

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

Group: Written

Program: Whole-of-Portfolio

Question: BE14/175

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

Since 7 September 2013:

1. Do any contracts managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy? If so, please name each contact. When was it formed or created?
2. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
3. Do any agreements managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticisms of Government policy? If so, please name each agreement. When was it formed or created?
4. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
5. For each of the contracts and agreements, are there any particular reasons, such as genuine commercial in confidence information, for this restriction?
6. Have any changes to financial or resource support to services which advocate on behalf of groups or individuals in Australian society been made? If so, which groups? What was the change?
7. Has any consultation occurred between the Department/Agency and any individuals and/or community groups about these changes? If so, what consultation process was used? Was it public? If not, why not? Are public submissions available on a website?
8. If no consultation has occurred, why not?
9. Did the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary meet with any stakeholders about changes to advocacy in their contracts and/or agreements? If so, when? Who did he/she meet with?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Attorney-General's Department and applicable portfolio agencies do not manage any contracts that contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy.