

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Group: 3

Program: 1.6

Question No. AE15/048

Senator Bullock asked the following written question at the hearing on 24 February and 27 March 2015 hearing:

1. Please provide a copy of the first six monthly progress report from the Scarlet Alliance in relation to the grant of \$360,000 made under the Grants to Australian Community Organisations program for 2014-17.
2. The Final Report, 1st July 2011-30th June 2014 of the Scarlet Alliance Migration Project states on page 3 that "the project has been involved in lobbying for equitable access to visas" for "sex workers travelling to Australia". The Alliance has made several submissions calling for 457 visas to be available for sex work. What steps are being taken to ensure that none of the funds provided to the Scarlet Alliance are used for lobbying for this outcome?
3. On page 13 of the Final Report, 1st July 2011-30th June 2014 of the Scarlet Alliance Migration Project it is stated as a "key success" that "many women who are currently studying in Thai universities have come to Empower requesting information about work rights on Student Visas if they were to transfer their studies to Australia". Are funds provided to the Scarlet Alliance being used, or are permitted to be used, to encourage or facilitate the migration to Australia of Thai students on student visas with the goal of working part time as a sex worker in Australia?

The answers to the honourable senator's questions are as follows:

1. Funding agreements between the Attorney-General's Department and organisations that receive funding under the Grants to Australian Organisations Program do not make provision for the release of progress reports to those who are not party to the funding agreement.
2. The funding agreement between the Attorney-General's Department and Scarlet Alliance under the Grants to Australian Organisations Program over 2014-17 requires Scarlet Alliance to promote evidence-based anti-human trafficking policy development and trafficking prevention service delivery. Scarlet Alliance is required to complete deliverables to meet this objective, including developing, promoting and distributing evidence-based policy on anti-trafficking issues and the impact on sex worker communities for key stakeholders including government. Scarlet Alliance is required to provide regular progress reports to the Attorney-General's Department detailing activities undertaken and funds spent. An officer of the Attorney-General's Department is then required to assess the progress report and certify that all funding received was spent in accordance with the funding agreement.
3. The funding agreement between the Attorney-General's Department and Scarlet Alliance under the Grants to Australian Organisations Program over 2014-17 requires Scarlet Alliance to increase the information that is available to sex workers in Thailand on their legal and migration rights and responsibilities. Scarlet Alliance is required to complete deliverables to meet this objective, including providing legal and migration information to sex workers

considering travelling abroad for work. Scarlet Alliance is required to provide regular progress reports to the Attorney-General's Department detailing activities undertaken and funds spent. An officer of the Attorney-General's Department is then required to assess the progress report and certify that all funding received was spent in accordance with the funding agreement.