prime Minister, Republic of Madagascar
- Hon Mr Joeli Valerien Lalaharisaina, Strategic Resources Minister, Republic of Madagascar
- South African business leaders
- Major Australian mining companies operating in Madagascar

Ms Bishop attended the High Level Symposium on the Ocean Economy in Mauritius and various Australia Awards Alumni events in all three countries.

Australia is represented at a large number of UN meetings by ministers, parliamentary secretaries and senior officials. The Addis Ababa Conference was the third United Nations international conference on financing for development. In 2008, Parliamentary Secretary, Bob McMullan, led Australia's delegation to the conference in Doha.

There was a range of leaders of national delegations at the Addis Ababa conference including Presidents, Prime Ministers, Ministers, junior Ministers and senior officials.

The Foreign Minister decided that the Australian delegation to the Addis Ababa conference would be led by Deputy Secretary, Mr Ewen McDonald, from the department.

In relation to MIKTA countries, Turkey was represented by their Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Korea by their Foreign Minister, Mexico by the vice-Minister of Finance and Indonesia by their Ambassador to Ethiopia. Australia was neither the most, nor the least, senior MIKTA representative.

In one meeting, the change in Australia's aid to Africa was raised with the head of delegation. More broadly, discussions on ODA were part of the negotiations leading up to the agreement of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 113

Program: DFAT

Topic: United Nations Climate Change Conference

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. Has the Department yet determined how many officials and who will attend in December?***
- 2. Will there be Ministerial attendance?***
- 3. How many Ministers and which ones?***
- 4. Please provide an update on how the Department is preparing for the Conference.***

Answer

- (1) Yes. We expect 30 Canberra-based Government officials from DFAT, DotE and PMC will participate in the conference. They will be supported by staff from the Australian Embassy in Paris.
- (2-3) Yes. The Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Environment Minister are expected to attend.
- (4) The Department has constructively participated in new agreement negotiations throughout the year, including at the recent Pre-COP Ministerial meeting in Paris (6-8 November). The Department has held and participated in numerous stakeholder meetings and events with business, NGOs, media, and state and city government officials.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 114

Program: DFAT

Topic: Multilaterals

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Please provide an updated version of the chart provided in Budget Estimates QoN #18.*
- *Please also provided forward estimates.*
- *Can the Department confirm whether any repayments to any multilateral partners such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank will be reduced in FY2016-17?*

Answer

- See attached.
- See attached.
- Core payments to multilateral funds and banks occur in accordance with an encashment schedule agreed at the time of replenishment. There have been no changes made to these schedules for 2016-17.

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Institution	Existing contributions to end	Next replenishment date	Annual contributions since 2013 (FY unless otherwise indicated) 2012 - 2013	2013 – 2014	2014 – 2015	2015 – 2016
World Bank (International Development Association)	April 2025 (Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative)	December 2016 (IDA18)	206.9 million	218.0 million	211.7 million	222.5 million
Asian Development Bank (Asian Development Fund)	December 2021	May 2016 (ADF 12)	83.1 million	101.1 million	122.2 million	124.9 million
UNAIDS	The 2009-12 UNAIDS-DFAT Partnership Framework is still in effect as it includes a clause whereby it is automatically extended on an annual basis unless terminated by either party.	Annual voluntary core contributions to UNAIDS are typically made in the first half of each calendar year.	7.24 million (<i>Calendar year 2013</i>)	7.2 million (<i>Calendar year 2014</i>)	7.5 million (<i>Calendar year 2015</i>)	4.5 million (<i>Calendar year 2016</i>)
World Health Organisation (WHO)	The 2009-13 WHO-DFAT Partnership Framework is still in effect as it includes a clause whereby it is automatically extended on an annual basis unless terminated by either party.	Annual voluntary core contributions to WHO are typically made in the first half of each calendar year.	20 million (<i>Calendar year 2013</i>)	20 million (<i>Calendar year 2014</i>)	20.6 million (<i>Calendar year 2015</i>)	12.4 million (<i>Calendar year 2016</i>)
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Extended by mutual consent to June 2016	Annual voluntary core contributions to UNFPA are typically made in the first half of each calendar year.	15 million (<i>Calendar year 2013</i>)	15 million (<i>Calendar year 2014</i>)	15.4 million (<i>Calendar year 2015</i>)	9.2 million (<i>Calendar year 2016</i>)
World Food Program	June 2019 (Australia-World Food Programme Strategic Partnership Framework 2015-2019)	Annual contributions to WFP are made in the second half of each calendar year.	36 million	36 million	40 million	37 million
UN Office for the Coordination of	December 2015	Annual core funding to OCHA is typically made	9 million	9 million	9.3 million	8.8 million

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Humanitarian Affairs		in the first half of each calendar year. Australia intends to make the 2015-16 payment in early 2016.				
UN High Commissioner for Refugees	December 2016	Annual core funding to UNHCR is typically paid in the first half of each calendar year. Australia intends to make the 2015-16 payment in early 2016.	21 million	19 million	21 million	20 million
UN Development Program	June 2016	One payment per calendar year – Australia tends to pay in September	20.66 million	20.66 million	21.2 million	12.7 million
UNICEF	June 2016	One payment per calendar year – Australia tends to pay in September	34.1 million	34.1 million	34.4 million	21 million
Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance	December 2020	TBC (awaiting advice from Gavi)	47.5 million	52.5 million	50 million	50 million
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria	December 2016	Mid 2016 TBC (awaiting advice from the Global Fund)	59.8 million	100 million	105 million	50.5 million
International Monetary Fund (IMF)*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*IMF not included as question targets core funding only – DFAT provides a small amount of non-core funding for technical assistance through the IMF (\$4.9 million in 2013 – 2014 and \$250,000 in 2014 – 2015).

Note that this table reflects voluntary core funding, and does not cover earmarked funding, or funding provided by other Australian Government departments.

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Forward Estimates 2015-16 to 2018-19

Institution	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
World Bank (International Development Association)	222.5 million	220.1 million	Subject to replenishment negotiations	Subject to replenishment negotiations
Asian Development Bank (Asian Development Fund)	124.9 million	157.1 million	Subject to replenishment negotiations	Subject to replenishment negotiations
UNAIDS	4.5 million (Calendar year 2016)	Subject to annual budget allocations	Subject to annual budget allocations	Subject to annual budget allocations
World Health Organisation (WHO)	12.4 million (Calendar year 2016)	Subject to annual budget allocations	Subject to annual budget allocations	Subject to annual budget allocations
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	9.2 million (Calendar year 2016)	Subject to annual budget allocations	Subject to annual budget allocations	Subject to annual budget allocations
World Food Program	37 million	37 million (subject to annual budget allocations)	38 million (subject to annual budget allocations)	38 million (subject to annual budget allocations).
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	8.8 million	A new partnership framework will be drafted which will specify payments for 2016-17 and out years, subject to annual budget allocations	subject to annual budget allocations	subject to annual budget allocations
UN High Commissioner for Refugees	20 million	A new partnership framework will be drafted which will specify payments for 2016-17 and out years, subject to annual budget allocations	subject to annual budget allocations	subject to annual budget allocations
UN Development Program	12.7 million	A new partnership framework is being drafted which will specify payments for 2016-17 and out years	A new partnership framework is being drafted which will specify payments for 2016-17 and out years.	A new partnership framework is being drafted which will specify payments for 2016-17 and out years.

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UNICEF	21 million	A new partnership framework is being drafted which will specify payments for 2016-17 and out years.	A new partnership framework is being drafted which will specify payments for 2016-17 and out years.	A new partnership framework is being drafted which will specify payments for 2016-17 and out years.
Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance	50 million	subject to annual budget allocations	subject to annual budget allocations	subject to annual budget allocations
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria	50.5 million	Financing will be subject to replenishment negotiations in mid-2016	Financing will be subject to replenishment negotiations in mid-2016	Financing will be subject to replenishment negotiations in mid-2016
International Monetary Fund (IMF)*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*IMF not included as question targets core funding only – DFAT provides a small amount of non-core funding for technical assistance through the IMF

Note that this table reflects voluntary core funding, and does not cover earmarked funding, or funding provided by other Australian Government departments.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 115

Program: DFAT

Topic: Humanitarian assistance

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. *Please provide an update on what we are providing in Syria***
- 2. *Please provide an update on what we are providing in the rebuilding of Gaza***
- 3. *There has been an increase in the scale, frequency and impact of humanitarian disasters around the world. In the last few years, funding has been given to Syria, South Sudan, Typhoons Hagupit and Haiyan in the Philippines, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, earthquakes in Nepal and humanitarian support to Iraq. The need for assistance is only likely to continue into the future. Given the diminishing Australian aid budget and the rising global need – how is Australia preparing to respond to humanitarian crises, both in our region and globally?***
- 4. *Given the scale of the cuts, how will the Department decide which countries will receive funding for humanitarian disasters and how much they will receive?***
- 5. *Overall, how much money will the Australian government allocate to humanitarian crises annually?***
- 6. *What percentage of the aid budget will go to humanitarian crises?***

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Answer

1. Australia has allocated \$190 million in humanitarian assistance in response to the Syria crisis since 2011. This includes \$83 million for humanitarian assistance inside Syria and \$107 million to help refugees and vulnerable host communities in the region. Most recently, Australia announced \$34 million for the Syria crisis on 9 September 2015. Of this, \$7 million was delivered inside Syria and \$27 million in neighbouring countries.
2. Australia provided \$22.7 million in humanitarian assistance to Gaza during 2014/15. This includes:
 - \$15.7 million to UNRWA's appeal which covers the repair of infrastructure such as schools and homes
 - \$3 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross which has helped to restore medical services
 - \$4 million to Australian NGOs (World Vision and APHEDA), some of which will help communities rebuild their farms, wells and fishing boats
3. Australia maintains its readiness to respond quickly to humanitarian crisis both in our region and globally through a range of domestic, regional and international stand-by capabilities, including:
 - Pre-positioned relief supplies in Australia and the region;
 - DFAT-supported specialist medical and search and rescue teams;
 - Strategic partnership agreements and stand-by arrangements within Australian Government agencies, non-government organisations and commercial partners;
 - A Crisis Response Team of DFAT staff trained to deploy at short notice to lead and coordinate an Australian response;
 - Australian Civilian Corps, specialists who can support needs assessment and recovery planning following conflict or disaster;
 - Funding to international humanitarian organisations including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
4. Australia remains a generous donor to global humanitarian crises. However, the Department takes a stronger leadership role in the Indo-Pacific region.

Our support is guided by;

- needs of affected populations;
- scale of the disaster and affected government response capacities, circumstances and preferences, including whether a request for assistance has been made;
- funding and plans of other donors;
- capacity and activities of humanitarian partners on the ground;

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- Australia's national interest, including where our resources will be most efficient and effective;
 - Geographic locations – Australia is committed to supporting our near neighbours, while continuing to be responsive to humanitarian requests globally; and
 - Good Humanitarian Donorship, including predictable, flexible, diversified and longer term funding arrangements with limited ear marking.
5. The Humanitarian, Emergencies and Refugees budget for 2015-16 is \$328.94 million.
6. The 2015-16 Humanitarian, Emergencies and Refugees budget of \$328.94 million is 8.11 per cent of Australia's total Official Development Assistance budget (\$4,051.7 million).

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 116

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australian Awards

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Please provide total student numbers for the Australian Award programs from 2007-08 to present.*
- *Please provide total costs of the Australian Award programs from 2007-08 to present.*

Answer

- From 2007-08 to 2014-15 DFAT offered 28,157 Australia Awards.
- Total costs for the Australia Awards program from 2007-08 to 2014-15 was \$2.015b.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 117

Program: DFAT

Topic: Cultural visits program

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- ***Please provide an updated list (similar to the response to Budget Estimates QoN #119) since May 2015 including the following parameters:***
 - ***Who participated in each activity?***
 - ***What were the outcomes of each activity?***
 - ***What were the costs associated with each activity/participant?***

Answer

Activity:

- ASIA PACIFIC ART GALLERY ASSOCIATIONS ALLIANCE (APAGA)
DELEGATES VISIT – Sydney and Melbourne, 19-22 August 2015

Participation:

- Adriana Alvarez-Nichol, Hong Kong Art Gallery Association
- Hiroya Tsubakihara, Japan Art Dealers Association
- Tomio Koyama, Japan Art Dealers Association
- Woo Hong Park, Galleries Association of Korea
- Benjamin Milton Hampe, Art Galleries Association Singapore
- Emerson (Kun Sheng) Wang, Taiwan Art Gallery Association
- Michelle (Yun-Min) Liang, Taiwan Art Gallery Association

Outcomes:

- Facilitated participants to engage directly with high-level individuals and organisations within the Australian visual arts industry.
- Promoted the Australian visual arts industry and generate commercial interests in the future.

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- . Established cross-cultural networks and promoted collaboration and exchange between Australian artists/arts organisations and their international partners.
- . Promoted Australian leadership capacity in arts production and management.

Cost:

- . \$30,251 (ex GST)

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Question No 118

Program: DFAT

Topic: Public Diplomacy

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Please provide an update on DFAT's public diplomacy budget (similar to the response to Budget Estimates QoN #120).*
- *Please provide forward year estimates.*
- *What percentage of the \$7 million in 2015-16 is going toward #fashiondiplomacy [Hashtag Fashion Diplomacy]?*

Answer

- The Department's public diplomacy budget amounts to \$6.768 million in 2015–2016. This supports the Department's global network of Posts for in-country public diplomacy activities, as well as key programs in culture, science, sports, major events and domestic advocacy. This funding does not include other major public diplomacy initiatives managed by the Department including the New Colombo Plan, Australia Awards, volunteers, and the International Relations Grants Program delivered through the Foundations, Councils and Institutes.
- We anticipate funding levels will be maintained in 2016–2017.
- Approximately 5 per cent.

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Question No 119

Program: DFAT

Topic: Digital diplomacy

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

See DFAT Media Release from 25 of September titled ‘A Digital DFAT’:

- The release was in response to an article in The Age by Danielle Cave titled “global diplomacy has gone digital and Australia has been left behind”, is that correct?
- How many Twitter accounts does DFAT currently run today?
- How many followers do all of those accounts have?
- The response from DFAT on the 25th of September claimed that the @dfat Twitter account was more popular than its Canadian, French and Japanese counterparts.
- Canada’s Foreign Ministry is split into 4 departmental areas – public diplomacy, foreign policy activities, trade and development – the total sum of which is well over 200,000 followers. Is it in fact correct that Canada’s Foreign Ministry accounts are much larger than Australia’s?
- France’s Foreign Ministry has well over 670,000 followers of its @francediplo account. How did DFAT come to the conclusion that it is more popular than its French counterpart when the total sum of DFAT-run account followers don’t even add up to main French Foreign Ministry account?
- Does DFAT still stand by the claim that it has more followers than the Japanese Foreign Ministry?
- In the ‘A Digital DFAT’ release, DFAT claimed that a recent Tweet from Ambassador Paul Grigson’s @DubesAustralia account reached 28 million users. Does DFAT still stand by this number?
- Who signed off on sending out the release ‘A Digital DFAT’?
- Were there any social media consultants who worked on the release and if so, are they the same consultants that were employed to assist DFAT’s digital diplomacy platform?

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Answer

- ‘A Digital DFAT’ was not a media release but a news article written by Assistant Secretary, Parliamentary and Media Branch. It was written to respond to Ms. Cave’s criticism and to highlight the department’s achievements in using social media to achieve its digital diplomacy and communication objectives.
- 58* (out of 154 active social media accounts that include Facebook, YouTube, Flickr, Instagram, LinkedIn, blogs, Weibo, YouKu and WeChat).
- Approximately 171,500 followers*.
- The original article incorrectly reported this as fact and was subsequently updated on 6 October to include the words “English language” (please see below). A clarification was also added to the article.
 - *If digital diplomacy were simply about numbers, DFAT would be world leaders: @dfat, with more than 41,000 Twitter followers, is more popular than its **English language** Canadian, French and Japanese counterparts.)*
- The article compared the main @DFAT twitter account with the main English language accounts of its foreign ministry counterparts.
- As above, the article compared the main @DFAT twitter account with the main English language accounts of its foreign ministry counterparts.
- Yes, but only in relation to Japan’s English language twitter account (@MofaJapan_en).
- Yes.
- First Assistant Secretary, Public Diplomacy and Communications Division.
- No.

