

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES, 24 FEBRUARY 2011
Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio: AusAID

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page & hearing date or Written Q	Date answer rec'd	Date tabled
1	AusAID	Senator Birmingham	Media	<p>1. On 9th. Dec. 2010, filmmaker James Ricketson, producing a television documenta LOSING GROUND, that touches in part on the efficacy of Australian aid, sent a letter to Mr Rudd in which he asked: “Is there any Overseas Development Assistance program or initiative anywhere in the world that I would be able to document and include in LOSING GROUND as an example of how Australian ai money is spent?”</p> <p>Why has the Department of Foreign Affairs neither responded to this request nor acknowledged receipt of the letter in which it was made?</p> <p>2. Mr Ricketson has several times requested that Mr Rudd or some representative of DFAT speak on camera for his documentary about Australian aid to Cambodia an elsewhere in the world. His requests have been refused. Why?</p> <p>3. In an email to Mr Rudd’s office, dated 14th December, Mr Ricketson asked “In the event that AusAID and DFAT continue to refuse to allow filming to occur, could you please send me a list of all the Overseas Development Assistance projects worldwide that I am not allowed to film?”</p> <p>Mr Ricketson did not receive either a response to this request or acknowledgement of its receipt. As a result he wrote to Prime Minister Julia Gillard on 14th. Jan 2011 copied to Mr Rudd, which includes the following:</p> <p>“Could I please be provided with a list of all the ODA projects, schemes, initiative being funded, through AusAID and DFAT by the Australian tax-payer? If the audience is not allowed to see its tax-dollars at work it should at least, surely, be able to view a list of the programs that AusAID and DFAT are funding—either in part or in full!”</p> <p>The Prime Minister’s office did not acknowledge receipt of Mr Ricketson’s letter. Will Mr Ricketson be provided with a list of Overseas Development Assistance projects—along with the budgets attached to them?</p> <p>4. Why has Mr Ricketson not been allowed to interview and film officials and AusAID program workers? In what circumstances are film makers or journalists allowed to interview and film such officials or workers? Have other filmmakers or journalists been allowed to visit, document or film AusAID programs? Please detail the circumstances of any approvals granted.</p>	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
2	AusAID	Senator Bob Brown and Senator Hanson- Young	Food Security	<p>Regarding AusAID's four-year \$464 million commitment to the L’Aquila food security initiative:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What funds have been dispersed to date? 2. What areas of research are being funded under the \$170 million research component of this initiative? 	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11

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				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Is the recent \$50 million contribution to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program part of or additional to the \$464 million initiative? 4. How much of the \$292 million earmarked for rural development in the 2010–11 budget is part of the \$464 million initiative? 5. The L'Aquila initiative was agreed over three years. Why has AusAID budgeted over four years? 			
3	AusAID	Senator Boswell	Health	<p>The website http://liveaction.org alleges that AusAID has given \$9 million to the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The Planned Parenthood Federation in the United States have offered to arrange abortions to underage illegally trafficked women (in the United States).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are the two organisations International Planned Parenthood and Planned Parenthood Federation linked? 2. Are the allegations accurate and, if so, will AusAID continue its funding to this organisation? 3. Would it concern AusAID to be funding an organisation linked to an organisation involved in the abortions to underage illegally trafficked women in the United States? 	Page 101, 102	23.05.11	23/06/11
4	AusAID	Senator Boswell	Environment	<p>The World Wildlife Fund Australian annual report details that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AusAID gave grants of \$418,648 in 2009 and \$150,000 in 2010. • An amount under 'other Australians' was listed as \$1,048,639. • 'Other government grants came to \$4,358,858 in 2009.' <p>For each of the above amounts of funding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What were these grants used for and where were they used? 2. Are the World Wildlife Fund programs based in Australia or overseas? 3. How does the World Wildlife Fund apply for the grants? 4. For what purpose, and for what projects, were grants provided? 5. Has the World Wildlife Fund provided an acquittal for the funds? 6. Which departments provided them? Were the funds sourced from more than one department? 	Page 101	23.05.11	23/06/11
5	AusAID	Senator Hanson-Young	PNG	<p>A recent report by the World Bank has described the situation in PNG in relation to family planning as "a National Emergency", noting that family planning coverage in PNG is approximately only 20% of married couples and that there is an estimated unmet need of 44% of married women who would like access to family planning. As family planning is one of the two most cost effective interventions for reducing PNG's high MMR what is the Australian aid program, as the largest bilateral donor to PNG, doing to address MDG 5 and the critical unmet need for family planning?</p>	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11

