

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014, 27 February 2014

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 1

Program: DFAT

Topic: Interaction with PMO

Question on Notice

Page: 6

Senator Dastyari

Question

Senator DASTYARI: *Okay. Explain to me what the role of the National Security Adviser in the PM's office is.*

Mr Varghese: *As the name suggests, it is to advise on matters relating to international security.*

Senator DASTYARI: *And foreign affairs?*

Mr Varghese: *Well, national security and foreign affairs are intimately linked, so clearly there would be areas of overlap between national security and foreign affairs.*

Senator DASTYARI: *Are you able to take on notice getting back to us with a more detailed response as to the interaction between the department of foreign affairs and the PM's office since the Prime Minister become the Prime Minister, including formal meetings that have been held? I understand there are quite a lot of informal meetings and conversations that get held and I am not asking you to track all them down, but I just want to get an understanding of how the interaction between DFAT and the PM's office is working. Is that okay?*

Mr Varghese: *Sure, I am happy to take it on notice.*

Answer *(the following answer responds to questions 1, 60, 61, 62, 327, 328, 329)*

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade would normally interact with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, while contact with the Prime Minister's Office would be through relevant Ministers' offices. However, in the course of discussing and addressing some policy issues, including between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, there are often cases where those discussions include the Prime Minister's Office. It would also be usual for the Department to have more direct contact with the Prime Minister's Office during overseas visits. Good channels of communication between DFAT and both the PMO and PMC are important to help ensure effective whole-of- government coordination of issues handled by DFAT.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 2

Program: DFAT

Topic: Interaction with PMO

Question on Notice

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Senator Dastyari

Question

Senator DASTYARI: *Can you take that on notice, because no-one seems to have been there to be sure who was there and who was not. The media reporting said that Mr Shearer was there; I am just assuming.*

Senator Brandis: *If nobody was there, perhaps there was no meeting!*

Senator DASTYARI: *But out of that came this communique, correct? And we are not sure whether or not Mr Shearer was or was not there, or was or was not prepared in the preparation of this communique.*

Mr Varghese: *Senator, I am pretty sure he was not there, because he was in the travelling party to the APEC leaders meeting, which arrived after this meeting was held.*

Senator DASTYARI: *The PM's office was consulted in the preparation of something as significant as this communique, of course, weren't they?*

Mr Varghese: *I would have to check on that; I was not at the meeting.*

Answer

No. The Prime Minister's office was not consulted.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 3

Program: DFAT

Topic: Foreign Minister Travel

Question on Notice

Page: 8

Senator Dastyari

Question

Senator DASTYARI: *This was one of the foreign minister's first overseas trips as foreign minister just based on it being in October. Who from DFAT was travelling with the foreign minister?*

Mr Varghese: *Can I take that on notice. I was not here so I do not know.*

Answer

The following Canberra-based DFAT officers travelled with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and attended the APEC meeting in Bali:

Ms Jan Adams, Deputy Secretary;

Mr Sam Gerovich, First Assistant Secretary and APEC Ambassador;

Mr John Larkin, Assistant Secretary.

Staff from the Embassy in Jakarta also travelled to Bali to support the Prime Minister's and the Foreign Minister's visit, in addition to staff in Bali.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 4

Program: DFAT

Topic: China Relations

Question on Notice

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Senator Dastyari

Question

Senator DASTYARI: *The Xinhua News, I am sure you are aware of the paper; but probably not the story from 7 December. I am going to read this to you: China on Friday expressed strong dissatisfaction with Australia's statement over the establishment of the—*

I will get to that, actually, in a second. I want to take it one step back, because something you said there was quite interesting. You do not see this as being of significance? I mean it just surprises me. You are saying there is a communique of this kind and no one in DFAT was involved that you can tell me in the drafting of it?

Mr Varghese: *With respect, Senator, I did not say no one in DFAT was involved; quite the contrary. I said the normal practise is for a departmental official to be involved in the drafting of the communique. I am not in a position to tell you who that was because I was not there but I am very happy to find out who it was.*

Answer

The TSD communique covered a broad range of issues, including: UN Security Council matters; arms control; Syria; Iran; North Korea's nuclear and missile programs and proliferation activities; North Korea's human rights record; tensions in the East China Sea and the South China Sea; regional fora such as the East Asia Summit, ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus, ASEAN Regional Forum and APEC; and security challenges in the Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific region. As such, officials from all relevant areas in DFAT were involved in drafting elements of the TSD communique. Those areas included the UN Security Council Task Force, the International Security Division, the Middle East and Africa Division; the North Asia Division; and the Southeast Asia Division. As the communique was trilateral in nature, officials from the US State Department and Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also involved in drafting.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 5

Program: DFAT

Topic: Demarche

Question on Notice

Page: 10

Senator Dastyari

Question

Senator DASTYARI: *Are you able to provide or take on notice a list of times we have actually publicly announced when we have done something of that kind?*

Mr Varghese: *Sure. It is not uncommon; it is actually quite common.*

Senator DASTYARI: *Can you give me some examples now of when we have done it, and the outcomes?* **Mr Varghese:** *Often if an issue is running hot in the media, the fact of a head of mission being called in becomes known. I am happy to go back and provide you with details, but in my experience it is certainly not uncommon for it to become public knowledge that we have asked someone to come in and have a chat.*

Answer

A demarche is a formal diplomatic representation of one government's official position, views, or wishes on a given subject to an official in another government or international organization. Governments may also use a demarche to protest or object to actions by a foreign government.

In the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013 DFAT called in the Head of 17 missions to make a demarche. Five were made public; 12 were not made public.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 6

Program: DFAT

Topic: Former PM travel

Question on Notice

Page: 19

Senator Edwards

Question

Senator EDWARDS: *During his trip to Boston, did Kevin Rudd visit Harvard University or meet with officials from the John F Kennedy school?*

Mr Varghese: *I would have to take that on notice—unless Mr Roach has an answer?*

Mr Roach: *No.*

Mr Varghese: *We will take that on notice.*

Senator EDWARDS: *It is very public that Mr Rudd was probably at a job interview.*

Mr Varghese: *I do not have any information on that. I am very happy to check whether—*

Senator EDWARDS: *It will reveal itself, won't it? In November he was there, and just this month it has been announced that he is going to Boston to base himself with his new role. I am very interested to know how much the taxpayer paid for Mr Rudd to travel to Boston, effectively, probably, for his job interview which was announced this month.*

Mr Varghese: *We will take it on notice. You are assuming that we did—*

Senator EDWARDS: *I am assuming a lot.*

Mr Varghese: *but let us check.*

Answer

DFAT did not provide any support in Boston to Mr Rudd. Questions about details of his meetings should be referred to his office.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 7

Program: DFAT

Topic: Former PM travel

Question on Notice

Page: 19

Senator Edwards

Question

Senator EDWARDS: *Let us get the information. How many requests for assistance have been made by Mr Rudd and Ms Gillard since the last Senate estimates?*

Mr Varghese: *Can I take that on notice as well?*

Senator EDWARDS: *Okay. And, if you could, when was each request received, and what was the nature of the request? Also—*

Senator STEPHENS: *Just on that issue: perhaps, Mr Varghese, you might be able to provide that information about all former prime ministers. You can take it all on notice.*

Mr Varghese: *I am happy to take on notice whatever the committee wants me to take on notice.*

Senator STEPHENS: *Thank you.*

Senator FAULKNER: *Mr Varghese—*

Senator Brandis: *I am sorry—before you go into another question, Senator Faulkner. What is it that you want Mr Varghese to take on notice, because Senator Edwards's questions were directed to a particular trip?*

Senator STEPHENS: *No, he asked about what consular assistance has been provided to the former prime ministers.*

Senator Brandis: *Over what period are you asking?*

Senator STEPHENS: *Since last estimates, he said.*

Answer

See table below for details of assistance provided to former Prime Ministers since last Senate Estimates for which the Department is aware of. We note that not all former Prime Ministerial overseas travel is notified to DFAT.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Date	Name of Parliamentarian	City, Countries Visited	Requested Date	Assistance Requested	Assistance Provided
2013					
17 – 20 December	The Hon Kevin Rudd, former PM	New York, USA	December 2013	Airport facilitation, transport	Airport facilitation, transport, advice to office on program logistics.
20 -22 December	The Hon Kevin Rudd, former PM	San Francisco, USA	December 2013	Airport facilitation	Airport facilitation
2014					
15 -22 January	The Hon Julia Gillard, former PM	Abu Dhabi, UAE	11 December 2013	Briefing on UAE	Briefing on UAE provided
16-25 January	The Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser, former PM	New Zealand	8 January 2014	No assistance requested, Mr Fraser wanted to advise DFAT of travel	Post (Wellington) was advised of Mr Fraser's itinerary
21 - 25 January	The Hon Kevin Rudd, former PM	New York, Boston and Washington, USA	20 January 2014	Airport facilitation, transport and visa for Kazakhstan	NY – airport facilitation, document printing Boston –no assistance Washington – Airport facilitation, transport for official appointments. Kazakhstan visa obtained.

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Date	Name of Parliamentarian	City, Countries Visited	Requested Date	Assistance Requested	Assistance Provided
26 -28 January	The Hon Kevin Rudd, former PM	Paris, France	20 January 2014	Airport facilitation	Airport facilitation and transport provided.
31 January - 3 February	The Hon Kevin Rudd, former PM	Munich, Germany	28 January 2014	Airport facilitation, Ambassador contact details	Ambassador contact details provided. Airport facilitation and transport provided.
21 – 27 February	The Hon Kevin Rudd, former PM	New York, Boston, USA	19 February 2014	Transport, assistance with Russian visa	Airport facilitation (in New York), Russian visa obtained.
28 February – 3 March	The Hon Kevin Rudd, former PM	London, Oxford England	24 February 2014	Airport facilitation, transport	Airport facilitation and transport for official appointments. (in London only).
1 – 3 March	The Hon Julia Gillard, former PM	Seoul, South Korea	5 February 2014	Airport facilitation, and briefing on South Korea	Airport facilitation and briefing on South Korea provided.
28 March – 4 April	The Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser, former PM	Vienna, Austria and Rome, Italy	24 October 2013	Hotel recommendations and Airport facilitation	Hotel recommendations and Airport facilitation

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 8

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial travel

Question on Notice

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Senator Edwards

Question

Senator EDWARDS: *In an answer to questions taken on notice from the last estimates, the department advised that on occasions a spouse of a diplomat would be employed on a temporary basis to accompany Mrs Carr during her visit. Mrs Carr was accompanied by embassy officials effectively to act as a guide, I suggest, for Mrs Carr when the former foreign minister was in that region. On how many occasions was an offer of temporary employment made to a person specifically for the purpose of accompanying Mrs Carr during any of those visits?*

Mr Varghese: *I do not have an answer to that, but Mr Roach may be able to help.*

Mr Roach: *I will have to take that on notice. We did talk about this at the last Senate estimates hearing. I recall making the remark at that time that on occasions, for spouses and partners of foreign, trade and other ministers who come through, that arrangement is sometimes put into place. Specifically in regard to Mrs Carr, I would need to take that on notice.*

Senator EDWARDS: *Can you let me know what visits did occur?*

Mr Roach: *Certainly.*

Senator EDWARDS: *Can you also let me know on how many days those people were employed to effectively guide Mrs Carr, and the total cost of the employment for those tour guides.*

Mr Roach: *I will take that on notice. I will also make the point that, in some cases, officers spouses are happy to do this role without being paid. It is not necessarily a paid—*

Senator EDWARDS: *I agree, and I think that is terrific. It is wonderful that they do that. I am interested in any costs that were incurred to carry out this function.*

Mr Roach: *We will look into that.*

Answer

The department is not aware of any occasion that an offer of temporary employment was made to a person specifically for the purpose of accompanying Mrs Carr during an overseas visit.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 9

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial travel

Question on Notice

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Senator Edwards

Question

Senator Brandis: I take it Senator Edwards that you have settled on this five-month period because Ms Bishop has not actually been in the portfolio the six months. The government was sworn in on 18 September, I think.

Senator EDWARDS: Correct.

Senator BRANDIS: I assume that you have settled on five months to take us to the most recent monthly anniversary of the swearing-in of the new government.

Senator EDWARDS: Thank you for your help.

Senator Brandis: If I understand you correctly, you want to know how much Mr Carr spent in his first five months as foreign minister on foreign travel, how much Mr Rudd spent on foreign travel in his first five months as foreign minister and how much Ms Bishop has spent on foreign travel in her first five months as foreign minister. Is that the question?

Senator EDWARDS: Crystal clear. Thank you very much.

Answer

Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation for overseas travel by the Hon Kevin Rudd MP over the period September 2010 to February 2011 (his first five months as Foreign Minister) were \$493,254.76.

Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance and Deregulation for overseas travel by the Hon Bob Carr over the period March 2012 to August 2012 (his first five months as Foreign Minister) were \$496,698.43.

Entitlements paid by the Department of Finance past June 2013 have not yet been published.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 10

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question on Notice

Page: 27

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Senator RHIANNON: *Thank you, Chair. Mr Varghese, of the former AusAID staff who have either resigned or taken redundancy since 1 November, could you provide a breakdown of the number who filled specialist roles versus generalist roles?*

Mr Varghese: *We have made offers of VR to 26 people. Are you asking how many of those 26 people were former AusAID officers and, within that category, how many were specialists?*

Senator RHIANNON: *Yes.*

Mr Varghese: *It will raise some definitional issues, but we will certainly take that on notice.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Could you also provide a breakdown of the staff who have either resigned or taken redundancy since 1 November on the basis of the agency or the department that employed them prior to the integration?*

Mr Varghese: *Yes, we could do that.*

Answer

(a) As at Thursday 27 February 2014:

- three staff members who were employed by AusAID on 31 October 2013 have ceased employment with the department via voluntary redundancy. None of these staff members filled specialist positions.
- Two staff members who were employed by AusAID on 31 October 2013 and have subsequently resigned filled specialist roles.

(b) Table one provides a breakdown of the staff who have separated from the department between 1 November 2013 and 27 February 2014 on the basis of the agency or the department that employed them prior to the integration.

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Table One: Separations by pre-integration agency

	AusAID	DFAT
Resignation/Retirement	17	19
Transfer to another Agency	14	8
Cessation of Non Ongoing Contract	50	50
Voluntary Redundancy	3	1
Total Separations 31 Oct 2013 to 27 Feb 2014	84	78

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 11

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial expenditure

Question on Notice

Page: 29

Senator Stephens

Question

Senator STEPHENS: *No, do not do that. We will scan them and find them. I understand that Minister Bishop had a bit of a phone bill shock while she was overseas. Can you elaborate on that a little?*

Mr Roach: *I will do so to the best of my recollection. There was a phone bill shock, to use your term, when she first came into office. That was queried with the carrier concerned, who advised that they had mischarged in terms of the number of bytes that had been used by Ms Bishop's phone. The bill was incorrect and it was reissued at a significantly lower amount.*

Senator STEPHENS: *Could you take on notice advising us of the original amount and the revised cost of that telephone bill.*

Mr Roach: *Yes, I will take that on notice.*

Senator STEPHENS: *And whether or not her staff also experienced the same telephone bill shock. That would be helpful to know.*

Answer

The relevant telecommunications carrier identified an oversight in their calculations where they calculated gigabytes rather than megabytes. The carrier's initial estimate of a \$30,720 bill was revised to \$537.02.

None of her staff experienced the same telephone bill difficulty.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 12

Program: DFAT

Topic: Heads of Missions

Question on Notice

Page: 32

Senator Stephens

Question

Senator STEPHENS: *Mr Fisher, are you able to provide us with a list of vacant posts and advice on posts that will notionally fall vacant between 2014 and 2015, so those that have been advertised and those where terms are almost expiring?*

Mr J Fisher: *Are these head of mission or head of post?*

Senator STEPHENS: *Head of mission.*

Mr J Fisher: *We can certainly take that on notice.*

Senator STEPHENS: *Thank you.*

Mr Varghese: *That is going into a lot of our internal processes. I am not questioning your request, but the comings and goings and dates of our officers are largely an internal management issue, but we will take it on notice.*

Senator STEPHENS: *Thank you. There are career diplomats who are coming to the end of their term and we are expecting back in Australia. You must have a sense of how many there are and where they are.*

Mr Varghese: *Sure, we do.*

Answer

Head of Mission (HOM) and Head of Post (HOP) appointments are determined by the Government of the day. The following Head of Mission and Head of Post positions will notionally fall vacant in 2014 and 2015:

Post	Position
2014	
Athens	Ambassador
Bangkok	Ambassador
Geneva UN	Ambassador
Nairobi	High Commissioner
Taipei	Representative
Addis Ababa	Ambassador
Lima	Ambassador

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Chicago	Consul-General
Beirut	Ambassador
Baghdad	Ambassador
Kabul	Ambassador
Washington	Ambassador
Noumea	Consul-General
2015	
Cairo	Ambassador
Harare	Ambassador
Kuwait City	Ambassador
New York UN	Ambassador
Riyadh	Ambassador
Buenos Aires	Ambassador
Jakarta	Ambassador
Rangoon	Ambassador
Shanghai	Consul-General
Hanoi	Ambassador
Islamabad	High Commissioner
Tarawa	High Commissioner
Beijing	Ambassador
Dhaka	High Commissioner
Los Angeles	Consul-General
OECD Paris	Ambassador
The Hague	Ambassador
Wellington	High Commissioner
Bandar Seri Begawan	High Commissioner
Holy See	Ambassador
Honolulu	Consul-General
Nicosia	High Commissioner
Tokyo	Ambassador
Vienna	Ambassador
Hong Kong	Consul-General
Brussels	Ambassador
Port Vila	High Commissioner
Singapore	High Commissioner
Ho Chi Minh City	Consul-General
Malta	High Commissioner
Mexico City	Ambassador
Zagreb	Ambassador

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 13

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial travel

Question on Notice

Page: 35

Senator Edwards

Question

Senator EDWARDS: *Did Mr Carr ever write to the Prime Minister seeking approval for an employee to travel first class with him? If so, when?*

Mr Roach: *I am not aware of any instance. We do not see copies of all correspondence between ministerial offices. I can undertake to look at our records to see if we have such an instance, but that is the best I can do.*

Senator EDWARDS: *So you can take it on notice. The fact that you are not aware does not mean it did not happen, but you can take that question on notice.*

Mr Roach: *Correct.*

Senator EDWARDS: *Could you also provide an answer as to whether the Prime Minister actually approved that request and when it was approved. Likewise if it was refused and when. While you are there, you might include the flight details as well and who it was that we are actually talking about that was requested for. My last one: did Mr Carr ever request the assistance of DFAT officials at a post to upgrade his flight to first class?*

Mr Roach: *Senator, firstly, under the arrangements that were in place, ministers were entitled to travel first class where the flight was for more than 10 hours. So, certainly, Senator Carr was entitled and did take first class flights—*

Senator EDWARDS: *I understand the entitlement. The question is quite specific, and I am not complaining, I am not a minister—*

Mr Roach: *I am just trying to clarify your question.*

Senator EDWARDS: *Did Mr Carr ever request the assistance of DFAT officials at post to upgrade his flight to first class?*

Mr Roach: *I will take it on notice, Senator.*

Senator EDWARDS: *If so, when? And what post received such requests from Mr Carr? And, of course, whether they were successful in gaining the upgrade.*

Answer

Our records do not include any instances of Mr Carr writing to the Prime Minister seeking approval for an employee to travel first class with him. DFAT doesn't see all correspondence between ministerial offices.

We are aware that on one occasion, during a transit in Bangkok in 2012, Mr Carr requested Embassy assistance to upgrade his seat to First Class. The request could not be met by the airline.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 14

Program: DFAT

Topic: Foreign Policy

Question on Notice

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Senator Dastyari

Question

Senator DASTYARI: *I do not think I have the ability to mislead Mr Varghese; he is very, very good. Mr Varghese, you said before that it is a matter of priorities for the government. Was that your language? You used the word 'priorities'. I just want you to elaborate on what the priorities are when it comes to North Asia.*

Mr Varghese: *I think the point I was making was that successive Australian governments, in articulating their foreign policies, have referred to priorities, including priority relationships. This is not something new.*

Senator DASTYARI: *We are talking about ranking of nations in Asia. The language we have used about Japan in the past—correct me if I am wrong; you are the expert on this, not me—is that we have referred to them as our oldest friend. We have referred to them as a good friend. We have said that there has been no better friend, but we have never referred to them, in a formal, diplomatic sense, as our best friend in Asia. Is that correct?*

Mr Varghese: *I would have to check the historical record.*

Senator DASTYARI: *To your knowledge, is that correct?*

Senator Brandis: *He said he was going to check the historical record. What you are asking Mr Varghese to do is to confirm to you that a particular form of words has never been used. He cannot do that without checking the matter.*

Answer

While the PM has referred informally to Japan as our best friend in Asia, it not a description which has been conveyed in a formal communication.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 15

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ambassadors visit to Tibet

Question on Notice

Page: 41

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Senator RHIANNON: *Is she free to meet people in Tibet with no Chinese officials or Chinese at any level of employment?*

Mr Rowe: *I do not know. I would have to take that on notice.*

Answer

The Australian Ambassador to China, Frances Adamson, visited the Tibet Autonomous Region from 20 to 24 August 2013. During her visit, the Ambassador met a wide range of people, including ethnic Tibetans. Many of those interactions were spontaneous and without any supervision or involvement by Chinese government officials.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 16

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mongolia Mining

Question on Notice

Page: 41

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Senator RHIANNON: *What I was asking was: what interactions and what assistance do Australian embassy officials, who represent our interests in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, have with and provide to Rio Tinto?*

Mr Varghese: *I am happy to take your question on notice.*

Answer

Australian embassy officials regularly travel to Ulaanbaatar as part of our regular bilateral engagement with Mongolia. While in Ulaanbaatar officials generally hold meetings with Australian businesses, including Rio Tinto. Around 45 Australian businesses have a presence in Mongolia. Rio Tinto also regularly briefs our embassy officials and the representatives of other countries on the progress of its investment in Mongolia. Our officials sometimes facilitate communication between Rio Tinto, other investors and the Mongolian Government.

Australia has important investment, trade and development interests in the success of Rio Tinto's Oyu Tolgoi project. The outcome of discussions between the Mongolian Government and Rio Tinto over finance for Oyu Tolgoi's second stage will have an important effect on Mongolia's development prospects and is understandably a strong focus of Australia's interest in Mongolia.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 17

Program: DFAT

Topic: Cambodia

Question on Notice

Page: 42

Senator Milne

Question

Senator MILNE: *On the electoral reform agenda in particular, you would be aware that Opposition Leader Sam Rainsy and others have been calling on the international community, including Australia, to condemn the electoral irregularities that occurred at the election, and the only reason the opposition agreed to that proposed deal with Hun Sen was that they looked at the irregularities. I understand that has not happened. Did the department advise the minister or Prime Minister to raise concern internationally about the irregularities in the election in Cambodia?*

Mr Varghese: *We do not go to the content of our advice to the minister.*

Senator MILNE: *So I will ask the minister. Did the government consider making some public statement about the irregularities in the vote in Cambodia, given that the opposition there was calling for it and given Australia's role previously in Cambodia?*

Senator Brandis: *I will take that on notice.*

Answer

In a statement to the Universal Periodic Review of Cambodia on 28 January 2014, the Australian Government noted allegations of irregularities surrounding the 2013 National Assembly election and recommended the Government of Cambodia undertake electoral reforms to ensure credible electoral processes.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 18

Program: DFAT

Topic: Cambodia

Question on Notice

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Senator Milne

Question

Senator MILNE: *Let me ask another question. Did the minister ask in Cambodia for the Cambodians to take asylum seekers from Australia?*

Senator Brandis: *I will take that on notice.*

Senator MILNE: *Can you confirm that reports have been made in the press that Hun Sen would give serious consideration to the request. Are you able to confirm that any request was made in relation to asylum seekers by the minister?*

Senator Brandis: *I think that is really the same question as you asked a moment ago, so I will take that on notice.*

Senator MILNE: *Perhaps, then, you would take on notice whether there was any conditionality put by the minister to the Cambodian government about Australian aid and taking of asylum seekers.*

Senator Brandis: *These questions about whether an issue was raised with the Cambodian minister by Ms Bishop are all questions that I will take on notice?*

Answer

Cambodia is an important bilateral and regional partner on people smuggling issues and a strong partner in immigration cooperation. Australia highly values its cooperation with Cambodia under the Bali Process and the 2002 bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation in Combatting Irregular Migration, People Smuggling and Trafficking. It would not be appropriate to disclose the details of ongoing bilateral discussions on these matters.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 19

Program: DFAT

Topic: Malaysia

Question on Notice

Page: 45

Senator Fawcett

Question

Senator FAWCETT: *Have there been any amendments to the Status of Forces Agreement with our forces in Malaysia?*

Mr Cox: *I do not believe we have a Status of Forces Agreement with Malaysia in that sort of term. I perhaps need to take that on notice or you would need to ask the Department of Defence. Certainly we do have arrangements to facilitate our rotational presence at places like RMAF Butterworth. I will take that on notice and get you more details about the legal foundations of our basing arrangements there.*

Senator FAWCETT: *That would be good.*

Answer

Australia has two agreements with Malaysia which address the status of each country's forces.

The first is the Exchange of Notes constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Malaysia on Assistance regarding External Defence, which entered into force on 1 December 1971 (<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/treaties/1971/21.html>). This Agreement was reached in furtherance of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA), and continues to apply to Australian Defence Force (ADF) activities in Malaysia for FPDA purposes, including the ADF's ongoing presence at Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) Base Butterworth. This Agreement has not been amended.

The second agreement is the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Malaysia concerning the Status of Forces, which entered into force on 22 July 1999 (<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/treaties/1999/14.html>). This Agreement applies to all activities which are not FPDA activities. This Agreement has not been amended.

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The 1971 Agreement provides the legal basis for the ADF presence at RMAF Base Butterworth. This presence is further underpinned by administrative details set out in an Exchange of Notes concerning the Continued Presence of the Australian Defence Force at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base, Butterworth, which entered into effect on 16 April 1988. This Exchange of Notes was amended by a further exchange of letters in June 1998.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 20

Program: DFAT

Topic: Indonesia

Question on Notice

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Senator Siewert

Question

Senator SIEWERT: *I want to ask some questions about the Montara oil spill and its impact on East Nusa Tenggara. I understand that Senator Whish-Wilson asked a couple of questions at last estimates and the responses to those questions were that there had not been any work done. I just want to follow up on that. Since the last estimates, have there been any discussions or any correspondence from the department with the government of Indonesia around the oil spill and its impact on the Indonesian waters?*

Mr Varghese: *I do not know the answer to that question. I will just check whether Mr Cox or anyone else in the room may be able to help you with that.*

Mr Cox: *I am not aware whether any further work has been done with the Indonesian government on the Montara oil spill.*

Mr Varghese: *We are happy to take that on notice in case there is anything to report.*

Senator SIEWERT: *If you could take it on notice, that would be great. In the past, was there any discussion with the Indonesian government about the oil spill, its impact on Indonesian waters and any particular interaction over East Nusa Tenggara, given the concerns that the local fishers have and the local seaweed farmers have?*

Mr Cox: *In the past there certainly have been discussions involving our embassy officials and local officials about the impacts, but not recently, no.*

Senator SIEWERT: *What were the outcomes of those discussions? Did anybody go and look at the concerns that the fishers and the seaweed farmers had?*

Mr Cox: *I will have to take that on notice. I do not think that my notes cover those historical circumstances. But we can get you more historical detail on that.*

Senator SIEWERT: *If you could, that would be appreciated, particularly as to whether anyone visited and talked to farmers and fishers, and undertook any evaluation of their concerns.*

Mr Cox: *Yes.*

Senator SIEWERT: *And also whether there had been any contact with the provincial governments in the region?*

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Mr Cox: *The Australian embassy is quite often in contact with provincial governments, such as the provincial government of Nusa Tenggara Timor. That would have happened. In terms of the detail of those historical discussions, I will get you more details on notice.*

Senator SIEWERT: *I appreciate that you would have been in discussions with provincial governments, but I meant particularly about this issue. That would be appreciated.*

Mr Cox: *Yes, of course.*

Answer

There have not been any discussions or any correspondence between DFAT and the Government of Indonesia regarding the Montara oil spill incident since the last estimates.

The Department of the Environment is responsible for overseeing the long-term environmental monitoring program funded and implemented by PTTEP Australasia. The Department of Industry is the Government's lead agency on offshore petroleum issues.

Following the incident in 2009, DFAT coordinated whole-of-government advice to the Indonesian Government on the Australian Government's response to the oil spill. Our records indicate that our Embassy in Jakarta was in communication with the Indonesian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Transport and Environment regarding the oil spill, clean-up operations, the Montara Commission of Inquiry, PTTEP's Action Plan and the implementation of the environmental monitoring plan.

Officials from the Embassy in Jakarta visit East Nusa Tenggara periodically. Officers visiting the region have not focussed specifically on the Montara oil spill. The matter was raised by community representatives during a visit to Kupang and Rote by the Embassy in September 2012.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 21

Program: DFAT

Topic: Indonesia

Question on Notice

Page: 48

Senator Siewert

Question

Senator SIEWERT: *Further, was any work done on the projections of the oil spill and the dispersant? There was some discussion in the past around the impact of the oil and the waxy substance that was produced, but was there any tracking of the mousse that was also produced when the oil and the dispersant mixed? Was any work done there with the government?*

Mr Cox: *Yes, some work was certainly done by PTTP—the Thai oil company that was involved in that spill. So, again, we will get you the details of that on notice.*

Senator SIEWERT: *That would be fantastic—and any economic analysis that was done on the impact on fishers and the seaweed farmers. I was up there myself last week, talking to the seaweed farmers and the fishers. I would also like to know what the most recent contact was around that ongoing economic impact that the local fishers and seaweed farmers are concerned about.*

Mr Cox: *Yes, we will get you that. There has been quite extensive work done by the company and by other players on this set of issues, so we will get you some further detail on that.*

Answer

In October 2009, the Department of the Environment reached an agreement with PTTEP Australasia for the company to fund a long-term environmental monitoring program to determine impacts from the Montara oil spill incident in the Timor Sea. This commenced in November 2009 with the final study due for completion mid-2014. All studies have been shared with Indonesia (by DFAT) and are available on the website of the Department of the Environment.

According to advice received from the Department of Industry, a trajectory study found that 98.6 per cent of the area affected by the Montara spill was within the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone, with no oil deemed to have reached the Indonesian coastline. The trajectory modelling also confirmed the main area impacted by the spill was within a 23km radius of the well head – beyond this zone

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the hydrocarbons were predominantly waxy films and exposure was of short duration. Oil which entered Indonesian waters was swept into the central Indian Ocean by the strong Indonesian through-flow current.

DFAT is not aware of any Australian economic analysis of impact on fishers and seaweed farmers in Indonesia. As noted, research indicated that no oil reached the Indonesian coastline.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 22

Program: DFAT

Topic: Indonesia

Question on Notice

Page: 48

Senator Siewert

Question

Senator SIEWERT: *Okay. Would you be the department that is liaising with the company over this particular issue now?*

Mr Cox: *In the past we have had discussions with PTTP or its representatives, who have sometimes come to brief us. But now the issue has been brought more or less to a resolution we have not had much contact with them in recent times—certainly not in Canberra.*

Senator SIEWERT: *With all due respect, Mr Cox, I would not say that the local fishers and the seaweed farmers think that the issue has been brought to a resolution. There was a forum in Kupang last week that I was at, and I can tell you that they don't think it has been resolved. If you could provide on notice the most recent times that you have had discussions with the company; whether there has been any thought given to requiring the company to undertake the comprehensive study that the local community has been repeatedly asking for; and when there last were any negotiations or discussions held with the Indonesian government and the company about those particular issues.*

Mr Cox: *Yes, we will take all of that on notice.*

Senator SIEWERT: *Much appreciated, thank you.*

Answer

The Department of the Environment is responsible for overseeing the long-term environmental monitoring program funded and implemented by PTTEP Australasia. The Department of Industry is the Government's lead agency on offshore petroleum issues.