*Figures current as at 11 November 2015.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 120

Program: DFAT

Topic: New Colombo Plan

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Can the Department please provide results from the ongoing evaluation of the New Colombo Plan?*
- *Does the Department hold any statistics on the students who apply for access to the New Colombo Plan?*
- *What statistics are kept?*
- *Provide a copy of any statistics kept.*
- *Please provide details on the instances of students studying overseas under the New Colombo requiring consular assistance.*
- *Section 8 of the New Colombo Plan Guidelines booklet sets out how complaints and feedback will be handled.*
 - *How many complaints have been received?*
 - *How many? For what reasons?*
 - *Have any complaints been escalated to the Commonwealth ombudsmen?*
- *According to the New Colombo plan Guidelines booklet there are 4 selection criteria used to pick students.*
 - *Who is conducting assessments against the selection criteria?*
 - *Are statistics kept regarding these assessments?*
 - *Please provide these statistics if possible.*
- *Total numbers*
 - *Please provide a total number of students who have studied overseas under the New Combo Plan since the pilot.*
- *Funding*
- *Are any New Combo Plan funds classified as ODA?*

Answer

- A monitoring and evaluation framework for the New Colombo Plan is in place to help ensure that robust information from a variety of sources informs reporting and ongoing implementation of the program. Monitoring and evaluation activities underway or under development include surveys of New Colombo Plan students and alumni; analysis of feedback from Australian universities, host

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organisations and host government representatives; and periodic evaluations. An independent evaluation of the pilot phase is also underway, undertaken by ACIL Allen Consulting. Stage one was completed in September 2014 and focussed on New Colombo Plan application processes. Overall the findings were positive. Some areas for enhancement were identified, including adjusting application timeframes which have since been addressed in the program guidelines. Interim results from stage two were received in May 2015, which focused on the analysis of student experiences. The results were positive, including that 97 per cent of mobility students and 100 per cent of scholarship recipients surveyed would recommend the New Colombo Plan program to other students. Areas for further enhancement were also identified, including additional support for students seeking internships (an online New Colombo Plan Internship and Mentorship Network was launched in July 2015) and increased access to cross-cultural training (DFAT worked with the Bennelong Foundation and Asialink to pilot cross-cultural training for mobility students in September 2015, which will be rolled out more broadly in 2016). The evaluation of the pilot phase will conclude in 2016-17, with the completion of pilot study programs.

- The numbers of applications received and New Colombo Plan scholarships and mobility grants awarded under the 2014 (pilot phase), 2015 and 2016 rounds are below.

		2014	2015	2016
New Colombo Plan Scholarship Program	Number of applications received from Australian undergraduate students	124	225	226
	Number of scholarships awarded	40	69	100
New Colombo Plan Mobility program	Number of mobility project applications received from Australian universities	142	312*	835
	Number of mobility projects funded	72	254	461
	Number of student mobility grants offered	1,361	3,171	5,487

** For the 2014 and 2016 rounds, Australian universities submitted separate applications for each mobility project. Under the 2015 round, universities submitted one application for each New Colombo Plan location, which meant that there could be multiple projects within each application.*

The application and selection process for the New Colombo Plan Scholarships Program is outlined in Section 5 of the program guidelines (see <http://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/new-colombo-plan/scholarship-program/Pages/scholarship-program.aspx>). Applicants are required to provide details of their proposed scholarship program, host location and respond to the four selection criteria. Applicants are also required to provide personal, citizenship/residency and academic details, and equity and diversity information, including whether the student identifies as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, is from a non-English speaking background and/or whether they have a disability.

The application and selection process for the New Colombo Plan Mobility Program is outlined in Section 4 of the program guidelines (see <http://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/new-colombo-plan/mobility-program/Pages/mobility-program.aspx>). Australian universities apply for funding and are responsible for selecting students to participate in mobility projects and awarding grants. Once funding is offered Australian universities must ensure the following information is always current in the Government's

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online system for managing the New Colombo Plan mobility programs, including the name of the project, institution code, start/end travel dates, host location/s, student numbers, project partners, home university contact point and internship/mentorship details (if applicable). Australian universities are also required to upload the following information at least three weeks before the mobility project commences, including names and contact information for participating students, student identification codes, and confirmation that all students have consented to their information being shared with the Australian Government and other relevant bodies.

- To date, one instance of a New Colombo Plan student requiring consular assistance has been recorded. The student became ill in Hong Kong and received all appropriate consular assistance in accordance with the *Consular Services Charter*.
- No complaints about the New Colombo Plan have been made to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. One formal complaint was put forward by an individual to the Australian Human Rights Commission regarding the age range under the New Colombo Plan Scholarships Program.
- The selection process for the Scholarships Program is outlined in Section 5 of the program guidelines (referred to above). Eligible applications are shortlisted by panels of officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Education and Training against the selection criteria. High-level interview panels comprising former Ambassadors and other senior government officials, members of the business community, academics and other appropriate individuals interview shortlisted candidates. Statistics on the candidates selected are provided above.

For the Mobility Program, application and selection processes are outlined under Section 4 of the 2016 Mobility Program guidelines (referred to above). 2016 mobility projects were selected for funding through a competitive, merit-based assessment and selection process conducted jointly by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Education and Training. Statistics on the projects selected are provided above.

- By the end of the 2016 round, more than 10,000 Australian students will have studied in the Indo-Pacific region under the New Colombo Plan since its inception. Based on information provided by Australian universities, as at 13 November 2015, 1,979 students had completed programs supported by the New Colombo Plan, including 32 scholarship recipients and 1,947 students who had received mobility grants.
- New Colombo Plan funds are not classified as ODA.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 121

Program: DFAT

Topic: Incarceration

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Please provide an update to the number of Australians currently incarcerated overseas.*
- *Have there been changes to consular services affect the degree of assistance for them?*

Answer

- The exact number of Australians incarcerated overseas changes daily. As a snapshot, on 1 October 2015 we were assisting **579** Australians **detained** overseas
 - this includes those arrested, sentenced, imprisoned and granted bail.
- **No.** Consular services are provided in accordance with the Consular Services Charter.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 122

Program: DFAT

Topic: Peter Greste

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

In late September, during an informal meeting in the UN, the Egyptian government communicated to Julie Bishop that Peter Greste would be granted a full pardon:

- **Please provide a formal update on this matter.**
- **What guarantees were provided?**
- **When were they provided?**

Answer

Foreign Minister Bishop raised Mr Greste's case with her Egyptian counterpart, Foreign Minister Shoukry on 25 September in the margins of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in New York.

She confirmed publicly the welcome news that the Egyptian government is considering a pardon for Mr Greste.

Foreign Minister Bishop has since written to Foreign Minister Shoukry in support of Mr Greste's pardon application, which was formally lodged by Mr Greste's legal team on 30 September.

On 11 October, the Australian Ambassador in Cairo discussed Mr Greste's pardon application with the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chief of Staff to Foreign Minister Shoukry.

Mr Greste's pardon application remains under consideration by the Egyptian government.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 123

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ambassador's residence in Rome

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

\$2.7 million was spent to renovate the Ambassador's Villa in Rome. \$1 million of the \$2.7 million went to hiring a temporary residency for the ambassador for the duration of the renovation, while only \$1.7 million actually went towards renovation:

- **What did the renovation of the villa involved?**
- **How long did the renovation last for?**
- **Where did the ambassador stayed while the renovation took place?**
- **When Amanda Vanstone was ambassador, the residency was renovated in 2010.**
- **Will there be another renovation in another 4 to 5 years' time?**

Answer

- The renovation of the villa involved the replacement of the roof membrane, switchboard and electrical upgrades, air conditioning system upgrade, vent stack ducting, installation of forced ventilation in the basement, plumbing and hot water system upgrades, repair of ground level water damage, complete internal repaint, upgrade of the external entertaining areas, replacement of carpets and curtains, replacement of a retaining wall at the rear of the property, wall and step repairs, resurface of the driveway, and replacement of the gate.
- From 1 July 2014 to 30 April 2015.
- The Ambassador moved to temporary accommodation at Via di Sant'Angelo in Pescheri for the period of July 2012-December 2014 due to concerns about the residence's stability.
- In 2010, the basement bathrooms were refurbished, the representation kitchen was upgraded and new carpets were laid in the domestic area and on the main stairs.
- No

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 124

Program: DFAT

Topic: Sustainable Development Goals

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- ***Given Australia's recent commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, what steps is the Department taking to implement, measure, and fund the Sustainable Development Goals within the aid program in FY2015-16 and FY2016-17?***
- ***How will Australia deliver on its commitments to the SDGs without funding to support those commitments?***

Answer

The final 2030 Agenda - comprising both Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development - is well aligned with Australia's foreign, security and trade interests - and with Australia's aid policy, *Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability*.

Australia worked closely with partners to ensure the 2030 Agenda reflects a more modern approach to development with a strong emphasis on:

- each country's responsibility for its own development;
- the need to focus on economic growth, including through private sector investment and trade;
- gender equality and women's economic empowerment;
- peace and governance, including a focus on tackling corruption; and
- mobilising public and private resources to finance development – not just aid.

The Department's actions in these areas advance both Australia's interests and the 2030 Agenda. Many of the priorities reflected in the SDGs are already part of Australia's aid program - for example, gender, governance, health, education and economic growth.

The SDGs come into effect from 1 January 2016 and the Department is considering how best to give effect to the SDGs, including through changes to the Department's internal processes.

Funding of the SDGs will come from the aid budget.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 125

Program: DFAT

Topic: North Asia FTAs

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

The CIE Report “Economic benefits of Australia’s North Asian FTAs” dated 12 June 2015 was prepared for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

- *When did the Department first commission this study?*
- *Did the Department receive any drafts of this report? If so, did the Department or the Trade Minister’s office make any comments or requested changes?*
- *What was the cost of this report?*

Answer

- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade commissioned the CIE study on 9 March 2015.
- Yes. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade received draft reports. Technical clarifications and corrections were included in the final report. The Minister’s office was consulted.
- \$79,420, including GST.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 126

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Please provide a status update on negotiations between Australia and India on the Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.*
- *In relation to the round of negotiations held in India in October 2015:*
 - *Where were the negotiations held?*
 - *Who attended on behalf of Australia?*
 - *Did the Minister lead a business or other delegation on the sides? If so, please provide the names and positions of those in the delegation and an outline of the delegation's activities.*
- *Are the parties working towards concluding negotiations by the end of 2015? If so, how realistic is this timing?*
- *What is the relationship between the Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement and RCEP?*
 - *Would the broader regional trade agreement make the bilateral redundant? If not, what are the benefits of having two separate trade agreements concluded around the same time?*

Answer

The most recent (ninth) round of Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) negotiations was held from 21 to 23 September 2015. Intersessional meetings covering investment and services were held in October and November.

Trade and Investment Minister Robb visited India in late October to lead the inaugural Australia-India Leadership dialogue. Mr Robb led an Australian delegation of representatives from Government, industry and civil society.

No formal CECA negotiating round took place in October. Intersessional meetings covering investment took place in India in October, led by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and attended by government officials from DFAT

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and the Attorney-General's Department. Australian and Indian CECA Chief Negotiators also met in New Delhi in late October and November.

Both parties are working towards conclusion of Australia-India CECA negotiations by the end of this year.

The Australian Government is using all appropriate forums to support greater integration of the Australian and Indian economies. The provisions concerning the relationship between CECA and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Program (RCEP) are still under negotiation.

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Question No 127

Program: DFAT

Topic: Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *Please provide a status update on negotiations between Australia and Indonesia in relation to this economic partnership agreement.***
- B. *When and where are the next scheduled negotiations? Who will attend?***
- C. *Is there any timeframe for the negotiations agreed between the parties.***
- D. *Please provide an update on the export, import and two-way trade statistics between Australia and Indonesia on a monthly basis over this year.***
- E. *If Indonesia formally commences negotiations to join the Transpacific Partnership Agreement, will Australia suspend or end negotiations on a separate bilateral trade agreement with Indonesia?***

Answer

- A. The last formal bilateral engagement in the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA) negotiations took place in November 2013. During his visit to Indonesia in November 2015 the Minister for Trade and Investment announced that the two sides would resume negotiations in 2016.
- B. We are currently consulting with Indonesia to determine a forward schedule for negotiating sessions.
- C. The Parties have not determined a timeframe for conclusion of the negotiations.

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D. Monthly statistics are only available for merchandise trade:

Australia's merchandise trade with Indonesia (a) (b)

(Source: ABS trade data on DFAT STARS database)

Month	Exports	Imports	Two-way trade
	A\$m	A\$m	A\$m
Jan-15	332	308	640
Feb-15	421	431	852
Mar-15	439	499	938
Apr-15	532	339	871
May-15	422	402	824
Jun-15	403	458	860
Jul-15	325	728	1,053
Aug-15	394	423	817
Sep-15	362	384	746

(a) Excludes some confidential items of trade (e.g. cane sugar)

Refer to the ABS Confidential Commodity List for more information (see link below)

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/5372.0.55.001>

(b) Figures are original (not seasonally adjusted)

Services trade statistics are only available on a calendar year or financial year basis. In 2014 Australia's services exports to Indonesia were \$1,287m and services imports were \$2,574m. Total two-way services trade was \$3,861m.

E. It is too early to say when new members can join the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, and how that might affect any ongoing bilateral FTA negotiations that Australia is conducting with those countries, as negotiations have only just concluded. Any implications for Australia's bilateral trade negotiations would also need to be considered at that time.

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Question No 128

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australian Gulf Cooperation Council Free Trade Agreement negotiations

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Please provide a status update on the Australian Gulf Cooperation Council Free Trade Agreement.

Has a date for recommencement negotiations been notified? If so, please provide details.

Answer

In March 2014, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers approved conditional resumption of FTA negotiations, almost five years after the GCC suspended these with all its partners, including Australia.

In the period since, however, the GCC has not announced when or with which countries it will recommence negotiations. Australia has been active in engaging with the GCC and its member governments to signal Australia's interest in the expeditious resumption of negotiation.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 129

Program: DFAT

Topic: EU-Australia FTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *Have negotiations on an EU-Australian FTA commenced? If not, are they scheduled to commence this year?***
- B. *Please provide a status update on this proposed FTA.***

Answer

- (a) Negotiations on an Australia-EU FTA have not commenced and will not commence in 2015.
- (b) On 15 November the Prime Minister and the President of the European Council Tusk and President of the European Commission Juncker agreed to commence work toward the launch of negotiations for an FTA.

A joint Australia-EU scoping exercise will now be undertaken. Both sides will also undertake consultation with domestic stakeholders. The Government is inviting submissions from interested stakeholders. Further information is available

at: <http://dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/aeufta/submissions/Pages/submissions.aspx>

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 130

Program: DFAT

Topic: Existing FTAs

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. Has DFAT undertaken or participated in any reviews or joint committee meetings in relation to any of Australia's existing FTAs? If so, please provide details, including, when, where, attendees, agenda and outcome.

B. Does the Department monitor newly concluded FTAs by other countries with a view to identifying whether most favoured nations provisions in any of Australia's existing FTAs are triggered? If not, why not? If so, please identify any triggered MFN provisions and impacts on other FTAs?

Answer

Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA)

(entered into force 1 January 1983)

In the early years there were three formal reviews of ANZCERTA (1988, 1992 and 1995). In the 1992 review, Australian and New Zealand Trade Ministers agreed to meet annually to review the operation of the Agreement.