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6	AusAID	Senator Hanson-Young	Health	Can AusAID provide some examples of where Australia's development assistance has been effectively used to improve maternal, newborn and child health outcomes? Why is child and maternal health a priority for Australian assistance?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
7	AusAID	Senator Hanson-Young	Health	What immediate assistance is AusAID providing to strengthen health systems at the community level and ensure that health services are reaching disadvantaged and remote communities to save lives immediately?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
8	AusAID	Senator Hanson-Young	Health	Given the growing evidence that investing in early childhood and maternal health has a central role to play in development, is there scope for AusAID to increase investment in child and maternal health?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
9	AusAID	Senator Hanson-Young	Health	Is AusAID seeking to develop an overarching strategy or framework to guide the direction of its enhanced support for maternal, newborn and child health? Has AusAID identified priority countries or regions that will be the recipients of its assistance?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
10	AusAID	Senator Hanson-Young	Health	We understand that AusAID has completed a bottom up strategy review to feed into the development of maternal, newborn and child health assistance. Can you provide further detail of the review, its main findings and how it will feed into informing Australia's future maternal health and child health assistance?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
11	AusAID	Senator Hanson-Young	Health	The Family Planning Guidelines were revised in August 2009 to provide "the same range of family planning services for women in developing countries as are supported for women in Australia, subject to the national laws of the relevant nation concerned". This includes support for safe abortion services, up to 20 weeks gestation. Considering there are 20 million unsafe abortions every year, and 46,000 deaths from unsafe abortion, all avoidable, how is the Australian aid program helping to reduce these statistics?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
12	AusAID	Senator Hanson-Young	Health	How much bilateral Australian aid funding, since August 2009 has gone to NEW family planning initiatives, that get family planning services to women who currently have an unmet need, to help reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions? How much money and support has gone to the provision of safe abortion services in the region?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
13	AusAID	Senator Hanson-Young	Health	Australia becoming a founding member of the International Alliance for Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health is an exciting development. At the last Senate estimates the Director General of AusAID, Mr Baxter, highlighted that Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Nigeria would be the initial countries that the Alliance would focus on, and that AusAID would be working to steer the Alliance to working with Australia in some of the	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11

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				countries in our region, including PNG, Timor Leste and Afghanistan—how has this work progressed? How does AusAID envisage Australia contributing to meeting the Alliance's very challenging goal to reduce unmet need for family planning by 100 million women living in developing countries by 2015?			
14	AusAID	Senator Hanson-Young	Health	AusAID has made a significant commitment to increasing its funding in the area of family planning. Can you please explain how investing in family planning contributes to the development of countries and the achievement of all the MDGs, and why it is so important for Australia to lead in this area, particularly in the Pacific?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
15	AusAID	Senator Kroger	Solomon Islands	RAMSI – women in government (CN 336131): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does the tender notice cover? Please expand on the terms of reference for the program. 2. What are the benchmarks used to assess the effectiveness of the program? 3. Please provide the timeline for the project? 4. How many people will work on the project? From where will they work/operate? 	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
16	AusAID	Senator Kroger	PNG	Tender CN 357357 from 6 January 2011 states that HK Logistics PTY LTD has distributed secondary school textbooks in PNG for \$1,948,244.48. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you please provide a full breakdown how many books are to be distributed, to what schools and if they are allocated directly to students or their schools? 2. How many children have received those textbooks? 3. For which subjects? 4. What kind of books were distributed? When were they purchased? 	Page 113	23.05.11	23/06/11
17	AusAID	Senator Kroger	PNG	In November 2011, Minister Rudd issued a media release outlining the additional support for the PNG Cholera outbreak. Please provide an update on the delivery of this response and the current status of the PNG health outcome as a result of this increase.	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
18	AusAID	Senator Kroger	PNG	The Official Development Assistance to PNG and the Pacific which focuses on 4 areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved education • Improved health • Improved infrastructure • Improved economic governance. As Almost 60 per cent or \$29.2 million of Australia's country program funding in 2010–11 is dedicated to these partnership priority outcomes, could you please advise what outcomes have been achieved in each of these above areas?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
19	AusAID	Senator Kroger	Solomon Islands	RAMSI PEOPLES SURVEY (CN 348991): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you expect to achieve with this project? 	Written		23/06/11

