

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

Group: 3

Program 1.6

Question No. SBE14/184

Senator Bullock asked the following written question from the 20 November and 11 December 2014 hearings.

1. How is the Scarlet Alliance required to account for the \$360,000 it will receive for 2014-17 from the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 funding announced by the Minister for Justice on 25 March 2014?
2. Please provide copies of any documents relating to how the Scarlet Alliance acquitted the \$350,000 received in funding for 2011-14.
3. Are any funds given to the Scarlet Alliance permitted to be passed on to its partner the Empower Foundation?
4. Are any funds given to the Scarlet Alliance permitted to be used for policy development work such as drafting submission to inquiries?
5. Are any funds given to the Scarlet Alliance permitted to be used in activities such as advocating for sex work to be added to the list of sponsored occupations for the purpose of a 457 visa?
6. Are any funds given to the Scarlet Alliance permitted to be used in advising women overseas on how best to enter Australia for the purpose of engaging in sex work?
7. What specific conditions are attached to the funding of the Scarlet Alliance Migration Project?
8. What audit processes are in place to check compliance with the specific conditions attached to the funding?
9. When did the last audit occur and what were the findings?

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

1. The funding to the Scarlet Alliance announced by the Minister for Justice on 25 March 2014 is being provided under the Grants to Australian Organisations Program, not under the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002*. The Scarlet Alliance is required to provide progress reports to the Attorney-General's department at six monthly intervals as well as a final report on the entire project. Each progress report must include a description of progress against milestones and a financial statement. The financial statement will be based on the approved project budget and will provide the details of any funding received, the amount of this that Scarlet Alliance has spent and the amount of funding it has remaining. All reports must be signed by an authorised officer within the organisation.

2. The Scarlet Alliance's final report and independent audit certificate for the 2011-14 funding are attached.
3. Yes. Of the \$360,000 awarded to the Scarlet Alliance for 2014-17, \$30,000 is budgeted for the Empower Foundation, Thailand, to provide for salaries, outreach, costs and administration of a peer educator in Thailand.
4. Yes. One of the objectives of the funded project is to promote evidence-based anti-human trafficking policy development and trafficking prevention service delivery. This objective includes the following deliverables:
 - Develop, promote and distribute evidence-based policy on anti-trafficking issues and the impact on sex worker communities for key stakeholders, including government
 - Co-ordinate and convene regular Migration Project steering committee meetings as a policy hub to inform and examine anti-trafficking policy and responses, and
 - Attend and participate in national anti-human trafficking forums/meetings and roundtables.
5. No.
6. Funds provided to the Scarlet Alliance are permitted to be used for activities which decrease trafficking vulnerabilities, including by providing legal and migration information to sex workers, supporting sex workers with migration issues, and providing information, support, education and referrals relating to the Australian sex industry.
7. The funding is subject to the terms and conditions of the Commonwealth Low Risk Grant Agreement Template.
8. See response to question 1.
9. The project audit conducted in September 2014 found that the financial statements were a true and fair view of the receipts and payment relating to the project and that the funds were spent in accordance with the conditions of the grant.