The most recent ministerial meeting was held in Auckland on 27 February 2015. The meeting was attended by the Minister for Trade and Investment, Mr Robb, and the New Zealand Minister for Trade, Tim Groser, and supported by senior officials. Outcomes achieved since the previous ministerial meeting included equivalent consumer credit requirements and enforcement regimes for businesses; and comparable financial product disclosures for investors and other users.

New Zealand and Australia also agreed on a final Harmonized System (HS) 2012 transposition of ANZCERTA tariff and product specific rules schedules. Following referral of the related minor treaty amendments in April 2015, the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) recommended that binding treaty action be taken.

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Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)

(entered into force 28 July 2003)

The SAFTA has been reviewed twice and is currently undergoing a third review. The first review was concluded in July 2004. It delivered additional annexes on horticultural goods and foods standards; Singapore's recognition of law degrees from an expanded number of Australian universities; and improved conditions for legal joint ventures.

The second review was concluded in July 2009. It improved investor treatment and brought the SAFTA into line with provisions in the Australian *Copyright Amendment Act 2006*.

In June this year, the Prime Ministers of Australia and Singapore announced that a third review of the SAFTA would be undertaken as a key initiative under the newly declared Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The review, which is due to conclude by July 2016, encompasses trade in goods and services; movement of personnel; investment; and government procurement.

Thailand-Australia Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA)

(entered into force 1 January 2005)

The third TAFTA Joint Commission meeting, hosted by Thailand in 2012, resulted in progress towards the two reviews mandated under TAFTA – a general review and a review of its provisions on special agricultural safeguards – and improved implementation procedures.

The reviews were advanced by officials in 2013 with meetings of the TAFTA Expert Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures and Food Standards and the TAFTA Market Access Implementing Committee (MAIC). The SPS Expert Group meeting provided a platform for Thailand and Australia to discuss their respective technical market access priorities for agricultural and food products. An outcome of the MAIC meeting was an agreement to move towards the use of electronic signatures and seals on TAFTA certificates of origin (COOs) from 1 September 2013.

Two additional TAFTA MAIC meetings were held in Canberra in March and in Bangkok in June 2015 to continue discussions on implementation and progress the reviews of the FTA. Thailand also hosted meetings of the TAFTA SPS Expert Group and the Thailand-Australia Joint Working Group on Agriculture in September 2015.

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Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA)

(entered into force 1 January 2005)

AUSFTA Joint Committee Meetings (JCMs) have been held on four occasions since entry-into-force of the Agreement, in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. These meetings have been attended by the then Australian Minister for Trade and the US Trade Representative (USTR), supported by officials.

The Joint Committee meetings have reviewed implementation of the FTA, discussed key strategic trade interests; and considered regional and global trade developments and goals. Ministers have also discussed mutual recognition for professional qualifications; government procurement; agricultural market access; and sanitary and phytosanitary issues.

Australia-Chile Free Trade Agreement (ACIFTA)

(entered into force 6 March 2009)

The first ACIFTA Joint Committee meeting was held in Santiago on 26 May 2011 at officials' level. The meeting acknowledged the high quality of the FTA and noted the significant cooperative efforts since the treaty entered into force in 2009.

The second ACIFTA Joint Committee meeting was held at officials' level in Canberra on 3 October 2014. Delegates discussed finalisation of the HS2012 transposition of tariff and product specific rules schedules and provided updates on trade policy priorities, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations and the Pacific Alliance. The meeting was preceded by the inaugural meeting of the Committee on Trade in Goods on 2 October.

ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA)

(entered into force 1 January 2010)

Since entry into force of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA) in 2010, the FTA Joint Committee (FJC) has met annually and reported, through Senior Economic Officials, to the annual consultations of the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Ministers responsible for trade of Australia and New Zealand. The most recent (seventh) meeting of the FJC was held in Bandung, Indonesia, from 29 June – 3 July 2015. The meeting was attended by officials from the 10 ASEAN Member States, Australia and New Zealand. At the meeting, the FJC agreed to establish 1 October 2015 as the target date for entry-into-force of the First Protocol to Amend the AANZFTA and finalised its assessment of the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Program (available at <http://aanzfta.asean.org/>), including recommendations put to the ASEAN Economic Ministers and Australia-New Zealand Trade Ministers Consultations in August 2015 on post-2015 arrangements for economic cooperation under AANZFTA.

Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement (MAFTA)

(entered into force 1 January 2013)

There have been no reviews or Joint Committee meetings held under MAFTA.

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Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA)

(entered into force 12 December 2014)

The inaugural KAFTA Joint Committee meeting was held on 16 November 2015 in Manila, at officials' level. The Joint Committee assessed progress of the Agreement in its first year of operation and agreed on a work plan for 2016 for the committees and working groups established under the Agreement.

Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA)

(entered into force 15 January 2015)

The first meeting of the JAEPA Joint Committee was held in Tokyo on 15 January 2015 to mark the entry into force of the Agreement. Australia was represented by the Ambassador to Japan. Japan was represented by the State Minister for Foreign Affairs. Satoshi Oie, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Finance and Toshiko Abe, State Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries also attended.

The Joint Committee adopted the Agreement's Operational Procedures and Rules of Procedure of Arbitral Tribunals. The Parties also exchanged information relating to contact points and government procurement thresholds.

B. The Department monitors FTAs completed by other countries, including those countries with which we have already concluded FTAs. Reporting and monitoring by Australian diplomatic missions contributes to this process. The Department also participates in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Regional Trading Agreements (CRTA) which examines all FTAs notified to the WTO.

An example of monitoring of most-favoured-nation (MFN) provisions is in relation to the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA), which included MFN on cross-border trade in services, financial services and investment. Since the entry into force of the agreement in 2005, the United States has concluded a number of FTAs, mostly with developing countries, where we assess the treatment provided under AUSFTA as no less favourable. This includes the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement.

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Question No 131

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP – General

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. *What activities relating to the TPP has the Department been involved in since the conclusion of negotiations?***
- 2. *Please provide an update on the Department's costs incurred relating to the TPP negotiations, as well as costs relating to activities following the conclusion of negotiations, including "legal scrub". Please detail costs.***
- 3. *When will the text be released?***
- 4. *How many side letters are part of the TPP? How many side letters is Australia party to?***
- 5. *When does the Government anticipate tabling the TPP and related NIA and RIS in Parliament?***
- 6. *How many countries need to ratify the agreement before it comes into effect?***
- 7. *When is the agreement anticipated to come into effect?***
- 8. *What is the anniversary date for each annual tariff reduction?***

Answer

1. Since conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement negotiations on 5 October 2015 in Atlanta, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials have continued to work on legal verification ('scrub') of the TPP text and the finalisation of outstanding issues and side letters. The Department has also engaged in advocacy and outreach on the TPP, publishing up-to-date information including on the outcomes of the Agreement on the Department's website. The Department has provided

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information to interested stakeholders, members of the public, media outlets, other Federal Government departments, and State and Territory Governments on the outcomes of the negotiations. The Department has also published articles in DFAT's weekly Trade Talk newsletter and bi-monthly Business Envoy publication, sent TPP-related tweets drawing attention to the materials on the Department's website, and provided information on the TPP at conferences and seminars where DFAT trade officials have been invited to speak.

2. As at 11 November (FY2015-16), \$563,356.32 has been spent on TPP negotiations. This includes airfares, accommodation, travel allowances, transport, conference venue hire and public engagement events. This figure includes costs associated with legal scrub.
3. The text of the TPP Agreement was publicly released on 5 November 2015. The text is available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website at <http://dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/tpp/official-documents/Pages/official-documents.aspx>.
4. TPP Parties are still finalising side letters, with the total number not yet confirmed. The text of the letters that have been finalised have been made publicly available online by those countries which are party to the letter. Australia is party to 27 side letters. These letters have been published on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website alongside the TPP text at <http://dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/tpp/official-documents/Pages/official-documents.aspx>.
5. The Government will determine when TPP Agreement and accompanying National Interest Analysis and Regulatory Impact Statement will be tabled in Parliament.
6. The TPP Agreement will enter into force 60 days after all Parties have notified the Depositary (New Zealand) in writing of the completion of their applicable domestic legal procedures. If this does not occur within two years of the date of signature of the Agreement, the Agreement will enter into force if at least six of the original signatories, which together account for at least 85 per cent of the combined gross domestic product of the original signatories in 2013 have notified the Depositary of the completion of their applicable legal procedures.
7. The entry into force of the Agreement will depend on the length of time taken by Parties' domestic implementation and ratification processes. The exact timeframe for this is unclear at this stage.
8. The anniversary date for annual tariff reductions will be 1 April for Japan and 1 January for all other Parties.

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Question No 132

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP – Investment

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Pursuant to the TPP provisions on FDI, please provide a table of applicable FIRB thresholds that will become applicable to each TPP member country seeking to invest in Australia.*
- *Please outline the improvements obtained for Australian outward investment to other TPP member countries, especially US, NZ, Japan, Singapore and Canada (the top 5 TPP countries in which Australia has existing investments).*

Answer

Upon entry-into-force of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, Australia will apply the following general Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) screening threshold to all TPP countries:

TPP Party	FIRB Threshold
Brunei	\$1.094 million
Canada	\$1.094 million
Chile	\$1.094 million
Japan	\$1.094 million
Malaysia	\$1.094 million
Mexico	\$1.094 million
New Zealand	\$1.094 million
Peru	\$1.094 million
Singapore	\$1.094 million
Vietnam	\$1.094 million
United States	\$1.094 million

The TPP also includes conditions allowing for the screening of proposed investments by investors of TPP Parties in agricultural land at \$15 million or more and agribusinesses at \$53 million or more. These thresholds will not apply to investments from non-government investors from the United States, New Zealand,

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Chile, and Singapore on account of existing bilateral Free Trade Agreements with those countries. Singaporean investors will require prior approval if acquiring an interest in rural land valued above \$50 million (non-cumulative). The United States, New Zealand and Chilean investors will require prior approval if acquiring an interest in rural land or agribusiness valued above \$1,094 million (also non-cumulative).

The TPP retains the Government's ability to scrutinize direct investments by foreign governments or their agencies through FIRB regardless of the value of the investment.

The TPP will create new investment opportunities and provide a more predictable and transparent regulatory environment for Australian outward investment to other TPP member countries.

In particular:

TPP Party	Examples of improvements for Australian outward investment
Brunei	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locked in future reforms to regimes for Australian investments in the mining, oil and gas sectors.• Brunei has committed to only impose conditions on foreign investment on the initial sale of interests or assets owned by the government.
Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canada will allow Australian investors to apply for an exemption from the 49 per cent foreign equity limit on foreign ownership of uranium mines, without first seeking a Canadian partner.• Australian investments into Canada below CA\$1.5 billion will not be screened.
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Japan has committed not to lower the screening thresholds for Australian investments.• Japan has committed to only impose conditions on foreign investment on the initial sale of interests or assets owned by the government.
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locked in recent reforms to the legal, architectural, engineering and surveying sectors.• Australian investors may apply to wholly own telecommunications ventures in Malaysia.• Locked in future liberalisation of investment regulations in freight trucking.
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locked in Mexico's recent liberalisation of energy sector.• Australian investments into Mexico below US\$1 billion will not be screened.
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vietnam has opened the possibility for Australian investments in Vietnam's mining sector.• Locked in future liberalisation of investment regulations in aviation and freight trucking.• Vietnam has committed to only impose conditions on

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	<p>foreign investment on the initial sale of interests or assets owned by the government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vietnam has increased its foreign equity cap for ‘strategic’ investors in joint stock commercial banks from 15 to 20 per cent.• Phasing out of foreign equity limits in Vietnam’s telecommunications sector.
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For the first time, Australian investors will be able to use Investor-State-Dispute Settlement mechanism for investments in Canada, Japan, and the United States of America.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 133

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP – Medicines/Data Exclusivity for biologics

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Please explain the “5 years + 3 years” arrangement relating to data exclusivity period on biologic medicines in the TPP.*
- *What are the special transitional provisions for developing countries?*
 - *Why have organisations like Medecines Sans Frontiers (MSF) made statement such as “the big losers in the TPP are patients and treatment providers in developing countries.”*
(Reference: <http://msfaccess.org/about-us/media-room/press-releases/statement-msf-conclusion-tpp-negotiations-atlanta>)
- *What are some of the flow on consequences of the different IP protection periods? (Eg, potential impact on medical research and trials conducted in Australia?)*

Answer

- The TPP does not provide for a “5 years + 3 years” arrangement on biologic medicines. The TPP instead provides a two-track outcome. Parties can provide effective market protection through 8 years of data protection, or alternatively, Parties can provide effective market protection through five years of data protection along with other measures, such as existing regulatory settings, and recognising that market circumstances contribute to effective market protection. This outcome recognises that each track can deliver a comparable outcome in the market. Australia will follow the five year option, which reflects our current system and requires no legislative changes.
- TPP Parties have agreed that certain transition periods should be available for countries implementing the pharmaceutical intellectual property provisions, taking into account countries’ different systems, capacities and development levels. Transition periods with respect to pharmaceutical data protection obligations range from four to ten years, with the possibility of extensions in certain cases. Transition periods will not apply to Australia.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Certain developing countries have also been able to retain elements of their system that encourage early access to medicines – for example, through “access windows”, where pharmaceutical products are required to enter a country’s market within a certain time following the product’s marketing approval in the original country of marketing approval in order to attract relevant data protection.

The TPP also includes provisions that facilitate access to medicines through preserving flexibilities contained in the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the TRIPS Protocol, including for compulsory licensing of patents, and by allowing Parties to take measures to protect public health in accordance with the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health. This supports least developed and developing countries addressing public health problems through timely and affordable access to medicines where they face insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector.

Recognising that countries have limited experience with biosimilars, which are only just coming to market, TPP Parties have also agreed to consult after ten years, or otherwise decide to review the TPP provisions on biologics, with a view to providing effective incentives for the development of biologics, as well as to facilitate timely access to medicines, including biosimilars. These consultation and review provisions do not pre-judge any outcome and will support evidence-based policy making in an area subject to rapid scientific change.

- The implications of any changes to intellectual property settings in developing country TPP Parties as a result of the two-track outcome on biologic medicines in the TPP, including taking into account transition periods and the retention of existing domestic and multilateral mechanisms designed to enhance access to medicines in those countries, would be difficult for Australia to assess. The appropriate method of implementing such provisions, as well as assessing any consequences of implementing such provisions taking into account transition periods and existing mechanisms and flexibilities, is ultimately a matter for each TPP Party.

Outside of those TPP Parties with transition periods available to them to implement the outcome on biologic medicines, the two-track outcome reflects TPP Parties’ existing systems, and we do not expect those other Parties to make any changes to relevant existing settings on biologic medicines as a result of the TPP. In that regard we do not expect flow-on consequences for Australia, such as any potential impact on medical research and trials conducted in Australia, as a result of changes to relevant biologic medicine settings in those Parties.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 134

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP - Agriculture

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Is the agricultural industry one of the big winners from the TPP?*
- *Are the agricultural market access concessions equivalents throughout the TPP members?*
- *Did Canada, the US or other countries carve out agricultural measures and barriers, or otherwise add safeguards or added measures? If so, please describe.*
- *In relation to agricultural market access, will the TPP effectively render JAEPA redundant? Are there any remaining benefits or preferences under JAEPA for Australian agricultural industry? If so, what?*
- *What information and evidence does DFAT have in relation to this industry's ability to significantly increase its exports?*
 - *Who commissioned and provided the evidence?*
 - *Does the information or evidence consider non-FTA factors, such as the water rights issue and environmental impacts?*

Answer

Is the agricultural industry one of the big winners from the TPP?

Yes. The TPP will eliminate tariffs on more than \$4.3 billion of Australia's dutiable exports of agricultural goods to TPP countries upon entry into force of the Agreement. A further \$2.1 billion of Australia's dutiable exports will receive significant preferential access through new quotas and tariff reductions.