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				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. How many people will conduct the survey and will be employed by the project? 3. How many local citizens are expected to participate in the survey? 4. Will the survey be published? When? 			
20	AusAID	Senator Kroger	PNG	Does AusAID have any knowledge on how many NGOs currently provide aid in PNG?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
21	AusAID	Senator Kroger	PNG	Does AusAID use NGOs for aid distribution in PNG? Please provide further details and name the top ten NGOs AusAID is working with locally.	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
22	AusAID	Senator Kroger	Pacific	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regarding the Specialist Paediatrician at Vila Central Hospital contract for 2011-2013 (AusTENDER CN 365777) has this specialist taken up the role? 2. If so by whom and what was the selection process? 3. Can you advise on similar appointments / tenders in the Pacific region? 	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
23	AusAID	Senator Kroger	Advisers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A number of advisory positions have been cut from each nation state program. From which sectors were each of these positions cut? 2. What was the broad salary range of each of these advisers? <p>With reference to the list of revised adviser positions (page 10), broken down into nation state.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many positions will be cut? 2. What is the percentage of positions cut? 3. Of the positions cut, what are the levels culled from them?? 	Page 103, 104	23.05.11	23/06/11
24	AusAID	Senator Kroger	Social Development	<p>Soccer projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you please provide a full project of soccer related projects (partially or fully) funded by AusAID for <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Pacific Region (including Australia and New Zealand), b) Africa and c) the rest of the world? 2. Can you please provide this breakdown for the years 2010, 2009, 2008, and 2007? Please include value of funding, project description and which partner organisation received the funding. 3. Can you indicate if AusAID will support soccer related projects in the forward estimates? Please provide further details. 	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
25	AusAID	Senator Kroger	Haiti	Can you please provide an update on the status of the cholera update in Haiti?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
26	AusAID	Senator Trood	Indonesia	An article by Robert Cannon was published in the <i>Australian</i> in early January about aid and the education sector in Indonesia. What is AusAID's response to this article and to the points that Mr Cannon has made in it?	Page 109	23.05.11	23/06/11

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27	AusAID	Senator Trood	China	What has AusAID done to increase engagement with China and its aid program in the Pacific?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
28	AusAID	Senator Trood	China	How does DFAT see China's expanding role in terms of development in the region?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
29	AusAID	Senator Trood	Funding	Could AusAID provide all background information known to it about the organisation gunpolicy.org , the rationale for the grant and all funding details.	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
30	AusAID	Senator Xenophon	Aid Budget	The United Kingdom has increased its aid budget to 0.7 percent of GNI by 2013 (scheduled to reach 0.56 percent this year) and has ring-fenced this commitment from any savings process (despite their difficult economic circumstances following the GFC). In addition, they are enshrining this commitment in law. New Zealand is also reported to be planning a sharp increase in its aid funding in the coming years. Is Australia planning to do the same?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
31	AusAID	Senator Xenophon	Solomon Islands	What has been the cost of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands following the 2003 crisis?	Written	Transferred to DFAT for answer	
32	AusAID	Senator Xenophon	Food Security	Increasingly we hear reports of a food crisis in the developing world and the risk this poses to stability in developing nations. Is this a concern in our region?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
33	AusAID	Senator Xenophon	Food Security	According to the World Bank, in the past seven months an additional 44 million people were pushed into poverty due to rising food prices. What is Australia doing through its aid programs to address food security?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
34	AusAID	Senator Xenophon	Food Security	How has AusAID's investment in food security, agriculture and rural development changed since the Rome Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security in 2009?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
35	AusAID	Senator Xenophon	Humanitarian	Does AusAID have any evidence of the effectiveness of pre-crisis intervention versus post-crisis interventions?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
36	AusAID	Senator Xenophon	Multilateral Policy	What role can multilaterals play in delivering the increase in overseas assistance?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
37	AusAID	Senator Xenophon	Multilateral Policy	What programs being delivered by multilaterals are proving effective?	Written	23.05.11	23/06/11
38	AusAID	Senator Xenophon	Multilateral Policy	Can AusAID update the Committee on the new reporting mechanisms that will provide greater transparency in their Partnerships with multilaterals?	Written	26.05.11	23/06/11