

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/249) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

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?

- a. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
- b. Do any agreements managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations on restrictions on advocacy or criticisms of Government policy? If so, please name each agreement. When was it formed or created?
- c. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
- d. For each of the contracts and agreements, are there any particular reason, such as genuine commercial in confidence information, for this restriction?
- e. 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?
- f. 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?
- g. If no consultation has occurred, why not?
- h. 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?

Answer:

- a – d The Department is not aware of any contracts or agreements that specifically limit or restrict advocacy or criticism of government policy.
- e. Yes. Termination of the Funding Agreement with the Refugee Council of Australia on 30 June 2014.
- f. The Refugee Council of Australia was informed by the department. Consultations did not take place.
- g. The decision to terminate the funding was at the discretion of the Minister.
- h. No