Are the agricultural market access concessions equivalents throughout the TPP members?

Yes. All TPP Members have made significant concessions on agriculture in the TPP. The concessions are also mainly offered equally among TPP Members. A number of countries have made bilateral market access concessions to individual TPP Parties in sectors of particular sensitivity.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Japan has offered bilateral outcomes on some dairy products – where Australia, the US and New Zealand receive country specific quotas for whey – on wheat (where Australia, Canada and the United States receive country specific quotas) and on rice (where Australia and the United States receive country specific quotas).

Mexico has offered quotas for dairy products to its non-FTA partners, which includes Australia and New Zealand.

The United States has provided country specific quotas on dairy to Australia, New Zealand, and Canada and smaller quotas to other TPP Parties. The United States has also provided country specific quotas on sugar to Australia (65,000 tonnes) and Canada (19,200 tonnes) and very small quotas (100 to 500 tonnes) to a number of other TPP Parties.

Did Canada, the US or other countries carve out agricultural measures and barriers, or otherwise add safeguards or added measures? If so, please describe.

There are a range of protections that will be retained by TPP Parties.

While significant new access, including tariff reductions and new quotas, has been made, Japan will retain some tariff protections in its most sensitive sectors. Japan will retain a 9 per cent tariff on beef and a beef safeguard, and will retain out of quota tariffs across various dairy, wheat, pork and rice products. Japan will also retain tariffs and levies across many sugar products.

The United States will retain out of quota tariffs on dairy and sugar, and apply safeguards on milk powders and Swiss cheese.

Mexico will retain tariffs on sugar and out-of-quota tariffs on dairy.

Chile and Peru will retain price-band tariffs (i.e. tariffs that are only applied when prices drop below a threshold level) on some dairy, sugar, wheat and rice products.

Canada will retain out of quota tariffs on dairy and poultry products.

Vietnam will retain out of quota tariffs on sugar.

In relation to agricultural market access, will the TPP effectively render JAEPA redundant? Are there any remaining benefits or preferences under JAEPA for Australian agricultural industry? If so, what?

The TPP will not render JAEPA redundant. JAEPA will continue to exist as an international treaty and Australian exporters and Japanese importers will still be able to trade under the preferential rates provided by JAEPA when TPP ultimately enters into force. Until the TPP comes into force Australian exporters will enjoy the world-best Australia-only access secured under JAEPA providing us a “first-mover” advantage.

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Once the TPP enters into force, exporters will be able to access both JAEPA and TPP – choosing whichever provides the best access. In the longer term, while many access outcomes are equalled or exceeded by the TPP, JAEPA will continue to provide market access benefits for Australian agricultural exporters. On beef, tariff reductions under TPP are greater and Australia will have full access to the TPP plurilateral beef safeguard. However if the TPP safeguard volume is exceeded and Australia's JAEPA safeguard volume has not been exceeded, Australian exporters can use remaining JAEPA volume at preferential JAEPA rates. Our exporters can also access JAEPA preferential quotas for beef products such as offal and cheek meat, a range of preferential JAEPA quotas for cheese and the JAEPA duty-free quota for unroasted malt, which increases to a larger volume than the TPP quota.

What information and evidence does DFAT have in relation to this industry's ability to significantly increase its exports?

- *Who commissioned and provided the evidence?*
- *Does the information or evidence consider non-FTA factors, such as the water rights issue and environmental impacts?*

DFAT has not commissioned any reports on the agriculture industry's ability to significantly increase its exports.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 135

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP – Environment Chapter

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. *Does the TPP promote and enforce environmentally sustainable trade? If so, how? If not, why not?***
- 2. *DFAT has stated that the TPP will include the most extensive environmental chapter Australia has negotiated as part of a free trade agreement. How many FTAs has DFAT negotiated with binding environmental chapters? Is this the first?***
- 3. *Who did DFAT consult in respect to the proposed text of the environmental chapter? What has been the reaction of the consulted groups to the final negotiated position?***
- 4. *Will the TPP chapter require Australia to make any legislative or regulatory additions or changes? If so, please describe.***
- 5. *How will environmental obligations be enforced?***
- 6. *There are reports that environmentalists say the TPP environmental chapter will not have sufficiently binding language and that the TPP overall will make it more difficult to address climate change (Reference: thinkprocess.org/climatechange/2015/07/31/386695/tpp-environmental-chapter). Are they correct? If not, why not?***

Answer

1. The Environment Chapter of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement aims to promote sustainable development through mutually supportive trade and environmental policies, and to achieve higher levels of environmental protection, in TPP countries.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

The Environment Chapter promotes the effective enforcement of domestic environmental laws and lays the foundations for the TPP Parties to work together to address a range of trade-related environmental challenges, including overfishing and illegal wildlife trade. Commitments in the Environment Chapter will be enforceable through state-to-state dispute settlement under the TPP Agreement.

2. Australia has negotiated environment chapters in the Australia-United States FTA and Korea-Australia FTA. The TPP will be the first FTA that Australia has concluded with an environment chapter that is subject to the state-to-state dispute settlement mechanism in its entirety.
3. Commonwealth Government departments were consulted extensively throughout the negotiations and representatives from relevant departments provided expert advice during the negotiations. State and Territory governments were also consulted on a regular basis, as were various business associations and non-governmental organisations. The Department is in the process of undertaking stakeholder consultations to discuss the text now that it is made public.
4. The TPP Environment Chapter will not require Australia to make any legislative or regulatory additions or changes.
5. Each TPP Party is responsible for compliance with its obligations under the TPP, including the Environment Chapter.

Should a dispute arise between TPP Parties under the Environment Chapter, the Parties must make every effort to resolve the dispute through cooperation and consultations. However, should that process fail to resolve the dispute, the TPP Parties will have access to the state-to-state dispute settlement procedures under the Dispute Settlement Chapter of the TPP Agreement.

6. There is nothing in the TPP Environment Chapter that will make it more difficult to address climate change. The Chapter will strengthen environmental protection in TPP countries.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 136

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP – Movement of Natural Persons

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. In relation to any TPP outcome for the temporary movement of contractual service suppliers:**
 - ***What is the definition of “contractual service suppliers”?***
 - ***What period of stay has been agreed for contractual service suppliers?***
 - ***Is the definition and length of stay reciprocal for Australian contractual service suppliers entering any of the other 11 TPP member countries? If not, please explain the differences? Why is it not reciprocal?***
- 2. Please outline the terms of temporary movement of installers and servicers of machinery and equipment under the TPP:**
 - ***What is the definition of “installers and servicers”?***
 - ***What period of stay has been agreed;***
 - ***Is the definition and length of stay reciprocal for Australian installers and servicers entering any of the other 11 TPP member countries? If not, please explain the differences? Why is it not reciprocal?***
- 3. Has Australia reserved policy space for labour market testing? Did Australia reserve policy space in its existing FTAs with any TPP members? If so who? Will the TPP provisions override these prior agreements with respect to labour market testing?**

Answer

1. In Australia’s temporary entry commitments in the TPP, contractual service suppliers are defined as:

Business persons with trade, technical or professional skills and experience who are assessed as having the necessary qualifications, skills and work experience accepted as meeting the domestic standard in Australia for their nominated occupation, and who are:

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

(a) employees of an enterprise of a Party that has concluded a contract for the supply of a service within Australia and that does not have a commercial presence within Australia; or

(b) engaged by an enterprise lawfully and actively operating in Australia in order to supply a service under a contract within Australia.

Each TPP Party has its own definition of categories of business persons, including contractual service suppliers, in its temporary entry commitments, consistent with its own domestic settings.

Australia is offering temporary entry commitments on contractual service suppliers on a reciprocal basis to business persons from TPP Parties who offer substantive commitments to Australian contractual service suppliers. To business persons from those Parties, Australia is offering a period of stay for contractual service suppliers of up to 12 months, with the possibility of further stay. In return for Australia's commitments, we will receive the benefit of commitments on contractual service suppliers from Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru and Vietnam.

2. In Australia's temporary entry commitments in the TPP, installers and servicers are defined as:

A business person who is an installer or servicer of machinery and/or equipment, where such installation and/or servicing by the supplying enterprise is a condition of purchase under contract of the said machinery or equipment, and who must not perform services which are not related to the service activity which is the subject of the contract.

Each TPP Party has its own definition of categories of business persons, including installers and servicers, in its temporary entry commitments, consistent with its own domestic settings.

Australia is offering temporary entry commitments on installers and servicers on a reciprocal basis to business persons from TPP Parties who offer substantive commitments to Australian installers and servicers. To business persons from those Parties, Australia is offering a period of stay for installers and servicers for up to three months. In return for Australia's commitments, we will receive the benefit of commitments on installers and servicers from Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico and Peru. The period of stay offered ranges from three to six months.

3. Australia has commitments under existing free trade agreements and the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) to exempt some categories of business persons from TPP Parties from labour market testing. Beyond those

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commitments, Australia will, as a result of the TPP negotiations, also waive labour market testing for:

- Canada, Peru, Mexico – for intra-corporate transferees (that are specialists) and contractual service suppliers
- Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Vietnam – for contractual service suppliers

Australia does not require labour market testing for intra-corporate transferees, independent executives and contractual service suppliers of New Zealand, Chile and Japan due to our existing bilateral FTA commitments. Australia does not require labour market testing for intra-corporate transferees and independent executives of Singapore under the Singapore-Australia FTA. The TPP will not override commitments made on labour market testing in these prior agreements.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 137

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP – Labour Chapter

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. *Please describe the scope and content of the Labour Chapter.***
- 2. *Who did DFAT consult in respect to the proposed text of the labour chapter? What has been the reaction of the consulted groups to the final negotiated position?***
- 3. *Will the TPP chapter require Australia to make any related legislative or regulatory additions or changes? If so, please describe.***
- 4. *How will labour obligations be enforced?***

Answer

1. The Labour Chapter promotes compliance with internationally-recognised labour rights, enhanced cooperation and consultation on labour issues, and effective enforcement of labour laws in TPP Parties. The Chapter includes provisions that reflect a shared commitment by TPP Parties to combat forced, compulsory, and child labour.
2. Commonwealth Government departments were consulted extensively throughout the negotiations and representatives from relevant departments provided expert advice throughout the negotiations. State and Territory governments were also consulted on a regular basis. The Australian Council of Trade Unions representatives had input to the negotiations of the Labour Chapter, which was finalised several years ago.
3. The TPP Labour Chapter will not require Australia to make any legislative or regulatory additions or changes.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

4. Each TPP Party is responsible for compliance with its obligations under the TPP, including the Labour Chapter.

Should a dispute arise between TPP Parties under the Labour Chapter, the Parties must make every effort to resolve the dispute through cooperation and consultations. However, should that process fail to resolve the dispute, the TPP Parties will have access to the state-to-state dispute settlement procedures under the Dispute Settlement Chapter of the TPP Agreement.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 138

Program: DFAT

Topic: RCEP

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Status

- A. What is the status of these negotiations?**
- B. How many chapters have been concluded? What are they?**
- C. How many chapters are yet to be concluded? What are they?**
- D. What “breakthroughs” were made at the 3rd RCEP Ministerial Meeting held on 24 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia?**
- E. What was the outcome of the 10th Meeting of the RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee held in Busan Korea from 12-16 October 2015?**
- F. When and where are the next meetings?**
- G. Please provide a breakdown on the department costs in negotiating this agreement as well as itinerary and attendee information at all RCEP related meetings this year.**

Interaction with Other FTAs

- H. Of the 16 countries negotiating the RCEP, seven are members of TPP. How will these two overlapping regional agreements sit together?**
- I. Will Australian exporters be faced with different rules? How will they be able to select the best set of rules for their products or services?**
- J. How will the conclusion of RCEP affect Australia’s bilateral negotiations with India? Will those negotiations be terminated or wrapped up into the broader regional agreement.**
- K. How will Australia’s bilateral FTAs with various RCEP members (ie, China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, NZ, Singapore, ASEAN) be handled after the conclusion of RCEP? Will they be “wrapped up” into this regional framework or, as with the TPP, left to co-exist and add to the complexity of overlapping trade agreements?**

Extending Membership

- L. Is it likely, or possible, that China and non-TPP members may join the TPP? Which, if any, RCEP members have expressed interest to join the TPP?**
- M. Is it likely, or possible, that the US and non-RCEP member join the RCEP?**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Answer

- A. The DFAT website provides an update on RCEP negotiations.
<http://dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/rcep/Pages/regional-comprehensive-economic-partnership.aspx#news>
- B. None.
- C. All chapters are yet to be concluded.
- D. RCEP Ministers reached agreement on the guidelines for initial market access offers for goods.
- E. Market access negotiations commenced on goods and continued on services. All remaining initial reservation lists were received on investment. The first meetings of the Sub-Working Groups on Telecommunications and Financial Services were held. Draft chapter text was progressed.
- F. Brunei will host the next meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) in February 2016. Other intersessional meetings are under consideration.
- G. Officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) led whole-of-government delegations to the following RCEP negotiations:
- 9-13 February 2015: Bangkok, Thailand – 7th round of RCEP negotiations
 - 5-13 June 2015: Kyoto, Japan – 8th Round of RCEP negotiations
 - 1-7 August 2015, Nay Pyi Taw, Burma – 9th round of RCEP negotiations
 - 12-16 October 2015, Busan, Korea – 10th round of RCEP negotiations.
- DFAT officials also participated in the following intersessional and informal meetings related to the RCEP negotiations.
- 1-2 April 2015: Jakarta, Indonesia, Intersessional round of RCEP negotiations
 - 13 July 2015: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Intersessional RCEP Ministerial meeting
 - 24 August 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Third RCEP Ministerial meeting
 - July 2015, Intellectual Property discussions in Japan
- Departmental officials have also travelled interstate for consultation with stakeholders on the RCEP negotiations.
- The costs (Canberra-based officials) associated with the above meetings is approx. \$723,000 (which includes airfares, accommodation, per diems, ground transport and other associated travel costs).
- H. The provisions concerning the relationship between RCEP and other agreements are still under negotiation.

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I. The rules applicable to exporters and provisions concerning the relationship between RCEP and other agreements are still under negotiation.

J. The Australian Government is using all appropriate forums to support greater integration of the Australian and Indian economies. The provisions concerning the relationship between RCEP and other agreements are still under negotiation.

K. The provisions concerning the relationship between RCEP and existing agreements are still under negotiation.

L. Future membership will be a matter for all 12 TPP Parties to consider. Australia is committed to expanding the TPP membership over time. Some RCEP participating countries have expressed publically an interest in joining the TPP. These include the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines.

M. RCEP Leaders have agreed that other external economic partners will be able to accede to RCEP. The terms and conditions for such an accession clause are still being considered.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 139

Program: DFAT

Topic: Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific concept (under APEC)

Question in Writing - Senator Wong

Question

- At what stage is the commissioned "*Collective Strategic Study on Issues Relate to the Realisation of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific*"?
- Who is undertaking the study? Are any private entities engaged? If so who and under what procurement method?
- What contributions will Australia make to this study? Has DFAT engaged external consultants in this regard? If so who and what are the cost and terms of the engagement?
- The first draft of the Study is due for completion by January 2016, with a final by the end of 2016. In response to written question on notice no. 149 from Budget Estimates, DFAT advised that drafts of the study will not be made publically available. Why? What external consultations are being held in relation to FTAAP? Could the study be made public? Are other countries considering making the study and other material relating to FTAAP public?