DFAT has had irregular contact with the company. The last meeting between PTTEP and the Department was on 13 March 2013. That discussion was unrelated to the consequences of the 2009 oil spill.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 23

Program: DFAT

Topic: Zambia - mining

Question on Notice

Page: 52

Senator Milne

Question

Senator MILNE: *Can you indicate whether DFAT facilitated any meeting with the Premier of Western Australian with anyone from Zambezi Resources, an Australian mining company currently seeking exploration and mining approval in Zambia?*

Mr McCarthy: *I would have to take that on notice on that particular question. In the normal course of events, the Premier's program would have originated with and been put together by his own department, but it would be standard that the mission with accreditation to the country would be involved in various aspects—in setting up appointments and so on and so forth. In the case of this particular appointment that you are asking about, I do not know off the top of my head, so I would have to take that on notice.*

Senator MILNE: *Would you also take on notice whether any meetings were set up not only with the Zambezi Resources, the company, the Vice President of Zambia or any Zambian minister with responsibility for mining, mining exploration, land management and that sort of thing?*

Mr McCarthy: *Your question is not whether these meetings occurred but whether the embassy in Harare was involved in setting up these meetings?*

Senator MILNE: *It was whether they occurred, when they occurred, with whom they occurred and what the involvement was of either the embassy or the consulate—and I understand the consulate is voluntary, I think—in setting up those meetings. Further to that, have the Australian embassies, consulates or whatever received any representations with regard to the activities of the Zambezi Resources in Zambia?*

Mr McCarthy: *I would have to take that on notice.*

Senator MILNE: *Thank you.*

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Answer

The Australian Embassy in Harare did not facilitate any meetings between the Premier of Western Australia and Zambezi Resources.

In the context of Premier Barnett's visit to Lusaka to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Embassy facilitated meetings between Premier Barnett and Vice President of Zambia, the Hon Guy Scott MP, and the Minister of Mines, Energy and Water, the Hon Christopher Yaluma. Both meetings took place on 29 January 2014. The Australian Embassy's assistance was undertaken at the request of – and in close consultation with – the Government of Western Australia.

The Australian Embassy in Harare and the Honorary Consul in Lusaka have advised that they have not received any representations with regard to the activities of Zambezi Resources in Zambia.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 24

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ranking of economic relationships

Question on Notice

Page: 55

Senator Dastyari

Question

Senator DASTYARI: *My question is: is the ranking of economic relationships based on the advice of DFAT? It sounds like what you are saying is that the facts speak for themselves and how they are articulated is a matter for the minister. Is that a correct way of articulating it?*

Mr Varghese: *No. what I was also saying is that, in Washington, successive Australian ambassadors have been saying the same thing for quite a long time.*

Senator DASTYARI: *But ambassadors in Washington are not Australia's Foreign Minister—some of them have been, I might add!*

Mr Varghese: *No, but they do speak for the Australian government.*

Answer

There are a variety of data items that can be used to describe an economic relationship. Attached please find data for two-way trade, imports, exports, inwards investment, outwards investment, short-term visitor arrivals and departures and international student enrolments.

Australia's Top 10 trading partners – Selected economic measures – 2012

Country (a)	Two way trade (b) (c) – A\$m	% share	Exports (b) A\$m	% share	Imports (b) (c) A\$m	% share
China	125,050	20.0	78,715	26.2	46,335	14.3
Japan	71,054	11.4	49,756	16.6	21,298	6.6
United States (d)	56,188	9.0	14,632	4.9	41,556	12.9
Republic of Korea	31,875	5.1	21,562	7.2	10,313	3.2
Singapore	29,085	4.7	10,259	3.4	18,826	5.8
United Kingdom	22,346	3.6	10,585	3.5	11,761	3.6
New Zealand	21,238	3.4	11,070	3.7	10,168	3.1
Thailand	18,429	3.0	5,772	1.9	12,657	3.9
Malaysia	17,657	2.8	6,744	2.2	10,913	3.4
India	17,453	2.8	14,005	4.7	3,448	1.1
World	623,837		300,481		323,356	

(a) Ranked on Australia's top 10 trading partners. (b) Merchandise trade data is on a recorded trade basis, while services data is on a BOP basis. (c) Excludes selected confidential import commodities from partner country totals from September 2008 onwards. (d) Based on unpublished ABS data and includes all confidential import commodities for the United States only. Based on ABS trade data on DFAT STARS database & ABS catalogue 5368.0, 5302.0, 5368.0.55.003 and ABS unpublished data.

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Country (a)	Foreign investment in Australia (Stock)		Australian investment abroad (Stock)	
	A\$m	% share	A\$m	% share
China	22,947	1.1	19,787	1.5
Japan	126,434	5.8	39,103	3.0
United States	617,567	28.5	433,980	33.4
Republic of Korea	12,027	0.6	10,389	0.8
Singapore	55,938	2.6	26,661	2.1
United Kingdom	496,389	22.9	217,876	16.8
New Zealand	28,040	1.3	77,465	6.0
Thailand	7,302	0.3	2,850	0.2
Malaysia	14,925	0.7	7,967	0.6
India	9,968	0.5	5,715	0.4
World	2,167,673		1,297,633	

(a) Ranked on Australia's top 10 trading partners.
Based on ABS catalogue 5352.0.

Country (a)	Short-term visitor arrivals in Australia – 000s		Short-term resident departures overseas – 000s		International student enrolments in Australia – 000s	
		% share		% share		% share
China	619	10.3	380	4.6	150	29.1
Japan	348	5.8	164	2.0	11	2.2
United States	471	7.8	865	10.5	10	1.9
Republic of Korea	203	3.4	50	0.6	28	5.4
Singapore	298	4.9	296	3.6	9	1.8
United Kingdom	609	10.1	511	6.2	5	1.0
New Zealand	1,185	19.6	1,103	13.4	na	na
Thailand	71	1.2	624	7.6	20	3.9
Malaysia	246	4.1	256	3.1	22	4.2
India	155	2.6	218	2.6	54	10.5
World	6,032		8,212		514	

na - not available

(a) Ranked on Australia's top 10 trading partners.
Based on ABS trade data on ABS catalogue 3401.0 and Australian Education International student enrolment data.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 25

Program: DFAT

Topic: Grenada

Question on Notice

Page: 57

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Senator RHIANNON: *How were the authorities in Grenada informed?*

Mr Varghese: *We have informed the Grenada government of the decision.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Is it true that this cancellation was reported in the paper before the government was officially informed?*

Mr Varghese: *I do not know the answer to that question. I would be a bit surprised if that were the case, but I am happy to check it.*

Senator RHIANNON: *You will take that on notice?*

Mr Varghese: *I will.*

Answer

The Government of Grenada was officially informed of the project's cancellation by letter sent on 7 February 2014.

References were made to the project in articles by Greg Sheridan in the Weekend Australian newspaper on 18 January 2014 and by Ross Taylor in the West Australian on 21 January 2014 but these articles made no explicit reference to cancellation of the project.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 26

Program: DFAT

Topic: Grenada

Question on Notice

Page: 57

Senator Macdonald

Question

Senator IAN MACDONALD: *Do we have the details of who the \$1 million was actually paid to? Was it paid to the government, or to an individual?*

Mr Hammer: *It probably went to more than one place. I do not have all the details here, but we can get that to you on notice.*

Answer

The precise amount paid was, in sum, \$1,035,925.

\$680,000 was paid to the Government of Grenada. The funds were paid into a dedicated account established by the Government of Grenada to hold the Government of Australia's contributions to the project together with contributions from other sources. This funded the cost of administering the architectural design competition, the architect fees for the design phase and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Separately to this, the Australian Government engaged architectural and project management company Alexander & Lloyd Australia Pty Ltd to provide an Australian-based Architectural Adviser for Project Phase 1 (Design Phase), to establish a monitoring and evaluation framework and to review the Grenada Parliament House Draft Funding Agreement. Total funds paid to this company were \$347,575.

The Australian Government also paid \$8,350 to construction management company Reeves International Pty Ltd to provide an independent appraisal report of the Project Design Document in December 2010.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 27

Program: DFAT

Topic: Grenada

Question on Notice

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Senator Macdonald

Question

Senator IAN MACDONALD: *I am surprised about Australia's interest in Grenada; it is good that we help underdeveloped countries. I would be interested in knowing who the \$1 million actually went to—did it go through the government, or through an NGO, or to individuals, or to several individuals—and for what purpose.*

Mr Hammer: *I have some details here but they do not go precisely to the issue of who, in particular, was paid money; it just goes to what the money was used for. For example, there was a project architect who was taken on and the money was essentially used in preparation of a project design document. Who precisely was involved—*

Senator IAN MACDONALD: *If there is no breach of individual privacy I would be interested to know a name, but more interested to know how the money flowed to his one or more individuals. Did it go through the government? Was there a Grenadian government tender process for the architecture? How precise, by Australian standards, was the whole spending of the \$1 million? If you have got that now, that would be good.*

Ms Robinson: *We will have to take your question on notice to give you full details, but my understanding was that the contracting of the architect for the design of the document was done separately and it was done through the Australian aid program.*

Answer

The precise amount paid was, in sum, \$1,035,925.

\$680,000 was paid to the Government of Grenada. The funds were paid into a dedicated account established by the Government of Grenada to hold the Government of Australia's contributions to the project together with contributions from other sources. This funded the cost of administering the architectural design competition, the architect fees for the design phase and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

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Separately to this, the Australian Government engaged architectural and project management company Alexander & Lloyd Australia Pty Ltd to provide an Australian-based Architectural Adviser for Project Phase 1 (Design Phase), to establish a monitoring and evaluation framework and to review the Grenada Parliament House Draft Funding Agreement. Total funds paid to this company were \$347,575.

The Australian Government also paid \$8,350 to construction management company Reeves International Pty Ltd to provide an independent appraisal report of the Project Design Document in December 2010.

The Australian Government's allocation of the \$1 million was in accordance with the Direct Funding Agreement signed by the Government of Australia and the Government of Grenada in January 2012, and was in accordance with relevant Commonwealth of Australia legislation and Departmental procedures and operational guidelines. The Australian-based Architectural Adviser oversighted expenditure on project-related activities paid from the dedicated account established by the Government of Grenada to hold project funds.

The Government of Grenada undertook a two-step process to select the Project Architect for the Parliament House Design Concept over the period July – October 2012. This comprised a prequalification process and an architectural design competition. The Government of Grenada Tenders Board endorsed the design competition jury report and financial report on 1 October 2012. A final contract was agreed by the Government of Grenada and the winning architectural consultancy in late October 2012. An Australian-based Architectural Adviser was engaged by the Australian Government to assist the Government of Grenada with the organisation of the design competition. This work was part of the services provided by Alexander & Lloyd Australia Pty Ltd over the period April 2010-March 2014 at a cost of \$347,575, as advised above.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 28

Program: DFAT

Topic: Grenada

Question on Notice

Page: 58

Senator Macdonald

Question

Senator IAN MACDONALD: *Do we have a post there at all?*

Ms Robinson: *No. We have one post in the Caribbean and that is in Port of Spain. In Trinidad.*

Senator IAN MACDONALD: *And they have elections every three or four years in Grenada.*

Ms Robinson: *I am not sure of the timeframe, but they are a democratically elected government, yes.*

Senator IAN MACDONALD: *If you give me that detail.*

Answer

Grenada holds general elections every five years.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 29

Program: DFAT

Topic: Sri Lanka

Question on Notice

Page: 59

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Senator RHIANNON: *Given that the report highlights strong evidence for the need for an international investigation into war crimes and the Sri Lankan civil war, has the department had any discussions with Sri Lankan government with regard to the possibility of an international investigation?*

Mr Robilliard: *The government engages with Sri Lanka on a range of issues relating to human rights matters.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Have you specifically spoken about an international investigation?*

Mr Robilliard: *I think the issue of an international investigation is part of the general debate or discussion on the Sri Lankan human rights record; yes.*

Senator RHIANNON: *You said that you think that is the case; does that mean you need to check?*

Mr Robilliard: *I will take it on notice to see if there are any specific occasions.*

Answer

Australia has consistently urged Sri Lanka to ensure that all allegations of serious international crimes committed by both sides to the civil conflict are investigated and prosecuted in a transparent and independent manner. Beyond that, we have not sought to prescribe the manner in which such investigation and prosecution should take place. As per the press release issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, on 28 March 2014, Ms Bishop has urged the Sri Lankan Government to implement the recommendations of its Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission, and to engage with domestic and international stakeholders to advance an effective and transparent reconciliation agenda.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 30

Program: DFAT

Topic: Sri Lanka

Question on Notice

Page: 61

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Senator RHIANNON: *How many AFP officers or personnel are attached to the Australian high commission?*

Mr Robilliard: *That is a question I think you would have to ask the AFP.*

Senator RHIANNON: *I am asking in the context of the Australian high commission—what understanding the high commission has with regard to the AFP people that work out of its headquarters?*

Mr Robilliard: *I am sorry, are you asking a question about how many there are or what work they do?*

Senator RHIANNON: *I would certainly like to know both, but I appreciate that you have said that I should go to the AFP. But as I understand that they work out of the Australian high commission I thought it was a relevant question to ask here at DFAT.*

Mr Robilliard: *There is nothing I can really offer you further.*

Senator RHIANNON: *You mean you have no information about how many AFP officers operate out of the high commission in Colombo?*

Mr Robilliard: *Not with me, no.*

Senator RHIANNON: *But surely you must. DFAT looks after the Australian high commission. Isn't there somebody here who would know?*

Mr Varghese: *We can take that on notice and get back to you with the number.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Thank you. Also if you could take on notice what functions the AFP officers perform out of the Australian high commission, how many Australian Defence Force personnel are attached to the Australian high commission and I was interested in their length of attachment.*

Mr Robilliard: *Again, that is primarily a matter for the Department of Defence, but I will take it on notice and see what information we can provide.*

Senator Brandis: *That having been said, we are not going to be asking DFAT officials to make inquiries of the Department of Defence that you could have made.*

Senator RHIANNON: *I am not asking you to do that, and you know that, Minister. I am asking what your understanding is. DFAT looks after the Australian high commission in Sri Lanka, in Colombo, and clearly you would have some advice given to you about how many AFP/ADF people work out of there.*

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Senator Brandis: *That is true, and that question was taken on notice by Mr Varghese. But then you asked other questions like, for example, the length of the rotations and so on. It is by no means obvious to me that DFAT would be possessed of that knowledge, because—*

Senator RHIANNON: *I would say it would be relevant because the high commission would have to know how many personnel it has operating out of the high commission. Otherwise it is not being very effective and efficient.*

Answer

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) liaison office in Colombo is part of the Australian High Commission and is staffed by a Senior Liaison Officer, a Liaison Officer and an Intelligence Officer.

These AFP officers liaise with and share information between the AFP and the Sri Lanka Police Service, Bangladesh Police and the Maldives Police Service regarding transnational organised crime investigations, including people smuggling-related matters. The AFP officers also undertake capacity development-related initiatives.

A non-resident Australian Defence Adviser is accredited to the High Commission in Colombo. The officer is based in New Delhi and travels to Sri Lanka as required.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 31

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australia Network

Question on Notice

Page: 65

Senator Fawcett

Question

Senator FAWCETT: *Mr Varghese, could you tell me whether the department carried out a review of Australia Network's effectiveness prior to the former government's decision to continue the service?*

Mr Varghese: *Prior to the former government's decision? We are going back to a time when I was not in Canberra. I will ask my colleagues. I know we certainly did address this question of how the network was functioning and what the view of our regional posts were, because I can remember contributing to it from Delhi.*

Mr Trantor: *The department has carried out regular reviews of the service over the years through seeking feedback through our post network. I am not aware of a formal major stocktake of this service ahead of that contracting process.*

Senator FAWCETT: *Was an evaluation done as to whether the service met its key performance indicators before it was renewed?*

Mr Trantor: *I will have to take that on notice..*

Answer

DFAT conducted a review of the Australia Network service in June 2010, as provided for under the previous five year contract between DFAT and the ABC (2006-2011). This is Commercial-in-Confidence.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 32

Program: DFAT

Topic: Palestinian children

Question on Notice

Page: 66

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Mr Innes-Brown: *I am not an expert on the subject, but I can give you some examples. For instance, the amount of time that a minor is held before being brought before a judge has come down. There is a suite of measures, but there are a couple of things that I am aware of. Minors now have separate hearings from adults. When a Palestine minor is arrest and Arabic language document that explains the circumstances and the rights is given to the parents. Another measure that is under consideration, it is being trialled, is that they are going to implement a summons system rather than the occasional practice of arresting people at night—going into houses and so on. There are obviously some reforms underway. I do not have complete information on that, but they are just a few examples that I am aware of.*

Senator RHIANNON: *You spoke of a suite of measures. Did you outline them all then, or do you need to take it on notice so that you can supply the committee?*

Mr Innes-Brown: *They are some of the ones that I am aware of.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Can you take it on notice.*

Mr Innes-Brown: *I listed four or five of them.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Can you take that on notice?*

Mr Innes-Brown: *Yes.*

Answer

The Government of Israel has taken the following initiatives in legislation and practice to improve the treatment of Palestinian minors under the Israeli security and judicial systems:

- A. Establishing a Juvenile Military Court in July 2009;
- B. Introducing a special statute of limitations so that a minor who has committed an offence may only be indicted if less than one year has passed since the date of the offence;
- C. In September 2011, amending the definition of a ‘minor’ under the security legislation in the West Bank from 16 years of age to 18 years of age;

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- D. Issuing Military Order 1711 in April 2013, which reduces the time a Palestinian minor can be detained prior to appearing before a military court judge for the first time – from four days to 24 hours for children aged 12 to 13, and from 96 to 48 hours for children aged 14 to 15;
- E. In April 2013, introducing a form, printed in both Hebrew and Arabic, which must be given to the parents of a child who is arrested at home, informing parents of the reasons for the arrest of their child, and where the child will be taken;
- F. In May 2013, issuing a letter from the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) Legal Advice for the West Bank to the heads of all Brigades, Divisions, Police and Military Police operating in the West Bank to remind all units of existing standard operating procedures and policies in relation to the arrest of children;
- G. Issuing Military Order 1726 in October 2013. This provides that a minor's initial remand can only be extended for 15 days for investigative purposes. Following this only the Military Court can extend remand for periods of up to 10 days each. After 40 days, only the Military Court of Appeals can extend the pre-indictment remand;
- H. Issuing Military Order 1727 in October 2013, which reiterates and entrenches a number of previous orders and practices (issued since 2009) relating to military detention and prosecution of minors in the West Bank; and
- I. In October 2013, the IDF Central Command for the West Bank approved a pilot summons procedure program to replace the practice of night-arrests of West Bank minors suspected of security offences.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 33

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Partnership for Education

Question on Notice

Page: 67

Senator Fawcett

Question

Senator FAWCETT: *Can I take you to a different issue. Referring to the global partnership for education, which has received substantial funding in recent years, could you clarify that the previous government committed \$278 million to the fund over the period 2011-14.*

Mr McDonald: *Yes, I can confirm that.*

Senator FAWCETT: *Can you confirm that in the same time frame much larger economies like Germany committed only about \$21 million and America committed only about \$20 million to the fund?*

Mr McDonald: *I would need to confirm that on notice, but I believe that sounds fair.*

Answer

Australia pledged \$270 million to GPE in 2011 over the period FY10/11-FY14/15. The table below shows all donor pledges to GPE in 2011, in USD millions.

Donor	Replenishment period 2011-2014
United Kingdom	352
Australia	278
Denmark	201*
The Netherlands	167
Norway	100
Sweden	74
France	65*
Canada	57
EU-EC	53*
Spain	28
Germany	21*
USA	22
Ireland	19
Belgium	8
Japan	5.4
Russia	2*
Romania	.1
Switzerland	0
Italy	0

* Includes a proportion of funding commitments prior to 8 November 2011

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 34

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Partnership for Education

Question on Notice

Page: 67

Senator Fawcett

Question

Senator FAWCETT: *Are you aware of the independent evaluation of the Global Partnership for Education?*

Mr McDonald: *No I am not—independent evaluation?*

Senator FAWCETT: *There was an independent evaluation done of the program. It had a very mixed report card, in fact there were some fairly negative areas. Despite that, Australia increased its contribution from \$38 million to \$278 million. On what basis was that significant increase made, given the very mixed report card of the evaluation?*

Mr McDonald: *I am not aware of the independent evaluation. This replenishment was back in 2011, I think. I am happy to take that on notice and look at it.*

Answer

No. An independent evaluation of the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI) was published in February 2010. The FTI was the forerunner to the GPE, but the evaluation was not of the GPE.

Australia's pledge for 2011-14 was our first contribution to GPE as it was a newly formed organisation. Australia's contribution of \$38 million was to the FTI, GPE's predecessor. GPE was created following the evaluation of FTI, which found that *'the FTI has many strengths, and the need for the FTI is as great as ever. The FTI should be thoughtfully redesigned and reinvigorated, building on its strengths, to become a more effective partnership in pursuit of the Education For All objectives'*. Australia supported the model and governance structure of the newly created GPE. In 2012, GPE was rated a Tier 1 (top tier) multilateral organisation in the Australian Multilateral Assessment. The level of Australia's support for GPE in 2011 was consistent with the status of education as the flagship of the Australian aid program and the then-Government's target to invest up to \$5 billion in education by 2015-16.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 35

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Partnership for Education

Question on Notice

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Senator Fawcett

Question

Senator FAWCETT: *In the light of a mixed report card, replenishment is a bit of an interesting term to use, when it is an order of magnitude larger contribution to the fund. But if you could take that on notice, that would be very useful. I would like to know if the department was aware of the review. If it was aware, was that taken into account before that decision was made? On what basis was that significant increase made?*

Mr McDonald: *We will take that on notice. I am sure others in the department would have been aware of that. It was just before my time. I am happy to respond.*

Senator FAWCETT: *I would also be interested to know if the PMO was involved in the decision to make that increase.*

Mr McDonald: *I will be happy to take all of that on notice.*

Senator FAWCETT: *Thank you.*

Answer

Was the Department aware of the review?

See QoN 34.

If it was aware, was that taken into account before the decision was made?

The findings of the evaluation of the Fast Track Initiative were considered in Australia's decision to support GPE.

On what basis was the significant increase made?

See QoN 34.

Was PMO involved in the decision?

The GPE funding allocation was approved through a Cabinet process.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 36

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Partnership for Education

Question on Notice

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Senator Kroger

Question

Senator KROGER: *Could you come back to us with more details in relation to the issues that were raised, highlighting concerns about monitoring and evaluation?*

Mr McDonald: *I am happy to take that on notice. It would have made by the government.*

Senator KROGER: *When you say 'made by the government', it would have been a ministerial decision that the funding allocation be increased by—it is not tenfold but, if I could work it out maths wise, it would be eightfold, or something like that.*

Mr McDonald: *In terms of the increase, as I said earlier, I would need to check what that is. You said it was \$38 million. I just want to check that figure. The second bit is that the decision would have been—*

Senator KROGER: *Increased to \$278 million. It started at \$38 million.*

Mr McDonald: *I agree with last figure, because I know what that figure is—the \$278 million. I also agree that we are the second highest donor in that regard. In terms of who made the decision, I would have to go back and check.*

Senator KROGER: *With these sorts of decisions—and you said it would be a government decision—would it be reasonable to suggest that it would have to be either the Foreign Minister or the Prime Minister? They are the only two people who would preside over such a determination, wouldn't they?*

Mr McDonald: *As I said, I would like to check who made that decision. I would expect it would have been the Foreign Minister. I would need to check and I think it is important that I do check.*

Senator KROGER: *I would like to take that interjection, because this does go to the heart of the motivations and the determinations of policy decisions of the former government. This decision was made very recently in the scheme of things, under the former Gillard government. Can you come back to me and advise me who specifically made that decision, on what basis it was justified, how it compares across the board to other increases in aid spent in other gender and education areas. I look forward to seeing that response.*

Mr McDonald: *I am happy to take that on notice. When the government released its effective aid policy in 2011, following the review that you referred to, education was the flagship of that policy, and, as I said earlier, this was a tier 1 organisation as well. But I am happy to take on notice all those questions, including who made the decision.*

Senator KROGER: *There are many regions where we divest money that is an increase in spend to increase literacy and numerous and so on. A great example I am thinking of is the support of schools in Indonesia that is clearly targeting education. If you could do a comparative analysis for me on that, that would be very helpful.*

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Answer

Can you come back to me with more details in relation to the issues that were raised, highlighting concerns about monitoring and evaluation?

The Australian Multilateral Assessment (AMA) published in March 2012 rated the GPE a Tier 1 (top tier) multilateral partner, with 5 rankings of 'strong' 1 ranking of 'very strong' and 1 rating of 'satisfactory' across the seven rating components. The rating of satisfactory was against the component of *Delivering results on poverty and sustainable development in line with mandate* which had a sub component of *monitors and reports results*. It is against the sub-component that the GPE was ranked 'weak', although the AMA noted the GPE's on-going work on developing a monitoring and evaluation strategy and a results framework. A subsequent update of the AMA later in 2012 confirmed continued progress by GPE in improving its monitoring and evaluation functions, including the creation of a dedicated Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in the GPE Secretariat.

Who made the decision?

The GPE funding allocation was approved through a Cabinet process.

On what basis was it justified?

See QoN 34.

How does it compare across the board with other increases in aid spent on education and gender?

Between 2009-2010 and 2012-2013, ODA education spending increased by 44.4 per cent, from \$592.5 million to \$855.5 million. Between 2009-10 and 2012-13, ODA spending on activities that supported gender equality increased 30.8 per cent, from \$1.6 billion to \$2.1 billion.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 37

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Partnership for Education

Question on Notice

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Senator Dastyari

Question

Senator DASTYARI: *In your or Mr Varghese's opinion at the time, was there anything improper in any way, shape or form about the allocation of the budget to the Global Partnership for Education?*

Mr McDonald: *I would like to take that on notice, because this replenishment was in 2011. I commenced in AusAID in 2011, so I am not sure I was even here. But I would add that in my experience decisions made on matters such as this replenishment are through appropriate government processes.*

Answer

The decision to increase funding to GPE was made in accordance with Cabinet processes.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 38

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question on Notice

Page: 77

Senator Wong

Question

Senator WONG: *Are you able to recall what proportion is in the unallocated—*

Mr Wood: *Not a total level. That is the only one I can recall. Obviously within those country programs, within those categories, there may be things that have not been committed or commenced, but I do not have that information.*

Senator WONG: *Right. But you can provide that?*

Mr Wood: *We will be able to provide that. I am not sure if we can within the next hour or so, but obviously there is information that is available within the department.*

Answer

Attached is a summary of the DFAT's country and regional program's original budget, revised allocation, current expenses, current contacted obligations, current commitments and remaining balance (uncommitted) at 28 February 2014

Attachment

DFAT Country & Regional Programs	2013-14 Original Budget Estimate \$m	2013-14 Bilateral program Budget Estimate (Revised) \$m	Expense as at 28 Feb 2014 \$m	Contracted Obligations as at 28 Feb 2014 \$m	Total Expenses and Contractual Obligations as at 28 Feb 2014 \$m	Total Expenses, Contractual Obligations and other Commitments as at 28 Feb 2014 \$m	Percentage Committed as at Feb 2014 %	Remaining Balance (Uncommitted) \$m	Percentage Uncommitted as at 28 Feb 2014 %
Papua New Guinea	451.9	448.5	220.8	145.2	366.0	382.3	85.2%	66.2	14.8%
Solomon Islands	104.1	90.4	46.3	37.1	83.3	83.9	92.8%	6.5	7.2%
Vanuatu	45.8	40.9	19.9	17.5	37.4	37.7	92.3%	3.2	7.7%
Samoa	26.7	23.1	13.7	5.8	19.4	19.5	84.4%	3.6	15.6%
Fiji	37.0	34.2	18.9	11.5	30.4	30.5	89.2%	3.7	10.8%
Tonga	19.9	17.2	7.7	3.6	11.2	11.3	65.5%	5.9	34.5%
Nauru	20.7	20.7	3.0	2.3	5.3	5.5	26.7%	15.2	73.3%
Kiribati	21.7	19.7	10.1	7.5	17.6	18.2	92.2%	1.5	7.8%
Other Small Pacific Islands	18.5	14.9	3.8	5.7	9.5	9.9	66.4%	5.0	33.6%
Pacific Regional	188.6	172.6	122.5	35.3	157.8	161.1	93.4%	11.5	6.6%
Pacific Total	935.0	882.2	466.7	271.5	738.1	759.9	86.1%	122.3	13.9%
Indonesia *	591.5	541.9	332.7	154.2	486.9	491.7	90.7%	50.2	9.3%
Vietnam	112.0	95.0	62.7	26.1	88.8	88.9	93.6%	6.1	6.4%
Philippines	109.0	109.0	54.2	37.2	91.4	94.8	87.0%	14.2	13.0%
Timor-Leste	78.0	70.0	44.7	20.9	65.6	66.8	95.4%	3.2	4.6%
Cambodia	59.0	51.1	25.0	11.3	36.3	36.4	71.2%	14.7	28.8%
Myanmar	64.1	62.1	28.8	25.2	54.0	54.4	87.6%	7.7	12.4%
Laos	40.0	33.5	17.0	15.1	32.1	32.3	96.3%	1.2	3.7%
Mongolia	11.0	9.6	4.7	2.2	6.9	7.0	72.9%	2.6	27.1%
East Asia Regional	78.7	63.9	22.4	32.0	54.5	58.2	91.1%	5.7	8.9%
East Asia Total	1143.4	1036.1	592.2	324.2	916.4	930.5	89.8%	105.6	10.2%
Afghanistan	151.5	130.9	53.0	20.6	73.6	95.1	72.6%	35.8	27.4%
Pakistan	74.1	63.5	24.9	33.5	58.4	58.7	92.4%	4.8	7.6%
Bangladesh	82.1	61.6	54.1	7.5	61.6	61.6	100.0%	0.0	0.0%
Sri Lanka	37.5	31.9	3.3	28.6	31.9	31.9	99.9%	0.0	0.1%
Nepal	20.2	16.1	15.8	0.1	15.9	16.1	100.0%	0.0	0.0%
Bhutan and the Maldives	8.6	6.4	4.1	1.5	5.6	5.6	87.8%	0.8	12.2%
South and West Asia Regional	29.8	22.4	6.9	8.4	15.3	15.5	69.3%	6.9	30.7%
South & West Asia Total	403.8	332.8	162.1	113.5	275.6	284.6	85.5%	48.3	14.5%
Iraq	7.7	3.7	1.9	1.8	3.7	3.7	100.0%	0.0	0.0%
Palestinian Territories	38.7	33.4	13.1	20.3	33.4	33.4	100.0%	0.0	0.0%
Middle East and North Africa	23.7	29.7	29.6	0.1	29.7	29.7	100.0%	0.0	0.0%
Sub-Saharan Africa	167.4	133.0	96.5	36.5	133.0	133.0	100.0%	0.0	0.0%
Africa & the Middle East Total	237.5	199.8	141.1	86.6	227.7	199.8	100.0%	0.0	0.0%
Latin America & Caribbean	20.4	15.1	7.1	1.8	8.9	9.3	61.9%	5.8	38.1%
Latin America and the Caribbean Total	20.4	15.1	7.1	1.8	8.9	9.3	61.9%	5.8	38.1%
Cross Regional Programs Total	363.0	309.1	152.4	57.1	209.5	220.1	71.2%	89.0	28.8%
TOTAL DFAT COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS	3103.0	2775.2	1521.5	854.7	2376.2	2404.2	86.6%	371.0	13.4%

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 39

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question on Notice

Page: 80

Senator Faulkner

Question

Senator FAULKNER: *I will not delay this, because I know Senator Wong is keen to continue. Can you take on notice—and I hope the department can respond as quickly as possible—the proportion of the budget in those categories that we are now speaking of: expended, contracted, those subject to FMA reg 9 and unallocated? I think there are effectively four?*

Mr Wood: *That is correct, Senator.*

Senator FAULKNER: *If you could give us that percentage in relevant years that would be very helpful. Obviously, the committee will be asking as soon as possible for an indication of what particular programs and projects fall into certain of those areas.*

Mr Wood: *Just to clarify: that will be at the regional level which we referred to previously?*

Senator DASTYARI: *Regional and then with the major country. The way your database seems to work is that there are regions and then there are the major regions.*

Senator FAULKNER: *No, it is more that it is regional or subregional at the project level. Do you want project level?*

Senator WONG: *Can I ask in two parts?*

Senator FAULKNER: *Only two?*

Senator WONG: *Frankly, I do not want to get an answer if there is too much work with it broken down into subregionals. So if your database is predicated on regional programs then we would like the information in the form that has just been described. If you are able to give it to us in terms of country programs, we would like that as well. I assume global programs are separately tracked?*

Mr Wood: *Correct; NTS.*

Senator WONG: *I will remember your name now! I presume the global programs are separately tracked.*

Mr Wood: *Correct, and the cross-regional programs.*

Senator WONG: *I would appreciate that. Did you understand that request to be a forward estimate request or only 2013-14?*

Mr Wood: *2013-14.*

Senator WONG: *Separately, I would ask for the same information.*

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Senator FAULKNER: *I said all relevant budget years. That is what I meant. I am afraid I was not meaning to be limiting.*

Senator WONG: *It may be more efficient for you to give us nominal figures rather than percentages; that would be fine.*

Mr Wood: *We have clever spreadsheets, so that will be okay.*

Senator WONG: *Thank you.*

Answer

Attached is a summary of each country and regional program's current commitments and spending approvals under the FMA Act for the financial years 2014-15 to 2016-17 as at March 2014.

DFAT Country and Regional Programs	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Committed Expenses (\$m)	Spending Proposal (FMA Reg 9/10) (\$m)	Committed Expenses (\$m)	Spending Proposal (FMA Reg 9/10) (\$m)	Committed Expenses (\$m)	Spending Proposal (FMA Reg 9/10) (\$m)
Papua New Guinea	127.5	599.9	70.9	422.5	11.5	126.9
Solomon Islands	52.2	82.6	27.8	66.8	2.9	38.4
Vanuatu	40.2	53.3	23.3	55.4	1.1	2.0
Samoa	18.4	24.3	8.0	20.6	1.6	18.6
Fiji	23.4	35.0	15.5	24.2	1.0	2.3
Tonga	11.7	15.9	7.0	9.6	0.7	2.5
Nauru	1.8	10.7	0.9	2.7	0.3	1.1
Kiribati	18.1	33.0	10.9	18.0	0.7	1.1
Other Small Pacific Islands	7.7	14.7	4.3	8.5	0.7	3.6
Pacific Regional	135.5	166.0	57.2	101.8	32.5	59.7
Pacific	436.5	1,035.5	225.8	730.0	53.2	256.3
Indonesia	422.9	626.0	295.0	390.3	63.1	132.9
Vietnam	94.7	105.4	68.4	84.0	42.1	46.1
Philippines	89.6	126.3	6.1	89.6	0.8	62.0
Timor-Leste	73.7	107.1	66.7	100.3	4.9	37.8
Cambodia	35.7	37.2	15.0	21.9	1.5	3.1
Myanmar	53.2	77.6	34.0	45.3	0.1	0.4
Laos	33.5	36.6	25.4	29.2	8.0	8.7
Mongolia	6.7	10.3	3.7	9.6	0.2	5.9
East Asia Regional	42.5	55.9	30.5	40.8	10.8	24.3
East Asia	852.4	1,182.4	544.8	811.0	131.6	321.3
Afghanistan	52.3	61.2	15.1	30.7	0.0	8.1
Bangladesh	100.4	104.4	4.2	7.5	0.0	0.1
Sri Lanka	15.0	15.9	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.1
Nepal	14.6	17.6	9.3	11.9	8.0	8.5
Pakistan	48.5	62.5	39.9	47.2	7.1	3.4
Bhutan and the Maldives	4.4	6.5	1.1	4.2	0.4	1.1
South & West Asia Regional	14.7	28.3	10.1	24.7		
South and West Asia	249.9	296.4	79.9	126.7	15.6	21.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	119.8	185.0	35.6	63.0	1.6	18.4
Iraq	3.8	3.0	0.0	1.0		
North Africa & the Middle East	7.3	5.5	2.9	4.7		
Palestinian Territories	25.1	50.5	30.1	55.1		
Africa and the Middle East	156.0	244.0	68.5	123.7	1.6	18.4
Latin America and the Caribbean	5.1	6.1	1.6	2.8	0.5	1.5
Cross Regional Programs	165.3	251.7	60.6	152.4	25.9	74.6
TOTAL Country and Regional Programs	1,865.3	3,016.0	981.2	1,946.5	228.4	693.4

Definitions:

Committed Expenses – Total expected expenses in the current financial year that have contracts in place (under section 44 of FMA Act) with complete schedule of payments established, plus non-contracted agreements between partners (e.g. Records of Understanding), plus approval for non-contracted expenses (e.g. travel and Administered Salaries).

Spending Proposal (FMA Reg 9/10) - Spending proposals approved under the FMA Act for anticipated initiatives.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 40

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Partnership for Education

Question on Notice

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Senator Wong

Question

Senator WONG: *I want to quickly return to the Global Partnership for Education, which was the subject of some questioning from Senator Kroger. Can I confirm that that has in fact been funded since 2007—is that correct?*

Mr McDonald: *I believe that is correct. I said that I would check that.*

Senator WONG: *And in 2011 the then foreign minister in fact announced in the House of Representatives one of the priority areas of funding including this particular partnership?*

Mr McDonald: *I would need to confirm that on notice.*

Answer

Has GPE been funded since 2007?

Australia has funded the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI) – the Global Partnership for Education’s forerunner – and GPE since 2007.

Did the then Foreign Minister announce in the House of Representatives one of the priority areas of funding, including this particular partnership?

Then Foreign Minister (Kevin Rudd) made a speech in the House of Representatives on 23 November 2011 updating the House on the then Government’s progress in implementing its aid policy since its launch in July 2011, including a reference to GPE.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 41

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Partnership for Education

Question on Notice

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Senator Wong

Question

Senator WONG: *Are you aware that when Ms Bellamy, the then chair of the GPE visited in 2012, she met amongst others the then shadow minister as Ms Bishop then was?*

Mr McDonald: *I believe so, but I would need to check.*

Answer

As Shadow Foreign Minister, Ms Bishop met with Ms Bellamy during Ms Bellamy's visit to Canberra in May 2012.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 42

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mandated flexibility fund

Question on Notice

Page: 88

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Senator RHIANNON: *Come 30 June, and we still have \$20 million or \$15 million, what happens?*

Mr McDonald: *I would need to check.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Is it rolled over? Do you identify a crisis and decide to spend it on that crisis?*

Mr Wood: *That would not happen. Generally, that funding is paid out. As Mr McDonald said, we usually try to pro rata or ration it over the year, but I do not foresee a case where there would be the whole amount left over.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Can you explain that? How can you say it will not happen if you have \$20 million now and there are no emergencies between now and 30 June? What do you do with your \$20 million? How have you decided the pro rata arrangement?*

Mr Wood: *I do not think we have had an occasion where there has not been something happen somewhere in the world between March and the end of June.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Could you take it on notice and provide us with the policy guidance that you have to make decisions on any money that may remain?*

Mr McDonald: *The other thing on that is that in the first eight months of the year we have spent \$70 million out of that fund.*

Answer

The Department progressively releases Mandated Flexibility funding for priority humanitarian needs and emerging aid priorities throughout the year. This arrangement (agreed with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Finance and Treasury in previous years) ensures a balance is struck between the need to keep a reasonable level of flexibility to meet unforeseen demands and the need to plan to program some important regular humanitarian contributions.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 43

Program: DFAT

Topic: Product Development Partnerships

Question on Notice

Page: 89

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Senator RHIANNON: *So you are saying that you will continued to fund it up to June 2014?*

Mr Exell: *Correct.*

Senator RHIANNON: *So when will the next disbursement be?*

Mr Exell: *I will take that on notice just to check the payment schedule, but the activities are continuing in full.*

Answer

Under the current agreements for Product Development Partnerships, which conclude on 30 June 2014, all payments were fully disbursed in June 2013.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 44

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mining for Development

Question on Notice

Page: 89

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Senator RHIANNON: *Thank you. The mining for development section of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website states that the initiative received \$42 million in funding for the last financial year. However, when you look at the website, the figures do not add up; it only discloses \$14.25 million of spending. The International Mining for Development Centre came in at \$7 million. The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative cost \$5.35 million. The Extractive Industries Technical Advisory Facility cost \$1 million, and the Geoscience Strengthening Program cost \$0.9 million. Can you clarify where the remaining \$27.75 million has been spent?*

Mr McDonald: *We might need to take that on notice.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Is there nobody here who can clarify that? It is one of your major projects.*

Mr McDonald: *You are talking about the website having one figure and then a set of other figures. We would need to look at that.*

Senator RHIANNON: *You do not give the full details of how the money is being spent.*

Mr McDonald: *We would need to take that on notice and have a look at what you are referring to.*

Answer

The remaining \$27.75 million for 2012-13 comprises support for the following extractive-related activities: the Natural Resource Charter and Revenue Watch Institute; the Africa Minerals Development Centre (AMDC); the Australia Africa Partnerships Facility's support for mining governance; the Mongolia Groundwater Management Program; the Australian Development Research Award Scheme; the Australia Award Fellowships; the Public Sector Linkages Programs (PSLP); the 2013 Mining for Development Conference; and additional support for the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 45

Program: DFAT

Topic: Mining for Development

Question on Notice

Page: 89

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Senator RHIANNON: *When the cuts were made to various aid programs was this Mining for Development Initiative cut in any way?*

Mr McDonald: *I would need to take that on notice but I do not think so.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Seriously, there must be somebody here who knows.*

Mr McDonald: *I do not believe it was, no.*

Senator RHIANNON: *But you will check?*

Mr McDonald: *I will check.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Was Australian aid money used for the recent mining indaba in Cape Town which took place in early February?*

Mr McDonald: *I would be happy to take that on notice.*

Answer

a) Yes, the Mining for Development Initiative did receive cuts this financial year. For the 2013-14 financial year the budget was cut by approximately \$8.5 million. This has resulted in the deferral of new programming in mining. The impact of this cut will be limited as it does not impact on any pre-existing contractual commitments.

b) Official Development Assistance (ODA) was spent to support Australia's development engagement at Mining Indaba 2014, including 68,455.40 (approx. AUD7,009 ^) South African Rand for the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) Day, organised by the African Union Commission and African Minerals Development Centre. The AMV day focussed on broadening ownership of the Africa Mining Vision.

In addition to this, DFAT also provided ODA funding to support the World Bank-Australian Government pre-Mining Indaba "sustainability sessions" on: shared mining infrastructure; the new Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) standard and; the role of public geodata services in underpinning a sustainable mineral sector. Costs for this support are still being finalised by the World Bank.

^ Based on ZAR/AUD exchange rate at the start of Mining Indaba on 3 February 2014, according to <http://www.oanda.com>

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 46

Program: DFAT

Topic: West Bank – destruction of aid projects

Question on Notice

Page: 90

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Mr Innes-Brown: *We are generally aware that there are 3,000 proposed demolition orders, which could impact on around 16 schools in what is known as Area C of the Israeli administered area of the West Bank.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Are any of those schools funded by Australian bilateral aid or multilateral aid or NGO aid that may have an Australian component?*

Mr Innes-Brown: *Not in the information that I have before me but I think I would prefer to do some more checking for you and give you a very robust answer on that. But it is not in any information I have before me.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Does the department recognise that this is an extraordinary situation where it is Australian public money going to aid projects that people believe are doing something good in the world, and then they are being destroyed and you do not have the details about that? Could you explain whether this is because it is difficult to get the information or because it is not a priority?*

Mr Innes-Brown: *Before getting to the heart of your question I would like to get the facts, and once we have that information we can look at the issue. I cannot answer the question without definitive information on whether Australian funded projects are affected by this or not. I do not have that information before me. It is not a question of being a priority or not been a priority. There are obviously a lot of questions that can be asked in a session like this and sometimes we do not have all the information. I will make further inquiries for you.*

Answer

The Australian NGO, ActionAID, funded two tents in Susiya village, located in Area C, with Australian NGO Cooperation Program core funds in 2011. One tent houses a small preschool and the other a health clinic. A demolition order over most of the village (and the two tents) is legally frozen. No other Australian-funded structures are at threat of demolition.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 47

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA - projects in Gaza

Question on Notice

Page: 90

Senator Faulkner

Question

Senator RHIANNON: *Is there any Australian aid money funding projects in Gaza?*

Mr Innes-Brown: *I think there is.*

Mr McDonald: *Yes, there is.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Could you provide details please.*

Mr McDonald: *Under the AMENCA NGO program, there is funding that is providing support within Gaza.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Was that program cut in the recent rounds of reduction in aid?*

Mr McDonald: *I do not believe so, but I will check.*

Senator RHIANNON: *Could you check in terms of bilateral programs and multilateral programs that go into Gaza please?*

Mr McDonald: *Yes.*

Senator RHIANNON: *And NGO aid money.*

Answer

All aid programs funded by the Australian Government in the Palestinian Territories operate in both the West Bank and Gaza. The Australia Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement (AMENCA) program was not affected by the budget reallocation.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 48

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA budget – Climate Change

Question on Notice

Page: 91

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Senator RHIANNON: *I checked out the DFAT website about climate change research initiatives that the government is currently supporting. The website states that the Australian government is investing \$32 million in the Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning Program, and also the CSIRO Horizon 2 research for development alliance and the Center for International Forestry Research and the World Resources Institute. What I was trying to work out was: how much has been allocated for this budget for each of those initiatives? Can you inform us of the line items for those four, please? Just while you are preparing, I was also interested in trying to clarify the international climate change programs that are still under DFAT, or if they are being shifted to other departments.*

Ms Sidhu: *Many of the programs that you refer to were being conducted under what was known as the fast-start financing program. That ceased at the end of 2012-13. Some projects continued into 2013-14, but effectively there has been no financing for them in this financial year, given that the fast-start period has ceased.*

Senator RHIANNON: *So those four programs have all been wound up, have they, or are they out of funding?*

Ms Sidhu: *To be specific I would have to take that on notice and get back to you on those specific programs.*

Senator RHIANNON: *If you could inform us of the status of the programs and where their funding comes from and obviously, if it is not your department, who do I go to to find out.*

Ms Sidhu: *Yes, certainly.*

Answer

Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning Program (PACCSAP)

- The Australian Government invested \$32 million in PACCSAP (2011-12 to 2012-13). The funds were appropriated to the aid program and transferred to the then Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency in two tranches: \$13 million in 2011-12, and \$19 million in 2012-13.
- The program was delivered by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology.

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DFAT-CSIRO Research for Development Alliance (the Alliance) Phase 3

- Phase 3 of the Alliance will be implemented between 13 June 2013 and 30 June 2014. The full funding of \$2 million was transferred by DFAT to CSIRO in June 2013. No additional funding has been allocated for the Alliance in the 2013-14 financial year.

Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

- DFAT invested a total of \$10 million (\$4m in 2011-12 and \$6m in 2012-13) in a research partnership with CIFOR (to be implemented 2011-12 to 2014-15). Funding for CIFOR was transferred to ACIAR who administer the partnership on behalf of the Australian Government. No additional funding has been allocated for CIFOR in the 2013-14 financial year.

World Resources Institute (WRI)

- \$100,000 was paid to WRI in August 2013 as a one-off payment to co-fund its work in updating its Climate Analysis Indicators Tool. This tool is for the collation and analysis of global greenhouse gas data. The project is to be completed during the period 2013-2014.
- The funding is from the DFAT Administered Fund “Shaping a global climate change solution”.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 49

Program: DFAT

Topic: FOI - Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership

Question on Notice

Page: 91

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Senator RHIANNON: There were documents released under FOI last November that showed Indonesia actually asked for a two-year extension on that partnership that you have just mentioned, the Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership. It appears that the government did not grant that two-year extension. Is that correct?

Mr Brazier: I would have to take that on notice

Answer

Yes.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 50

Program: DFAT

Topic: FOI – Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership

Question on Notice

Page: 91

Senator Rhiannon

Question

Senator RHIANNON: Sorry, I may have misunderstood. So you are saying that this partnership has actually now wound up?

Mr Brazier: No. It has shrunk in size but it continues until 30 June this year. We have continued this year with activities to continue to help communities, in central Kalimantan in particular, adapt to different lifestyles that do not depend on deforestation so much, and also on a national carbon accounting scheme, which helps Indonesia to track carbon emissions in order to meet its undertaking to reduce business-as-usual emissions by 26 per cent before 2020.

Senator RHIANNON: Could you take on notice just to give us an update on the budget allocation for that work?

Mr Brazier: I can take it on notice, yes.

Answer

\$7.5 million in funding has been committed for the one-year extension of the Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership (KFCP) and support to the Indonesia National Carbon Accounting System (INCAS), for the 2013-14 financial year.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 51

Program: DFAT

Topic: Indonesia rhinoceros program

Question on Notice

Page: 93

Senator Kroger

Question

Senator KROGER: When was this program then determined not to be a viable one?

Mr Brazier: The current foreign minister has decided not to proceed with the program. I would have to check on the date that we were instructed to that effect.

Answer

The decision to cease funding to support the conservation of Sumatran rhinos was one of many programs considered by Government in the context of the 2013-14 aid budget reprioritisation. The Foreign Minister announced the aid reprioritisation on 18 January 2014.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 52

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA - modelling

Question on Notice

Page: 95

Senator Wong

Question

Senator WONG: *If you can take on notice, Ms Adams, whether there have been any changes in the assumptions underpinning the modelling, or whether there is any difference between the assumptions underpinning the modelling and the outcome in the agreement, then I would appreciate that. And I am also going to ask you to provide a copy of that modelling. You will obviously take that on notice and get advice. Correct?*

Ms Adams: *Correct.*

Answer

Differences between the near-final tariff schedules supplied on 15 November 2013 and the final agreed tariff schedules were minimal and included:

- . Korea's offer: titanium dioxide (three-year staging changed to tariff-free on EIF); milk protein concentrate (15 years to 13 years); macadamias (seven years to five years); faster elimination on some auto lines; and
- . Australia's offer: faster tariff elimination on some auto lines (eight years to five years on 106 tariff lines; five years to three years on three tariff lines).

The updated report completed in February reflected these changes.

The results in the initial report, completed just ahead of conclusion, and those based on the final agreed tariff schedules are nearly identical.

The report on the updated February 2014 study was tabled in the Senate on 18 March 2014. The report on the initial November 2013 study was tabled in the Senate on 3 March 2014.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 53

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA – sectorial data

Question on Notice

Page: 96

Senator Wong

Question

Senator WONG: *Are you able to give me at least some sectoral data? If we are not able to get quantitative assessment, at least qualitatively assess which sectors are likely to do better as a result?*

Ms Adams: *Yes—and I think that is already in the public materials and the general—*

Senator WONG: *Just a fact sheet et cetera?*

Ms Adams: *Yes.*

Senator WONG: *There is nothing that you can give me to add to that?*

Ms Adams: *No.*

Answer

The Appendix to the modelling report, which was tabled in the Senate, contains the results of analysis on the estimated impacts of KAFTA on a range of sectors.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 54

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA –tariffs

Question on Notice

Page: 96

Senator Wong

Question

Senator WONG: *Can you tell me what the tariff revenue effect over the forwards is for the agreement?*

Ms Adams: *I am sorry, I do not have that information with me.*

Senator WONG: *Really?*

Ms Adams: *I should have thought of that. But, no, I do not have that information.*

Senator WONG: *No-one can help us with that?*

Ms Adams: *No.*

Senator WONG: *Okay, could you take that on notice?*

Answer

Treasury has estimated that tariff revenue would decline by a cumulative amount of \$635.9 million over the forward estimates. This figure does not include the un-modelled, second-round effects on government revenue from increased economic activity, which are expected to be positive.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 55

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA – tariffs (import of used cars)

Question on Notice

Page: 97

Senator Wong

Question

Ms Adams: *Australia has a \$12,000 specific tariff on import of used cars that can be waived when people import particular vehicles for private collections et cetera, as well as a five per cent ad valorem tariff. Those were eliminated in the Korean agreement. However, they drive on the right side of the road, so there is not a very important demand for cars that are built to be driven on the left side of the road.*

Senator WONG: *Perhaps on notice, are you aware of some of the concerns which have been raised publicly?*

Ms Adams: *Well, second-hand cars—*

Senator WONG: *I am just wondering if you on notice could answer them or whether I need to—*

Ms Adams: *I am happy to take them on notice.*

Answer

DFAT is aware of concerns expressed by some stakeholders regarding the importation of used motor vehicles, particularly in the context of the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations (JAEPA). The outcome under JAEPA accommodates these concerns by retaining the specific duty of \$12,000 per used motor vehicle. With regard to KAFTA, Korean domestically used motor vehicles are left hand drive which means the vehicles are generally unsuitable for Australian roads unless extensive modifications are undertaken. It should be noted that in addition to tariffs, imported used road vehicles are required to comply with relevant national standards for vehicle safety, anti-theft and emissions.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 56

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA –tariffs

Question on Notice

Page: 100

Senator Fawcett

Question

Senator FAWCETT: *I am just working through the things that are important to South Australia here, and malt barley is a big product for us. I would just like to talk to you a bit more about the growing size of the quota: how quickly is that likely to grow and what is the final quota size likely to be? I noticed that the out-of-quota tariff is 513 per cent, which is horrendous.*

Ms Adams: *Yes.*

Senator FAWCETT: *Could you give me some more detail on that one, please?*

Ms Adams: *You are right. There is a duty-free quota for malt and malting barley that delivers duty-free access immediately on entry into force. And then the high out-of-quota tariffs are progressively reduced over the 15 years, which means you end up with free trade. The size of the quotas are written in the agreement, but I do not have them with me; I would have to give you those on notice. But they are publicly available—they are in the text that has been released.*

Senator FAWCETT: *Okay. Obviously, I have not read deeply enough for those.*

Ms Adams: *I have, but I just do not remember every number; there are a lot of numbers.*

Senator FAWCETT: *No, sorry. I am saying I have not read deeply enough for those. Okay, but that actually defines both the starting point and the end points—the size of the quota at 15 years.*

Ms Adams: *Yes, but we can provide that.*

Answer

Appendix 2-A-1 of the Agreement describes the tariff rate quotas (TRQs) Korea has set for Australia. Paragraph 9 describes the duty-free TRQ for malt and malting barley. The TRQ volume is 10,000 tonnes in year one and grows at two per cent per annum for 15 years. Australia exports much more than 10,000 tonnes each year, and Korea also created an agricultural safeguard mechanism (ASM) for these products, which is described in Chapter 6, Annex 6-A. The ASM applies to product outside the TRQ, but within a ceiling level of 147,486 tonnes in the first year, beyond which point the normal MFN tariff is applied. Product within this window

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is exported to Korea with a concessional tariff rate. The ceiling or trigger level grows two per cent per annum, while the size of the tariff concession increases, for 15 years. After 15 years, the ASM and TRQ will be eliminated and Australian malt and malting barley will be able to enter Korea completely without tariffs being applied.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 57

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA – Certificate of origin and tracking

Question on Notice

Page: 101

Senator Fawcett

Question

Senator FAWCETT: *I have looked through the actual document as opposed to the guide, and at this stage I have not yet seen that detail. Perhaps I am not looking in the right place. Would you be able to send me the appropriate reference for that?*

Ms Adams: *For agricultural produce in particular?*

Senator FAWCETT: *For agricultural produce, in terms of the certificate of origin and tracking where things have come from.*

Ms Adams: *I am just making sure I know what you are asking for.*

Senator FAWCETT: *You have just said that the rules are very detailed in terms of what qualifies as a product and where it comes from.*

Ms Adams: *Particularly for manufactured products. For agricultural products, it is quite straightforward in that they have to be grown or produced in the territory, but we can give you some further information on notice.*

Senator FAWCETT: *That would be great*

Answer

Detailed product-specific rules of origin, including those for agricultural produce, can be found in Annex 3-A Schedule of Product Specific Rules of Origin of the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

FTAs specify the documentation required to demonstrate that a good, for which a claim for preferential tariff treatment is being made, meets the required rule of origin. These documentation requirements, including those for agricultural produce, are set out in Chapter 3 Rules of Origin and Origin Procedures, Annex 3-C Data Elements for a Certificate of Origin and Annex 3-D Model Format.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 58

Program: DFAT

Topic: TPP

Question on Notice

Page: 112

Senator Wong

Question

Senator WONG: *Mr De Cure, you made some assertions about all parties to the TPP making certain commitments. I want to draw your attention to what the US Trade Representative released in 2012, which included amongst other things the sharing of information to Congress and so forth and, more importantly, said:*

... USTR will publish the full text of the TPP ... well before it is signed to invite further comments from Congress, trade advisors, and the public.

That is not consistent with the evidence you just gave. I invite you to clarify that now or take it on notice.

Mr De Cure: *We have a signed undertaking not to release it. I do not have that testimony in front of me, but I make—*

Senator WONG: *It is not testimony. It is a fact sheet release by the US Trade Representative in June 2012.*

Senator WHISH-WILSON: *And Malaysia has publicly said the same thing.*

Mr De Cure: *You have a slightly different situation in the US because the congress has the ability to make—*

Senator WONG: *Correct, but that is not what you said. You made a blanket assertion that all countries had agreed this and that everybody was in the same boat. I am saying to you I do not think that is right. I am not trying to catch you on this. It is an important political point because what the Senate has asked for in its order for the production of documents has been precisely the same rights as are offered to the US Congress. If I am wrong and there is some change to what the US Trade Representative has said, I would be happy to be corrected, so I am working of this public document. Given this has been contested in the Senate and an order for production has not been complied with on the basis of the assertions you just gave, I think it is fair that you are invited to respond to the public statements of the Trade Representative. If you would like time on that I am happy for you to take that on notice.*

Mr Varghese: *Senator, could we take that on notice and get back to you and clarify whether the undertaking was not to release until finalised or not to release until signed. We will clarify that for you.*

Senator WONG: *Yes, I think that is possibly the distinction.*

Answer

The timing of the release of TPP documents is a matter for discussion among TPP parties. If USTR wishes to release the TPP text before it is signed, it will need to obtain the agreement of the eleven other TPP parties in accordance with the TPP confidentiality undertaking.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 59

Program: DFAT

Topic: Anti-dumping changes

Question on Notice

Page: 117

Senator Wong

Question

Senator WONG: *No, I have not got to that yet. You are jumping ahead. I am trying to establish first that in 2011 your department provided a submission to the relevant Senate committee in which it was stated that 'Australia cannot impose an onus on the importer to prove the goods have not been dumped', so it is a reversal of the onus of proof proposition. Is that still your view? Then I was going to go to how the proposal has been changed to reflect that advice.*

Mr De Cure: *I would have to take that on notice.*

Answer

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) made a written public submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics on 11 May 2011. This submission examined Item 12 of the Private Senator's Customs Amendment (Anti-Dumping) Bill 2011. DFAT's position on those proposals has not changed.

The Bill lapsed at the end of parliament in November 2013.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 60

Program: DFAT

Topic: General Process

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Are staff from the Prime Minister's Office in direct contact with the Department?*
 - O *Can you please provide a full list of all PMO staff who have had contact with the department?*
 - O *On which dates and times has each staff person on that list been in touch with the department?*

Answer

This information was provided in the response to Question 1.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 61

Program: DFAT

Topic: General Process

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Does Mark Higgle independently contact the department?*
- o *Can you please provide a full list of all staff in the department with whom he has been in contact?*
- o *On which dates and times has he been in contact?*

Answer

This information was provided in the response to Question 1.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 62

Program: DFAT

Topic: General Process

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Have any staff members of the Prime Minister's office ever attended a briefing the department was giving to the Foreign Minister's office?*
- o *Can you please provide a full list of all staff in the PMO who ever attended a briefing the department was giving to the Foreign Minister's office as well as the general topic of the briefing and the dates on which each briefing occurred?*

Answer

This information was provided in the response to Question 1.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 63

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Is the removal of poverty reduction and sustainable development an ideological choice?*

Answer

Poverty reduction has not been removed as an objective for the Australian aid program. The purpose of the Government's aid program is to promote Australia's national interests by contributing to international economic growth and poverty reduction. This purpose was clearly stated in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (page 3 – Portfolio Overview).

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 64

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- ***How is aid for the purpose of Australia's security and economic gain different from aid programs for poverty reduction and charity?***

Answer

The purpose of the Government's aid program is to promote Australia's national interests by contributing to international economic growth and poverty reduction. An aid program that supports economic growth and poverty reduction in our region is in Australia's national interests. Australia's security and prosperity is linked to that of our neighbours and trading partners.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 65

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- ***Following the merge of DFAT and AusAID, what was the Department's advice regarding restructure of budget outcomes?***

Answer

Following the transfer of functions from the former AusAID into DFAT arising from the abolition of AusAID, the Foreign Minister sought the agreement of the Minister for Finance to incorporate former AusAID outcomes into DFAT's Outcome 1. The request sought agreement for the following:

- all former AusAID Outcome 1 programs to be moved into DFAT's existing Outcome 1;
- DFAT's Outcome 1 description to be expanded to include aid activity: "The advancement of Australia's international strategic, security and economic interests including through bilateral, regional and multilateral engagement on Australian Government foreign, trade and international development policy priorities"; and
- former AusAID Outcome 1 to be deleted.

This was agreed by the Minister for Finance in December 2013 and was reflected in the DFAT 2013 14 Additional Estimates Bills.

In addition, the former AusAID's Outcome 2 program was moved into DFAT's existing Outcome 1.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 66

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Was the removal of these two outcomes in line with Department advice:*
 - o *“To assist developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, in line with Australia’s national interest”*
 - o *“Australia’s national interest advanced by implementing a partnership between Australia and Indonesia for reconstruction and development”*

Answer

Refer to response to question 65.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 67

Program: DFAT

Topic: Budget

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- ***The breakdown of country groupings under Outcome 1 has been changed. Previously, Africa was grouped with South and West Asia and the Middle East. Now the Americas & Africa are one group and South and West Asia & the Middle East is another.***
- o ***What was the thinking behind this regrouping?***
- o ***Was there a discussion about this regrouping between the Minister and the Department?***
- o ***What advice did the Department provide on the matter?***

Answer

There have been no changes to the country groupings under Outcome 1.