Answer

- The study is currently being drafted by officials from all APEC economies.
- Individual economies, or groups of economies, have volunteered to lead the drafting of specific chapters. These will be consolidated, reviewed and refined by officials over the course of 2016. The final draft of the Study will be submitted to Ministers and Leaders for consideration in November 2016.
- Australia is leading the drafting of Chapter 2 on Review of the APEC Regional Economy. Australia is also drafting the trade in services section of Chapter 4 on Measures Affecting Trade and Investment. The Department has engaged Trading Nation Consulting and RMIT University to assist drafting its contribution to the Study. Trading Nation Consulting has been engaged to help with drafting Chapter 2 at a cost of \$41,250 and RMIT University has been engaged to help with drafting the services subchapter for Chapter 4 at a cost of \$28,150.
- In preparing the Study, APEC economies will seek contributions from the APEC Business Advisory Council, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and APEC Study Centres. Agreement by all APEC economies would be required to make the Study public. The question of whether the Study will be made public will be one for consideration by Ministers and Leaders.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 140

Program: DFAT

Topic: PACER Plus

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- **Please provide a status update on this agreement, including the number of closed chapters, open chapters and sensitive areas?**
- **When are negotiations anticipated to be completed? Is the legal text to be completed this year?**
- **In response to Budget Estimates Question on Notice no.150:**
 - **DFAT advise that although Australia has agreed to 5,000 working holiday visas per year for Chinese citizens, no working holiday visas will be provided to PACER plus countries. What is the reason for this?**
 - **DFAT advised that it has committed approximately \$14 million in aid funding to support the Pacific Forum Island Countries in negotiating the PCER Plus Agreement. Please provide details of how these funds have been spent.**

Answer

The negotiating parties closed negotiations on a Chapter on Consultation and Dispute Settlement bringing to ten the number of chapters now provisionally finalised. The negotiating parties made progress on the remaining chapters, including by formally capturing progress made in discussions between meetings. The number of sensitive areas varies as no single area is sensitive, or sensitive in the same way, for all negotiating parties.

Pacific Islands Forum Trade Ministers, meeting in the Cook Islands in October 2015, instructed trade negotiators to redouble their efforts and conclude a high quality trade and investment agreement that would enhance the participation of the FICs' in international trade at the latest by June 2016. They agreed that members table their market access offers for trade in goods, trade in services and investment at the latest by the 13th intersessional meeting in December 2015 with a view to finalising them as well as the outstanding issues in the relevant legal texts by May 2016.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Australia is currently progressing negotiations for reciprocal Work and Holiday Visa arrangements with Fiji and the Solomon Islands. A Work and Holiday Visa arrangement with Papua New Guinea was signed on 12 October 2011, but has not yet taken effect with Papua New Guinea yet to implement its part of the arrangement. During PACER Plus discussions on labour mobility, Australia informed the remaining Pacific Forum Island Countries that they may separately approach the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to negotiate Work and Holiday visa arrangements. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) has advised that as at 16 November 2015, no Pacific Forum Island Countries had approached DIBP in this regard.

Australia's expended aid funding in support of Forum Island Countries' negotiations for PACER Plus Agreement since 2007 is as follows:

. Office of the Chief Trade Adviser for the FICs	-	\$4.7 million
. Trade Negotiation Training	-	\$3.0 million
. Support for regional meetings organised by the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat including non-state actor dialogue	-	\$1.2 million
. Funding for each FIC to undertake independent research assessing PACER Plus	-	\$0.8 million
. Trade Facilitation Support	-	\$0.7 million
. Study on PACER Plus benefits, policy briefings and trade information	-	\$0.4 million
. PACER Plus Support including regional travel, training, reports, etc. until 2010.	-	\$0.9 million

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 141

Program: DFAT

Topic: WTO

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Doha Rounds

- Please provide a status update on WTO Doha Rounds, including work in preparation for the Ministerial round at the end of 2015.

Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA)

- Please provide a status update on the negotiations of the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), since the update provided as part of Budget Estimates.
- Have the parties submitted their final market offers (as timetabled for 15 September 2015)? If not, when are they expected?
- What conclusion date are the parties working towards?
- When and where are the next scheduled meetings relating to TiSA?

Agreement on Environmental Goods

- Since the prior update provided as part of Budget Estimates, please provide a status update on the negotiations of the Agreement on Environmental Goods.
- When and where are the next scheduled meetings relating to this agreement?

The Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA)

- Since the prior update provided as part of Budget Estimates, please provide a status update on the progress of Australia's accession to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement.
- Please provide a status update on how many other countries have acceded to this agreement or are engaged in accession negotiations.
- Is Australia's accession offer publically available? If so, please provide; if not, why not?
- Does Australia's offer contain any carve outs? Please describe.
- What are the results of DFAT's consultations with State and Territory Governments on accession to the GPA? Did any State or Territory oppose the accession or request limitations or carve outs? If so, please describe.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

- Was the decision to accede to this agreement made before or after the close of public consultations? If before, why?
- Will accession to this Agreement require any legislative, regulatory or policy changes at federal and/or state/territory level? If so, please describe.
- What is the anticipated timeframe relating to accession to this Agreement and commitments coming into effect.
- What are the economic and job related impacts of accession to this Agreement? Please describe.

Answer

Doha Round

Australia is actively involved in negotiations on a possible package of outcomes for the Tenth WTO Ministerial Meeting in Nairobi from 15-18 December (MC10). The package under consideration comprises a modest subset of Doha Round issues. Reaching consensus on a comprehensive and ambitious conclusion to the Doha Round is not in prospect. It is expected there will be discussions at MC10 about the direction of future multilateral trade negotiations and whether the Doha Round should continue.

Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA)

- *Please provide a status update on the negotiations of the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), since the update provided as part of Budget Estimates.*

The United States chaired the thirteenth round of Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) negotiations from 6 to 13 October 2015. Mauritius joined the negotiations in July 2015. There are currently 23 TiSA parties. An update on the status of the negotiations can be found on the DFAT website at <http://dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/trade-in-services-agreement/pages/trade-in-services-agreement.aspx>

- *Have the parties submitted their final market offers (as timetabled for 15 September 2015)? If not, when are they expected?*

All TiSA parties, except Pakistan, have now tabled market access offers.

- *What conclusion date are the parties working towards?*

Parties agreed in October 2015 to a work plan to guide negotiations for the next six months, including intensified intersessional work to move negotiations on annexes closer to conclusion. The work plan was developed with a view to concluding negotiations in 2016.

- *When and where are the next scheduled meetings relating to TiSA?*

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The next round of TiSA negotiations will be held from 29 November to 4 December in Geneva, Switzerland, and will be chaired by the European Union.

Agreement on Environmental Goods

- *Since the prior update provided as part of Budget Estimates, please provide a status update on the negotiations of the Agreement on Environmental Goods.*

Recent negotiation rounds of the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) have been focused on reaching consensus on a list of environmental goods for tariff elimination. An update on the status of the negotiations can be found on the DFAT website at <http://dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/environmental-goods-agreement/Pages/environmental-goods-agreement.aspx>

- *When and where are the next scheduled meetings relating to this agreement?*

All negotiating rounds for the EGA are held at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva. The next round is scheduled for 30 November to 4 December 2015.

The Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA)

- *Since the prior update provided as part of Budget Estimates, please provide a status update on the progress of Australia's accession to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement.*

Australia presented its accession offer to the WTO Committee on Government Procurement on 16 September 2015. Negotiations with GPA parties will now commence. An update on the status of the negotiations can be found on the DFAT website at <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/international-organisations/wto/Pages/wto-agreement-on-government-procurement.aspx>

- *Please provide a status update on how many other countries have acceded to this agreement or are engaged in accession negotiations.*

During 2015 New Zealand and Montenegro have acceded to the GPA. Albania, Australia, China, Georgia, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Oman, Tajikistan and Ukraine are engaged in GPA accession negotiations.

- *Is Australia's accession offer publically available? If so, please provide; if not, why not?*

Australia's offer reflects Australia's government procurement commitments in the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement.

- *Does Australia's offer contain any carve outs? Please describe.*

Australia's offer reflects Australia's government procurement commitments in the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

- *What are the results of DFAT's consultations with State and Territory Governments on accession to the GPA? Did any State or Territory oppose the accession or request limitations or carve outs? If so, please describe.*

Each State and Territory is offering market access as per their respective offers in the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement.

- *Was the decision to accede to this agreement made before or after the close of public consultations? If before, why?*

The call for submissions closed on 30 January 2015 and informed the Government's consideration of whether to seek membership of the GPA. The Government announced its decision to launch negotiations to accede to the GPA on 2 June 2015.

- *Will accession to this Agreement require any legislative, regulatory or policy changes at federal and/or state/territory level? If so, please describe.*

As a GPA member, Australia would be required to have in place appropriate domestic procedures for tender review. Some changes may also be required to Commonwealth procedures for pre-qualification and limited tendering.

- *What is the anticipated timeframe relating to accession to this Agreement and commitments coming into effect.*

There is no timeframe agreed for concluding accession negotiation. Australia has included accession to the GPA as part of its contribution to the G20 growth strategy.

- *What are the economic and job related impacts of accession to this Agreement? Please describe.*

The objective of trade agreements, such as the GPA, is to:

- . foster freer trade flows and create stronger ties with Australia's trading partners;
- . increase Australia's productivity and contribute to higher GDP and employment growth by introducing new technologies, and fostering competition and innovation; and
- . enhance the competitiveness of Australian exports in the partner market, and add to the attractiveness of Australia as an investment destination.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 142

Program: DFAT

Topic: APEC

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Please provide an update on progress and activities by Australia relating to APEC, including future planned meetings and activities.

Answer

Australia's activities in APEC are wide-ranging: from leading on specific initiatives and developing policy documents (e.g. strategies, action plans and studies) to providing project-related funding and undertaking capacity building workshops and seminars. In 2015, Australia has progressed its APEC interests on structural reform, services trade and investment liberalization, actions to advance the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific and the implementation of the 2012 Environmental Goods List. Specific activities include helping to shape a new APEC structural reform strategy (2016 to 2020) and identifying good policy and regulatory practices for facilitating trade and investment in specific services sectors. Other areas in which Australia has been actively involved in 2015 include cross-border education cooperation, women's economic empowerment, mining cooperation and human capital development. Australian activities in 2016 are currently being planned. APEC host economy for 2016, Peru, will announce its host year priorities at the informal Senior Officials Meeting in Lima on 10-11 December.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 143

Program: DFAT

Topic: IORA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- **Since DFAT's response to question on notice no.156 from Budget Estimates, please provide further updates on progress and activities of IORA, including the Working Group on Trade and Investment.**
- **Please provide details to the progress and activities of the Business Forum, as well as list of any Australian business members or participants.**

Answer

A number of IORA-related activities have taken place since the update provided in response to question on notice no. 156 from budget estimates in June 2015.

The first IORA Ministerial Blue Economy Conference was hosted by Mauritius on 2-3 September 2015, at which Ministers and representatives adopted the Mauritius Declaration on the Blue Economy. Australia was represented by then Parliamentary Secretary The Hon Steven Ciobo.

The 15th annual IORA Council of Ministers Meeting (COMM) was held in Padang, Indonesia on 20-23 October 2015, where Australia handed over its chairmanship to Indonesia. Key outcomes included the adoption of the Padang Communiqué (available at: <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/regional-architecture/indian-ocean/iora/Pages/finalcommuniqué.aspx>); adoption of the Declaration on Maritime Cooperation in the Indian Ocean; adoption of the Decision on Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on the IORA Concord; and signature by a further two countries of the IORA Memorandum of Understanding on Search and Rescue Cooperation.

The 15th Meeting of the IORA Working Group on Trade and Investment (WGTI) was held in Padang, Indonesia on 20 October 2015 as part of the annual suite of meetings held alongside the COMM. The WGTI is a meeting of officials to develop and implement strategies and activities to facilitate trade and investment between IORA members. At the 2015 WGTI meeting, delegates discussed progress of IORA initiatives in a number of areas, including the blue economy, tourism and fisheries.

Like the WGTI, the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF) meets annually in the lead up to the COMM. It aims to foster closer engagement among the business communities of IORA Member States and to propose for government consideration

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

initiatives that promote trade and investment, and ease of doing business, in the Indian Ocean region.

This year's IORBF was held in Jakarta on 20 October 2015. The Australian representative was Bryan Clark, Director, Trade and International Affairs, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI). Delegates discussed practical cooperation on each of IORA's six priority areas, as well as the outcomes of the first IORA Ministerial Blue Economy Conference.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 144

Program: DFAT

Topic: WTO

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- Please provide a status update on WTO disputes to which Australia is involved.
- Please provide a status update on ISDS arbitrations to which Australia is a party.
- In particular, what is the status and progress of Australia's defence of its plain packaging legislation in relation to the ISDS arbitration claim by Phillip Morris. When is this arbitration likely to conclude?

Answer

Status update on WTO disputes

Australia is not currently a complainant in any WTO dispute. It is involved as a respondent in the following active WTO disputes:

- DS434: *Australia — Certain Measures Concerning Trademarks and Other Plain Packaging Requirements Applicable to Tobacco Products and Packaging* (Complaint by Ukraine);
- DS435: *Australia — Certain Measures Concerning Trademarks, Geographical Indications and Other Plain Packaging Requirements Applicable to Tobacco Products and Packaging* (Complaint by Honduras);
- DS441: *Australia — Certain Measures Concerning Trademarks, Geographical Indications and Other Plain Packaging Requirements Applicable to Tobacco Products and Packaging* (Complaint by Dominican Republic);
- DS458: *Australia — Certain Measures Concerning Trademarks, Geographical Indications and Other Plain Packaging Requirements Applicable to Tobacco Products and Packaging* (Complaint by Cuba);
- DS467: *Australia — Certain Measures Concerning Trademarks, Geographical Indications and Other Plain Packaging Requirements Applicable to Tobacco Products and Packaging* (Complaint by Indonesia)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

WTO dispute settlement panels were established in relation to Australia's tobacco plain packaging measure at the requests of Ukraine (28 September 2012), Honduras (25 September 2013), Indonesia (26 March 2014), the Dominican Republic (25 April 2014) and Cuba (25 April 2014). On 29 May 2015 the Panel agreed to Ukraine's request to suspend its dispute settlement proceedings against Australia. Australia and Ukraine are working towards finalising a mutually agreed solution which will formally dispose of that dispute. In the absence of a mutually agreed solution, the dispute proceedings will automatically lapse if Ukraine takes no further action in relation to the dispute for 12 months from the date of suspension.

The remaining four disputes are proceeding under the working procedures and harmonized timetable established by the Panel for the proceedings (these are not public). The dispute proceedings to date have involved the exchange of two rounds of written submissions and participation in two panel hearings in Geneva in addition to written responses to a number of rounds of written questions from the Panel on legal and factual issues raised by the disputes. The Panel has advised that it does not expect to issue its report to the parties before the first half of 2016.

Australia is also a third party to the following active disputes¹ (the status of these disputes is indicated in brackets):

- *European Communities – Measures Affecting Large Civil Aircraft* (DS316) (Awaiting compliance panel report).
- *United States – Measures Affecting Trade in Large Civil Aircraft – Second Complaint* (DS353) (Awaiting compliance panel report).
- *United States – Measures Concerning the Importation, Marketing and Sale of Tuna and Tuna Products* (DS381) (Awaiting compliance panel report).
- *United States – Certain Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) Requirements* (DS384/386) (Awaiting panel report).
- *Argentina – Measures relating to Trade in Goods and Services* (DS453) (Under appeal).
- *European Union – Anti-Dumping Measures on Biodiesel from Argentina* (DS473) (Awaiting panel report).
- *European Union – Cost Adjustment Methodology and Certain Anti-Dumping Measures on Imports from Russia* (DS474) (Panel established 22 July 2014, awaiting panel composition).