Program 1.9: Official Development Assistance – Africa, South and Central Asia, Middle East and Other in the DFAT 2013-16 Portfolio Additional Estimates is unchanged from Program 1.3: Official Development Assistance – Africa, South and Central Asia, Middle East and Other in the then AusAID 2013-14 Portfolio Budget Statements.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 68

Program: DFAT

Topic: Grants

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- ***Note a \$55,000.00 grant for the Australian Rugby Union for: “Australian Rugby Union to work in partnership with counterparts in Brazil, Colombia and Argentina to provide expert assistance and support to broaden rugby participation in the region.”***
 - ***What is the expected reach of this program?***
 - ***Is Rugby Union the best vehicle for promoting Australian diplomacy in Latin America?***
 - ***Is this program value for money?***

Answer

- The Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR) granted \$55,000 inclusive of GST to the Australian Rugby Union to run a Rugby work-shop in Latin America to increase the capacity of rugby organisations in the region. The program was coordinated by the Australian Rugby Union in cooperation with the Brazilian Rugby Union and South American Rugby Confederation. Twenty coaches from Brazil, Colombia and Peru attended the two-day workshop in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The program capitalised on the visit to Brazil of the Australian Women’s Rugby Sevens team for the IRB World Series event in Sao Paulo on the same weekend.
- Australian diplomacy in Latin America embraces a great deal more than the rugby initiative under consideration. COALAR is a government appointed Board, chaired by a prominent Australian business person with strong links to Latin America, and consisting of experienced and interested professionals from business, the arts, academia and government. Its mandate is to enhance links

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between Australia and Latin America based on the experience and expertise of Board members. As part of this the Board awards grants to applicants it deems worthy of support. These grants are awarded from a field of applications, with the Board empowered to make its own independent decision on which proposals to support.

- The COALAR Board judged through its competitive grants selection process that the program was value for money.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 69

Program: DFAT

Topic: Grants

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- ***Note a \$39,600.00 grant for Sounds Australia: “To support the tour of four Australian bands across four Indian cities in November 2013.”***
- o ***Please clarify if is this one tour with four bands?***
- o ***How many shows?***
- o ***How large is the audience at each show expected to be?***
- o ***Who are the bands?***
- o ***Are these bands you believe promote Australian values overseas?***
- o ***Will the concerts be free?***
- o ***If not, where do the proceeds from ticket sales go?***

Answer

- Yes, this is one tour with four bands.
- Four shows in Bangalore, Mumbai, Pune and New Delhi, India; as well as one Indian music forum, one song hub (songwriting collaboration), one sound school visit.
- Audience totals were - Shows = 9000 in Bangalore, 300 in Mumbai, 25 in Pune, 12000 in New Delhi; Music forum = 500; Song hub = 20; Sound school visit = 110.
- Hey Geronimo, Kate Miller-Heidke, Sampology, Spoonbill.
- Yes, we believe these acts promoted Australian values overseas.
- Two shows were ticketed as part of the NH7 Weekend Festival Bangalore and the NH7 Festival New Delhi. The two Aussie BBQ shows were free.
- Proceeds from the ticketed events at the NH7 Weekend Festival go to the Indian producer – Only Much Louder.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 70

Program: DFAT

Topic: Tenders

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Note a \$60 million tender for “Office supplies” (Tender ID # CN1980421)

- *How many people and how many locations are these office supplies for?*
- *What items specifically fall into this category?*

Answer

This tender was for a 5 year contract for the provision of security laminates for Australian passports.

The contract provides sufficient security laminates to produce Australian travel documents in Australia and at Australian diplomatic missions overseas over the contract period.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 71

Program: DFAT

Topic: Tenders

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Note a tender for \$47,208.70 for “Workstations for the Australian Aid Program” (Tender ID # CN2042532)

- ***Why are you buying new workstations when you are reducing your staff size?***
- ***How many desks?***
- ***Is this a purchase or a lease?***

Answer

Tender No. CN2042532 was for the purchase of workstations to accommodate the transfer of 51 staff from the former Department of Climate Change. The workstations were purchased and installed to 255 London Circuit, Canberra, which resulted in the creation of an additional 20 work points (desks)

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 72

Program: DFAT

Topic: Tenders

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Note multiple contracts for “expert advice” and “management advisory services”

- ***How are these tenders managed?***
- ***Do the experts and advisers have deliverables or quotas of working hours spent?***

Answer

1. All contracts with a value at or above \$10,000, including those for expert advice and management advisory services, are published on AusTender. These tender processes are undertaken in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules and Departmental procurement policies.
2. Suppliers engaged for expert advice or management advisory services are engaged under contracts for a specified period of time. Each contract sets out terms and conditions and the scope of required services, including working hours and deliverables.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 73

Program: DFAT

Topic: Tenders

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Note two tenders with Yellow Edge Pty Ltd (Tender IDs #CN1996102 and #CN1996112)

- ***What sort of training?***
- ***How many hours of training?***
- ***How many people trained?***
- ***Is this value for money?***

Answer

The training sought through these tender IDs is foreign language e-learning. One tender was for basic language e-learning packages (CN1996112) and the other was for advanced language e-learning packages (CN1996102). After a review of available packages, "Rosetta Stone" (provided by Yellow Edge Pty Ltd) was selected for both the basic and advanced packages, using the COURSe package for basic learning and TOTALe for advanced.

The tenders were not for a specific number of hours of training, but for a number of e-learning licences which can be allocated to staff. The licences can be re-allocated an unlimited number of times during the period of the contract.

The licences can be issued to a maximum of 300 staff for the basic package, and 120 staff for the advanced package at one time.

Both of the contracts accord with Commonwealth policies and represent efficient, effective and ethical use of resources.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 74

Program: DFAT

Topic: Tenders

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Note \$31,834.00 tender for “Meeting facilities” (Tender ID #CN2014042)

- **This contract covers a 6 day period: 12-Dec-2013 to 17-Dec-2013 - Why was the cost of facilities for six days of meetings so high?**
- **Was there a lower cost alternative for this series of meetings?**
- **What was the purpose of the meetings being held?**
- **What were the outcomes of the meetings?**

Answer

1. A limited tender was carried out for choosing the provider in line with the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997. The quote of the successful provider reflected market rates and was comparable with other quotes received. The cost included microphones, projector screens, speakers, technical support, set up/pack down, and equipment for the secretariat office such as printers.
2. The quote provided for the services was comparable to market rates and was chosen on the grounds of efficiency and effectiveness.
3. The meeting, the first G20 Development Working Group (DWG) meeting under Australia’s Presidency, reviewed the development outcomes from the G20 St Petersburg Summit and sought agreement on 2014 work priorities.
4. The DWG meeting agreed on the priority areas of work to be pursued during Australia’s Presidency including a focus on practical actions to help developing countries, particularly low income countries, to:
 - encourage private sector investment in infrastructure
 - maximise domestic revenues
 - improve access to financial services and benefit from reduced costs of transferring remittances home.

The DWG also agreed to continue work on food security (with a focus on agricultural productivity) and human resource development.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 75

Program: DFAT

Topic: Tenders

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Note several contracts for “Safety and rescue vehicles” (Tender IDs #CN2028561, #CN2028341, #CN2028291, and #CN2028281)

- ***How many cars are included in each contract?***
- ***Where will the cars be used?***

Answer

One armoured vehicle is included in each contract.

The vehicles will be used at our embassies in Kabul, Kathmandu, Jakarta, and Tehran.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 76

Program: DFAT

Topic: Tenders

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *What are the rules and regulations around DFAT staff and class of travel?*
- *What are the rules and regulations around cost of hotel rooms?*
- *What are the rules and regulations around meals and travel allowances?*
- *Are there exceptions to these rules – ie cases in which DFAT employees may spend more on travel and travel bookings than the standard stimulated amounts?*

Answer

1. The class of travel is based on whether the staff member is SES or non-SES, whether travel is domestic or international, and the health and safety of the staff member.

	SES class of travel	Non-SES class of travel
Domestic Travel	Economy Class Canberra/Sydney or Canberra/Melbourne Business Class Other destinations within Australia	Economy Class All sectors under three hours Business Class All sectors over three hours
International Travel	Business Class	Economy Class All sectors under two hours Business Class All sectors over two hours

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2. Accommodation in Australia operates on an 'actuals' basis. For travel overseas the post is responsible for assessing the relative star rating and appropriateness of local hotels/motels.

For domestic travel, SES staff are entitled to four and five star international chain hotel accommodation and Non-SES staff are entitled to between three and four star international chain hotel accommodation. Staff travelling on short-term missions to a country outside of their country of residence are entitled to four star international chain hotel accommodations.

Staff are required to demonstrate best value for money and select the most cost effective accommodation available. Staff are also advised to consider any security or safety advice from post when making international accommodation bookings.

3. Travel Allowance (TA) covers the cost of meals and incidentals and is paid when staff are required to be away from home overnight on official business. The application of TA applies consistently for all forms of travel (domestic and international). TA will be calculated from the first locality where a rest period is taken or where official business is conducted and will cease on departure from that same locality.

4. If TA is insufficient to meet costs necessarily incurred for meals and incidentals, the staff can seek approval to have the difference of these costs and the TA payable. In exceptional circumstances, authorisations may be given to travel at a higher class up to business class or equivalent, but not first class.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 77

Program: DFAT

Topic: Austerity measures

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *The media has reported that DFAT's policy is: "proposed travel costing up to \$20,000 must be approved by a department secretary" - what is the process of evaluating and approving these special cases?*
- *How many trips costing more than \$20,000 have so far been approved?*
- *What were the reasons for their high cost and what was the justification?*

Answer

Department of Finance guidelines require that travel by Australian Government Officials with a total estimated cost of \$20,000 or less be approved by the relevant department Secretary. Within DFAT, travel requests are sent to the Secretary's office for consideration by the Secretary in accordance with Department of Finance Guidelines, including necessity of travel and value for money.

Department of Finance guidelines require that travel costing \$20,000 or more, either individually or as part of a delegation, must be submitted to the relevant cabinet minister for approval. DFAT has identified 32 trips costing more than \$20,000 that have been approved since the start of 2014.

Trip approvals over \$20,000 primarily relate to travel involving multiple officers including from other departments. Since the start of 2014 the majority of these trips have related to negotiations on Free Trade Agreements – including the Japan Australia Economic Partnership Agreement, the Trans Pacific Partnership, and other trade-focused travel.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 78

Program: DFAT

Topic: Austerity measures

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *What austerity measures has the Department put into place?*
- *How are they being implemented, enforced and measured?*
- *How effective have they been?*
- *Are there plans for further austerity measures to be implemented?*

Answer

The Department has implemented all budget savings measures and complies with the Government's procurement, recruitment and financial policies.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 79

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial travel

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Can the Department provide an update on all international trips the Minister has undertaken since coming to office?*
- *How many days did the Minister spend in each country on each trip?*
- *How many staff travelled with her on each trip?*
- *Which staff members travelled with her on each trip?*
- *Do those staff members work for the Minister's office, the Prime Minister's office, or the department?*
- *Who did she meet with in each country?*
- *What was the broad purpose/outcome of each trip?*
- *What were the outcomes of the meetings?*
- *What was the value to Australian diplomacy and the overall foreign affairs agenda?*
- *Did the department provide advice or briefing in relation to meetings/visits in each program?*
- *What was the total cost of each trip?*

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Answer

Details of Ms Bishop's overseas visits since November 2013:

These details have been provided in the response to Question 177.

The department provides briefings to the Minister for her overseas visits as a matter of course.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 80

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial travel

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *What is the total cost of the Minister's travel since coming into office?*
- *How many days has the Minister spent overseas since election?*
- *What is the average cost per day of her travel?*

Answer

The Department of Finance meets the costs of ministerial travel overseas, and has not yet published costs for that period. Between 7 September 2013 and 28 February 2014 the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade and Investment spent 74 and 61 days overseas respectively.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 81

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial travel

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *What was her phone bill in each quarter?*
- *Has her or her staff experienced 'bill shock'?*
- *Can you please provide a copy of the phone bill for the Minister and any staff who travelled with her?*

Answer

Ms Bishop's phone bill for the period October 2013, November 2013 and December 2013 amounted to \$6,917.57.

Ms Bishop's phone bill for the period January 2014, February 2014 and March 2014 amounted to \$5,690.86

During the month of October 2013, the relevant telecommunications carrier identified an oversight in their calculations where they calculated gigabytes rather than megabytes for the Foreign Minister. The carrier's initial estimate of a \$30,720 charge was revised to \$537.02 before a bill was issued. The revised charge of \$537.02 was incurred during the billing period for October 2013. Ms Bishop's total mobile phone charge for October was \$1725.44.

None of Ms Bishop's staff experienced the same telephone bill difficulty.

Ms Bishop was accompanied by two Advisers for her trip to New Zealand, Singapore and Indonesia in October 2013. The total mobile phone charge for the two Advisers for the month of October 2013 was \$1,012.65.

As the telephone bill lists all telephone numbers called by Ms Bishop and the two Advisers it would not be appropriate for security and privacy reasons to attach a copy.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 82

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *At this stage, what is the best estimate for projected workplace numbers for the department following the AusAID merger?*
- *Given the certain severity of cuts to DFAT and former AusAID staff, what is being done to ensure that staff morale remains positive?*
- *What is being done to brief each mission on the changes in direction and staffing?*
- *Was each mission briefed individually on the changes?*
- *Did any mass messages go out to all missions?*
 - *If yes, can copies of these messages please be provided?*
- *What communications in particular are being shared with locally engaged staff?*
- *How many locally engaged staff will receive redundancies?*
- *Are these staff being left in uncertainty at the moment?*

Answer

- a) Decisions on staffing levels will be finalised through the 2014-15 budget process.
- b) A Communications and Consultations Strategy and Implementation Plan is being implemented. Formal staff consultation occurs in the DFAT Workplace Relations Committee and former AusAID Consultative Forum (merged from January 2014).

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Informal staff consultation is undertaken in a range of ways, including: weekly drop-in sessions to discuss issues with the Task Force; participation by the Task Force in Division and other staff meetings; video and teleconferences with staff at overseas posts; a Task Force email address (which also allows anonymous questions and comments); a weekly update by the Task Force; Frequently Asked Questions; and Fact Sheets.

A Change Management Plan has also been developed. A Change Management team is coordinating implementation of the Plan, and also of the Action Plan developed in response to the Capability Review of DFAT undertaken by the Australian Public Service Commission in 2013.

Staff are also being supported through the integration process, including through access to: information and opportunities to contribute to the process; staff psychologists; the Employee Assistance Program counselling services; change management workshops and training opportunities; and an integration seminar series.

Staff well-being is also being monitored, including through a survey program.

- c) In addition to the communication and consultation processes outlined in response to question b, all posts have received regular updates on the integration process.
- d) See response to question c.
- e) See response to question c.
- f) See response to question c.
- g) Locally engaged staff have been provided an opportunity to express an interest in receiving a voluntary redundancy. Applications for voluntary redundancies are currently being reviewed. As at 28 March 2014 2 voluntary redundancies had been approved, with a further 114 voluntary redundancies granted in-principle approval subject to the finalisation of legal advice and confirmation with nominated employees. There is no target for voluntary redundancies numbers.
- h) Staff are being advised of the outcome of their request for a voluntary redundancy as soon as practicable, subject to the calculation of entitlements and the consideration of local labour law.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 83

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *How were the 36 AusAID graduate intake candidates compensated?*
- *Was the DFAT graduate intake unaffected?*
- *How was the decision made to cancel the entire AusAID intake while proceeding with the DFAT group? What advice did the Department give on this matter?*
- *Will the 2015 graduate intake be reduced in size?*

Answer

1. The Department provided all the affected individuals with an opportunity to seek reimbursement of reasonable relocation costs as a result of the decision to terminate their employment. Claims were received from 4 graduates by the 31 January 2014 deadline. The department has authorised section 73 payments to reimburse relocation costs substantiated with appropriate documentation, notwithstanding that there is no legal obligation for the Department to do so.

2. DFAT graduate intake numbers were not affected. 42 graduates commenced on the 2014 DFAT Graduate Program on 10 February.

3. DFAT decided not to proceed with the 2014 AusAID graduate program based on the fact that the circumstances which led to these offers of employment had changed. With the projected aid program reduced from \$8 to \$5 billion, it would not have been responsible to proceed with the recruitment of additional staff when there were existing staff with the relevant skills and experience available to service the smaller future aid program. The Department advised all affected individuals of the reasons which resulted in the decision to terminate their employment.

The DFAT graduate intake was recruited on the basis of meeting the departments foreign and trade priorities, which remain for the integrated department.

4. The 2015 graduate recruitment process is at a very early stage and the Department has made no decisions about the size of the intake.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 84

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Which diplomatic posts are expected to become vacant in 2014 and 2015?

Answer

Please refer to response provided to Question No 12.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 85

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid and ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- ***The UN is currently working with governments, civil society and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the MDGs and carry on with an ambitious post-2015 sustainable development agenda that is expected to be adopted by UN Member States at a Summit in September 2015 - is Australia contributing to this forward planning?***
 - ***Who are we working with?***
 - ***What is the plan?***

Answer

Australia is actively participating in international discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. Australia shares one of 30 seats on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Open Working Group with the Netherlands and United Kingdom. Australia is also a member of Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Financing for Sustainable Development, and co-chairs one of three clusters of work on the mobilisation and effective use of finance. The Open Working Group and Finance Committee are both expected to present their reports to the United Nations General Assembly by September 2014.

Australia will continue to work with other countries, the private sector, civil society and other groups on the design of the post-2015 development agenda, including in the lead up to a Leaders' Summit in September 2015.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 86

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid and ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

What evidence is there for Australian aid funds being misused for weaponry, arms, etc.?

Answer

No evidence exists that indicates the Australian aid program has been misused for weaponry, arms or other similar items.

DFAT assesses the Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligibility of proposals to ensure activities align with the OECD DAC Statistical Reporting Directives. The Directives contain very explicit inclusions and exclusions regarding military, civil policing, weaponry and arms.

Aid expenditure is tracked through aid management systems, various audit and fraud controls and undergoes considerable monitoring and evaluation.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 87

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid and ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

What evidence has been raised with the Department regarding aid programming lacking transparency?

Answer

There has been no evidence raised with the Department regarding aid programming lacking transparency.

The Department is committed to high standards of transparency in the management of the Australian aid program. Detailed information on the aid program is published on the DFAT website, including policies, plans, processes, results, evaluations and research. Australia participates in the International Aid Transparency Initiative. DFAT's Annual Procurement Plan and contracts are published on AusTender in accordance with legislative requirements and the Department promotes early industry engagement in the design and procurement of activities.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 88

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid and ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

The Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness was released by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd, in Parliament on 6 July 2011 - are the findings of this review being implemented or has it been thrown out?

Answer

The Government is committed to delivering an effective aid program. This will include implementing recommendations from the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness, where these remain relevant, and consistent with Government policy.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 89

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid and ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Mr Varghese's statements on the core objective of the aid program made in the Senate public hearings on 21 Feb in Sydney were not entirely consistent with language used in the 'Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement' – what is the core objective of the aid program and how is the core objective going to be made clear to those working to deliver and to the public?

Answer

The purpose of the Government's aid program is to promote Australia's national interests by contributing to international economic growth and poverty reduction.

The Government's emphasis on using the aid program to support both economic growth and poverty reduction recognises – consistent with the evidence – that economic growth is the most effective way to sustainably lift large numbers of people out of poverty.

The purpose of the Australian aid program is clearly stated on the Department's website: <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/makediff/Pages/default.aspx>

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 90

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid and ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *Has there ever been a case when an agency or organisation has been granted a special exception for expedited approval in the application process for the Overseas aid gift deduction scheme (OAGDS)?***
- o *If yes, which organisation(s) and when?***

Answer

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (and previously AusAID) has not granted a special exception for expedited approval in the application process for the Overseas aid gift deduction scheme (OAGDS).

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 91

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid and ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. *When will program by program cuts be made available?*

Answer

Details on the implementation of the revised budget for 2013-14 are available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) website. Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 92

Program: DFAT

Topic: ASEAN/East Asia Summit

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. Noting that this year these forums are of particular significance due to the tensions in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, does the department agree that these forums are acutely important to Australia's interests in the region?***
- B. Is it realistic to expect to form new "rules of the road" for the region at these forums?***
- C. What does the department hope to gain from these two major summits this year?***
- D. Who from the Minister's office and/or the Department are working on planning for these summits and their associated meetings?***
- E. Who from the Minister's office and/or the Department will attend these summits and their associated meetings?***

Answer

- A. Yes
- B. Of the existing regional multilateral forums, the East Asia Summit has the greatest potential to help foster a stable strategic environment in the Indian Ocean Asia-Pacific region. It is the only regional institution that brings together the region's key players – ASEAN countries, the United States, China, Japan, India, the Republic of Korea, Australia, the United States, New Zealand and Russia – it meets at leaders' level, and has a broad mandate to address the full range of political, security and economic challenges facing our region.
- C. Australia anticipates discussion of key regional political, security and economic issues at the 9th East Asia Summit will further develop its role as the key leaders' forum in the region. Discussions at the Australia-ASEAN 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit will reaffirm the importance of, and help set the course for the future of Australia's bilateral relationship with ASEAN.

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- D. In the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the ASEAN and Regional Issues Branch coordinates Australia's engagement in the East Asia Summit and the Australia-ASEAN 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit.
- E. A decision about ministerial and/or departmental attendance at the East Asia Summit and associated meetings and the Australia-ASEAN 40th Anniversary Commemorative Summit has yet to be made.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 93

Program: DFAT

Topic: UNSC

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. Noting our role on the UN Security Council, what efforts have been made to play an international leadership role on the crises in Syria, Ukraine, South Sudan, Bosnia, Sri Lanka and Thailand?***
- B. Has the Department formed a clear articulated view on the international crises in Syria, Ukraine, South Sudan, Bosnia, Sri Lanka and Thailand?***
- C. Does the Department agree that Australia needs to articulate a view on international crises especially where upholding democracy and defending human rights are an issue particularly given our role on the Security Council?***

Answer

- A. Australia is actively contributing to efforts to address current major threats to international peace and security, such as the situations in Syria, Ukraine, and South Sudan; including through our membership of the United Nations Security Council.

On Syria the Government recognises that while efforts to reach a political solution remain at an impasse, attention needs to turn to the humanitarian situation. Australia's total assistance in response to the Syrian crisis is \$132.8 million (as at 24 April 2014) and we have been proactive in pressing for UNSC engagement.

Australia recently co-authored, with Luxembourg and Jordan, United Nations Security Council Resolution 2139 on the humanitarian situation in Syria, which was adopted on 22 February 2014. This resolution sets out the critical steps the parties to the conflict, and particularly the Syrian regime, must take to protect civilians. It also builds on the Presidential statement on the humanitarian situation in Syria which we developed with Luxembourg and was adopted on 2 October 2013. Our focus now turns to

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verifying the implementation of UNSCR 2139 and exploring ways to support progress in peace talks.

On Ukraine Australia has made numerous public statements, unambiguously setting out its concerns regarding the situation in Ukraine. We have repeatedly delivered strong messages to Russia urging them to de-escalate the situation and warning them of consequences to continued violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity. Australia has also provided strong support for direct and deliberate action to address the situation in Ukraine through the Council. Australia was disappointed that Russia vetoed a draft resolution on the situation in Ukraine, which we had co-sponsored. We continue to urge Russia to engage with the Ukrainian government and international community to find a peaceful diplomatic resolution that will account for the security and safety of all Ukrainians and respects international law. We have, however, joined many other countries in implementing targeted financial sanctions travel bans against individuals who have been instrumental in the Russian threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Australia has been active in responding to the renewed conflict and humanitarian crisis in South Sudan. In December 2013, Australia co-sponsored a UN Security Council resolution to increase the strength of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to assist the protection of civilians in South Sudan. Following this mandated increase, the Australian Defence Force provided a RAAF C-17A Globemaster and a C-130J Hercules to move UN personnel and equipment into South Sudan. The aircraft made several trips into South Sudan, carrying UN equipment such as engineering equipment, shelters and water and sanitation kits. The C-130 also helped move UN equipment and personnel from the UN Mission in Liberia to South Sudan. Australia also provided an additional \$3 million in emergency assistance aid to the \$40 already pledged.

We continue to work with the other members of the Security Council to address the humanitarian crisis and deliver clear messages to South Sudan's leaders on the need to implement the ceasefire agreement and continue peace talks to find a sustainable reconciliation. We are working with a view to managing the instability into the medium- and long-term. To this end, the Council is reviewing the mandate of United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) with a view to refocus from its state building role to protection of civilians, human rights monitoring and creating security conditions conducive for delivery of humanitarian assistance.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina

Australia continues to support efforts to ensure ongoing stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In November 2013, Australia supported the renewal of the European Union Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR). EUFOR's ongoing monitoring and reporting, and arms disposal activities, contribute to peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. EUFOR should not remain in Bosnia indefinitely, but further local effort must be made to ensure stability.

While Australia continues to be engaged with issues in Sri Lanka and Thailand, these situations do not constitute threats to international peace and security and are not currently on the Council's agenda.

- B. Yes. The department's views on situations, such as those in Syria, Ukraine, and South Sudan, are reflected in the Government's press statements, and in Australia's statements at the UN Security Council.
- C. Yes. Australia is using its Security Council membership to promote democratic and human rights values as key elements of the UNSC's conflict prevention mandate. Australia continues to advocate for briefings on emerging political situations which may threaten human rights. To this end, we held a horizon scanning briefing during our Council Presidency in September 2013.

Australia is a vocal proponent for Council engagement on the humanitarian and human rights dimensions of conflict. We have actively pushed to strengthen the focus on protection of civilians in peacekeeping mandates, as well as humanitarian access to civilian populations effected by conflict. The resolution on the Humanitarian situation in Syria UNSCR 2139, which we co-authored, is one such example.

We also advocate the need for international support for the promotion and protection of human rights, including political participation, in post-conflict peacebuilding. To highlight this Australia held a side event on "Women's Participation in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding" in September 2013.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 94

Program: DFAT

Topic: World Food Program

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. *How much funding is being cut from the World Food Program?*

Answer: Nil.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 95

Program: DFAT

Topic: China

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *On the day the Foreign Minister called Ambassador MA Zhaoxu in to discuss China's ADIZ - who rang the Department from the Foreign Minister's office?***
- *Did the Foreign Minister personally have contact with the Department that day to discuss the matter?***
 - *With whom did she speak and for how long did they speak?***
- B. *Does the department agree that Australia's statements on the ADIZ gave China the impression we were siding with Japan?***
- C. *Does the department agree that it is dangerous to be perceived as taking a side without due deliberation or communication?***
- D. *Is it possible that Australia's statements on the ADIZ may threaten the quality and speed of our FTA with China?***
- E. *China is prioritising trade deals with Korea and Japan over Australia - what is being done to keep us on the radar as an important partner in the region?***
- F. *What has been done to remedy our relations with China?***
- G. *Has the Department provided advice on how to remedy relations?***

Answer

- A. The Foreign Minister did not call in the Chinese Ambassador – that was done by the Department. It was the Department which initiated contact with the Foreign Minister's office, not the reverse. The Foreign Minister did not personally have contact with the Department that day to discuss the matter – there were discussions between her office and the Department, including by telephone.
- B. The Department cannot speak for the Chinese Government. Australian statements expressing concern about China's sudden announcement of an ADIZ over the East China Sea were based on concerns about the destabilising consequences of that action at a time of heightened tensions in the region.

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- C. The Department would agree that action taken without due deliberation or communication can be dangerous, but does not agree that Australia's statements on China's ADIZ announcement were taken without due deliberation or communication.
- D. Leaders on both sides have indicated that the bilateral FTA negotiations are a priority for their respective officials this year. China's Premier Li Keqiang, in an address to the National People's Congress in Beijing on 5 March, said China would "accelerate" FTA negotiations with Australia.
- E. We do not agree with the question's premise. Like Australia, China is pursuing several important FTA negotiations at present. China has made clear that its priorities include the negotiations with Australia, and Korea, and a China-Japan-Korea trilateral agreement, and the RCEP negotiations.
- F. We do not accept the premise of the question. Australia's relationship with China continues to develop strongly. The Prime Minister's April 2014 visit to China will help further to broaden and deepen the relationship, including trade activity.
- G. We do not accept the premise of the question. The Department continues to provide advice to government on managing our foreign and trade relations.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 96

Program: DFAT

Topic: China, South Korea, Japan

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. Who will accompany the Prime Minister to China, South Korea and Japan?

- How many days and nights will the Prime Minister spend in each country?***
- Who is expected to meet with him in each location?***

Answer

Prime Minister Abbott was accompanied by Trade and Investment Minister Robb in Japan and Korea (for the first day). In China he was accompanied by Foreign Minister Bishop in Sanya and Minister Robb in Shanghai.

Beyond DFAT portfolio Minister involvement, the Prime Minister's travel arrangements are a matter for the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 97

Program: DFAT

Topic: Japan

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. Does the department agree that very slow response of Australia on Prime Minister Abe's visit to the Yasukuni Shrine may have been perceived by China as a slight?*
- B. Based on Mr Varghese's statements, Japan is an ally but not an Ally of Australia - is it DFAT's position that Australia should pursue a formal alliance with Japan?*

Answer

- A. No.
- B. No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 98

Program: DFAT

Topic: Indonesia

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *Has a draft code of conduct been provided to the Indonesian Government?***
- *What is the current expectation on timing of final agreement to the document?*
 - *As a high priority what efforts have been made to expedite agreement on the document?*
- B. *Which area of the department prepared the draft?***
- C. *Is the Secretary taking personal carriage of the document?***
- D. *Did the Dept of PM&C and/or the Prime Minister's Office have any input to or clearance of the document?***
- E. *Was any external advice sought on the agreement***
- *From whom?*

Answer

- A. The Government has provided a draft text of the joint understanding proposed by President Yudhoyono. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has remained in very regular communication with Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr Natalegawa on this issue, most recently at their bilateral meetings in the margins of the Nuclear Security Summit in the Hague on 25 March 2014, and the Mexico, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Turkey, Australia (MIKTA) Foreign Ministers meeting in Mexico City on 14 April 2014. The Australian Embassy in Jakarta has also been in contact with the Indonesian Foreign Ministry. Indonesia's domestic elections in April and July 2014 may have some impact on progress towards finalisation of the joint understanding.
- B. Various divisions in DFAT contributed to the preparation of the draft input, including South-east Asia Division and Legal Division.
- C. No, but the Secretary has been involved in the process.
- D. The draft which was provided to Indonesia drew on consultation with relevant departments, the PMO and ministerial offices.

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E. No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 99

Program: DFAT

Topic: Burma/Myanmar

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *Who made the decision to officially revert to referring to Myanmar by its colonial-bestowed name, Burma?***
- B. *When was this decision made?***
- C. *Was advice received from staff in the region?***
 - *When?***
 - *What was the advice?***
- D. *What were the reasons for the decision?***
- E. *Has this decision been discussed with the Government of Myanmar?***
- F. *Was thought given to the potential offense to the Government of Myanmar?***

Answer

- A. The Government approved a policy of use 'Myanmar' in communications with the public statements about the Myanmar Government, but 'Burma' in other contexts.
- B. October 2013.
- C. The Embassy in Rangoon indicated the likely views of government and non-government figures on nomenclature issues in Burma in October 2013.
- D. The term Burma is the commonly used term in Australia.
- E. Yes.
- F. All relevant issues were considered.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 100

Program: DFAT

Topic: United States

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *In January in the US after a private meeting with US Vice-President Joe Biden, Bishop told the Financial Review that “our single most important economic partner is, in fact, the United States”, overturning accepted econocrat wisdom....“So in respect of who is our ‘best friend’ in economic terms, it is undeniably the US,” Bishop says. (25 Jan 2014 AFR) - Did the Department provide her with advice on the statements she made in the US?*
- *Does the Department agree that irrespective of statistical accuracy, the above statement is possibly read to be an insult by China?*

Answer

- A. The Department advised Ms Bishop that the United States is Australia’s single most important economic partner country, based on two-way trade in goods and services of \$56.2 billion in 2012 and a two-way total investment stock valued at over \$1 trillion in 2012.
- B. No. Australia maintains positive relations with both the United States and China. While these bilateral relationships have different dynamics and histories, both are strong and vibrant.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 101

Program: DFAT

Topic: Israel and Palestine

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. In November 2013, the Government changed Australia's position in the UN on Israeli settlements. Was the department consulted? Were experts or think tanks consulted?***
- B. The Foreign Minister visited Israel in January 2014 - Did she visit Ramallah?***
- C. While in Israel the Minister made controversial and contestable statements on the legality of settlements to the Israeli media - were the details of the Foreign Minister's statements cleared or discussed with the Department?***
- D. Was legal advice requested by the Department? Who requested this legal advice? From what firm was this advice requested?***

Answer

- A. Yes, the department was consulted. Neither experts nor think tanks were consulted.
- B. No. The Minister visited Israel for the purpose of representing Australia at former Prime Minister Sharon's funeral.
- C. No.
- D. No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 102

Program: DFAT

Topic: Pacific

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. Have the cuts to aid been discussed with the governments and heads of state of each of these countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Nauru, Regional Pacific, Republic of Palau, Pacific Islands Forum, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu?