¹ For the purposes of determining whether a dispute is active we have not included disputes that have been withdrawn, where implementation has been notified or where there has been no procedural progress in the last two years. The WTO maintains a list of current and historical disputes by Country that is available on its website:

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/dispu_by_country_e.htm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

- *Russian Federation – Measures on the Importation of Live Pigs, Pork and Other Pig Products from the European Union* (DS475) (Awaiting panel report).
- *Brazil – Certain Measures Concerning Taxation and Charges* (DS472) (Panel composed).
- *Indonesia – Importation of Horticultural Products, Animals and Animal Products* (DS477, DS478) (Panel composed).
- *European Union – Anti-Dumping Measures on Biodiesel from Indonesia* (DS480) (Panel established).
- *Indonesia – Measures Concerning the Importation of Chicken Meat and Chicken Products* (DS484) (First panel request – deferred).
- *Russia – Tariff Treatment of Certain Agricultural and Manufacturing Products* (DS485) (Awaiting panel report).
- *United States – Conditional Tax Incentives for Large Civil Aircraft* (DS487) (Panel composed).
- *China – Measures Related to Demonstration Bases and Common Services Platforms Programmes* (DS489) (Panel established).
- *Indonesia – Safeguard on Certain Iron or Steel Products* (DS490, DS496) (Panel established).
- *Brazil – Certain Measures Concerning Taxation and Charges* (DS497) (Panel composed).

Status update on ISDS arbitrations

Tobacco plain packaging

Australia is the respondent to an investor-State dispute concerning tobacco plain packaging, brought by Philip Morris Asia under the Australia-Hong Kong Bilateral Investment Treaty. The Attorney-General's Department, in collaboration with DFAT and the Department of Health, has the lead on the preparation of Australia's defence in that dispute.

A hearing on Australia's request for bifurcation of the proceedings was held before the Tribunal on 20 and 21 February 2014. Bifurcation is the term which describes the separation of the proceedings into two phases: a preliminary jurisdictional phase and a subsequent merits phase, if required. On 14 April 2014, the Tribunal issued Procedural Order No.8, deciding to bifurcate the proceedings. PM Asia submitted its Counter-Memorial on Australia's Preliminary Objections on 7 July 2014. Australia filed its Reply on 1 December 2014. PM Asia's Rejoinder was filed on 12 January 2015.

The hearing on Preliminary Objections was held in Singapore from 16-19 February 2015. On 6 April 2015 and 4 May 2015 each party submitted Post-Hearing Briefs to the Tribunal. The Tribunal has reserved its decision. While there is no fixed

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

timeframe for the Tribunal to hand down its decision, Australia anticipates that it will not be given until later in 2015 at the earliest. The Tribunal's orders are published on the website of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 145

Program: DFAT

Topic: FTA Promotional Activities

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. Please provide an update on the development on the new online FTA dashboard:
- Is the development within budget? If not, why?
 - When did the dashboard first become active for exporters?
 - How much use has the dashboard had to date?
 - Has there been any user feedback? If so, please provide.
 - When will the ChAFTA part of the portal become live?
 - What additional features and FTAs are planned to be added? What is the project timeline and cost for these additions?
- B. In relation to the North Asia FTA seminar series:
- Please provide an update on seminars held since early June 2015, including location, attendees and costs.
 - How have the seminars to date been assessed and regarded? Will any changes be made to future seminars?
 - Please provide a copy of the FTA seminar materials.
 - Please provide a copy of the analysis of the completed questionnaires collect at the end of each seminar.
 - What seminars are currently planned, including location and invitee list?

Answer

A. Expenditure on the FTA Portal is within budget.

The first version of the FTA Portal (Version 0.5) was released publicly at ftaportal.dfat.gov.au on 9 October.

As at 12 November, the site had received over 9600 page views.

The Department has received positive email and oral feedback from the Export Council of Australia, the Food and Grocery Council, and members of the National

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Committee on Trade Facilitation. There has been special interest in the timetable for inclusion of ChAFTA information.

The vendor has completed two rounds of detailed usability testing of the FTA Portal with small and medium enterprises. Participants report the site to be easy to use and useful. Feedback is being incorporated in future release versions.

The Version 1.0 release of the Portal in December will include ChAFTA information as well as import market trade data. Versions 2.0 (March 2016) and 3.0 (August 2016) will include usability improvements in response to feedback and incorporate an application programming interface service (API) for the tariff finder and rules of origin modules. These elements are incorporated in the maximum contract value of \$1.02 million.

While the Portal has been designed with scalability in mind, no decision has been taken on expanding the FTA Portal to other agreements.

B.

- . Between 10 June and 6 November 2015, 23 North Asia FTA seminars were held around Australia
 - Attendance at these seminars is listed in the following table:

Date	Location	State/Territory	Business Audience
10 June 2015	Penrith	NSW	116
12 June 2015	Central Coast	NSW	22
15 July 2015	Gladstone	QLD	14
16 July 2015	Townsville	QLD	72
22 July 2015	Hurstville	NSW	71
5 August 2015	Adelaide	SA	107
12 August 2015	Canberra	ACT	92
26 August 2015	Brisbane	QLD	54
2 September 2015	Parramatta	NSW	59
18 September 2015	Kogarah	NSW	32
22 September 2015	Cronulla	NSW	81
24 September 2015	Henty Field Day x 3	NSW	27
7 October 2015	Elmore Field Day x 3	VIC	24
26 October 2015	Brisbane	QLD	47
27 October 2015	Sunshine Coast	QLD	44
29 October 2015	Lismore	NSW	10
2 November 2015	Windsor	NSW	24
5 November 2015	Gosford	NSW	28
6 November 2015	Darwin	NT	31
Total			955

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

- We are unable to provide specific names from the attendee lists, owing to privacy restrictions.
- The combined costs (from 1 June to 31 October 2015) by Austrade and DFAT of running the seminars have been approximately \$138,000. This figure includes venue charges, collateral printing and production costs, freight costs and associated travel for costs for departmental officials.
- More recently, seminars were run in Hobart TAS (16 November), Launceston TAS (17 November), Burnie TAS (17 November), Bunbury WA (19 November), Perth WA (20 November), Winchelsea VIC (27 November) and Bundaberg QLD (4 December) – costings for the seminars held in November and December are still being finalised.
- Austrade and DFAT invite stakeholders using the Austrade exporter database, Austrade’s TradeStart network, our respective State and Territory Offices, and through direct contact with peak bodies, State and Territory Governments, local member-based organisations and other relevant networks.
- . Austrade and DFAT collect feedback from seminar participants through an online survey and use those results, and discussions with attendees, to ensure the seminar content remains relevant and informative.
 - A detailed analysis of online survey results from the FTA seminars in 2015 will be performed in early 2016.
 - Indications to date are that business participants attending have found the seminars to be extremely valuable; almost all respondents indicate that they would recommend the seminar to others. Some quotes on the value of the seminars are:
 - : “provide knowledge, information and connection as well as people who can help you to overcome the issues you might have”
 - : “gives a good general understanding of a complex subject”
 - : “great information and connection to senior officials”
 - : “creates an understanding of what the FTA actually means”
- . Please find seminar materials attached:
 - A sample program
 - Powerpoint presentation given by DFAT and Austrade

Hard copy material on FTAs is also available for distribution and is drawn from www.fta.gov.au

North Asia Free Trade Agreements Seminar – Darwin, 6 November 2015

Introduction

Find out about how you can take advantage of Australia's North Asia Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Korea (KAFTA), Japan (JAEPA), and China (ChAFTA). These interactive seminars will give you an opportunity to hear directly from the Australian Government on the practical benefits that you may be able to realise from the FTAs.

Order of events

Time	Details
8:00	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">Federal Member for Solomon Introduction <p>Austrade Assistant State Director, Northern Territory</p> Video presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">North Asia FTAs Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>North Asia FTAs: Seize the opportunity</i>Free Trade Agreement Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Austrade presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Tips on doing business in Asia and taking advantage of new opportunities</i>Trade Commissioner, Austrade China
9:00	Break Video presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Australian export success story - Della Rosa Foods Case study interview and Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none">Austrade Assistant State Director, Northern TerritoryMonsoon Aquatics Panel discussion and Q&A with government representatives

Order of events

Time	Details
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10:30	Networking
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11:00	Seminar concludes
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Government agencies

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) leads Australia's free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations and works closely with the business sector and government agencies to understand commercial interests and concerns, develop negotiating positions and conclude agreements in Australia's national interest. DFAT oversees the ongoing implementation of FTAs following entry into force. The full texts of Australia's FTAs, a range of fact sheets, and further information can be found at www.fta.gov.au or call 02 6261 1888

Austrade provides information and advice to assist Australian companies to reduce the time, cost and risk associated with exporting. Austrade also provides a range of trade services to Australian exporters looking to grow their business in growth and emerging markets, where there is strong demand for Australian goods and services and where we can add the most value. Austrade also helps Australian companies to grow their business in international markets, including through administration of the Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) scheme. Austrade services can also be accessed through the TradeStart network throughout metropolitan and regional Australia. To find out more about how Austrade could help you take advantage of the FTAs call 13 28 78 or visit www.austrade.gov.au

AusIndustry is the Federal Government's principal agency for delivering assistance, programs and services which support industry, research and innovation. AusIndustry delivers the Department of Industry and Science's new single business service - an easy-to-access service that is available to businesses of all sizes, in all locations, and in any sector of the economy. The AusIndustry network covers more than 20 offices across Australia, offering information and referral services aimed at assisting Australian enterprises and individuals. To find out more call 13 28 46 or visit www.business.gov.au

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (Efic), Australia's official export credit agency, provides specialist finance that delivers simple and creative solutions for Australian companies, to enable them to win business, grow internationally and achieve export success. Efic operates on a commercial basis and partners with banks to provide financial solutions for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and other companies who are looking to begin exporting, expand export operations or already operating in emerging markets. To find out more about how Efic could help your business achieve export success call 1800 093 724 or visit www.efic.gov.au

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS



Australian Government



Seize the Opportunity

North Asia Free Trade Agreements
Information Seminar



Natasha Griggs MP

Federal Member for Solomon



Bernadette Eggington

Austrade Assistant State Director, NT

VIDEO: INTRODUCTION TO NORTH ASIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

Seize the Opportunity

North Asia Free Trade Agreements
Information Seminar

Michael Growder

Assistant Secretary

Free Trade Agreement Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

NORTH ASIA: LEADING MARKETS FOR AUSTRALIA



60%

OF AUSTRALIA'S
MERCHANDISE
EXPORTS



20%

OF AUSTRALIA'S
SERVICE EXPORTS



ABS 2014 trade data

WHAT IS AN FTA?

A **F**ree **T**rade **A**greement is an international treaty that reduces or removes cross-border barriers to trade and investment.

WHAT DO FTAs DO?

Better access to key markets; and an improved competitive position for Australia

= Benefits for Australian business

PLUS more investment attractiveness and more competitive business inputs

BETTER ACCESS TO MARKETS

Australia's North Asia FTAs

- **Eliminate or reduce tariffs on merchandise trade**
- **Expand and guarantee access for services trade**
- **Enhance business mobility**
- **Promote investment**

IMPROVED COMPETITIVE POSITION

KAFTA



- Locks-in or improves goods access, and the most advantageous treatment for services into Korea.
- Entered into force on 12 December, 2014.

JAEPA



- Delivers significant 'first mover' advantage, especially in agriculture.
- Entered into force on 15 January, 2015.

ChAFTA



- Secures a competitive edge only a few major economies enjoy.
- Expected to enter into force later this year, 2015.

MORE BENEFITS FOR BUSINESS – ALMOST NO TARIFFS

KAFTA



99.8%

JAEPA



97%

ChAFTA



96%

**of goods exports will enter these three markets
with preferential or duty-free access on full implementation**

BETTER ACCESS FOR SERVICES AND INVESTMENT

- Korea: legal, accounting and engineering services
- Japan: legal, financial and telecommunications services
- China: financial, legal, private higher education, aged care, health, telecommunications, tourism services etc

...and more besides...

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION



www.fta.gov.au

EXAMPLE: ACCESSING THE BENEFITS



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Free Trade Agreement Portal. The header is dark grey with the Australian Government crest, the 'AUSTRALIA OPEN FOR BUSINESS' logo, and the text 'Free Trade Agreement Portal'. A search bar is located below the header, with a dropdown menu for 'Select export/import and country' and a 'Search Tariffs' button. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Getting Started', contains a list of links: 'First time exporter/importer?', 'What are free trade agreements?', 'How to use this site', 'Services and investment information', and 'Upcoming site features'. Below this is a 'Popular searches' dropdown. The right column, titled 'Welcome to the Free Trade Agreement Portal', features a large graphic with the text 'AUSTRALIA OPEN FOR BUSINESS FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS' flanked by two large orange arrows pointing outwards. The bottom of the page has a dark orange footer with the text 'Free Trade Agreements' on the left and the number '17' on the right.

Free Trade Agreement Portal

Search product keyword or HS Code (2 or more digits) ? Select export/import and country Search Tariffs

Getting Started

- [First time exporter/importer?](#)
- [What are free trade agreements?](#)
- [How to use this site](#)
- [Services and investment information](#)
- [Upcoming site features](#)

Popular searches

Available Agreements

JAIPA Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement

KAFTA Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement

Welcome to the Free Trade Agreement Portal

AUSTRALIA
OPEN FOR BUSINESS
FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (TPP)

- The TPP is a multi-party or regional free trade agreement negotiated by Australia and 11 other countries

The TPP will provide:

- new market access for Australian goods and services
- new market access for Australian investors
- other benefits for Australia.

For more information: dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/tpp/

A BUSY FORWARD NEGOTIATING AGENDA



We welcome your enquiries

KoreaFTA@dfat.gov.au

JapanEPA@dfat.gov.au

ChinaFTA@dfat.gov.au

TPP@dfat.gov.au

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Trade Commissioner
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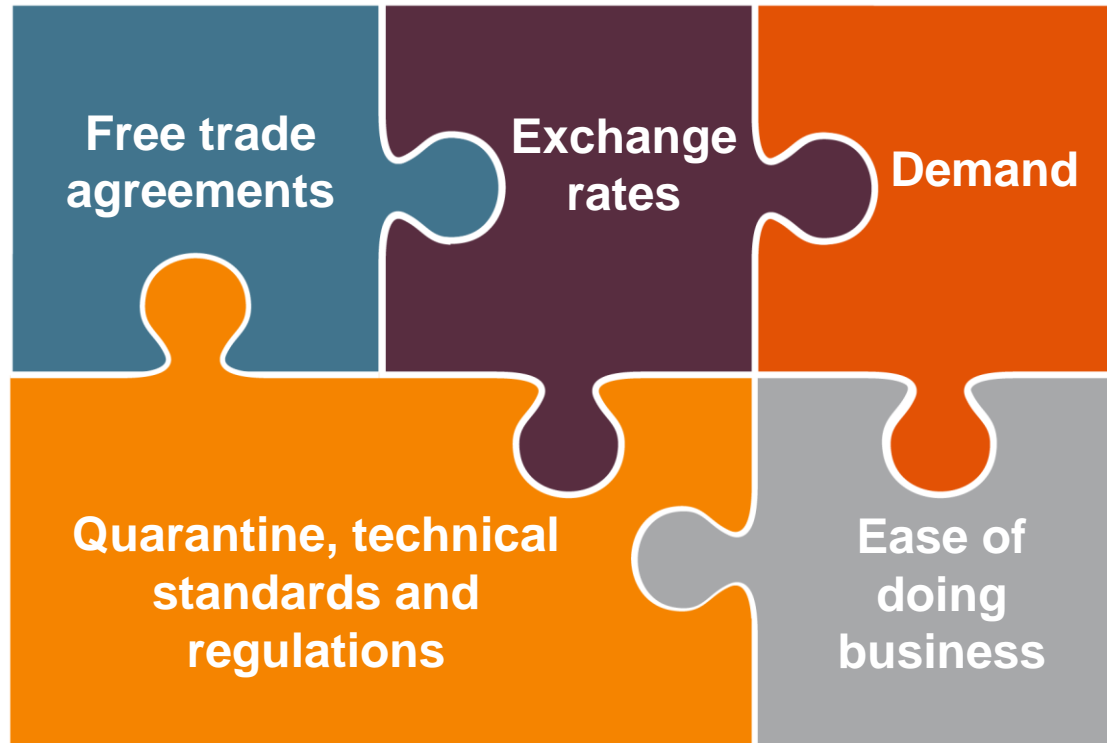


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North Asia Free Trade Agreements
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Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015, 22 October 2015

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 146

Program: DFAT

Topic: QoN 80 from Budget Estimates, 3-4 June

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

In response to question on notice no.80 from Budget Estimates 2015, EFIC stated that it is currently working on an LNG project in PNG with the US Export Import Bank.