- What was each of their reactions?***
- Are they aware of the cuts at a program by program level?***
- If not, when will they be?***
- Can you please provide the framework/strategy for the diplomatic introduction of aid cuts in the Pacific?***

Answer

Reductions to the aid budget have been discussed with the governments and/or heads of state of each of these countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Nauru, Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. They have also been discussed with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Partners have been understanding of the revised budget expenditure, and have appreciated Australia's consultative approach.

Partner governments in the Pacific are aware of the impact at a program level.

Partner governments in the Pacific were advised of the 2013-14 revised aid budget by DFAT officials on the day of the Minister's announcement, 18 January 2014, or as close as practical to that day. Changes in funding at a program level were subsequently negotiated and agreed between Australia and partner governments.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 103

Program: DFAT

Topic: PNG

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *The Minister visited Port Moresby and Lae earlier this month (5-6 Feb 2014) and in Lae she announced \$3 million over three years to fund a Family and Sexual Violence Case Management Centre - when was the funding for this program approved?***

Answer

The proposal to establish a Family and Sexual Violence Case Management Centre in Lae was approved in December 2013. This followed quality appraisal processes, which included consultation with relevant stakeholders in PNG.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 104

Program: DFAT

Topic: Fiji

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. Can you please provide an update on the status of targeted sanctions which were put in place by Australia following the December 2006 Fiji military coup?**
- B. Can you please provide an update on the current Departmental protocol for references to the Government and Government officials in Fiji? Is the Government referred to as the "Interim Government" – if not, has the Department's protocols changed in the last 12 months?**
- C. What is the Department's advice on the progress of reforms in Fiji that would support a free and fair election in Fiji by September 2014?**
- D. What is the Department's assessment of rule of law in Fiji?**
- E. Are there any particular travel advisories related to rule of law in Fiji?**
- F. Has the Department provided any advice on the conditions under which it would recommend lifting of sanctions against Fiji by Australia? When and to whom was advice provided and can the advice please be provided in full?**
- G. Is there any information on particular risks that the department has assessed, including to members of the media, or other groups who might seek to travel to Fiji?**

Answer

- A. On 31 March 2014, the Australian Government lifted all travel restrictions applying to Fiji. Australia still retains sanctions against the supply, sale or transfer of arms and related materiel, and against the provision of technical advice, training or financial services to Fiji's military.
- B. When addressing the government of Fiji, the Department uses the term "Fiji Government" not "Interim Government". The Department has not changed this practice over the past 12 months.

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- C. The Australian Government has welcomed the significant progress Fiji has made towards holding elections, as recognised by the Pacific Islands Forum Ministerial Contact Group and the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, including:
- the announcement that elections will be held on 17 September 2014;
 - the release of the Electoral Decree and appointment of a Supervisor of Elections on 28 March 2014;
 - Prime Minister Bainimarama stepping down as Commander of Fiji's military on 5 March 2014 to form a new political party;
 - the appointment of Fiji's Electoral Commission on 9 January 2014;
 - the new Constitution of 6 September 2013, which commits Fiji to holding elections by September 2014;
 - the registration of four political parties to date; and
 - the registration of over 543,000 voters.
- D. Following the April 2009 abrogation of the Constitution, legislation in Fiji has been implemented by decree without normal parliamentary procedures. Fiji's new Constitution, which entered into force on 7 September 2013, returns legislative authority to the Fiji Parliament after its first sitting (following elections now scheduled for 17 September 2014).
- E. In accordance with usual practice, the travel advice for Fiji provides information about laws that may affect Australian travellers. The travel advice for Fiji can be found at <http://smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Fiji>.
- F. Advice on the lifting of travel restrictions applying to Fiji has been provided to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In accordance with long standing practice, the Department's advice to its Ministers is confidential.
- G. This information is in the travel advice for Fiji which can be found at <http://smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Fiji>.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 105

Program: DFAT

Topic: Public Diplomacy – Australia Network

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. What is the estimated reach of the Australia Network?*
- 2. What methods does the department employ to measure/estimate the soft power value of the network?*
- 3. Does the Department agree with this statement: “One of the most efficient and effective ways for governments to reach the greatest number of people in foreign countries has been international broadcasting”?*
- 4. What is the role of the Australia Network in attracting overseas students to Australia for study and promoting tourism?*
- 5. Has the Department been asked to provide advice on the value of the Australia Network? If yes, can you please provide a copy of the advice?*
- 6. What are the core terms of the new agreement to provide converged international broadcasting services between DFAT and the ABC? Does the agreement cover more than satellite television services? Does the agreement require a range of content to be broadcast (not just news and current affairs as some allege may be more effective) on a range of platforms (TV, radio and online)?*
- 7. When did the agreement commence and what is the duration of the agreement?*

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Answer

1. The funding agreement between DFAT and the ABC signed in August 2012 requires the ABC to provide a service in 45 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The ABC reports that the potential aggregate audience of its distribution partners for its converged international media services, of which the Australia Network service is a component, is 140 million.

The ABC is not able to report actual audience statistics for the total service, but has advised actual viewer numbers for Australia Network in six Asian markets, shows the network is viewed by just over six million people per month in India, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

2. DFAT assesses the public diplomacy impacts of the Network through regular formal and informal feedback from its overseas posts and key stakeholders.
3. International broadcasting is one tool of public diplomacy, alongside traditional and social media and communications platforms, targeted cultural diplomacy and international media visits, and programs which facilitate people-to-people and institutional networks. DFAT's contribution to the Australia Network funding agreement in 2013-14 is \$22.8 million, which accounts for 83 per cent of the Department's global public diplomacy budget in 2013-14.
4. The funding agreement for the Australia Network commits the ABC to provide a service which advances Australia's national interests by promoting an image of Australia as a dynamic, successful and diverse nation, as well as promoting understanding of our international role and integration in the Asia Pacific region. An important objective is to raise awareness of Australia's strengths and achievements across a range of fields, including tourism and education. The service includes a 'Learning English' program.
5. DFAT does not comment on advice it provides to government.
6. The Funding Agreement assigns sole responsibility for the day to day operation and strategic direction of the service to the ABC. The Agreement outlines requirements for a range of content to be provided by the ABC, including for news, current affairs, business, education and entertainment content through TV, radio and digital, social media and online services as well as consular messaging in times of crisis in associated delivery platforms (e.g. SMS, Twitter and Facebook).

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The Agreement requires the ABC to deliver a service with content and scheduling that is diverse, high quality, contemporary, up-to-date, and appropriate to the audience (including with respect to differing cultural sensitivities).

7. DFAT's funding agreement with the ABC was signed on 31 August 2012. The agreement provides for an annual contribution of \$20.33 million indexed over the ten year term of the agreement (to 2021-22). In 2013-14, DFAT's annual contribution is \$22.88 million.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 106

Program: DFAT

Topic: Public Diplomacy – Australia Network

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *Is the ABC performing in accordance with the agreement? If the Department has not formed a view, when will the Department have formed a view? Is the Department aware of any breach of the contract by the ABC?***
- B. *Have audience surveys been undertaken to gauge audience response to the ABC's new converged service? If so, what has been the audience response? If not, do you know how audiences are responding to new service/changes in the service?***

Answer

- A. Since the funding agreement was concluded in August 2012, DFAT has closely monitored the service, taking into account reporting from the ABC, the views of stakeholders and members of the public, and drawing on reporting from our diplomatic missions in the broadcast region.

DFAT notes progress by the ABC to develop links with regional broadcast partners and establish digital platforms, as well as recent steps to commission more tailored content promoting Australian fashion, design and arts interests in the region.

However, the Department's view is that there remain shortcomings in the service which impede its effectiveness in terms of advancing the government's public diplomacy objectives, particularly the overall standard of television content for regional audiences and the relatively low level of content drawn from non-ABC sources.

- B. The ABC has reported survey data on penetration of the Australia Network service for six key Asian markets, provided by the Nielsen and Kantar media research companies. This data shows the network is viewed by just over six million people per month in India, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. Beyond these surveys of market penetration, the ABC has not reported data on audience response to the changes in the service.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 107

Program: DFAT

Topic: Climate Change

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. Are you aware of the reports in national and international media during and following Warsaw late last year that Australian delegates were poorly behaved, uncooperative, unprofessional, disruptive, and can you describe the impact these reports have on Australia's reputation and credibility to participate in similar global forums?***
- B. Are you aware of negative international publicity relating to Australia's policy shift on climate change and some recent environmental decisions, such as the WA shark cull, Abbot Pt Coal terminal approval? Can you describe the impact these stories have on Australia's reputation? Does it impact Australia's credibility ahead of international meetings such as G20?***
- C. Are you aware of IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde's comments that Australia should not abandon its climate change policy, and effectively turn its back on its position as a 'pioneer' in climate change policy? Do comments such as those from a highly-respected international figure impact Australia's ability to participate in global forums?***

Answer

- A. Australia plays its part in an effective international response to climate change. In Warsaw Australia's delegation conducted itself in a professional manner and engaged constructively to this end.
- B. The Australian Government plays a constructive role in the full range of international meetings across the full range of issues bearing on Australia's national interest. This includes on climate change. Other countries recognize that Australia is entitled to choose its own domestic policy settings, including on climate change.

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- C. The Department is aware of Ms Lagarde's comments. The Prime Minister noted after his meeting with Ms Lagarde on 20 February: "We had a very good discussion, including about climate change and I was able to assure her that we are confident here in Australia of meeting our five per cent emissions reduction targets by 2020. But we're going to do it through incentives, not penalties. The last thing we want to do is shackle our economy with a carbon tax."

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 108

Program: DFAT

Topic: Climate Change

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *Can you describe some of the potential impacts on Australia's credibility and trade arrangements of the backflip on climate change policy that the Government is introducing? Does the fact that Australia's climate policy – if passed in the Senate – will be completely at odds with those of countries such as China and USA? Will this have an impact on Australia's international credibility and our trade arrangements with countries that have differing climate policies?***
- B. *Are you aware of any other comments from our international partners about the change in climate policy?***

Answer

- A. Australia's national target remains to unilaterally reduce emissions by 5 per cent below 2000 levels by 2020. Countries are free to choose their domestic climate change policies. Countries, including the USA and China have implemented a wide range of domestic policy approaches.
- B. Other countries recognize that Australia is entitled to choose its own domestic climate change policies.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 109

Program: DFAT

Topic: New Colombo Plan

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *The Australian government has committed \$100 million in new funding to the program over five years - what is the expected annual funding total each year over the next five years?***
- B. *What percentage of the total funding will be provided directly as grants versus administrative and overhead costs, etc.?***
- C. *The 2014 pilot phase is only engaging four countries: Japan, Indonesia, Singapore and Hong Kong - on what basis were these countries chosen?***
- D. *What was the Department's advice on this matter?***
- E. *Following the pilot phase, what additional countries will the program be open to?***
- F. *So far 300 undergraduate students from 24 universities have been selected for the program - are these 300 participants across both the scholarship and mobility grant programs?***
- G. *Will additional student participate in the pilot?***
 - *If not, why? Was there difficulty filling all 740 potential places?***
- H. *Besides the requirement that students be between the ages of 18 and 28 to be eligible for the scheme, what are the other criteria?***
- I. *How are selections made?***
- J. *Who is on the selection committee?***

Answer

- A.** The breakdown of the NCP budget over the forward estimates is available on the DFAT web site: <http://www.dfat.gov.au/dept/budget/>
- B.** Of the \$100 million committed to the NCP over five years, \$98.28 million is administered funding (ie, which will go towards grants and scholarships) and \$1.72 million is capital measures.

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Of that \$98.28 million, the NCP pilot program guidelines also allow for universities to access a level of administrative funding, which is in addition to the funding they receive per student, for use in implementing the relevant program. This is valued at a maximum of 10 per cent of the grant amount.

- C. The four pilot locations cover North and South-East Asia and allow us to test our approach and processes during the pilot phase. For example, each pilot location has unique visa requirements and a range of existing education/university relationships.
- D. In accordance with long standing practice, it is not appropriate to outline Departmental advice prepared for Ministers.
- E. Locations across the Indo-Pacific are being invited to opt in to the NCP from 2015 onwards.
- F. The first students were selected under the first tranche of NCP mobility grants. Details are available on the New Colombo Plan website (www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan) and in the 12 February media release announcing those grants (available at www.foreignminister.gov.au/releases/2014/jb_mr_140212.html).
- G. There will be a second tranche of mobility grants and a scholarships round finalised in 2014.
- H. The eligibility criteria for the NCP scholarships are set out in Section 2 of the NCP Scholarship Program Guidelines, available at www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/scholarship-program.html#guidelines.

The eligibility criteria for the NCP mobility grants are set out in Section 2 of the NCP Mobility Program Guidelines, which are available at www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/mobility-program.html#guidelines.

Questions I and J.

The selection process for NCP scholarships, including information about selection panels, can be found in Section 6 of the NCP Scholarship Program Guidelines, available at www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/scholarship-program.html#guidelines.

The selection process for NCP mobility grants, including information about selection panels, can be found in Section 5 of the NCP Mobility Program Guidelines, available at www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/mobility-program.html#guidelines.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 110

Program: DFAT

Topic: New Colombo Plan

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. What measures are in place to ensure that funded students enrol in rigorous programs, take the study opportunity seriously, use the opportunity wisely, etc?*
- B. Are the academic results reported back to the department after the grant program completion?*
- C. How are recipients held accountable for the grants? What is the reporting process?*
- D. Besides the 740 potential funding recipients, does the Colombo Plan intend to incentivise other students to study overseas?*
- E. Would the New Colombo Plan funds be better spent on improving language immersion in Australian schools?*
- F. Would the New Colombo Plan initiative be more efficient or effective as a public-private partnership or a private sector initiative rather than a government program?*

Answer

Questions A and B

All programs funded by the NCP must be for academic credit or otherwise be a mandatory component of the student's course at their Australian university as set out in Sections 3 and 5 of the NCP Mobility Program Guidelines and section 1.4 of the NCP Guidelines Scholarship Program . The precise details of how these programs fit within a student's course of study is a matter for Australian universities.

NCP Scholars are required to undertake monthly contact with a case manager throughout their scholarship period. The case manager also maintains regular contact with host institutions on the progress of scholars' studies.

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This information, and further detail regarding the academic credit and reporting requirements of the program is available in program guidelines and on the NCP website. For the mobility grants program - www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/mobility-program.html; and for the scholarships program - www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/scholarship-program.html.

Question C

There are specific monitoring and reporting requirements associated with both the mobility grants and scholarships programs – these are detailed in Section 9 of the Scholarship Program Guidelines (www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/scholarship-program.html#guidelines) and Section 8 of the Mobility Program Guidelines (www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/mobility-program.html).

Question D.

Yes. The figure of 740 students is an estimate of students that will be supported to study in the region during the pilot phase of the NCP only. From 2015 on, additional students will be supported to study in the region under the wider roll-out of the NCP. The students supported with NCP grants will provide a model and incentive to other students to consider the value of international study as part of their qualification. Returning NCP scholars will also be encouraged to undertake community engagement/advocacy activities to encourage other students to consider the value of international study as part of their qualification.

Question E.

Language study in Australian schools is not a responsibility of DFAT.

There are provisions for regional language attached to both the NCP mobility grants and scholarships. Up to \$1000 per NCP scholarship awardee is available for language training. For the mobility program, language training is an eligible component under both short term and semester-length study options.

Question F.

Private sector involvement is central to the NCP's design. A hallmark of the NCP is the opportunity for students to undertake internships or mentorships in the region. Australian companies with a presence in the region, and regional companies have already indicated their interest in being involved in the NCP, including by offering possible future internship and mentorship opportunities. The NCP Secretariat is pursuing an extensive business outreach program and is working to engage key businesses in its outreach to students, to highlight the benefits of regional experience. The Secretariat is considering a range of other ways in which the NCP can engage with business.

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Monitoring and evaluation processes are part of the NCP and will help inform the further development of the program.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 111

Program: DFAT

Topic: Pacific

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. *What are the expected consequences of the cuts in the Pacific?*

- ***When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?***
- ***What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with partner governments and organisations been?***

Answer

Reduced aid allocations to the Pacific will result in some programs being implemented at a slower pace. A small number of programs will not continue.

The implementation of the proposed expenditure for 2013-14 has been finalised and is available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.

Refer to Q102 answer for reactions from partner governments. Organisations funded by Pacific bilateral and regional allocations have had similar reactions.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 112

Program: DFAT

Topic: Pacific

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *Does ODA fund the detention centres on Manus Island and in Nauru? If yes, how much of PNG and Nauru's budget allocations go toward the detention centres/asylum seekers?***

Answer

No. The costs associated with the establishment and management of these facilities are not ODA eligible under the OECD DAC directives.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 113

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. *What are the expected consequences of the cuts in Bangladesh?*

- ***When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?***
- ***What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with partner governments and organisations been?***

Answer

The implementation of the proposed expenditure for 2013-14 has been finalised and is available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.

Key stakeholders affected by the cuts, including the Government of Bangladesh and non-government partners (such as BRAC, one of the world's largest NGOs), have accepted the reductions and understand that the revisions do not reflect on the performance of the programs or the Australian Government's commitment to the global development agenda.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 114

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *What are the expected consequences of the cuts in Afghanistan?***
- ***When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?***
 - ***What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with partner governments and organisations been?***

Answer

- The implementation of the proposed expenditure for 2013-14 has been finalised and is available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.
- In January, our Embassy in Kabul advised the Afghan Government of the details of the 2013-2014 financial year reduction. The Minister of Finance and senior officials noted the advice.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 115

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. *What are the expected consequences of the cuts in Bhutan and the Maldives?*

- ***When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?***
- ***What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with partner governments and organisations been?***

Answer

Bhutan

- The implementation of the proposed expenditure for 2013-14 has been finalised and is available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.
- The Bhutan Government has expressed no concerns regarding the budget revisions.

Maldives

- The implementation of the proposed expenditure for 2013-14 has been finalised and is available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.
- The Maldives Government has expressed no concerns regarding the budget revisions.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 116

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. What are the expected consequences of the cuts in Vietnam?*
- 2. When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?*
- 3. What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with partner governments and organisations been?*

Answer

1. Details of the expected consequences of the revised budget for 2013-14 in Vietnam are available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website.
2. The implementation of the proposed expenditure for 2013-14 has been finalised and is available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website (refer above). Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.
3. The Australian Government has consulted the Government of Vietnam on budget changes. The Government of Vietnam has not expressed concern about the outcome.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 117

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- 1. What are the expected consequences of the cuts in Laos?*
- 2. When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?*
- 3. What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with partner governments and organisations been?*

Answer

1. Details of the expected consequences of the revised budget for 2013-14 in Laos are available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website.
2. The implementation of the proposed expenditure for 2013-14 has been finalised and is available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website (refer above). Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.
3. The Lao Government expressed its understanding of the revised budget expenditure. The Fred Hollows Foundation was disappointed by the decision to not proceed with the Laos Australia Avoidable Blindness Initiative, as was its in-country partner, the Laos Ophthalmology Centre.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 118

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. What are the expected consequences of the cuts in Iraq?

- When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?***
- What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with partner governments and organisations been?***

Answer

The Government's aid reprioritisation will result in the finish of the aid program in Iraq during 2014. There has not been an adverse response from the Government of Iraq and partner organisations.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 119

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. What are the expected consequences of the cuts in the Palestinian Territories?

- When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?***
- What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with partner governments and organisations been?***

Answer

The Government's aid reprioritisation will result in a reduction in funding to the Palestinian Authority. Funding beyond 2013-14 will be addressed in the annual budget process. There has not been an adverse response from the Palestinian Authority or partner organisations.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 120

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. What are the expected consequences of the cuts to the Middle East and North Africa?

- When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?***
- What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with partner governments and organisations been?***

Answer

The Government's aid reprioritisation will result in the finish of aid activities in the Middle East and North Africa region during 2014 (except for the Palestinian Territories). There has not been an adverse response from partner Governments or partner organisations.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 121

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *What are the expected consequences of the cuts to Sub-Saharan Africa?***
- ***When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?***
 - ***What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with partner governments and organisations been?***

Answer

The implementation of the proposed expenditure for 2013-14 has been finalised and is available from DFAT's the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website (www.dfat.gov.au). Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.

The allocations reflect the Government's policy priorities and a focus on the Indo Pacific region. The allocations were made in consultation with African Governments and implementing partners. We are working closely with our partners to minimize the impacts of the reductions.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 122

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- ***What are the expected consequences of the cuts to Emergency, Humanitarian and Refugee programs?***
 - ***When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?***
 - ***What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with partner organisations and stakeholders been?***

Answer

- The 2013-14 budget reprioritisation has not affected DFAT's ability to respond quickly to humanitarian emergencies in the Indo-Pacific region. Core funding to most UN humanitarian agencies and International Committee of the Red Cross has been maintained at 2012-13 levels.
 - The implementation of the proposed expenditure for 2013-14 has been finalised and is available from the DFAT website. Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.
 - Partners have acknowledged budget realities and noted that Australia remains a valued humanitarian funding partner.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 123

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. *What are the expected consequences of the cuts to UN, Commonwealth and Other International Organisations programs?*

- ***When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?***
- ***What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with partner organisations and stakeholders been?***

Answer

Funding allocations for these programmes for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.

UN Development Agencies

- The Department has maintained core funding at 2012-13 levels for the 2013-14 financial year for the following UN development agencies:
 - UNDP
 - UNICEF
 - UNFPA
 - UNAIDS
 - WHO
 - UN Women
- The Department will cease funding to the Australia-International Labour Organization (ILO) Partnership Agreement (\$4.6 million). It will no longer contribute to the ILO Better Work Programme. Australia's assessed membership contributions (provided to ILO by the Department of Employment) will not be reduced.
- Funding to the UN Information Centre for Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific and United Nations Association of Australia has been retained to support UN operations in the Asia-Pacific/Indian Ocean region.

Commonwealth Organisations

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- Funding has been maintained at Budget 2013-14 levels for Commonwealth Organisations.

Other International Organisations

- Contribution to the Global Education Programmes – No impact
- Contribution to the Global Health Programmes – increase of \$10.5 million
- Contribution to the Global Environment Programmes – decrease of \$1.5 million

Reactions from partner organisations

- UNDP, UNICEF and Commonwealth officials thanked the Government for its ongoing support for the work of these organisations. Officials from the International Labour Organisation expressed disappointment at the decision not to proceed with a payment under the Partnership Agreement in the current financial year.
- UNFPA, UNAIDS, WHO have expressed disappointment that allocations would not increase from 2012-13 levels, but recognise that they are not exempt from the tight global fiscal environment. They noted that there is also value to them in predictable and unearmarked multi-year commitments and not only in increased levels of funding.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 124

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. *What are the expected consequences of the cuts to the Australian Volunteers Program?*

- ***When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?***
- ***What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with program stakeholders been?***

Answer

The reduced budget for the volunteers program has been absorbed through delayed deployment of volunteers in 2013-14, converting some long term assignments to shorter placements and savings from cost efficiency measures in program implementation.

Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.

Stakeholders were advised as soon as the budget reductions were announced. DFAT and delivery partners have worked together to maximise efficiency and minimise disruptions to the program.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 125

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. What are the expected consequences of the cuts to the Development Effectiveness & Research programs?

- When will the implementation of the revised proposed expenditure, funding recipients and annual funding for each year 2013-14; 2014-15; and 2015-16 be finalised?***
- What have the reactions and findings of your ongoing discussions with partner organisations and stakeholders been?***

Answer

There were modest reductions to the central Development Effectiveness and Research budget as a result of the revised 2013-14 aid budget. Implementation of proposed expenditure for 2013-14 has been finalised. Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 126

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consular services

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. How many Australians are currently incarcerated overseas?***
- B. Will the changes to the degree of consular services being offered affect the degree of assistance for them?***

Answer

- A. As at 27 February 2014, there were 223 cases of Australians serving prison sentences overseas. These cases include those that were serving parole.
- B. The department is currently developing a Consular Strategy for the period 2014-16 addressing how consular services can be delivered to an appropriate standard and in a cost-effective way. A range of issues is being considered as part of this process, including in response to public submissions, but no decisions have yet been taken on particular case types or service levels.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 127

Program: DFAT

Topic: Overseas Property

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *Please confirm that plans for a new Australian embassy in Dakar, Senegal have been withdrawn.***

Answer

The then Opposition announced on 5 September that plans announced by Senator Carr to establish an Australian Embassy in Dakar would not proceed.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 128

Program: DFAT

Topic: China Australia Trade

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *What is the status of current negotiations with China on the FTA? Is the agreement still “on track” for conclusion in September 2014 as previously stated by the Prime Minister?***
- B. *Is the Department concerned by the lack of mention of Australia in recent update for trade priorities for the year by the Chinese trade minister?***
- C. *What steps is the Government taking to address this perceived cooling of relations between the two states?***
- D. *Is China prioritising their three way trading agreement with South Korea and Japan, but not Australia.***
- *What implications will this have for Australia?***
 - *If South Korea and Japan sign a FTA with China this year, what are the consequences for the Korean-Australian and the Japan-Australian deals?***
- E. *Are Australian businesses looking to expand business with China via the use of its new Free Trade Zones – eg, Shanghai Free Trade Zone established last September, and 12 further Free Trade Zones recently announced by China?***
- F. *How do these Free Trade Zones interact with bilateral and plurilateral country specific free trade agreements?***

Answer

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A. Australia-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations are underway, with the next formal negotiating round planned for early May 2014. Leaders on both sides have agreed that the completion of negotiations is a priority for this year. This is a feasible target given the political commitment of both sides.

B. No. China's Premier Li Keqiang, in an address to the National People's Congress in Beijing on 5 March, said China will "accelerate" FTA negotiations with Australia.

C. Australia has a robust relationship with China based on mutual respect and shared interests. The Government is committed to furthering this important relationship. The Prime Minister's April 2014 visit to China will help further to broaden and deepen the relationship, including trade activity. The Prime Minister will be accompanied by a group of senior Australian Government and business leaders. A key activity will be the inaugural Australia Week in China, which will promote trade, investment, tourism and education partnerships through a program tailored to major industry sectors. Events will be held across the cities of Shanghai, Beijing, Chengdu and Guangzhou.

D. No. China has clearly signaled its intention to accelerate FTA negotiations with Australia (see answer to B). By contrast, the trilateral agreement with South Korea and Japan is at a very early stage and it is not possible to assess its implications for Australia. In general terms, Australia would likely benefit from the improved economic growth associated with greater liberalisation of trade between North Asian countries.

E. Yes. Australian companies have indicated to DFAT their interest in possible economic opportunities associated with China's Free Trade Zones.

F. China has signaled that it could, over time, extend liberalisation trialed in Free Trade Zones to other parts of the country. However, China has not indicated what aspects of the Free Trade Zone reforms it would be prepared to bind in trade agreements.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 129

Program: DFAT

Topic: Japan Australia Trade

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. What is the status of the negotiations on the Japan-Australian Free Trade Agreement?**
- B. Recent media commentary has suggested that agreement may be reached by April, with plans to sign following the Japanese Prime Minister's visit in July. Is this the intended timeline?**
- C. Have negotiations been concluded?**
- D. Is the Agreement being formalised for finalisation?**
- E. When will the text be released to the Australian public?**
- F. Has a date been set for the formal signing of the Agreement?**
- G. How many intersessional meeting between representatives of both countries have occurred in the past 6 months?**
 - Who were the representatives?**
 - Were there any changes in key representatives?**
 - Were there any special envoys? If so, how appointed and details?**
 - Where were the meetings conducted?**
 - What were the costs of these meetings?**
- H. What have been the key areas of discussion in theses prior meetings?**
- I. Can you take us through the main issues outstanding in the agreement?**
- J. Is there an ISDS provision in the Japan-Aust FTA?**
- K. Will the FIRB threshold be increased as it was in the Korea-Aust FTA?**
- L. Will the removal of tariffs and duties on second-hand motor vehicles as provided in KAFTA form a precedent for similar treatment with Japan?**
 - If so, why? Given that the Korean 2nd hand car market is not as likely to have a significant impact on the Australian market as compared to the impact of Japanese 2nd hand vehicles?**
 - Has the Australian automotive industry been consulted?**
 - If so, what are their views? If not, why not?**

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- *Have consumer safety and environmental implications that arise from increasing the average age of the fleet in the community been considered?*
- M. Is there any current or planned modelling of the benefits and disadvantages to Australia and Australian businesses as a result of the final negotiated position in this FTA?**
 - *If so, provide details;*
 - *If not, why not?*
- N. How many jobs are expected to be created and lost as a result of the Japan-Aust FTA?**

Answer

A. Australia and Japan concluded negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in Tokyo on 7 April 2014 during the visits of the Prime Minister and the Minister for Trade and Investment.

B. There has been some discussion of high-level visits but nothing is confirmed. Following conclusion of the negotiations, Australia and Japan are now progressing the EPA through domestic legal and parliamentary processes.

C. Yes.

D. Refer to the answer in A.

E. Consistent with normal treaty processes, the full text of the Agreement will be made available after signature, unless agreed otherwise by both parties.

F. No.

G. There have been frequent exchanges between Australian and Japanese negotiators in the past six months (September 2013 – February 2014), including discussions in person as well as by email and telephone.

Key negotiators have not changed and have included senior officials on both sides from a range of agencies reflecting the breadth of issues involved in the EPA. Australia's Lead Negotiator is DFAT's Assistant Secretary, North Asia Goods Branch from the Free Trade Agreement Division, with support from a range of officials in other agencies.

There have not been any special envoys.

In the past six months (September 2013 – February 2014), meetings have been conducted in Sydney (January 2014) and Tokyo (October 2013, November 2014 and February 2014).

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Travel and associated costs for the meetings held in Sydney and Tokyo (for the six month period) were \$121,734 (exclusive of GST).

H. Key areas of the discussion have involved market access in agriculture, industrial products and services and investment.

I. Refer to the answer in A.

J. The EPA does not include an ISDS mechanism. The Government said it would address requests for ISDS mechanisms on a case-by-case basis. In this Agreement, a decision was taken to not include ISDS. The Investment Chapter includes a review clause which provides for future consideration of an ISDS mechanism.

K. Japan will receive higher screening thresholds for private investors under the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPa), namely \$1,078 million up from \$248 million, consistent with thresholds provided to the US and New Zealand and the threshold recently agreed with Korea under KAFTA. However, Australia has retained the ability to screen investments in sensitive sectors and reserved policy space to screen proposals for foreign investment in agricultural land at \$15 million and in agribusinesses at \$53 million.

L. The market access treatment for used motor vehicles under KAFTA has not set a precedent for JAEPa negotiations. In the context of JAEPa, the Australian automotive industry has been consulted closely throughout the negotiations, including on the used car tariff. The general view expressed was to retain the specific duty component of the tariff. Concerns regarding potential consequences of removing the specific duty have been expressed by the Australian automotive industry, including possible consumer safety and environmental implications.

M. Key elements of the agreement were finalised only shortly before conclusion of the negotiations and there has been insufficient time to commission credible modelling. However, expanded liberalisation of trade with Japan, Asia's second-largest economy and Australia's second-largest export market and trading partner, will clearly benefit the Australian economy, as evidenced by the initial feasibility study undertaken in 2006. Modelling – with all its inherent uncertainties depending on the assumptions underpinning it – would only confirm what we already know about the value of better access to the Japanese market. The benefits of the EPA will depend on the extent to which Australian and Japanese businesses make the most of the new opportunities.

N. Refer to the answer in M.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 130

Program: DFAT

Topic: Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. When is the next round of negotiations scheduled?

B. Has the decline in diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Australia since the new Government took office resulted in a delay or hold on these trade negotiations?

Answer

A. The next round of Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA CEPA) negotiations has not been scheduled at this stage.

B. We have not received any advice from Indonesian officials that the IA-CEPA negotiations have been put on hold.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 131

Program: DFAT

Topic: Trans Pacific Partnership

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

a) What was the outcome of the most recent TPP Ministerial Meeting, Singapore 22-25 February 2014

- What areas were progressed?

TPP Ministers made progress in negotiating the trade rules, and identified ways forward to resolving some of the outstanding issues. Ministers also had extensive bilateral meetings and made progress in discussions on market access across goods, services and investment.

- Were any areas finalised?

Negotiations on the Telecommunications Chapter were finalised.

- Who represented Australia?

Australia was represented by the Minister for Trade and Investment, the Hon, Andrew Robb AO MP.

- Were there any differences in representation from prior rounds? If so, who?

Australia's representation was the same as the previous round.

b) When and where is the next round of meetings scheduled?

The next round of meetings has not been scheduled.

c) What meetings have been scheduled at both a ministerial and officials level for the next twelve months?

At the time of writing this response, no Ministerial meetings have been scheduled for the next twelve months. No negotiating rounds at the officials-level have been scheduled, but some working groups may meet on an ad hoc basis over the coming weeks to continue progressing the negotiations.

d) Is there a proposed timeline to complete negotiations – noting the numerous “fast-track” comments in the media here and in the US?

No, there is no proposed timeline to complete the negotiations.

e) Can you outline the status of the ‘fast track’ authority in the US at the moment? What is likely to happen to the agreement should this ‘fast track’ not occur?

Trade Promotion Authority (TPA, formerly ‘fast track’) expired on 1 July 2007. On 30 July 2013, President Obama requested that Congress reauthorise TPA. On 9 January 2014, legislation to renew TPA, the

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Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014, was introduced in the House and the Senate. The bill has not yet been passed by the legislature. If TPA is not renewed, this may have implications for timely implementation of the TPP agreement in the United States.

f) What is the status of drafting of each of the chapters?

Negotiations on the following chapters are finalised: Cooperation and Capacity Building, Competitiveness and Business Facilitation, Development, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Regulatory Coherence, Administration and Trade Facilitation and Telecommunications. The status of the remaining chapters range from those chapters with only one or two outstanding issues, to chapters that require further discussion on a number of issues.

g) Will an ISDS be included at this stage?

The Government is considering the inclusion of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on a case-by-case basis and has said that it is prepared to consider ISDS in the TPP provided certain conditions are met, including appropriate safeguards for public welfare measures such as health, safety and the environment.

h) There is concern from the Australian Pork industry that the US will utilise these negotiations to dilute Australia's scientifically established safeguards against disease. What is the department's stance on this issue?

The TPP will not alter Australia's existing rights and obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO) with respect to sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The TPP will not alter Australia's right to determine our own appropriate level of protection.

i) Has China been invited or sought to enter these negotiations? If not, what provisions are there to allow for additional membership?

TPP membership is not initiated by invitation, rather, it is driven by the prospective new members. To date, China has not indicated an interest in joining the TPP negotiation. Negotiating parties support the expansion of TPP membership over time to other Asia-Pacific economies. Rules on how prospective new members can accede to the TPP once in force are currently under discussion.

j) The answer to QoN 255 notes that if one or more of the participating Governments decides to propose changes to the final TPP text, this would need to be agreed by all negotiating parties. What processes will

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this Government put in place to facilitate consultation on the final text? Will it be open to changes should there be significant public concerns with part of the text?

The final TPP agreement will be subject to consideration by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT), including any public consultation JSCOT wishes to conduct, before binding treaty action is taken. Should the Government decide to propose changes to the final TPP text, this would need to be agreed by all negotiating parties.

k) What efforts are being made towards harmonisation of RCEP and the TPP multilateral agreements with numerous bilateral and plurilateral agreements between different members?

TPP negotiations are in a more advanced state than RCEP. Australian TPP and RCEP negotiators consult closely on negotiating positions, including on the possibility of harmonising approaches where appropriate.

l) What is the Department's position on the numerous calls for more transparency in the negotiations on TPP? What is the key reason for refusing to release the text prior to signing for open and transparent public consultation?

DFAT has held more than 700 consultations on the TPP with business, civil society and members of the public. All TPP negotiating parties have committed not to publicly release documents relating to the negotiation without consensus, as it normal practice in such negotiations.

m) Have you considered the recommendations from the Productivity Commission relating to an improved framework and transparency?

Yes.

n) What is the position of the other 11 countries participating in the TPP negotiations on transparency, particularly the US?

Each TPP party has its own processes on transparency and mechanisms in place to engage with its stakeholders.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 132

Program: DFAT

Topic: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. What is the current status of the negotiations on RCEP?*

- B. What were the outcomes of the latest round of negotiations (in Malaysia 20-24 January 2014)?*

- C. Who attended this round of negotiations for Australia?*

- D. What was the travel and associated costs of this round?*

- E. When and where are the next round of negotiations scheduled?*

- F. Is there an anticipated final round of negotiations?*

- G. Is there any updates as to Uruguay and China joining the negotiations? Have any other countries expressed an interest in joining?*

- H. Australia and Korea are both members of RCEP – are there inconsistencies and conflicts between the negotiated position in RCEP and the agreed position in KAFTA?*
 - If so, or if such inconsistency emerge, how will they be handled?*
 - Will KAFTA be merged into RCEP if RCEP is a better outcome for Australia?*

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- I. One of the Government's reasons for refusing to release the text of KAFTA early was that such release may prejudice the outcome. Now that KAFTA is released, is Australia's negotiation position weakened in RCEP?***
- J. How will RCEP fit with other bilateral free trade agreements currently being negotiated?***
- K. How will RCEP fit with the TPP?***
- ***Is there a risk of creating two significant overlapping but competing trade blocs?***
 - ***How will inconsistencies and preferred positions be dealt with?***
- L. What analysis has been undertaken on handling / resolving the conflict issue between competing trade agreements? Are there harmonisation efforts?***
- M. What implications are there for implementing domestic legislation?***

Answer

A. Negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily and on schedule.

B. At the third round, the 16 RCEP participating countries made progress on core goods, services and investment issues.

In line with the agreed Guiding Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the RCEP, participating countries agreed at the third round to establish four new working groups on economic and technical cooperation, competition, intellectual property and dispute settlement.

C. The Australian delegation for the third RCEP round was comprised of 21 officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (17), the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (1), Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (1), the Department of Industry (1) and the Attorney General's Department (1).

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D. Travel and associated costs for the Australian delegation (21 officials) was \$142,560.18 (exclusive of GST).

E. China hosted the fourth round of negotiations in Nanning on 31 March to 4 April 2014. Singapore will host the fifth round (19-27 June 2014).

F. In accordance with the Guiding Principles, participating countries are working towards concluding negotiations by the end of 2015.

G. The Guiding Principles state that any ASEAN FTA partner and any other external economic partner can accede after the completion of the RCEP negotiations.

China is already a RCEP participating country. We are not aware of a request from Uruguay to join RCEP.

Australia has not received a formal request from another country to join RCEP.

H. RCEP seeks to build on existing FTA commitments and deliver a commercially meaningful agreement

If there are differences in negotiated outcomes, traders and investors can choose to use the FTA which best suits their requirements. Benefits from FTAs are cumulative rather than contradictory.

I. The release of KAFTA text has not weakened Australia's negotiating position for other trade negotiations, including RCEP.

Australia considers Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions in trade and investment agreements on a case-by-case basis. Australia will consider any ISDS proposal in RCEP based on the overall balance of commitments in the agreement and the proposed ISDS mechanism.

J. RCEP is one element of Australia's efforts towards deepening regional integration and lowering barriers to trade and investment across the region.

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RCEP has the potential to build on commitments made in other negotiations and open Australia to economic opportunities in our region which our bilateral arrangements may not offer.

Australian negotiators consult closely on negotiating approaches between our agreements.

K. There are 12 TPP participants and 16 RCEP participants; seven countries participate in both. Australia views TPP and RCEP as complementary, rather than competing, trade agreements. Australian TPP and RCEP negotiators consult closely on negotiating approaches.

L. RCEP will provide a basis for more open trade and investment in the region by complementing, rather than competing with, our other trade agreements. This will help address concerns about a 'noodle bowl' of overlapping bilateral agreements and deliver additional benefits (eg. through supply chains) from regional liberalisation. Harmonised rules of origin could also assist regional economic integration.

M. All concluded FTAs are subject to the treaty implementation process. The decision to ratify an FTA is a judgement that any limitations on the range of possible actions which may result are outweighed by the benefits which flow from lower trade and investment barriers.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 133

Program: DFAT

Topic: Trade in Services Agreement

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. Who were Australia's representatives at the most recent Geneva round of negotiations held from 17-24 February 2014? Where there any changes since prior rounds of negotiations?*
- B. What was the travel and other associated costs involved in this round of negotiations?*
- C. What were the key outcomes of this round of negotiations?*
- D. What is the overall status of TiSA?*
- E. Is there an anticipated conclusion date?*
- F. How does the Services sections of KAFTA fit with the proposed position on Services in TiSA?*
- G. How will any inconsistencies be dealt with? Can entities "forum shop"?*
- H. What type of dispute resolution mechanism is being considered? Will Australia contemplate another ISDS type provision?*
- I. Has there been any modelling relating this Agreement?*

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J. *What is Australia's key negotiating platform or "must haves"?*

Answer

A. *Who were Australia's representatives at the most recent Geneva round of negotiations held from 17-24 February 2014? Where there any changes since prior rounds of negotiations?*

Australia's representatives at the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) negotiations in Geneva from 17-24 February 2014 were:

Ms Helen Stylianou, Assistant Secretary, Services and WTO Trade Policy Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms Caroline McCarthy, Counsellor, Australian Permanent Mission to the World Trade Organization, Geneva

Ms Deanna Easton, Executive Officer, Services Trade and Negotiations Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms Maria Vu, Executive Officer, Services Trade and Negotiations Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

These delegates have attended previous rounds of the TiSA negotiations.

B. *What was the travel and other associated costs involved in this round of negotiations?*

The travel and associated costs for the February round of TiSA negotiations was \$38,447.88.

C. *What were the key outcomes of this round of negotiations?*

At the February 2014 TiSA round 21 of the 23 TiSA parties tabled their market access offers. TiSA parties also agreed to use proposals on information and communications technology services, financial services, domestic regulation and transparency, maritime transport, professional services and temporary entry of business persons as a basis for negotiating texts. These texts will be subject to further negotiations.

D. *What is the overall status of TiSA?*

TiSA negotiations are ongoing. Australia will chair the next round of negotiations in Geneva from 28 April – 2 May 2014.

E. *Is there an anticipated conclusion date?*

No.

F. *How does the Services sections of KAFTA fit with the proposed position on Services in TiSA?*

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The TiSA negotiations are still at an early stage. Australian positions in the TiSA are based on Australian positions in previous trade negotiations.

G. How will any inconsistencies be dealt with? Can entities “forum shop”?

The TiSA negotiations are still at an early stage, but we do not expect there to be any inconsistencies with Australia’s existing trade obligations.

H. What type of dispute resolution mechanism is being considered? Will Australia contemplate another ISDS type provision?

There has been no detailed discussion of dispute resolution mechanisms in the TiSA negotiations to date. There have been no proposals to include ISDS type provisions in the TiSA.

I. Has there been any modelling relating this Agreement?

No.

J. What is Australia’s key negotiating platform or “must haves”?

Australia is pursuing improved access and conditions for Australian business in areas of export strength including financial services, professional services, education services, telecommunications and electronic commerce. Australia is also pursuing better commitments in areas where business are rapidly developing a strong export focus – mining and energy services, construction and environmental services.

Australia is pursuing improvements in business mobility to increase the categories of Australian business professional permitted to travel and work in TiSA markets and to increase the period Australians are permitted to stay.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 134

Program: DFAT

Topic: WTO Disputes

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. Are any of the current matters in dispute before the WTO, likely to be resolved in the coming year?**
- *If so, provide details.*
- B. Are there any WTO dispute matters that represent a significant risk to Australia in terms of negative outcomes? (eg, requiring significant compensation payment or reversal of legislation; negative risk for any of our industries?)**
- *If so, provide details.*
- C. Who is representing Australia in these disputes?**
- *How are they selected?*
- D. What is the annual cost of representing Australia in these WTO disputes?**
- *How does this cost compare with annual costs over the preceding decade?*
 - *What is the aggregate budgeted costs (a) for the next financial year, and (b) to case completion?*
- E. How many non-WTO trade disputes is Australia a party to?**
- *Provide details, including costs, timeframes, prospects of success and any significant risks.*

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Answer

A. Panel reports are expected, or have recently been circulated to WTO Members this year in a number of cases. The cases include:

- Argentina – Measures affecting the importation of goods
- India – Measures concerning the importation of certain agricultural products from the United States
- United States – Countervailing measures on certain hot-rolled carbon steel flat products from India
- United States – Countervailing duty measures on certain products from China
- China – Measures related to the exportation of rare earths, tungsten and molybdenum
- United States – Countervailing and anti-dumping measures on certain products from China, and
- European Communities – Measures prohibiting the importation and marketing of seal products.

Once a Panel report is released, parties may then appeal the report, prolonging the dispute settlement process. Given the possibility of appeal, it is difficult to predict when the disputes will be resolved.

B. It is important to note that only the complainants and respondents in a dispute are bound by the outcome of that dispute. Australia is a respondent in five separate disputes against Australia's tobacco plain packaging measure, which are in the early stages of the dispute settlement process. Currently, panels have been established, but not yet composed, in the disputes brought by Ukraine, Honduras and Indonesia. Australia has also held WTO dispute settlement consultations with Dominican Republic and Cuba. Panels have not yet been established in relation to those disputes. The status of other disputes involving Australia was listed in Question on Notice No 58 from Senator Wong on 17 December 2013.

Where a party is found not to be in compliance with its WTO obligations, the party is given time to bring the relevant measures into line with the ruling or recommendations of the Panel. In rare cases, if a party fails to act within this period, it may enter into negotiations with the complainants to determine mutually-acceptable compensation, such as tariff reductions in certain areas.

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C. DFAT has the lead, through the Trade Law Branch in the Office of Trade Negotiations, in Australia's participation in WTO disputes, working closely with the Attorney General's Department and other agencies as appropriate. DFAT's Tobacco Plain Packaging Taskforce, which has the lead in the preparation of the defence to the WTO disputes brought in relation to Australia's tobacco plain packaging measure, works collaboratively with the Attorney General's Department and the Department of Health. Staff are selected based on their skills, experience and relevant legal qualifications.

D. It is not possible to accurately specify the complete costs involved in Australia's participation in WTO disputes. The Office of Trade Negotiations has a number of trade lawyers working on disputes-related matters. Not all of these officers work exclusively on disputes. They also provide legal advice and represent Australia at relevant fora.

E. Australia is the respondent to an investor-State dispute on tobacco plain packaging, brought by Philip Morris Asia under the Australia-Hong Kong Bilateral Investment Treaty. The Attorney General's Department, in close collaboration with DFAT and the Department of Health, has the lead on the preparation of Australia's defence to that dispute. Questions related to that litigation should be directed to the Attorney General's Department.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 135

Program: DFAT

Topic: WTO Trade Negotiations

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. In reference to QoN21 which states there are no scheduled WTO ministerial meetings this year - can the Department confirm this is still the case?***

- B. What is the reason behind the lack of scheduled ministerial meetings for 2014?***

- C. Given the Government's commitment in its election document: "The Coalition remains committed to unilateral trade negotiations, conducted under the auspices of the WTO"pg8 , what steps is Australia taking to push for meetings to be scheduled in 2014.***

- D. Can the Department outline what were the key sticking points at the most recent Doha Round in Bali last December?***

- E. In reference to QoN 21D - Why are industry representatives not being appointed for multilateral trade negotiations?***

Answer

A. Yes.

B. The WTO schedule for ministerial conferences operates on a two-year cycle. The last was held in December 2013 and the next is scheduled for December 2015.

C. See response to question 135B. Outside of the formal WTO schedule, Trade Minister Andrew Robb is hosting an informal gathering of trade ministers in

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Paris in May, in the margins of the OECD Ministerial Conference. Australia is also hosting a G20 Trade Minister's Meeting in July 2014 and will make time in the agenda for ministerial discussion of WTO issues. Minister Robb attended an informal Joint Ministerial meeting in the margins of the World Economic Forum in Davos, January 2014.

D. The 9th WTO Ministerial Conference agreed on a package of early harvest outcomes from the Doha Round. The elements of the package included outcomes on agriculture, development, and an Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

E. The Government consults industry groups regularly when developing positions for trade negotiations, and as negotiations continue.

Given the standard practice and continuing expectation of our trading partners, formal trade negotiations are being held between governments only.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 136

Program: DFAT

Topic: Statement to Parliament

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *In reference to QoN26 – has there been any further advance on the date of the Minister’s annual statement to Parliament outlining the quantum of new investment and number of new jobs created?***
- B. *What methodology will the Department be employing to determine the number of new jobs created through investment?***

Answer

- A. As the Prime Minister noted in his statement on the first 100 Days of Government, the Minister for Trade and Investment will make his annual statement to the parliament prior to September 2014.
- B. The Statement will draw upon a range of information sources including from the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Foreign Investment Review Board (Treasury) and Austrade.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 137

Program: DFAT

Topic: White Paper – Northern Australia

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *What is the status of Northern Australia White paper in relation to the benefits of bilateral free trade and taxation agreements as outlined in the Coalition's election document?***

Answer

The White Paper on Developing Northern Australia is the responsibility of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 138

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel of Minister Robb

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. Can the Department provide an update on where Minister Robb has travelled since the election following on from the November 2013 estimates?*
- B. How many personal staff travelled with him on each of these visits? How many DFAT officers? Have staff from any other offices accompanied him on his overseas visits?*
- C. What was the duration of each of these visits?*
- D. What was the cost of each of these visits?*
- E. Who did he meet with during these visits and what was the purpose of the visit?*

Answer

The answers to **A**, **C** and **E** have been provided in the response to Question 177.

B. The following departmental officers accompanied Mr Robb on his overseas visits since November 2013:

Visit	Dates	Accompanying Departmental Staff
Philippines and Singapore	19 to 27 February 2014	Jan Adams, Deputy Secretary Chris De Cure, First Assistant Secretary, Office of Trade Negotiations Elizabeth Ward, Assistant Secretary, Goods & Investment Branch

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Visit	Dates	Accompanying Departmental Staff
Switzerland	22 to 27 January 2014	Nil
USA	10 to 17 January 2014	Chris De Cure, First Assistant Secretary, Office of Trade Negotiations
Indonesia and Singapore	1 to 11 December 2013	Jan Adams, Deputy Secretary

D. The Department of Finance meets the costs of ministerial travel overseas.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 139

Program: DFAT

Topic: Foreign Investment

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *In reference to QoN 25 - does Treasury provide any modelling at the request of DFAT on the perceived benefits of foreign investment into Australia as a result of bilateral FTAs e.g. Korea?***

Answer

A. No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 140

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial Advisory Council

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. *Can the Department update on the status of appointment of the Trade Advisory Council as announced in the Coalition's Trade Election Policy?***
- B. *What is the process surrounding these appointments?***
- *Does the Minister have a shortlist under consideration?*
 - *What is the criteria that will be used to determine selection?*
- C. *Have resources been allocated this financial year? If not, why not?***

Answer

The Minister for Trade and Investment is considering the structure, membership and administration of a Trade and Investment Business Advisory Council.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 141

Program: DFAT

Topic: Industry Representatives

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. What is the status of the industry representatives identified in the Coalition Policy document?*
- B. Have any industry representatives been appointed yet?*
- C. If so, who are they?*
- D. Who is involved in appointing them? What is the process? Is there a set of criteria? Does the Minister receive a short list?*
- E. What will their roles involve?*
- F. What will they be paid? Will travel be included?*
- G. How do the industry representatives, the envoys and the ministerial advisory council relate to each other?*
- H. Are they the same people?*
- I. Why are there both ministerial advisory bodies and individuals appointed to advise?*

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Answer

The issue is under consideration.

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Question No 142

Program: DFAT

Topic: Trade Principles - Election Document

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. In reference to QoN253 which states that the Coalition's Trade Policy is outlined in its election document. Is this still the case?*

- B. This policy makes no mention of transparency – will there be any additional policy parameters set given the number of free trade agreements on the Government's agenda?*

- C. Will there be any updates to these principles now you are in Government?*

Answer

- A. Yes.
- B. The Government is acting in accordance with long-standing policy parameters.
- C. As above.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 143

Program: DFAT

Topic: PACER Plus

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

A. In reference to QoN 23 - can the Department provide an update on the PACER Plus negotiations since the November 2013 Estimates?

Answer

An inter-sessional negotiating meeting was held from 31 March to 2 April 2014 in Vanuatu. The next PACER Plus negotiating session is scheduled to be held in mid-June 2014 (exact dates to be confirmed). Further negotiating meetings are expected to be held in 2014.

The 2014 Pacific Islands Forum Trade Officials' and Ministers' meeting will be held in Kiribati on 27 May and 28 May, respectively. Forum Trade officials and Ministers will consider a number of trade related issues of interest at the regional level, including the PACER Plus negotiations. As part of their meeting on 28 May 2014, Ministers will review progress in the PACER Plus negotiations and, as necessary, provide further guidance to officials carrying out the negotiations.

The Pacific Islands Forum Ministerial Contact Group released a statement on 15 February 2014 with a recommendation that Pacific Islands Forum Leaders agree to invite Fiji to participate in PACER Plus negotiations and Forum Trade Ministers' Meetings at ministerial level. Australia would welcome Pacific Islands Forum Leaders agreeing to the Ministerial Contact Group recommendation on Fiji, and we would welcome Fiji accepting the offer to participate in the PACER Plus negotiations and Forum Trade Ministers' meetings.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 144

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A. In reference to QoN19 - Can the Department provide an update on the status of the Australia-India Comprehensive Economic agreement negotiations since the November 2013 Estimates?***
- B. Has a date now been set for the next negotiating round?***
- C. Will a special envoy be appointed? If not, why not.***
- D. (If they are to be appointed) Who is it and how were they appointed. What are they paid? Who pays for their travel if it is required?***

Answer

- A. There have been no developments since the November 2013 Estimates.
- B. No. Once India's general elections (April-May) are completed, we will look to schedule the next round, likely to occur in the second half of 2014.
- C. No. Consultations with industry and relevant stakeholders have been instrumental in ensuring negotiations target commercially meaningful outcomes and address domestic sensitivities. The Government will continue to consult with industry associations and can provide briefings to interested parties.
- D. Refer to response to QoN 144(c).

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 145

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australia-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- A.** *In reference to QoN 20 - Can the Department provide an update on the status of the Australia-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement since the previous answer?*
- B.** *Has the Government undertaken any modelling on the benefits that could accrue to particular states should this agreement proceed, particularly for South Australia?*

Answer

- A.** Australia and India have undertaken four rounds of negotiations. The most recent round of negotiations took place in Canberra on 10-12 February 2014. Negotiations have been professional and constructive. A fifth round has not yet been scheduled, but is expected to follow the end of India's coming election period and to take place in India.
- B.** No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 146

Program: DFAT

Topic: Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement - Trade Programs - Bilateral, regional and multilateral trade negotiations

Question in Writing

Senator Xenophon

Question

A. *What is Australia's negotiating position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership?*

The Government will sign up to the TPP if it judges that the deal is worthwhile for Australia and Australians. In the negotiations, Australia is seeking: additional market access for goods into the markets of existing FTA and future TPP partners, including access for our agricultural goods into Japan and the United States of America; outcomes on rules of origin and investment disciplines that will enhance regional value chains across the Asia-Pacific; and enhanced access for Australian service suppliers in fields such as education, legal services, financial services, mining and agricultural services. Australian negotiators are aware of domestic sensitivities and defend them strongly in TPP negotiations. The Government will not accept any TPP outcomes which would undermine the integrity of Australian healthcare policy or constrain the Government's ability to regulate on legitimate health, social, environmental or other similarly important public policy matters.

B. *What is the draft text of the agreement? Why isn't the text available for public scrutiny?*

The draft negotiating texts include proposals made by countries participating in the TPP negotiations, which are the subject of ongoing discussion at TPP negotiating rounds. In line with standard practice in international negotiations, the 12 countries involved in the TPP negotiations have agreed to keep these draft negotiating texts confidential in order to facilitate candid and productive negotiations. However, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) officials are available to provide regular public briefings on the status of the negotiations.

C. *In 1996 a similar attempt was made to introduce the Multilateral Agreement on Investment. On that occasion the negotiating text was placed on the OECD website. In addition, Australia's own negotiating position and its views were placed on our Treasury website. Why isn't this being done for the TPP? Is it because of the widespread criticism the 1996 text received?*

It is normal practice in the negotiation of international treaties – in particular those that cover sensitive individual country market access positions – to keep negotiating text confidential until the agreement is

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completed. This facilitates candid and productive negotiations. Moreover, negotiating texts often do not provide an accurate picture of the state of negotiations. The obligations under discussion are constantly evolving, with initial claims amended gradually over the course of many negotiating rounds until all parties reach their final positions. The difference between early “work-in-progress” texts and the final text can be great, and negotiating text has no status until all parties have agreed to it. In the case of the negotiations for a Multilateral Agreement on Investment, the text placed on the OECD website reflected the work of expert groups and had not been adopted by the Negotiating Group. This text did not reveal individual country positions.

D. Leaked drafts of the deal published by WikiLeaks have confirmed that the US and other nations are pushing for changes which will give international corporations power of democratically elected Governments. The TPP would effectively allow foreign corporations to sue the Australian Government if we bring in laws and protections that violate their right to invest.

What is Australia’s position on Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions in the TPP?

The Government is considering the inclusion of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on a case-by-case basis and has said that it is prepared to consider ISDS in the TPP provided certain conditions are met, including appropriate safeguards for public welfare measures such as health, safety and the environment.

E. In Canada, the decision of the regional government of Quebec to introduce a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing pending further investigations has resulted in a legal action for \$250m by US oil and gas company Lone Pine resources.

Is the Department aware of this and other similar cases? What advice has the Department provided to the Government on ISDS?

DFAT is aware that Lone Pine Resources has brought a claim against Canada. This claim has not yet been decided. DFAT is providing advice to the Government on ISDS issues under negotiation in the TPP.

F. The Australia Institute recently ran a survey to determine awareness and attitudes to the TPP. Some of the responses included:

- a) 87 per cent think FTAs should be made public before signed by the Government***
- b) 67 per cent do not trust that FTAs won’t increase the cost of medicines***

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- c) 76 per cent would not support Australia being prevented from mandating labelling of GM foods**
- d) 64 per cent would not support a trade agreement that allowed Australia TV stations to show fewer Australian-made programs**
- e) The majority of respondents also did not support an ISDS clause**

Will the Department be taking the results of this survey into account when determining Australia's negotiating position?

DFAT is aware of the Australia Institute Survey.

- G. The Australia Institute survey also found that only 11 per cent of people had heard of the TPP, but when they did become informed, they had very strong opinions on what should and should not be included.**

What measures has the Department taken to make the public aware of TPP negotiations? What consultation has the Department sort on TPP negotiations?

DFAT continues to take all available opportunities to engage with stakeholders and to meet interested groups. DFAT has held formal stakeholder consultations in different State capitals. The most recent consultations were held on 26 to 27 March 2014 in Melbourne and Sydney. These consultations were advertised on the DFAT website and invitations were also sent to DFAT's TPP stakeholder contact list (stakeholders who have previously engaged with DFAT on TPP). Apart from these regular public consultations, DFAT's negotiators talk daily with stakeholders. DFAT has provided more than 700 stakeholder briefings, and these interactions have informed our approach to the TPP negotiations. DFAT also provides information about the TPP negotiations on the departmental website and is always ready to receive written submissions and comments from the public, with further information on how to make a submission available on the website: <http://www.dfat.gov.au/fta/tpp/>

- H. Consumer groups say also the trade pact could have a significant impact on consumers across the region. There are claims it will increase the cost of medicines, music, films, computer games and software.**

Are there guarantees in place that prices of medicines, music and movies won't rise if the TPP is signed?

Australia does not support outcomes in the TPP that would increase the cost of consumer products, including medicines, music and movies.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 147

Program: DFAT

Topic: Diplomatic Relationship with China

Question in Writing

Senator Dastyari

Question

- A. Have there been any signs of deterioration in the bilateral relationship between China and Australia since the change of government?*
- B. If yes, what have those signs been?*
- C. How would DFAT characterise the bilateral relationship that the Abbott government inherited with China?*
- D. How would DFAT characterise the bilateral relationship that the Abbott government has with China today?*
- E. What impact have the government's public statements about our friendship with Japan had on our relationship with China?*
- F. What impact have the government's public statements about our relationship with the United States had on our relationship with China?*
- G. What impact have the government's public statements about Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) had on our relationship with China?*
- H. Would DFAT agree with the assertion that: "Australia's statements and actions on China's establishment of the East China Air Defence Identification Zone have damaged the mutual trust and healthy development of the relations between the two countries" (Chinese Foreign Ministry Statement, 6-Dec-2013)*

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

I. *What impact did the government's decision to call in the Chinese Ambassador over the ADIZ announcement have on our relationship with China?*

J. *Can I draw your attention to “Unchartered Waters”, an August 2011 paper by Andrew Shearer, published by the Lowy Institute. On page 8, Mr Shearer makes the statement:*

“The challenge for Australian diplomacy in the next decade is to explain that if anything, Australia is moving closer to the United States but is not looking to portraying China as an enemy. This will require skill and subtlety...”

Is the government meeting this challenge with skill?

K. *Is the government meeting this challenge with subtlety?*

Answer

A. No.

B. N/A.

C. The Australia-China bilateral relationship has been developing well over recent decades, including under the previous government.

D. The relationship is strong and developing well.

E. No significant impact. Neither relationship is a function of the other. Australia has long enjoyed a relationship of friendship with Japan, which has been publicly acknowledged by successive Australian governments.

F. China's leaders recognise that Australia has long enjoyed a relationship of friendship with the United States, including a strong and enduring alliance relationship, which has been publicly acknowledged by successive Australian governments.

G. Australia's relationship with China continues to develop strongly. The government's actions on China's ADIZ announcement demonstrated that Australia was a frank interlocutor which would speak out when it saw key interests engaged.