- 1. What is the nature of this project and Australia's involvement? Does it involve Australian SMEs or larger companies?*
- 2. Is EFIC working with an export-import bank, or similar, in any other country? Please describe.*
- 3. Is cross-border syndicate export finance a growing area for EFIC? Will it assist Australian exporters to participate in major projects and/or global value chains?*

Answer

1. The LNG project in Papua New Guinea is a natural gas and liquefied gas development. It comprises of gas fields, a gas gathering and conditioning plant, a pipeline system and a plant and export terminal near Port Moresby. The first gas was exported in 2014.

The Government and Efic have provided USD350 million to help fund the construction of the development as part of a syndicate of lenders, including commercial banks and five other Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) from the US, Japan, Italy and China.

While the project sponsors include larger Australian companies such as Santos and Oil Search, many more Australian companies, including SMEs, are part of the project's extensive supply chain. Australian content in the construction of the project was well in excess of the loan provided by the Government and Efic.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

2. Efic is regularly involved in projects that involve one or more ECAs, as it is not uncommon for ECAs, private financiers and multilateral institutions to cofinance larger projects. Currently Efic is in discussions with ECAs and similar institutions in regards to projects in countries such as Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Mongolia.

3. Cross-border syndicate export finance is not a growing area for Efic, but continues to be a part of Efic's operations. Efic can only participate in these financing syndicates provided there is substantial Australian content in the project, which includes goods and services provided by Australian SMEs. When larger companies operate overseas, they commonly bring their Australian suppliers with them – many of which are SMEs – which in turn, gives these smaller exporters access to new markets and supply chains.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015, 22 October 2015

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 147

Program: DFAT

Topic: QoN 157 from Budget Estimates, 3-4 June

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

In response to question on notice no.157 from Budget Estimates 2015, EFIC advised that despite the increased staff levels in Queensland there has been no increase in Queensland SME exporters supported by EFIC. What is the reason for the failure to increase support for Queensland SMEs?

Answer

Undertaking a short term 'snap-shot' is not always an accurate reflection of Efic's business operations and performance, as there are other non business related factors that can influence performance of a particular territory.

In recent months, Efic's activity and SME signings in Queensland have increased as the SME team becomes more established.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 148

Program: DFAT

Topic: Scottish Pacific Business Finance

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

On 25 June 2015, EFIC announced that Scottish Pacific Business Finance Pty Ltd became the first non-bank approved to partner with EFIC.

- 1. How did this partnership eventuate? Who initiated? When? What reviews and due diligence exercises were undertaken?*
- 2. Were other non-bank partners considered? If so, who? If not, why not?*
- 3. Who approved the partnership?*
- 4. What does the partnership mean for both EFIC and Scottish Pacific Business Finance? Are there any financial incentives between the two?*
- 5. Are there any existing or prior relationships or interests between board or senior management of Scottish Pacific and the Government or EFIC?*
- 6. Are there any ex-EFIC staff working at Scottish Pacific Business?*
- 7. Since the approval at end of June, how many SME transactions has this new partnership supported or considered? Please detail.*

Answer

1. This partnership was initiated by Efic's former Head of Channel Management and Scottish Pacific's Head of Trade Finance.
Efic's due diligence included a review of the market position of Scottish Pacific and gaining an understanding of the end to end credit process that Scottish Pacific undertakes for its clients. In addition, Efic had various meetings with the senior management of Scottish Pacific, which included the CEO and Head of Risk.
2. No other non-bank partners were considered. Most partnerships are generally bespoke and depend on the product offerings of the relevant partner. Efic continually considers potential alliance partnerships with financiers and industry groups. This is consistent with its role in 'crowding in' private sector financiers and providing support to Small-to-

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the most efficient way and at the lowest possible cost.

3. The approval was an Efic management decision, undertaken by Efic's Executive team. Efic's Board received notification of the partnership prior to its approval.

4. The partnership between Efic and Scottish Pacific enables more SMEs to access the working capital they require to succeed overseas.

Whereas Scottish Pacific was previously limited to providing post-shipment finance, this partnership has enabled it to provide its clients with working capital for the pre-shipment stage of exporting.

By partnering with Scottish Pacific – a non-bank financier – Efic is now able to service a larger portion of the SME market by offering solutions to those SMEs that may lack traditional banking relationships. Efic anticipates that this will help generate referrals and boost awareness of its services amongst SMEs.

5. There are no known relationships or interests between Scottish Pacific and the Government or Efic.

6. One previous Efic employee is now employed at Scottish Pacific Business in a management role. This individual was not involved in the negotiation of the partnership.

The former Efic staff member was employed at Efic for a four month period in 2013.

7. No SME transactions have been signed under the partnership agreement. Efic anticipates the generation of referrals to occur with time, as awareness of the partnership increases amongst SMEs.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 149

Program: DFAT

Topic: Amendments to the EFIC Act

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Amendments to the EFIC Act allowing direct lending to “all” goods, not just capital goods came into effect in March 2015.

- 1. Has EFIC received a noticeable increase in requests for financial assistance pursuant to this change?***
- 2. How many direct lending projects has EFIC effected pursuant to this change? Please describe the entities and projects.***

Answer

1. In late March 2014, Efic launched a new product for SMEs, the Export Contract Loan (ECL), in response to its new lending flexibility. The ECL enables Efic to provide support to more SMEs – particularly smaller exporters – across all industry sectors more efficiently. The market’s response to this product has been positive and a noticeable increase in requests for Efic support has occurred.
2. Since the launch of the ECL product to 10 November 2015, Efic has provided 41 new ECLs to SMEs. All transactions that Efic supports are reported on its website and published in its Annual Report.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 150

Program: DFAT

Topic: Departmental Rebranding

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. Has the department/Agency undergone a name change or any other form of rebranding since the leadership change in September, 2015? If so:

A. Detail why this name change / rebrand were considered necessary and a justified use of departmental funds?

- Please provide a copy of any reports that were commissioned to study the benefits and costs associated with the rebranding.***

B. Provide the total cost associated with this rebrand and then break down by amount spent replacing:

- Signage.***
- Stationery (please include details of existing stationery and how it was disposed of).***
- Logos***
- Consultancy***
- Any relevant IT changes.***
- Office reconfiguration.***

C. How was the decision reached to rename and/or rebrand the department?

- Who was involved in reaching this decision?***
- Please provide a copy of any communication (including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, notes etc) from within the department, or between the department and the government regarding the rename/rebranding.***

2. Following the changes does the department share any goods/services/accommodation with other departments?

3. What resources/services does the department share with other departments; are there plans to cease sharing the sharing of these resources/services?

4. What were the costs to the department prior to the Machinery of Government changes for these shared

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Answer

1. No.
2. No.
3. For its state offices – located in Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth – Efic sub-leases space from Austrade. There are no plans for Efic to cease collocating with Austrade.
4. Not applicable.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 151

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing - employment of non-Australian citizens

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

I refer you to section 22 (8) of the Public Service Act 1999 which says:

"An Agency Head must not engage, as an APS employee, a person who is not an Australian citizen, unless the Agency Head considers it appropriate to do so."

- 1. Does the department have guidelines or similar to assist Agency Heads to assess when it is appropriate to hire non-Australian citizens? If no, do individual agencies have their own guidelines? If yes to either:*
 - Please provide a copy.*
 - When did they come into effect?*
 - Can Agency Heads decide to go against the advice? If yes, under what circumstances?*
- 2. Are Agency Heads required to provide a reason to anyone for hiring non-Australian citizens? If yes:*
 - Who are they required to report the reason to?*
 - Does this reporting happen before or after the hire has been made?*
 - Is this reason provided in writing? If no, how is it provided?*
 - Can you please provide a list of reasons that have been used since the Federal election in September, 2013.*
- 3. Are there any provisions to over-rule a Head of Agency's decision to hire a non-Australian citizen? If yes:*
 - Who can over-rule this decision?*
 - Under what circumstances can it be over-ruled?*

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Answer

DFAT follows the provisions of the Government's Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF) where, in exceptional cases, it may need to waive the Australian citizenship requirement set out in Section 22(8) of the Public Service Act 1999. The PSPF states the following in relation to the eligibility of waivers in Section 6.5.

An agency head may, under certain conditions waive the citizenship or checkable background requirements for a person to be eligible for a security clearance. An agency head's decision to waive an eligibility requirement is to be based on a thorough analysis of the risks to the Australian Government and the possible impact on the national interest.

Before issuing an eligibility waiver, and prior to requesting an Australian Government security clearance, an agency must:

- justify an exceptional business requirement,
- conduct and document a risk assessment,
- define the period covered by the waiver (which cannot be open-ended),
- gain agreement from the clearance applicant to meet conditions of the waiver, and
- consult with the vetting agency.

Since September 2013 DFAT has made two waivers in regard to two UK citizens who became DFAT employees as a result of the integration of AusAID in November 2013. The PSPF waiver requirements were complied with.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 152

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

Since the leadership change in September, 2015:

- 1. Has there been any change to the staffing profile of the Minister's office?***
- 2. Provide a list of changes to staffing numbers, broken down by classification level, and role.***
- 3. Please provide a breakdown of any redundancies that have been paid to staff who left the Minister's office since the change in leadership.***
- 4. Please provide the total cost of Ministerial staff salaries in the office from before the change.***
- 5. Please provide the total cost of Ministerial staff salaries in the office as of now.***
- 6. Were any staff hired for the office since the change, but have subsequently left in the time between then and now? If yes, how many? How long did each stay? What was their role?***

Answer

(1)-(2) Staff entitlement by office:

- Ms Bishop – no change.
- Mr Robb – no change.
- Mr Ciobo – As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Trade and Investment, Mr Ciobo had a staff entitlement of three. As Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Mr Ciobo has a staff entitlement of seven including two DLOs.
- Senator Colbeck has a staff entitlement of seven including two DLOs.

(3)-(5) Ministerial staff are employed under the MOPS Act administered by the Department of Finance. Enquiries on their status should be directed to DOF.

(6) No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 153

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial Personalised Stationery

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

Since the leadership change in September, 2015, how much has been spent by the Ministerial office on personalised stationery for the Minister and the Minister's staff? Please provide a cost breakdown by type of stationery purchased and the quantity of each and whether it was for the Minister or for staff.

Answer

For the Office of Minister for Foreign Affairs – nil.

For the Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment – \$118.00 on pre-printed envelopes.

For the Office of the Minister for International Development and the Pacific – \$18.50 on pre-printed envelopes.

For the Office of the Minister for Tourism and International Education and the Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment – nil.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 154

Program: DFAT

Topic: East Timor

Question in Writing

Senator Xenophon

Question

I refer to an article written by Dr Stephen Grenville for the Lowy Institute, called 'A Response to Senator Xenophon'. The article was translated to Tetum and published on the website of the Australian Embassy to East Timor. My original op-ed in the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age was not similarly translated and published by the Australian Embassy to East Timor.

- 1. Who requested and obtained approval from the Lowy Institute to translate and publish the article?*
- 2. Who commissioned or authorised the translation?*
- 3. If the Embassy is going to translate and publish 'A Response to Senator Xenophon', why didn't it translate and publish the original article?*
- 4. What exactly is DFAT's objection to a median line delimitation of the maritime border with Timor-Leste?*

Answer

1. Approval from the Lowy Institute was not sought.
2. The Australian Embassy in Dili translated the article.
3. The Embassy decided to translate and post Stephen Grenville's article because it provides an interesting perspective from an independent source on why Australia should be committed to the Timor Sea agreements. This is a perspective that Timorese interested in the issue might not otherwise have access to. See below factsheet on our bilateral arrangements in the Timor Sea.
4. Australia and Timor-Leste both claim the seabed of the Timor Sea and, in negotiations on the location of a permanent maritime boundary, were unable to reconcile overlapping claims. To resolve this impasse, Australia and Timor-Leste concluded three treaties that provide for the cooperative development of the oil and

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

gas resources of the Timor Sea. In the treaties, we also agreed to defer maritime boundary delimitation for up to 50 years to develop the resources and provide long-term certainty for investors.

The government takes its treaty obligations seriously, and it believes in sticking to its agreements. Reopening arrangements in the Timor Sea would only undermine investment and further delay development of the resources with negative consequences for both countries.

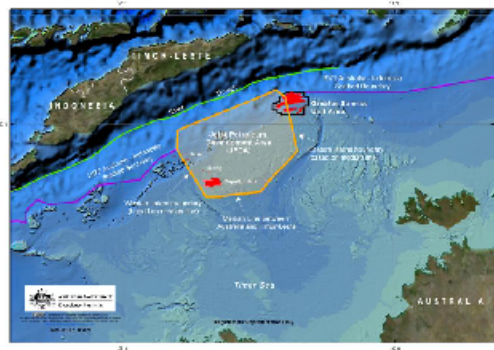
The application of median line principles would leave no more than 20.1 per cent of Greater Sunrise in Timorese jurisdiction, resulting in much less revenue for Timor-Leste than provided for in the current treaties. CMATS splits future Greater Sunrise revenue 50/50.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING



Australia's maritime arrangements with Timor-Leste

Australia and Timor-Leste have entered into three treaties governing maritime arrangements in the Timor Sea, including access to oil and gas resources. These arrangements are consistent with international law, including the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*.



2002 Timor Sea Treaty

- This treaty established the Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA) to enable petroleum development in an area claimed by both Australia and Timor-Leste.
- It apportions 90 per cent of JPDA petroleum to Timor-Leste and 10 per cent to Australia.
- It established a Joint Commission to oversee management of the resources cooperatively.
- As a result of joint oil and gas development in the JPDA (as of June 2015):
 - Timor-Leste has received US\$11.75 billion in revenue and accrued a National Petroleum Fund worth US\$16.86 billion
 - Australia has received US\$1.31 billion.

2003 International Unification Agreement for Greater Sunrise

- This agreement created the framework to develop the Greater Sunrise fields as a single unit.
- This was necessary because 20.1 per cent of Greater Sunrise lies within the shared JPDA and 79.9 per cent in exclusive Australian seabed jurisdiction.
- Under the agreement, companies may propose development plans for Greater Sunrise, and the Australian and Timor-Leste Governments are to approve a plan that, amongst other things, develops the Greater Sunrise resources "to the best commercial advantage consistent with good oilfield practice." To date, no plan has been approved.

2006 Treaty on Certain Maritime Arrangements in the Timor Sea

- This treaty splits Greater Sunrise petroleum revenue 50/50 between Australia and Timor-Leste.
- It deferred establishment of a permanent maritime boundary for 50 years or five years after exploitation of the Greater Sunrise gas fields ceases, whichever occurs earlier.
- It provides Timor-Leste with water column jurisdiction (for activities such as fishing) within the JPDA.

Australia's maritime arrangements with Timor-Leste

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 155

Program: DFAT

Topic: Israel-Palestine

Question in Writing

Senator Xenophon

Question

1. According to the latest figures released by the Israeli Prison Service, 48 per cent of Palestinian minors prosecuted in Israeli military courts were transferred to prisons inside Israel in violation of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

2. Given that the transfer of prisoners out of the West Bank amounts to a war crime, what representations has the Government made to its Israeli counterpart regarding this violation of international law?