H. No. The relationship continues to develop strongly.

I. Chinese officials expressed displeasure, but the relationship continues to develop strongly.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

J. Yes.

K. Yes.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 148

Program: DFAT

Topic: PMO

Question in Writing

Senator Dastyari

Question

- A. *What role does the Prime Minister's Office have in the development of foreign policy?***
- B. *What role does the Prime Minister's senior advisor on National Security, Andrew Shearer, have in the development of foreign policy?***
- C. *Has the Prime Minister's senior advisor on National Security ever overruled DFAT foreign policy advice?***
- D. *Does the Prime Minister's senior advisor on National Security offer advice to the Foreign Minister?***
- E. *Has the former Prime Minister, John Howard, been providing foreign policy advice to the government?***
- F. *What role, if any, has the Prime Minister's senior advisor on National Security had while travelling abroad with the Foreign Minister?***
- G. *What official travel has the Prime Minister's senior advisor on National Security had in the company of the Foreign Minister?***
- H. *Did Andrew Shearer accompany the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister to the APEC summit in October in Bali?***
- I. *Can DFAT please provide information on all publicly funded foreign travel the Prime Minister's senior advisor on National Security has taken since the election?***

Answer

Answers to A, B, C and D: Advice on the role of the Prime Minister's Office, and the roles of advisers within that office, would be a matter for the Prime Minister's Office. The extent to which the advice of advisers has differed from DFAT is a question for the Office of the Prime Minister.

E. Former Prime Minister John Howard has no formal role in advising the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on foreign policy matters.

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Answers to F, G, I: Travel by the Prime Minister and his advisers is coordinated by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

H. DFAT has not funded any travel for staff or advisers of the Prime Minister.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 149

Program: DFAT

Topic: US-Japan-Australia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue

Question in Writing

Senator Dastyari

Question

- 1. *What involvement did the Prime Minister's senior advisor on National Security have in altering the draft communique prepared by DFAT for the US-Japan-Australia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue (TSD)?***
- 2. *Did Andrew Shearer change the draft TSD communique prepared by DFAT?***
- 3. *What was changed?***
- 4. *How was the TSD communique different to the draft proposed by DFAT?***
- 5. *Did the TSD communique contravene advice DFAT provided to government?***
- 6. *Did DFAT provide advice to the government on the consequences of siding with US and Japan on the East China Sea?***
- 7. *What was that advice?***
- 8. *What impact has the TSD communique had on Australia's foreign policy and strategic relations?***
- 9. *Some commentators have described the TSD communique as "needlessly and recklessly taking sides in a complex dispute" between China and the United States; was it needless and were there other options available to Australia?***
- 10. *When has Australia previously taken a public position to side with Japan and the United States on the East China Sea?***
- 11. *What impact has the TSD communique had our relations with China?***
- 12. *Was the TSD communique the reason the Foreign Minister was obliged to summon the Chinese Ambassador on 25 November 2013 to express concern about China's sudden announcement of an air-defence identification zone over the East China Sea?***
- 13. *If not, what was the reason?***
- 14. *Was it an obligation?***

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Answer

1. None.
2. No.
3. N/A.
4. N/A.
5. No.
6. Dispute the premise of the question which incorrectly suggests that the TSD statement amounted to siding with the US and Japan on the East China Sea.
7. N/A.
8. None.
9. The TSD statement was appropriate in putting forward positions shared by all three countries on a range of issues.
10. The Australian Government's consistent position is that we do not take a position on the merits of various sovereignty claims in the East China Sea.
11. No significant impact. Australia-China relations continue to develop strongly.
12. The Minister did not summon the Chinese Ambassador. The Ambassador was called in by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
13. China's sudden announcement of an ADIZ.
14. No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 150

Program: DFAT

Topic: December Rebuke

Question in Writing

Senator Dastyari

Question

- A. *What happened to the Australian Foreign Minister in Beijing on 6 December 2013?***
- B. *What prompted the public lecture delivered by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Foreign Minister Julie Bishop?***
- C. *When was the last time an Australian Foreign Minister was publicly rebuked by a Chinese Foreign Minister in this manner?***
- D. *Would you agree with the characterisation that the public lecture was an “unprecedented humiliation” (Michael Sainsbury, Crikey, 28 January 2014)?***
- E. *Was the TSD communique the underlying reason for the subsequent public lecture delivered by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Li to Foreign Minister Julie Bishop on 6 December 2013?***
- F. *Is DFAT aware of any other instance of a Chinese Foreign Minister delivering a similar public rebuke? Is there a precedent?***
- G. *Would DFAT describe the incident as an embarrassment?***
- H. *What has DFAT done to repair the damage to our relationship with China?***
- I. *What has the Foreign Minister done to repair our relationship with China?***
- J. *What has the Prime Minister done to repair our relationship with China?***

Answer

- A.** On 6 December 2013, Ms Bishop held a series of meetings in Beijing with Chinese officials.
- B.** Mr Wang, with the media present, expressed his displeasure about the Australian government’s public statements of concern about China’s sudden announcement of an Air Defence Identification Zone.

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- C. Foreign ministers often have robust exchanges.
- D. No.
- E. Unable to comment on Mr Wang's motivations.
- F. Foreign ministers often have robust exchanges.
- G. No.
- H. Do not accept the premise that the relationship has been damaged.
- I. Do not accept the premise that the relationship has been damaged.
- J. Do not accept the premise that the relationship has been damaged.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 151

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global Influence and impact

Question in Writing

Senator Dastyari

Question

- A. What impact has the governments re-orientation towards Japan-US had on Australia's other diplomatic relationships?***

- B. What impact does it have on our influence across the Pacific, where China exerts considerable influence?***

- C. What impact does it have on our capacity to stand up to incursions into Australian territorial waters by Japanese whalers?***

- D. How has the fallout from the TSD communique affected DFAT staff and resource priorities at a time when the department is already trying to accommodate the merger of the aid and tourism portfolios?***

Answer

- A.** Australia's valuable strategic and economic partnership with Japan, our alliance with the United States and our coordination with both partners through the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue, are long-term features of Australia's diplomatic landscape to which successive Australian Governments have attached high priority. The Government's steps to strengthen Australia's relations with Japan and the United States have not been at the expense of other bilateral relationships, which are subject to their own dynamics and which continue to develop strongly.

- B.** Australia has long had close and cooperative relations with both the United States and Japan in dealing with the many challenges facing Pacific Island Countries (PICs). Australia works closely with the United States in

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supporting maritime surveillance to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the region. In 2011 Australia concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with Japan on Development Cooperation and has cooperated with Japan in the education and water sectors (Samoa and Solomon Islands respectively). Australia and Japan have committed to strengthen joint efforts in support of sustainable development in the Pacific, and will continue to use the 2+2 process (led by foreign and defence ministers) to explore practical steps in this regard. Our ongoing cooperation with Japan and the United States augments Australia's key role in the Pacific region, a role recognised by both countries. Australia continues to be the region's main security and development partner, and is the region's leading donor accounting for more than half of all aid provided to PICs. In 2012-13 Australia provided \$1.1 billion in aid to the region, representing approximately 20 per cent of the total Australian aid program. Australia remains the largest financial contributor to key regional organisations such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency.

- C. None. On the broader issue of whaling, Australia has had a long-standing difference with Japan, but we have agreed that this should not damage the bilateral relationship. The Government considered that the appropriate way to resolve that disagreement was through the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The Government welcomed the ICJ judgment, handed down on 31 March, and both sides have committed to respecting the decision.
- D. The outcomes of the meeting of Trilateral Strategic Dialogue foreign ministers in Bali on 4 October 2013 have not altered DFAT staff numbers or priorities devoted to relations with United States or Japan. In addition, the issues addressed in the communique of that meeting – including Syria, Iran, North Korea, regional security and stability and cooperation in regional forums – continue to be a major focus for the department.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 152

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ranking friends

Question in Writing

Senator Dastyari

Question

- A. What impact does ranking our diplomatic partners have on our diplomatic relations?***
- B. Is it DFAT policy to publicly rank our diplomatic partners?***
- C. Is it DFAT protocol to publicly rank our diplomatic partners?***
- D. Has DFAT given the government advice on the publicly ranking our diplomatic partners?***
- E. Has DFAT given the government advice against publicly ranking our diplomatic partners?***
- F. Is it necessary or unnecessary to publicly rank our diplomatic partners using superlative terms such as “best friend”?***
- G. Could publicly ranking our diplomatic partners tacitly undermine our relations with other countries?***
- H. Is it necessary to publicly rank our diplomatic partners?***
- I. Can we have successful, effective and mature diplomatic relations without public ranking our diplomatic partners?***

Answer

- A. Ranking on matters of fact (i.e. two-way trade, official visits, GDP etc) is common and accepted practice. It is similarly common and accepted practice for states, in articulating their foreign policies, to refer to priorities – including priority relationships.
- B. See answer to question A.
- C. See answer to question A.

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- D. It is routine practice for the Department to provide qualitative and quantitative advice on the nature of our bilateral relationships to government ministers.
- E. No. See answer to question D.
- F. The use of superlative terms has long been a feature of diplomatic language – including in the language of successive Australian governments.
- G. See answer to question F. This is a diplomatic practice deployed and understood among states.
- H. See answer to question F.
- I. Yes.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 153

Program: DFAT

Topic: Former Foreign Minister's travel

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

A. *With reference to each of the visits by the former Minister Carr to the United States of America on 9-14 April 2012 and 22-30 September 2012:*

What was the cost of:

- a) Air transport;***
- b) Accommodation;***
- c) Land transport;***
- d) Hospitality; and***
- e) Other expenses.***

Answer

This information has been provided in the answer to Question 154.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 154

Program: DFAT

Topic: Former Foreign Minister's travel

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

With reference to each of the visits by the former Minister Carr to the United States of America on 9-14 April 2012 and 22-30 September 2012:

- 1. Please provide details of the accommodation in which the former Minister stayed, by night, and the cost of each night's accommodation.*

Answer

Details of Senator Carr's overseas visits to the USA in April and September 2012:

Visit	Accommodation	Accompanying staff/officials	Total visit cost
France, Switzerland, USA (23 to 30 September 2012) and Mongolia	New York: Carlyle Hotel Tennessee: Senator Alexander's "Blackberry Farm", Walland, Tennessee	James Larsen, Principal Adviser, Patrick Low, Senior Media Adviser Caroline Millar, Head, UN Security Council Taskforce	\$138,457.29
USA (9 to 14 April 2012), UK, Belgium, Malta and Turkey	New York: Apt 5A 1 Beekman Place, NYC	James Larsen Principal Adviser, Graeme Wedderburn, Senior Adviser Caroline Millar, Head, UN Security Council Taskforce	\$119,198.04

The specific costs of the accommodation should be referred to the Department of Finance which is responsible for paying and monitoring the costs of ministerial travel overseas.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 155

Program: DFAT

Topic: Former Foreign Minister's travel

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

With reference to each of the visits by the former Minister Carr to the United States of America on 9-14 April 2012 and 22-30 September 2012:

- 1. The number of personal staff accompanied the Minister, and what functions were undertaken by each staff member.***

Answer

This information was provided in the response to Question 154.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 156

Program: DFAT

Topic: Former Foreign Minister's travel

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

A. *With reference to each of the visits by the former Minister Carr to the United States of America on 9-14 April 2012 and 22-30 September 2012:*

For each accompanying personal staff member, what was the cost of their:

- a) Air transport;***
- b) Accommodation;***
- c) Land transport;***
- d) Hospitality; and***
- e) Other expenses.***

Answer

This information is provided in the response to Question 154.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 157

Program: DFAT

Topic: Former Foreign Minister's travel

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

A. With reference to each of the visits by the former Minister Carr to the United States of America on 9-14 April 2012 and 22-30 September 2012:

How many officials accompanied the Minister and what was the total cost of their:

- a) Air transport;**
- b) Accommodation;**
- c) Land transport;**
- d) Hospitality; and**
- e) Other expenses.**

Answer

Caroline Millar, Head of the United Nations Security Council Taskforce, accompanied the Minister to New York in April and September 2012:

April 2012

- a. Transport & allowances: \$10,870.72
- b. Accommodation: \$1,035.31
- c. Land transport: \$0.00
- d. Hospitality: \$0.00
- e. Other expenses: \$0.00

September 2012

- a. Transport & allowances: \$11,549.76
- b. Accommodation: \$4,831.56
- c. Land transport: \$165.14
- d. Hospitality: \$0.00
- e. Other expenses: \$0.00

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 158

Program: DFAT

Topic: Former Foreign Minister's travel

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

A. *With reference to each of the visits by the former Minister Carr to the United States of America on 9-14 April 2012 and 22-30 September 2012:*

Was the Minister accompanied by any family member; if so, what was the total cost of their:

- a) Air transport;***
- b) Accommodation;***
- c) Land transport;***
- d) Hospitality; and***
- e) Other expenses.***

Answer

Yes. The Department of Finance meets the costs of ministerial travel overseas. Its published costs do not separate costs for accompanying family members on international visits.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 159

Program: DFAT

Topic: Former Foreign Minister's travel

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

A. With reference to each of the visits by the former Minister Carr to the United States of America on 9-14 April 2012 and 22-30 September 2012:

Did any other personal staff or officials travel overseas to advance or facilitate the former Minister's trip; if so, what functions did each staff member or official undertake, and what was the total cost of their:

- a) Air transport;***
- b) Accommodation;***
- c) Land transport;***
- d) Hospitality; and***
- e) Other expenses.***

Answer

No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 160

Program: DFAT

Topic: Former Foreign Minister's travel

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

A. In regards to the overseas travel undertaken by the former Minister Carr during his time as the Minister for Foreign Affairs:

- a) How many overseas trips were undertaken?**
- b) On how many trips did the former Minister Carr travel Business Class, how many First Class and how many Economy?**
- c) On how many trips was the former Minister Carr accompanied by a family member?**
- d) On how many trips did the former Minister Carr stay at a "presidential suite"-category hotel accommodation as opposed to ordinary suite at a hotel he was staying at?**
- e) Have any of the trips been extended to include personal travel time?**

Answer

(a) 30.

(b) The Minister travelled First Class on 8 of his overseas visits. He also travelled First Class on some domestic legs overseas where Business Class was not available or where First Class is the equivalent of Business Class (e.g. some domestic flights in the USA). On all other trips the Minister travelled Business Class.

(c) 24.

(d) We are not aware of Mr Carr staying in "presidential suite"-category hotel accommodation during his time as Foreign Minister.

(e) The Minister took leave in Russia following his visit there in September 2013. He returned to Australia privately at the conclusion of his leave. The department did not provide any support to the Minister during that time.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 161

Program: DFAT

Topic: Former Prime Minister's visit to Moscow

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

Was the department aware that former Foreign Minister and Prime Minister Kevin Rudd was planning to visit Russia and/or Ukraine in March?

a. If so, when did the department first become aware of Mr Rudd's plans?

Was the department asked to assist in anyway with Mr Rudd's plans? If so, please include all details (eg. flights, accommodation, transport, meeting requests, briefings etc.).

Is the department incurring any costs with respect to Mr Rudd's travel?

Answer

- A) Yes. DFAT was aware that Mr Rudd was travelling to Russia. We were not aware of any plans for him to visit Ukraine.
- B) DFAT first became aware of Mr Rudd's travel plans on 19 February 2014.
- C) Mr Rudd's visit was being organised by the Russian head of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and hosted by the Federation Council of the Russian Federation (Upper House of Parliament). Moscow Post provided advice on some elements of Mr Rudd's program and liaised with the Federation Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding Mr Rudd's visa. Post also provided advice on the suitability of accommodation proposed by the Federation Council.

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Post used Mr Rudd's visit as an opportunity for HOM Moscow and an Embassy official to participate in meetings with senior Russian interlocutors in support of Post's foreign policy objectives. As such, on-ground transport using HOM vehicle was provided.

- D) Moscow Post paid for two lunches out of its representation budget. These lunches were attended by Mr Rudd, Russian interlocutors and HOM Moscow and another Embassy official.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 162

Program: DFAT

Topic: Former Minister Snowden's expenses

Question in Writing

Senator Eggleston

Question

A. What was former Minister Snowden's expenses on hospitality for each of the financial years from 2007/08 to 2012/13?

Answer

A) As Mr Snowden was not a Minister in the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio, DFAT is unable to provide Mr Snowden's hospitality expenses during this period.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 163

Program: DFAT

Topic: Reviews

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

A. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced?

Please list them including:

- a. the date they were ordered**
- b. the date they commenced**
- c. the minister responsible**
- d. the department responsible**
- e. the nature of the review**
- f. their terms of reference**
- g. the scope of the review**
- h. Who is conducting the review**
- i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review**
- j. the expected report date**
- k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs**
- l. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public**

B. For any review commenced or ordered since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?

- a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names**
- b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent**
- c. If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item**
- d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement**

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- e. *If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.*
 - f. *If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them*
 - g. **If yes, for each, who selected them**
 - h. **If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,**
 - i. **If yes, please detail what involvement it was**
 - j. **If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list**
 - k. **If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur**
 - l. **If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department**
 - m. **If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur**
 - n.
- C. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews are on-going?**
- a. **Please list them.**
- D. What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?**
- E. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.**
- F. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.**
- G. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.**
- H. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?**
- I. What reviews are planned?**
- a. **When will each planned review be commenced?**
 - b. **When will each of these reviews be concluded?**
 - c. **When will government respond to each review?**
 - d. **Will the government release each review?**
 - e. **If so, when?**
 - f. **If not, why not?**

Answer

- A. Five new reviews have commenced since 7 September 2013:
- the *PNG Aid Assessment Review*;
 - a review of *Australia's membership of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)*;
 - a review of *full time equivalent staff allocations*;
 - a review of *Australia's humanitarian response to Typhoon Haiyan*; and
 - the *Mid Term Review of the International Mining for Development Centre*.

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PNG Aid Assessment Review

- a. 11 December 2013
- b. 10 January 2014
- c. Minister of Foreign Affairs
- d. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- e. Australia committed to undertake an assessment of its aid investment in Papua New Guinea in close consultation with the PNG Government to reflect both Governments' priorities. The assessment will position the Australian aid program to address the key constraints to sustainable economic growth and equality in Papua New Guinea; focus on private sector led growth; be subject to clear performance benchmarks and mutual accountability for both investments and results
- f. The assessment will position Australia's aid to promote Australia's interest in equitable development and good governance in PNG by addressing:
 1. the key constraints to sustainable economic growth and equality;
 2. private sector led growth; and
 3. performance benchmarks and mutual accountability for both aid investments and results.

The assessment will provide recommendations to the Minister ahead of Senior Officials level aid talks in May 2014

- g. The assessment will clarify Australia's development cooperation approach, outline PNG's economic development context and priorities, and provide recommendations on:
 4. How Australian support can best contribute to a stable, robust and equitable PNG economy;
 5. How Australian support can most effectively address constraints to sustainable and equitable economic growth and inequality, including scenarios on types, prospects and focus for future support;
 6. Which parts of the existing Australian aid program remain relevant, which parts are no longer relevant, and what new investments are required to reflect shared priorities and offer the highest returns;
 7. How to set performance benchmarks between Australia and PNG that enable mutual accountability for both investments and results (including how we respond if targets are not achieved);
 8. Effective future support to Bougainville;
 9. Addressing any risks (reputational, developmental or otherwise) associated with proposed changes to the existing program; and
 10. Improving widespread public recognition in PNG and Australia of Australia's long-term contribution to the development of PNG.
- h. DFAT officers (as below)

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

- i. The assessment team will be led by two EL2s from DFAT, one with foreign policy expertise and one with development expertise.
 1. One EL1 will support the process full-time, with additional support from an APS6 and APS5 as requiredOversight of the process will be by the Assistant Secretary, PNG and Solomon Islands Development Branch, in close consultation with Assistant Secretary, PNG and Fiji Branch – working to the First Assistant Secretary Pacific Division. Head of Mission in Port Moresby will be consulted on all key aspects of the assessment
- j. The assessment report will be delivered to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on or around 4 April 2014
- k. The report will be produced in-house with no outsourced resources costs incurred
- l. The report will not be published, however the findings will be made public

Australia's membership of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

- a. 7 February 2014
- b. 13 February 2014
- c. Minister for Trade and Investment
- d. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- e. A review of Australia's membership of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
- f. To review Australia's membership of the UNWTO in the current budget context
- g. To consult with relevant stakeholders within DFAT, the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) and Australian UNWTO Affiliate members on their organization's views on their own UNWTO Affiliate membership, and perceptions of the value of Australia's Full membership of the UNWTO
- h. DFAT
- i. Three officers; one at EL2 level, one at EL1 level and one at APS6 level
- j. 25 March 2014
- k. The report will be produced in-house with no outsourced resources costs incurred
- l. It is not in Australia's interest for this review to be on the public record at this time. The review report is classified

Full time equivalent staff allocations

- a. January 2014
- b. February 2014
- c. Minister for Foreign Affairs
- d. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- e. Reviewing full-time equivalent staff allocations across the Department post-integration

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

- f. See response to question e
- g. See response to question e
- h. Integration Task Force
- i. One SES Band 1 with support from Integration Task Force members
- j. May 2014
- k. The report will be produced in-house with no outsourced resources costs incurred
- l. No

Review of Australia's humanitarian response to Typhoon Haiyan

- a. At the commencement of Australia's response to Typhoon Haiyan
- b. 25 November 2013
- c. Minister for Foreign Affairs
- d. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- e. An 'After Action Review'
- f. To review the Australian Whole of Government humanitarian response to Typhoon Haiyan
- g. A desk top exercise to review the Australian Whole of Government humanitarian response to Typhoon Haiyan
- h. DFAT's Humanitarian Division
- i. Oversight by an EL2 officer, input from an EL1 officer and two APS6 staff
- j. April 2014
- k. No additional costs are incurred as the Review is a function of the Division
- l. Decision to be made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Mid Term Review of the International Mining for Development Centre

- a. October 2013
- b. 20 December 2013
- c. Minister for Foreign Affairs
- d. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- e. Assessment of relevance and effectiveness of grant agreement
- f. To assess performance of the International Mining for Development Centre (IM4DC) since its inception in October 2011, including in the context of the overall Mining for Development (M4D) initiative and the government's economic diplomacy objectives, and recommend any changes required for the remaining period of the IM4DC grant agreement until June 2015
- g. See terms of reference
- h. Cardno Emerging Markets Australia Ltd
- i. 1 EL1 officer
- j. 30 April 2014
- k. \$120,000
- l. DFAT expects to publish the report on its website.

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- B. Yes, for the Mid-term Review of the International Mining for Development Centre only
- a. Cardno Emerging Markets Australia Ltd
 - b. Managing Director, Ross Thompson
Company Secretary, Michael Pearson
Director, Michael Renshaw
Director, Richard Anderson
Director, Graham Yerbury
 - c. Total \$120,000 (adviser fees: \$76770, management fee \$23,031, expenses \$20,108).
 - d. Consultancy Services
 - e. No
 - f. None
 - g. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
 - h. No
- C. Internal review- Australian Passports Legislation
Consular Strategy Review 2014- 2016
Review of Aid Performance Benchmarks
- D. Australian Passports Legislation \$4,202 (excluding GST)
Consular Strategy Review \$14,462
Review of Aid Performance Benchmarks \$380.50
- E. Nil response
- F. Nil response
- G. Nil response
- H. The Government has indicated that it will introduce aid performance benchmarks as part of the 2014-2015 budget process.
- I. One, a review of the Humanitarian Action Policy (2011)
- a. April
 - b. Mid August
 - c. No formal response anticipated as this is an internal government review.
 - d. See above answer to c.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 164

Program: DFAT

Topic: Commissioned reports

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many Reports (including paid external advice) have been commissioned by the Minister, department or agency? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.***
- B. *How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental or external staff were involved in each report and at what level?***
- C. *What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?***

Answer

- A. Since November 2013, the 2012-13 Annual Review of Aid Effectiveness was prepared and released by the Department.
- Date commissioned: This report was required under the previous Government's Effective Aid policy (2011).
 - Date report handed to Government: This report was prepared and approved by the Department.
 - Date of public release: This report was published in February 2014.
 - Terms of reference: The report was prepared based on the structure, priorities and indicators of the previous Government's Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework. As such, separate TORs were not required.
 - Committee members: This report was produced internally by the Department.
- B. No additional costs were incurred in producing this report other than staff time. A team of 6 staff was involved in preparing the report. Over a 9 month period, the approximate amount of time spent by the team on this work was:

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10% of an SES Band 1, 25% of an EL2, 25% of two EL1s, 5% of an APS6, and 10% of an APS4.

- C. The report has been finalised and published. No Government response to the report is required as it is the final report against the previous Government's Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 165

Program: DFAT

Topic: Briefings for other parties

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Non-Government parties other than the Australian Labor Party? If yes, please include:***
- a. *How are briefings requests commissioned?***
 - b. *What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.***
 - c. *Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.***
 - d. *Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.***
 - e. *How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.***
 - f. *Which Non-Government Parties or Independents, excluding the Australian Labor Party have requested briefings and/or information***

Answer

DFAT provides pre-departure briefings to parliamentarians travelling overseas as part of official delegations, such as the Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly (IPU) and the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), or on official travel. Generally, these delegations are cross party delegations and have members from the Government, Opposition and Independent/Minor Party members. Posts in the countries visited may also give oral briefings as part of normal service to visiting parliamentarians.

DFAT has not received other individual requests for briefings from Non-Government Parties or Independents, excluding the Australian Labor Party.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 166

Program: DFAT

Topic: Appointments

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. Please detail any board appointments made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date.***
- B. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?***

Answer

- A. Appointments to each board made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November to 27 February 2014 are listed below.
- B. The gender ratio for each board is listed below. As at 27 February 2014, the gender ratio for boards across the portfolio was 44.84 per cent female (not including ex officio members).

Australia Awards

- A. The tenure of the Australia Awards Board expired in May 2013. The future role of the board will be determined in the context of the government's policy directions related to the New Colombo Plan and other Australian Government Scholarships.
- B. The gender ratio of the Australia Awards will be determined when new members are appointed.

Australia-China Council

- A. No new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014.
- B. The gender ratio of the Australia-China Council at 27 February 2014 was 50 per cent female.

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Australia India Council

- A. No new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014.
- B. The gender ratio of the Australia India Council at 27 February was 100 per cent female.

Australia-Indonesia Institute

- A. No new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014.
- B. The gender ratio of the Australia-Indonesia Institute at 27 February 2014 was 25 per cent female.

Australia-Japan Foundation

- A. No new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014.
- B. The gender ratio of the Australia Japan foundation at 27 February 2014 was 42.86 per cent female.

Australia Korea Foundation

- A. No new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014.
- B. The gender ratio of the Australia Korea Foundation at 27 February 2014 was 50 per cent female.

Australia-Malaysia Institute

- A. No new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014.
- B. The gender ratio of the Australia-Malaysia Institute at 27 February 2014 was 50 per cent female.

Australia-Thailand Institute

- A. No new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014.
- B. The gender ratio of the Australia-Thailand Institute at 27 February 2014 was 50 per cent female.

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research – Commission for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR Commission)

- A. No new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014.

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- B. The gender ratio of the ACIAR Commission at 27 February 2014 was 33.3 per cent female.

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research – Policy Advisory Council

- A. No new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014.
- B. The gender ratio of the ACIAR Policy Advisory Council at 27 February 2014 was 23.07 per cent female.

Australian National Commission for UNESCO

- A. No new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014.
- B. The gender ratio of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO at 27 February 2014 was 42.86 per cent female.

Council for Australian-Arab Relations

- A. Two new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014. The Hon Mark Vaile AO and Ms Debra Counsell were appointed on 28 November 2013 for a period of three years.
- B. The gender ratio of the Council for Australian-Arab Relations at 27 February 2014 was 42.86 per cent female.

Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR)

- A. No new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014.
- B. The gender ratio of the Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR) at 27 February 2014 was 37.50 per cent female.

Editorial Advisory Board

- A. No new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014.
- B. The gender ratio of the Editorial Advisory Board at 27 February 2014 was 42.86 per cent female.

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

- A. No new board member appointments were made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to 27 February 2014.
- B. The gender ratio of the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC) at 27 February 2014 was 37.50 per cent female.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Tourism Australia Board

Austrade is responding to a similar question (see QoN 19 from Austrade)

Tourism Quality Council of Australia

Austrade is responding to a similar question (see QoN 19 from Austrade)

Tourism Research and Advisory Board

Austrade is responding to a similar question (see QoN 19 from Austrade)

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 167

Program: DFAT

Topic: Stationery requirements

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers / Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?***
- a. *Detail the items provided to the minister's office***
- B. *How much was spent on departmental stationery requirements from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date.***

Answer

- A. For the period 30 December 2013 to 28 February 2014 , the total amount spent by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on stationery requirements (including paper) supplied by its contracted stationery supplier for portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries was \$1,119.44.
- a) To answer this would be a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources.
- B. For the period 21 November 2013 to 28 February 2014, the total amount spent by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on stationery requirements (including paper) was \$697,515.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 168

Program: DFAT

Topic: Electronic equipment

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *Other than phones, ipads or computers – please list the electronic equipment provided to the Minister’s office since 7 September 2013.***
- a. *List the items***
 - b. *List the items location or normal location***
 - c. *List if the item is in the possession of the office or an individual staff member of minister, if with an individual list their employment classification level***
 - d. *List the total cost of the items***
 - e. *List an itemised cost breakdown of these items***
 - f. *List the date they were provided to the office***
 - g. *Note if the items were requested by the office or proactively provided by the department***

Answer

- A. Please refer to the response provided to Question on Notice 173.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 169

Program: DFAT

Topic: Media subscriptions

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?***
 - a. *Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.***
 - b. *What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?***
 - c. *What is provided to the Minister or their office?***
 - d. *What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?***
- B. *What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have?***
 - a. *Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.***
 - b. *What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?***
 - c. *What is provided to the Minister or their office?***
 - d. *What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?***
- C. *What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?***
 - a. *Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.***
 - b. *What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?***
 - c. *What is provided to the Minister or their office?***
 - d. *What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?***
- D. *What publications does your department/agency purchase?***
 - a. *Please provide a list of publications purchased by the department and the reason for each.***
 - b. *What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?***
 - c. *What is provided to the Minister or their office?***
 - d. *What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?***

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A.

TV subscriptions are decentralised and are managed and budgeted across 95 posts overseas and by seven state and territory offices, according to their varying requirements. Aggregating TV subscriptions and their costs across all DFAT offices, both overseas and in Australia, and including for the former AusAID 7 September to 31 October 2013, would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources.

a. In regard to TV subscriptions specifically for the R G Casey Building, the Department subscribes to Foxtel and Parliamentary television channels. The Foxtel subscription provides access to the following channels to enable monitoring of world events and news updates:

- BBC World News
- CNBC
- CNN
- Sky Business Channel
- Sky News
- Sky Weather Channel

Parliamentary channel subscriptions are used to monitor parliamentary proceedings.

b. This Foxtel subscription costs \$2,516.00 ex GST per month. The Parliamentary TV subscription costs \$6,810.69 ex GST per annum. Therefore, for the period 7 September to 28 February 2013, the respective costs for Foxtel and for Parliamentary TV for the R G Casey Building were \$14,592.80 ex GST and \$3,265.40 ex GST.

c & d The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade paid \$44 ex GST during the period 7 September to 28 February 2013 for one basic Foxtel subscription in respect of the Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment.

B. & C.

a & b. Newspaper and magazine subscriptions are decentralised and managed and budgeted by individual work units in Canberra, across 95 posts overseas and by seven state and territory offices, according to their varying requirements. Aggregating subscriptions and their costs across all DFAT offices, both overseas and in Australia, and including for the former AusAID 7 September to 31 October 2013, would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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- c. Given the relevance of their coverage to the Foreign Affairs portfolio, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has provided the following newspapers and magazines to the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs: The Age, The Australian, The Australian Financial Review, The Canberra Times, The Daily Telegraph, The Economist, The Financial Times, The Herald Sun, The Sydney Morning Herald, The West Australian.

Given the relevance of their coverage to the Trade and Investment portfolio, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has provided the following newspapers and magazines to the Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment: The Adelaide Advertiser, The Age, The Australian, The Australian Financial Review, The Canberra Times, The Courier Mail, The Daily Telegraph, The Economist, The Herald Sun, The Land, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Weekly Times.