Answer

The Government has not made representations to Israel expressing a view on international legal aspects of the movement of detainees. However, the Government has publicly expressed its concern about allegations of mistreatment of Palestinian minors in detention. The Australian Embassy in Israel raises our concerns about Israel's security and judicial practices toward Palestinian minors with the Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice. We raised this issue and our ongoing interest most recently on 14 October 2015. DFAT has also raised Australia's concerns about this issue with the Israeli Embassy in Canberra.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 156

Program: DFAT

Topic: Indonesia

Question in Writing

Senator Xenophon

Question

What kind of assistance did Australia provide Indonesia during the Asian Financial Crisis? Please itemise the programs and dollar amounts.

Answer

The Australian aid program provided a range of support during the Asian Financial Crisis, targeting social safety nets, civil and economic governance, and sustainable growth and development. In 1998, the peak of the crisis, country program assistance to Indonesia was \$85.3 million, plus up to \$34 million in additional humanitarian and emergency assistance. This funding included:

- a \$70 million, three-year package of capacity building in economic and financial management, covering areas such as reform of state-owned enterprises, bankruptcy and commercial law, capital market development and statistics capacity.
- a \$14.3 million assistance package for Indonesia's elections, covering education for voters, support for monitoring by non-government organisations and the establishment of a National Results Centre.
- around \$34 million in humanitarian assistance.
 - 44 900 tonnes of wheat and approximately 20 300 tonnes of rice worth \$24.3 million for the World Food Programme's Emergency Operation, expected to benefit 3.9 million people
 - over \$4 million of essential drugs and medical supplies to 53 government hospitals
 - \$2.9 million to the second phase of the UNICEF Complementary Food Initiative, which distributed a low-cost infant food supplement to 110,000 infants, and
 - \$2.6 million to publicise and monitor the implementation of a Back to School Program aimed at preventing 2.8 million children of poor families from dropping out of the education system, and to support 80,000 schools in poor regions.

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In 1997-98, the Australian Government provided a loan to help support International Monetary Fund programmes to stabilise the Indonesian economy. Further questions regarding this should be directed towards Treasury.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 157

Program: DFAT

Topic: UNWTO

Question in Writing

Senator Brown

Question

- 1. Has Australia's withdrawal from UNWTO take effect? What date did this occur?***
- 2. Had Australia not withdrawn, what would have been the total membership cost for the next membership year?***
- 3. Has the cancellation of Australia's membership resulted in any changes to the events at which Australia is represented?***
- 4. Which UNWTO events was Australia represented at in the last 10 years? Please provide event name, date, location, nature of participation and whether any ministers attended.***
- 5. Which Australian organisations remain as affiliate members of UNWTO?***

Answer

1. Australia's withdrawal from the UNWTO will take effect on 19 August 2016.
2. If Australia had not withdrawn, Australia's membership fee for the 2016 calendar year would have been be EUR331,997.
3. As a result of the decision to withdraw, Australia was not represented at the UNWTO's 21st General Assembly in Medellin, Colombia in September 2015.

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4. The Australian Government has participated at officials' level in the following UNWTO events since 2005. No Ministers attended these events.

Event/Meeting	Place	Date
16 th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly, 76 th Session of the Executive Council of UNWTO, 43 rd Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific	Dakar, Senegal	28 November- 2 December 2005
1 st Meeting of the UNWTO Working Group on Risk Assessment and Crisis Management and Preparedness	Paris, France	16 March 2006
44 th Meeting of the UNWTO Regional Commission for East Asia and Pacific, Ministerial Roundtable on Asia-Pacific Tourism Policies	Macau, China	12-15 June 2006
1 st UNWTO Asia/Pacific Executive Training Program on Tourism Policy and Strategy	Seoul, Republic of Korea	12-18 November 2006
3 rd Meeting of the UNWTO Working Group on Risk Assessment and Crisis Management and Preparedness	Paris, France	29 March 2007
1 st Meeting of the UNWTO Working Group to Study the Feasibility of an Appropriate Legal Instrument to Help Facilitate Tourist Travel	Paris, France	25 April 2007
18 th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for South Asia and the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific, 45 th Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific, UNWTO Asia-Pacific Conference on Low Cost Carriers	Islamabad, Pakistan	25-26 April 2007
1 st UNWTO/PATA Tourism Trends and Research Conference	Guilin, China	29 June-1 July 2007
17 th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly, 46 th Meeting UNWTO Regional Commission for East Asia and Pacific,	Cartagena de Indias, Colombia	23-29 November 2007

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

UNWTO Education Council Conference		
3 rd Meeting of the UNWTO Working Group to Study the Feasibility of an Appropriate Legal Instrument to Help Facilitate Tourist Travel	Madrid, Spain	30 May 2008
20 th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for South Asia and the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific, 47 th Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific	Kobe, Japan	10-11 June 2008
4 th Meeting of the UNWTO Working Group on the Facilitation of Tourist Travel	Madrid, Spain	24 September 2008
84 th Session of the Executive Council of UNWTO	Madrid, Spain	14-15 October 2008
International Conference on Revitalization of Tourism and Confronting Crisis	Chengdu, China	16-18 November 2008
2 nd UNWTO Tourism Trends and Research Conference	Guilin, China	17-19 December 2008
1 st Meeting of the UNWTO Tourism Resilience Committee	Madrid, Spain	28 January 2009
5 th Meeting of the UNWTO Working Group to Study the Feasibility of an Appropriate Legal Instrument to Help Facilitate Tourist Travel	Madrid, Spain	13 February 2009
21 st Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for South Asia and the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific, UNWTO Conference on Increasing Tourist Flows between Asia and the Middle East	Tehran, Iran	2-4 March 2009
2 nd Meeting of the UNWTO Tourism Resilience Committee	Berlin, Germany	13 March 2009
18 th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly, 3 rd Meeting of the UNWTO Tourism Resilience Committee, Meeting of the Working Group on the Strategic Role of Knowledge in Specialized UN Organizations	Astana, Kazakhstan	2-9 October 2009

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3 rd UNWTO/PATA Forum on Tourism Trends and Outlook	Guilin, China	15-17 November 2009
1 st T20 Tourism Ministers Meeting, UNWTO / South Africa International Summit on Tourism, Sport and Mega Events	Johannesburg, South Africa	22-25 February 2010
4 th UNWTO Asia/Pacific Executive Training Program on Tourism Policy and Strategy	Gyeongju, Republic of Korea	14-18 April 2010
22 nd Joint Meeting UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and UNWTO Commission for South Asia, UNWTO Conference on Tourism as a Key Driver for Socio-Economic Development in Asia and the Pacific	Hanoi, Viet Nam	10-11 May 2010
4 th UNWTO/PATA Forum on Tourism Trends and Outlook	Guilin, China	2-4 September 2010
2 nd T20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting, International Summit: LogIn Tourism - New Decade, New Tourism	Buyeo, Republic of Korea	11-14 October 2010
UNWTO Technical Consultation on Georeferences and Time Stamps for Event Information and Travel Advisories	Madrid, Spain	29 March 2011
23 rd Joint Commission Meeting for South Asia and East Asia and the Pacific, UNWTO Conference Mainstreaming Tourism in the Media	Colombo, Sri Lanka	24-25 March 2011
1 st Meeting of the UNWTO Working Group on the Protection of Tourists/Consumers and Travel Organizers	Madrid, Spain	26 April 2011
5 th UNWTO Asia/Pacific Executive Training Program on Tourism Policy and Strategy	Brunei Darussalam	13-16 June 2011
2 nd Meeting of the UNWTO Working Group on the Protection of Tourists/Consumers and Travel Organizers	Madrid, Spain	28 September 2011
19 th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly, 49 th Meeting of the UNWTO Regional	Gyeongju, Republic of	8-14 October

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Commission for East Asia and Pacific, Special Meeting of the UNWTO Working Group on the Protection of Tourists/Consumers and Travel Organizers	Korea	2011
3 rd T20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting	Paris, France	25 October 2011
5 th UNTWO/PATA Forum: Tourism Trends and Outlook	Guilin, China	26 October 2011
24 th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and UNWTO Commission for South Asia, UNWTO High-Level Regional Conference on Green Tourism	Chiang Mai, Thailand	3-4 May 2012
4 th T20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting	Merida, Mexico	15-16 May 2012
6 th UNWTO Asia/Pacific Executive Training Program on Tourism Policy and Strategy	Paro, Bhutan	25-28 June 2012
6 th UNWTO/PATA Forum on Tourism Trends and Outlook	Guilin, China	11-13 October 2012
20 th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly, 50 th Meeting of the UNWTO Regional Commission for East Asia and Pacific	Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe and Livingston, Zambia	24-29 August 2013
7 th UNWTO/PATA Forum on Tourism Trends and Outlook	Guilin, China	21-23 October 2013
9 th UNWTO/PATA Forum on Tourism Trends and Outlook (Opening plenary only).	Guilin, China	19 October 2015.

5. The following Australian organisations are affiliate members of UNWTO:

New Solution Holdings Pty Ltd - Gaining Edge

Griffith Institute for Tourism (GIFT)

Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC)

James Cook University - School of Business

TTF Australia - Tourism and Transport Forum

University of Queensland

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

University of Technology - Sydney Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Victoria University - Center for Tourism and Services Research

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 158

Program: DFAT

Topic: Fashion diplomacy

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Senator DASTYARI: Has Minister Robb taken time away from his trade deals and trade work to help with these initiatives?

Senator Brandis: Minister Robb spends a great deal of time overseas promoting Australia, in particular by negotiating, as he has done with more success than any trade minister in Australian history, trade agreements with our principal trading partners. No doubt every breath Minister Robb takes when he represents Australia on the world stage is devoted to representing and advancing the interests of Australia in the broader sense.

Senator DASTYARI: That was not the question. Mr Tranter, has Minister Robb been involved in any of these initiatives?

Mr Tranter: I will take that on notice.

Senator DASTYARI: Have you personally briefed Mr Robb or his office about any of these issues? I understand other things happen that you may not be aware of, but have you personally briefed him?

Mr Tranter: Mr Robb has been briefed on these initiatives through the course of our briefing for Minister Bishop on her participation in these events.

Senator DASTYARI: Sorry, I do not understand what that means. I get that Minister Bishop has been briefed. I am asking: have you briefed Minister Robb?

Mr Tranter: Minister Robb has been briefed on our fashion diplomacy initiatives, yes.

Senator DASTYARI: By who?

Mr Tranter: By the department through my division.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Senator DASTYARI: *So he has been briefed on it. Has he participated in any of the events? Has Minister Robb been #fashiondiplomacy?*

Mr Tranter: *I will take that on notice.*

Senator DASTYARI: *You will take that on notice?*

Answer

Has Minister Robb been involved in any of these initiatives?

The Hon. Minister Robb has not been involved in any initiatives with the Australian Fashion Chamber.

Minister Robb led a delegation of 360 Australian business representatives to Indonesia to participate in the inaugural Indonesian Australian Business Week from 17 to 20 November 2015. Representatives from Australia Wool Innovation (AWI)/Woolmark International and Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival were included in the delegation.

In 2014 Minister Robb hosted an Australian Government function as part of Australia Week in China with support from the AWI, the owners of The Woolmark Company.

In 2013 Minister Robb visited the Chinese facilities of Michell Wool, one of Australia's largest wool exporters, in Shanghai.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 159

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial functions

Question in Writing

Senator Bilyk

Question

In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by the Foreign Minister in 2015, can the following please be provided:

- ***List of functions;***
- ***List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister's family or personal staff;***
- ***Function venue;***
- ***Itemised list of costs;***
- ***Details of any food served;***
- ***Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and***
- ***Details of any entertainment provided.***

Answer

The Foreign Minister hosts many official functions, receptions, events and gatherings to advance Australia's foreign, trade and development interests, both in Australia and at Australian Government posts overseas. To provide all of the information requested would entail a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 160

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial travel

Question in Writing

Senator Bilyk

Question

In relation to any international travel undertaken in 2015 by the Minister, can the following please be provided to the Senate:

- (1) A copy of the itinerary for each overseas trip;*
- (2) An itemised list of the costs of each trip including the class of travel for any flights;*
- (3) Copies of receipts for any food or beverages that the Minister consumed at taxpayer expense during each trip;*
- (4) Copies of receipts for any self-drive hire cars or chauffeured services utilised by the Minister during each trip;*
- (5) Copies of receipts for any other ground transport;*
- (6) Copies of receipts for any hotel accommodation; and*
- (7) Details of any spouse travel.*

Answer

(1) This information was provided in the response to Question 88.

(2) The Department of Finance covers the cost of ministerial travel overseas. The last report tabled covered the period 1 July to 31 December 2014.

(3)-(6) To provide copies of receipts of all international travel undertaken by ministers would entail a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources.

(7) Mr David Panton, partner of the Foreign Minister, travelled to New York with Ms Bishop between 22 September and 2 October 2015, at his own expense. Mrs Maureen Robb, wife of the Trade and Investment Minister, travelled to Maui with Mr Robb between 25 July and 2 August 2015.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 161

Program: DFAT

Topic: Secretary's speeches to staff

Question in Writing

Senator Bilyk

Question

Can a copy of any speeches delivered by the Secretary of the Department at any staff meetings in 2015 please be provided?

Answer

Mr Varghese has given a number of speeches to staff this year. These were internal discussions on corporate and policy issues.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 162

Program: DFAT

Topic: Secretary's office upgrades

Question in Writing

Senator Bilyk

Question

Have the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office been upgraded in 2015? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided?

Answer

No.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 163

Program: DFAT

Topic: Body scanners at Australian ports

Question in Writing

Senator Bilyk

Question

- 1. *Is the Foreign Minister subject to the normal security screening procedures as members of the general public at Australian ports?***
- 2. *Is the Foreign Minister required to subject herself to, say, body scanners?***
- 3. *Are any exemptions in place in relation to particular security screening devices or procedures for the Foreign Minister?***
- 4. *Has the Foreign Minister ever been involved in any incidents, altercations or complaints relating to directions to subject herself to security screening at Australian ports, in relation to body scanners or other devices or procedures?***
- 5. *If so, can details and any documentary information possessed by the Department or the Minister's office please be provided?***

Answer

- 1. Yes.**
- 2. Yes.**
- 3. No.**
- 4. No.**
- 5. Not applicable.**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 164

Program: DFAT

Topic: Passports

Question in Writing

Senator Siewert

Question

I refer to correspondence from the South Australian Council for the Care of Children to the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, dated 6 October.

Can the Minister clarify:

- 1. Are Proof of Aboriginality documents acceptable evidence of Australian citizenship, for the purposes of obtaining a passport?*
- 2. What advice has the Department provided to the Minister on this issue?*
- 3. Has there been a change in legislation or regulation, or do changes in how this is dealt with reflect policy changes?*

Answer

1. Where an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander client cannot provide standard documentation in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Passport Office (APO), for example because their birth (or their parent's birth) is not registered, the APO will consider proof of Aboriginality documents on a case-by-case basis.
2. None.
3. There have been no recent changes in relevant legislation, regulation or policy.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 165

Program: DFAT

Topic: Humanitarian assistance

Question on Notice

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Senator Dastyari

Question

Senator DASTYARI: I want to start by talking about Syria and Australia's response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria. Mr Secretary, if I could begin with the announcement that was made on 9 September by the then government about the union and humanitarian assistance, would you start by running through what the cost of that is and what the quantum of that announcement was?

Mr Varghese: The headline figure was that we were contributing an additional \$44 million, as I recall, on top of the decision by the government to resettle 12,000 refugees from that area. Mr McDonald would be in a position to take you through how that additional humanitarian assistance is intended to be expended.

Mr McDonald: Of the \$44 million that was announced earlier this financial year, \$34 million went to Syria and the region of which UNHCR received \$20 million.

Senator DASTYARI: 'Went' as in they have received it?

Mr McDonald: Yes.

Senator DASTYARI: What date did that happen?

Mr McDonald: We will be able to give you the date.

Answer

DFAT made the payment to UNHCR on 30 September 2015.