- d. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade paid \$6,708.23 ex GST from 7 September to 28 February 2014 for newspaper and magazine subscriptions for the Offices of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade and Investment.

D.

- a & b. Purchases of publications are decentralised and managed and budgeted by individual work units in Canberra, across 95 posts overseas and by seven state and territory offices, according to their varying requirements. Aggregating purchases and their costs across all DFAT offices, both overseas and in Australia, and including for the former AusAID 7 September to 31 October 2013, would represent an unreasonably diversion of resources.

- c & d. Nil.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 170

Program: DFAT

Topic: Media monitoring

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

A. *What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office from 7 September 2013 to date?*

- a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?***
- b. What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date?***
- c. Itemise these expenses.***

B. *What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency from 7 September 2013 to date?*

- a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?***
- b. What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date?***
- c. Itemise these expenses***

Answer

- A.** The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade paid \$4,531.07 ex GST and \$2,751.27 ex GST respectively for iSentia media monitoring services (transcripts and associated copyright) used by the Offices of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade and Investment from 7 September to 28 February 2014.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

B. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade paid for the following iSentia media monitoring services used by the Department from 7 September to 28 February 2014:

i. Media monitoring and associated copyright:	\$91,419.31 ex GST
ii. Transcripts and associated copyright:	\$8,297.90 ex GST
iii. Mediaportal access:	\$2,933.25 ex GST
iv. Hard-copy delivery:	\$106.47 ex GST
Total	\$102,756.93 ex GST

AusAID paid for the following iSentia media monitoring services used by AusAID from 7 September to 31 October 2013:

i. Media monitoring and associated copyright:	\$26,897.78 ex GST
ii. Transcripts and associated copyright:	\$1,296.64 ex GST
iii. Mediaportal access:	\$528.93 ex GST
Total	\$28,723.35 ex GST

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 171

Program: DFAT

Topic: Media training

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information from 7 September 2013 to date:***
- a. Total spending on these services***
 - b. an itemised cost breakdown of these services***
 - c. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification***
 - d. The number of employees who have utilised these services and their employment classification***
 - e. The names of all service providers engaged***
 - f. the location that this training was provided***
- B. *For each service purchased from a provider listed under (1), please provide:***
- a. The name and nature of the service purchased***
 - b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based***
 - c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)***
 - d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)***
 - e. The total amount spent on the service***
 - f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)***
- C. *Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:***
- a. The location used***

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- b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion*
- c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
- d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location*

Answer

A.

a & b. From 7 September to 27 February 2014, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade made a single payment of \$6,000 ex GST to Laurie Wilson and Associates on media training services.

From 7 September to 31 October 2013, AusAID had no expenditure on media training services.

c & d. One SES Band 2, one SES Band 1, six Executive Level 2 and one Executive Level 1 officer. No study leave was required for this training.

e. Laurie Wilson and Associates was engaged to deliver media training.

f. This training was provided at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, R. G. Casey Building, Barton ACT.

B.

a. The media training, titled 'SES Media Skills', is a day-long workshop.

b. The training is delivered in both one-on-one and group based format, covering media theory and practical interview skills.

c. One SES Band 2, one SES Band 1, six Executive Level 2, one Executive Level 1 officer.

d. Training provided totalled approximately 67.5 hours. 7.5 hours SES Band 1, 7.5 hours SES Band 2, 45 hours Executive Level 2 and 7.5 hours Executive Level 1.

e. The total amount spent on the service is \$6,000 ex GST.

f. The fees were charged as a complete package.

C. No external facilities were used.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 172

Program: DFAT

Topic: Communication staff

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

A. For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:

- a. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location.***
- b. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location***
- c. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location***
- d. How many are graphic designers?***
- e. How many are media managers?***
- f. How many organise events?***

Answer

A-B. Table One details the 40 ongoing and non-ongoing APS staff, by classification, at 27 February that are primarily performing communications, media liaison, and public relations work.

Classification	Ongoing	Non-Ongoing
APS1	0	0
APS2	0	0
APS3	0	0
APS4	0	0
APS5	5	0
APS6	13	0
EL1	13	2
EL2	7	0

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

- C. At 27 February 2014 the department had 4 contractors performing at the APS4-6 level primarily performing communications functions in support of information communication technology projects.
- D. Zero
- E. 11 APS staff perform media liaison duties.
- F. 6 APS staff perform outreach, advocacy, and event functions.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 173

Program: DFAT

Topic: Provision of equipment - ministerial

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs?**
 - a. Itemise equipment and cost broken down by staff or minister classification**

- 2. Is electronic equipment (such as iPad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff?**
 - a. If yes, provide a list of what is provided across the department of agency, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives each item.**

Answer

1. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) provides Information and Communications Technology (ICT) support for portfolio-related activities in accordance with Department of Finance and Deregulation (DOFD) guidelines for:
 - The Minister for Foreign Affairs;
 - The Minister for Trade and Investment;
 - The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs;
 - Their offices.

Included in this support is the provision of mobile phones to each Minister, Parliamentary Secretary and their staff. The phones are a mix of BlackBerry and iPhones.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

As at 31st December 2013, the cost of purchasing each device is:

BlackBerry: \$431.82 ex GST

iPhone: \$817.27 ex GST

Nokia C2-01: \$63.63 ex GST

(1.a)

An itemised list of equipment provided to Ministerial offices is outlined below.

Current Ministers												
Title	Commencement Date	Classified Network Access	Unclassified Network Access	iPhone	iPad	Blackberry	Laptop	Modem	FOB	Classified Printer	Unclassified Printer	
Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs	18-Sep-13	16	17	16	6	1	10	10	10	4	4	
Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment	18-Sep-13	13	14	13	10	0	1	3	10	2	4	
Office of the Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs	18-Sep-13	5	6	1	1	0	5	5	5	1	3	
Total		34	37	31	17	1	16	18	25	7	11	

Ongoing costs vary depending on individual use patterns. Disaggregating costs down to the individual office or individual would represent an unjustifiable diversion of resources.

(2)

Yes, DFAT provides ICT equipment to departmental staff and to staff in other agencies/departments under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for ICT Services.

The baseline ICT service package provided to DFAT staff consists of a desktop computer, 22" monitor and desk phone. This is a standard offering to all staff and is not determined by classification.

Printers and multi-function devices (print, copy, scan and fax) are generally shared resources.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

The provision of additional equipment such as mobile phones, BlackBerrys, USB storage and laptops is determined by business need, typically related to specific job functions such as BlackBerrys for travelling executives.

DFAT provides ICT services to over 40 other government agencies and departments under MOU which includes arrangements for cost recovery for these services. Typically this includes desktop computing services.

Device	Cost per device
Standard desktop (pc plus monitor)	\$1,235.96 (Exclusive GST)
Desktop phone	\$331 (Exclusive GST)
Standard laptop	\$1595.30 (Exclusive GST)
Lightweight laptop	\$2151.80 (Exclusive GST)
iPad	\$795 (Exclusive GST)
iPhone	\$817.27 (Exclusive GST)
Lexmark printer	\$1195.95 (Exclusive GST)
Printer multi-function device	\$8270.85 (Exclusive GST)
BlackBerry	\$431.82 (Exclusive GST)
Nokia	\$63.63 (Exclusive GST)
USB 4G Modem	\$138.18 (Exclusive GST)

Note: All equipment is procured under the Desktop and Major Office Machines (MOM) whole of government panel arrangements.

Disaggregating ICT costs down to the individual staff and classification level would represent an unjustifiable diversion of resources.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 174

Program: DFAT

Topic: Provision equipment - departmental

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

A. Other than desktop computers, list all electronic equipment provided to department/agency staff.

- a) List the items**
- b) List the purchase cost**
- c) List the ongoing cost**
- d) List the staff and staff classification that receive the equipment.**

Answer

(A)

Item	Cost AUD Ex GST	Ongoing Cost	Staff that are eligible to receive equipment
Laptop - Samsung Series 9 Ultrabook	\$2,030	Nil	all staff with business case
Monitor - 22" Monitor	\$202	Nil	all staff
Monitor - 24" Monitor	\$235	Nil	all staff
Monitor - Dual Display adaptors	\$15	Nil	all staff with business case
Printer - MS812DN Monochrome Printer (replaces the T654dn)	\$999	Nil	all staff with business case
Printer - MS812dn - Paper Tray 1	\$227	Nil	all staff with business case
Printer - C792de Colour Printer	\$1,750	Nil	all staff with business case
Printer multi-function device (ApeosPort-IV C4475)	\$9,980	per page - black and white \$0.00693 colour \$0.0693	all staff per divisional coordination
Mobile phone - BlackBerry	\$516	\$9 per month plus usage	SES and above eligible. Staff at others level require business case
Mobile phone - Nokia	\$85	Nil plus usage	SES and above eligible. Staff at others level require business case

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Mobile phone - Satellite Phone	\$1,175	\$9 per month plus usage	Supplied to posts depending on size
Dymo Label writer/printer 450 turbo	POA		require business case
Lexmark MarkNet N700e (Print server to allow Dymo to be networked)	POA		require business case
Cardscan 800 v9.0 Executive (Captures business card details)	POA		require business case
iPad	\$777	Nil plus usage	SES and above eligible. Staff at others level require business case
iPhone	\$726	Nil plus usage	SES and above eligible. Staff at others level require business case

Note: All equipment is procured under the Desktop and Major Office Machines (MOM) whole of government panel arrangements.

DFAT's position is that disaggregating ICT costs down to the individual staff and classification level would represent an unjustifiable diversion of resources.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 175

Program: DFAT

Topic: Computers

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. List the current inventory of computers owned, leased, stored, or able to be accessed by the Ministers office as provided by the department, listing the equipment cost and location and employment classification of the staff member that is allocated the equipment, or if the equipment is currently not being used***
- B. List the current inventory of computers owned, leased, stored, or able to be accessed by the department, listing the equipment cost and location***
- C. Please detail the operating systems used by the departments computers, the contractual arrangements for operating software and the on-going costs***

Answer

(A)

Please refer to the response provided to Question on Notice 168 and 173.

(B)

Please refer to the response provided to Question on Notice 173.

(C)

The department's Standard Operating Environment (SOE) across both the unclassified and classified network deploys the Microsoft Windows Professional operating software. This operating software is acquired through the Whole-of-Government Microsoft Volume Sourcing Agreement II established by the Department of Finance.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

The consolidated annual support and maintenance cost for the Microsoft Windows Professional Operating Software alone is \$0.257m ex GST for 6,879 instances. This cost excludes the Microsoft Office Professional suite, and other core desktop licenses required to access enterprise systems.

The current contract is for a term of three years from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 176

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel costs - department

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. From 7 September 2013, detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).**
- B. From 7 September 2013, detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.**
- C. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.**

Answer

A.

a. Departmental travel costs for departmental staff accompanying the Minister for Foreign Affairs

1. New Zealand, Singapore, Indonesia: 2 to 5 October 2013
 - i. Travel: \$962.85
 - ii. Accommodation: \$172.48
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$105.48
 - iv. Other expenses: \$0.00
2. Japan, Korea, China: 13 to 23 October 2013
 - i. Travel: \$11,801.06
 - ii. Accommodation: \$2,530.83
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$564.53
 - iv. Other expenses: \$0.00

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3. Indonesia, Timor-Leste: 4 to 14 November 2013
 - i. Travel: \$8,002.65
 - ii. Accommodation: \$1,855.00
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$1,090.92
 - iv. Other expenses: \$0.00
4. Pakistan: 4 to 9 November 2013
 - i. Travel: \$9,870.37
 - ii. Accommodation: \$933.75
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$309.54
 - iv. Other expenses: \$60.00
5. Sri Lanka, India: 12 to 20 November 2013
 - i. Travel: \$11,723.93
 - ii. Accommodation: \$1,936.08
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$664.33
 - iv. Other expenses: \$101.65
6. Beijing, Guangzhou: 3 to 8 December 2013
 - i. Travel: \$8,211.39
 - ii. Accommodation: \$1,101.00
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$212.51
 - iv. Other expenses: \$0.00
7. Solomon Islands, Nauru, Vanuatu: 16 to 19 December 2013
 - i. Travel: \$0.00
 - ii. Accommodation: \$814.00
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$345.00
 - iv. Other expenses: \$0.00
8. Papua New Guinea: 4 to 7 February 2014
 - i. Travel: \$5,335.21
 - ii. Accommodation: \$760.52
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$0.00
 - iv. Other expenses: \$0.00
9. USA: 19 to 28 January 2014
 - i. Travel: \$10,110.68
 - ii. Accommodation: \$1,900.70
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$1,275.15
 - iv. Other expenses: \$417.58
10. Fiji: 13 to 16 February 2014
 - i. Travel: \$4,921.81
 - ii. Accommodation: \$149.43
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$219.25
 - iv. Other expenses: \$0.00
11. Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines: 15 to 23 February 2014
 - i. Travel: \$9,040.02
 - ii. Accommodation: \$1,090.00
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$0.00

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iv. Other expenses: \$0.00

b. Departmental travel costs for departmental staff accompanying the Minister for Trade and Investment

1. Indonesia: 30 September to 7 October 2013
 - i. Travel: \$9,138.06
 - ii. Accommodation: \$3037.14
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$0.00
 - iv. Other expenses: \$45.00
2. China: 22 to 30 October 2013
 - i. Travel: \$16,406.95
 - ii. Accommodation: \$1,650.16
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$750.22
 - iv. Other expenses: \$0.00
3. USA: 28 October to 2 November 2013
 - i. Travel: \$9,052.46
 - ii. Accommodation: \$2,018.68
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$0.00
 - iv. Other expenses: \$45.00
4. ROK, Japan and China: 14 to 20 November 2013
 - i. Travel: \$24,782.02
 - ii. Accommodation: \$4,558.60
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$663.36
 - iv. Other expenses: \$298.64
5. Indonesia and Singapore: 1 to 11 December 2013
 - i. Travel: \$9,138.06
 - ii. Accommodation: \$3,037.14
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$0.00
 - iv. Other expenses: \$45.00
6. USA: 10 to 17 January 2014
 - i. Travel: \$10,110.68
 - ii. Accommodation: \$1,900.70
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$1,275.15
 - iv. Other expenses: \$417.58
7. Philippines and Singapore: 19 to 27 February 2014
 - i. Travel: \$1,687.43
 - ii. Accommodation: \$1,074.76
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$0.00
 - iv. Other expenses: \$0.00

c. Departmental travel costs for the Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister for Foreign Affairs

1. Japan: 24 to 28 October 2013

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- i. Travel: \$11,144.01
 - ii. Accommodation: \$841.19
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$1,528.47
 - iv. Other expenses: \$0.00
2. Pakistan and China: 4 to 9 November 2013
- i. Travel: \$4,906.86
 - ii. Accommodation: \$841.19
 - iii. Travel Allowance: \$1,528.47
 - iv. Other expenses: \$0.00

B.

From 1 September 2013 to 28 February 2014, the department has spent \$16.07 million on travel. See table below:

F/Y	2013-14 FYTD
Airfares	\$ 11.97m
Accommodation	\$ 2.20m
Travel Allow.	\$ 1.63m
Other	\$ 0.27m
Total Expenditure	\$ 16.07m

The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow all travel to be separately captured to provide a breakdown by airfare type and the reason for travel. To provide such details in this format would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

C.

The department's global responsibilities create a high demand for travel throughout the year, often at short notice. The department does not forecast travel plans or expenditure separately to general budget planning. To provide details of individual travel plans and reasons for travel would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 177

Program: DFAT

Topic: Travel costs - ministerial

Question on Notice

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. *From 7 September 2013, detail all travel conducted by the Minister/parliamentary secretary***
 - a) List each location, method of travel, itinerary and purpose of trip;***
 - b) List the total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals), and;***
 - c) List the number of staff that accompanied the Minister/parliamentary secretary, listing the total costs per staff member, the class of airplane travelled, the classification of staff accompanying the Minister/parliamentary secretary.***

- 2. *What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.***

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Answer

(a) and (c)

Details of Ms Bishop's overseas visits from 18 September 2013

Ms Bishop has travelled to the following locations. The mode of transport to each country listed has been aeroplane.

Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi) Philippines (Manila) and Cambodia (Phnom Penh)	16 to 23 February 2014	8	Kuala Lumpur: 16 to 17 February 2014 Ho Chi Minh City: 17 to 18 February 2014 Hanoi: 18 to 19 February 2014 Manila: 20 to 21 February 2014 Phnom Penh: 21 to 22 February 2014 (Returned to Australia 23 February) Senior Adviser: Robert Fergusson Senior Media Adviser: Catherine McDonald
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kuala Lumpur: Met with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education - Attended lunch hosted by Minister of Foreign Affairs. - Presented scholarships and gave speech at Education event. - Attended foreign policy discussion with senior representatives of Malaysian think-tanks. - Hanoi: Met Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Industry and Trade, Minister of Planning and Investment, Minister of Public Security. - Attended dinner hosted by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs - Attended lunch hosted by President of Vietnam Women's Union 			

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ho Chi Minh City: Visited Australia-Vietnam Joint Transnational Crime Centre - Manila: Met President Aquino, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Trade - Attended the Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting - Attended signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Asian Development Bank - Attended launch of Australia-ASEAN 40th anniversary - Attended Basic Education Sector Transformation launch - Met with Presidential adviser on Peace Process and officials - Attended reception with key business leaders and government officials - Attended infrastructure business breakfast - Attended Makati Business Club lunch - Met with prominent Philippine women - Phnom Penh: Met Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior - Attended working lunch with senior Cambodian Government advisers, commentators, Australian business and NGO interlocutors 			
Fiji (Suva)	14 to 15 February 2014	2	Suva: 14 to 15 February 2014 Adviser: Sarah Story Assistant Media Adviser: Gabrielle Young

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- **Suva:** Attended the Ministerial Contact Group (MCG) meeting
- Met with the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Attorney-General and other ministers for Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment; Minister for works, Transport and Public Utilities; Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation
- Met with the Foreign Ministers from New Zealand, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea
- Attended reception hosted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Attended supper with New Zealand Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Attended roundtable meetings with leaders from registered political parties and civil society organisations and trade unions
- Attended afternoon tea with Fiji-Australia Business Council Executive Council members
- Met with Secretariat of the Pacific Community

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby and Lae)	5 to 6 February 2014	2	Port Moresby: 5 to 6 February 2014 Lae: 6 February 2014 Adviser: Sarah Storey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Port Moresby: Met with the Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration and other PNG Cabinet Ministers; Minister for Works and Implementation, Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Minister for National Planning and Monitoring, Minister for National Events, Sports and Pacific Games; and Senior Public Servants in the Department of Foreign Affairs - Attended a lunch and roundtable (Women as Drivers of Economic Growth) with leading PNG Business women, Ministers and Public Servants - Visited Bomana War Cemetery and laid a wreath - Attended dinner hosted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration; attendees included members of the PNG Business Council - Attended a business breakfast hosted by Mr Phil Franklin, President, Australia-PNG Business Council - Lae: Visited Angau Hospital - Participated in foot patrol with PNG-Australia Policing Partnership officers at Lae Market - Attended lunch hosted by Mr Alan McLay OL, President of the Lae Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Honorary Australian Consul to Lae (120 attendees) 			
United States of America (Washington, New York and Chicago)	19 to 29 January 2014	11	Washington: 19 to 23 January 2014 New York: 23 to 25 January 2014 Chicago: 25 to 26 January 2014 Chief of Staff: Murray Hansen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Washington (Monday 20 January): Attended an informal dinner with Ambassador Beazley and Ms Susie Annus - Tuesday 21 January: Met with Senior US Public Servants, Trade Representatives, 			

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
<p>US National Security Adviser and Deputy National Security Adviser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended a roundtable with North Asia experts - Attended a roundtable on development issues (participants included USAid) - Attended a Reception for Alliance 21 Conference and a dinner hosted by the Australian-American Leadership Dialogue - New York (Thursday 23 January): Met with the Global Governance Group (3G) on the G20 and representatives from Kohlberg Kravis Roberts Global Institute - Attended a reception with the Australian business community and a private dinner at the US Studies Centre - Friday 24 January: Met with Mr Todd-Wynne Parry Senior Vice President Trump Hotel Collection and with David Cote, CEO of Honeywell - Delivered keynote address at G'Day USA Australian Outlook Luncheon - Attended the ceremonial lighting of Empire State Building in Green and Gold - Attended G'Day USA Black Tie Gala - Saturday 25 January: Visited Westfield Redevelopment Project at the World Trade Centre - Chicago (25 January): Attended the Peabody Energy & G'Day USA Australia Day Gala Ball 			
Israel (Jerusalem)	12 to 15 January 2014	4	Jerusalem: 12 to 15 January 2014 Chief of Staff: Murray Hansen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jerusalem: Attended State Memorial Ceremony and funeral service for former Prime Minister of Israel, Mr Ariel Sharon - Met with Minister for Foreign Affairs 			
Solomon Islands (Honiara), Nauru and Vanuatu (Port Vila)	16 to 19 December 2013	4	Honiara: 16 to 18 December 2013 Nauru: 18 December 2013 Port Vila: 18 to 19 December 2013 Assistant Media Adviser: Gabrielle Young

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Honiara: Met with the Prime Minister- Attended a briefing at the Forum Fisheries Agency- Visited the remote communities at Avu Avu and Burns Creek to view aid programs.- Visited the RAMSI base- Attended a breakfast with the Foreign Minister and Australian and Solomon Islands business representatives- Attended a reception for senior government representatives, business leaders, scholarship recipients and volunteers and their host organisations- Nauru: Met with the President, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Minister Assisting the President, Minister for Justice, Minister for Education, Minister for Women's Affairs; and Senior Public Servants in the Department of Foreign Affairs- Visited the Offshore Processing Centre- Attended a lunch with the President, Nauru Cabinet, caucus and women community and business leaders- Visited the Nauru Secondary school and viewed the Technical and Vocational Education and Training building under construction- Met with an Australia Award scholarship recipient- Port Vila: Attended a dinner hosted by the Prime Minister and a breakfast hosted by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs- Attended a ceremony to mark the return to service of a patrol boat- Launched, with the Vanuatu Government, two programs funded by the Australian Government- Attended the Women's Economic Empowerment Forum			

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
Indonesia, China and Philippines	4 to 9 December 2013	6	Jakarta: 5 December 2013 Beijing: 6 to 7 December 2013 Manila: 7 to 8 December 2013 Senior Adviser: Robert Fergusson Andrew Shearer, National Security Adviser, Prime Minister's Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jakarta: Met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the former Foreign Minister and the Member of the President's Advisory Council - Beijing: Met with the Vice-President and the Minister, International Department of the Chinese Communist Party - Participated in the Foreign and Strategic Dialogue with the Foreign Minister - Attended a dinner with the Foreign Minister, a lunch with Australian business representatives and a morning tea with New Colombo Plan stakeholders - Manila: Toured typhoon affected areas in Leyte Province - Met with Philippines Cabinet Secretaries; Foreign Secretary, Secretary for Public Works, Secretary for Socioeconomic Planning and the Undersecretary for Energy - Met with the Defence Minister of Japan - Attended a dinner with a group of senior interlocutors from media, international financial institution, political consultancy, banking and NGO sectors 			
Sri Lanka, India and United States of America	12 to 24 November 2013	13	Colombo: 13 to 15 November 2013 Mumbai: 15 to 17 November 2013 Delhi: 17 to 18 November 2013 Washington 19 to 22 November 2013 Chief of Staff: Murray Hansen

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
			Senior Adviser: James Choi (USA only)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colombo: Attended CHOGM including two lunches and a dinner hosted by the Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka. - Phone call with the UK Foreign Minister and Commonwealth Minister of State - Met with the Minister of Economic Development, the Secretary of the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development, the leader of the Tamil National Alliance and the Opposition leader of Sri Lanka - Met with the Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh, Zambia, Seychelles - Met with the Foreign and Trade Minister of Kenya, UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Community Affairs, South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, CARICOM Foreign Ministers, PNG Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration; and the CEO of Senok group - Attended a reception for Australian business community and development partners - Attended a reception hosted by the Chairman of Union Bank - Attended an Australian alumni event - Mumbai: Attended a breakfast with Australian business contacts and State representatives and a dinner with senior Indian Business representatives - Attended the official opening of the Australian Consulate General - Witnessed the signing of the MoU between National Trauma Research Institute and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare - Addressed business and financial representatives - Met with the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India - Delhi: Attended a lunch with prominent Indian political and economic figures and a dinner hosted by the Minister of External Affairs - Met with Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Finance, National Security Advisor, leader of the Opposition in the Upper House, a winner of 'Win Your Future Unlimited' - Visited the Asha society - Witnessed the signing of a MoU on Customs Cooperation and Letter of Intent to Fund Nalanda University. - Washington: Met with the Office of the Chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Democratic Whip, the National Security Advisor, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the House Majority Leader, the Senator for Arizona, the Senior Advisor to the President and the Director of National Intelligence. - Attended a wreath-laying ceremony and toured the Capitol building 			

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended a lunch with political commentators, a lunch with CIA officials and a dinner with Asia-Pacific commentators - Attended AUSMIN meeting 			
Indonesia	6-8 November 2013	3	Bali: 6 to 8 November 2013 Adviser: Sam Riordan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bali: Attended Bali Democracy Forum including a lunch hosted by the President of the Republic of Indonesia and a dinner hosted by the Foreign Minister of Indonesia. - Met with the Secretary of State for Wales (UK), the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands and the Foreign Minister of Indonesia 			
Japan, Republic of Korea and China	14-20 October 2013	7	Tokyo: 14 to 16 October 2013 Seoul: 16 to 19 October 2013 Hong Kong: 19 to 20 October 2013 Chief of Staff: Murray Hansen Senior Adviser: James Choi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tokyo: Met with the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Minister for Defence, the Minister of State for Economic Revitalisation Social Security and Tax Reform; Economic and Fiscal Policy - Met with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary-General, the Regional General Manager, Japan and Korea, Tourism Australia, the Japan-Australia Business Cooperation Committee Executive Committee and the Japan-Australia Diet Members' League - Attended a roundtable to discuss the New Colombo Plan - Seoul: Attended the Seoul Conference on Cyberspace including a reception hosted by the President - Met with Cabinet Ministers; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Trade, the Minister of Defence - Met with the Chief of the National Security Council, the Secretary of State's Coordinator for Cyber Issues, USA, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the UK, the Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Ministers for 			

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
<p>Foreign Affairs from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Thailand, the Commander of USFK/CFC/UNC, the Acting President of Sungkyunkwan University and the Chairman of POSCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended a breakfast with Australian and Korean business representatives and a dinner with prominent Korean political and economic figures - Hong Kong: Met with the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, the AustCham Hong Kong board members and the President and Chief Executive of Hayco Manufacturing Ltd - Attended a dinner with New Colombo Plan stakeholders 			
New Zealand, Singapore and Indonesia	2 October to 5 October 2013	4	<p>Auckland: 2 to 3 October 2013 Singapore: 3 to 4 October 2013 Bali: 4 to 5 October 2013</p> <p>Adviser: Sam Riordan</p> <p>Assistant Media Adviser: Gabrielle Young</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Auckland: Met with Cabinet Ministers; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Defence and State Services and the Minister for Food Safety, Civil Defence and Youth Affairs - Singapore: Met with the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Law, and business leaders - Bali: Attended the APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM) and met with Ministers for Foreign Affairs from Canada, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines - Participated in trilateral discussions with the Secretary of State, USA and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan - Met with the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Hong Kong and the Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei 			
Indonesia	30 September to 1 October 2013	2	<p>Jakarta: 30 September to 1 October 2013</p> <p>Adviser: Sam Riordan</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jakarta: Accompanied the Prime Minister to Indonesia. Met with the President, members of the Indonesian Cabinet, and Indonesian and Australian business leaders 			

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
United States of America	22-29 September 2013	8	New York: 22-27 September 2013 Chief of Staff: Murray Hansen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New York: Attended UN Leader's Week including delivering Australia's national statement at the General Debate of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly and at the UN High-Level Meeting on the Realisation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for Persons with Disabilities - Chaired the UN Security Council High-Level Debate on Small Arms; the High-Level Event on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT); and the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting. - Met with Foreign Ministers from; Afghanistan, Argentina, Barbados, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Fiji, Finland, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, a Republic of Korea, Russia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Yemen - Met with the UN Secretary-General, the Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development of Trinidad and Tobago. The Prime Ministers of Malta and Samoa, the Director of the Copenhagen Consensus Centre, the President of the World Bank Group, the President of the 68th Session of the General Assembly, the Chef de Cabinet to the President of the General Assembly, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Administrator, UNDP and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission. - Met with the Kings of Swaziland and Tonga - Met with the Presidents of the Federated States of Micronesia, Cyprus, Liberia, Lebanon, Côte d'Ivoire, Latvia, Georgia - Attended a reception hosted by the President of the United States of America 			

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Mr Robb has travelled to the following locations. The mode of transport to each country listed has been aeroplane.

Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
Philippines and Singapore	19 to 27 February 2014	9	Philippines: 19 to 21 February 2014 Singapore: 22 to 27 February Adviser: Gareth Simpson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manila: Led a business delegation to the Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting (PAMM) and met the Philippines Foreign and Trade Ministers - Singapore: represented Australia in the ministerial-level negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and promoted investment opportunities in Australia 			
Switzerland	22 to 27 January 2014	6	Switzerland: 22 to 27 January 2014 Adviser: Gareth Simpson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended the World Economic Forum (WEF) Informal Gathering of World Economic Leaders. Met with the Commissioner for Trade, European Union; the Director-General, World Trade Organization and ministerial counterparts 			
USA	10 to 17 January 2014	8	USA: 10 to 17 January 2014 Senior Adviser: Angus Barker
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended the US-Australia Dialogue, G'day USA and met with business leaders in key investment sectors to promote Australia's attractiveness for new or expanded investment initiatives 			
Indonesia and Singapore	1 to 11 December 2013	11	Bali: 1 to 7 December 2013 Singapore: 7 to 10 December 2013 Chief of Staff: Zoe McKenzie
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bali: Attended the Cairns Group Ministerial Meetings and the WTO MC9 Meetings. Met with ministerial counterparts 			

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
<p>- Singapore: Attended TPP Ministerial Meetings. Met with the Minister for Trade and Industry and ministerial counterparts, National Farmers' Federation and business leaders</p>			
<p>Republic of Korea, Japan and China</p>	<p>14 to 22 November 2013</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Seoul: 14 to 17 November 2013 Tokyo: 17 to 19 November 2013 Beijing: 19 to 21 November 2013 Senior Adviser: Lyall Howard</p>
<p>- Seoul: Met with the Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Strategy and Finance, business leaders/investors and AustCham</p> <p>- Tokyo: Met the Prime Minister; Minister of Economic Revitalisation and the Trans-Pacific Partnership; Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry; Chairman of the Japan Australia Business Cooperation Committee and Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Foreign Affairs; LDP Diet Members, members of the Australia and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce and business leaders/investors.</p> <p>- Beijing: Met with the Minister for Commerce, business leaders/investors and AustCham</p>			
<p>USA</p>	<p>28 October to 2 November 2013</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Washington: 28 to 30 October 2013 A/g Chief of Staff: Cameron Hill</p>
<p>- Washington: Attended the Global Services Summit. Met with the USTR, Senators and Congressmen. Attended a US Chamber of Commerce Investment Roundtable and a working group with trade policy experts.</p>			
<p>China</p>	<p>22 to 26 October 2013</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Shanghai: 23 to 25 October 2013 Suzhou: 24 October 2013 Hong Kong: 25 October 2013 A/g Chief of Staff: Cameron Hill</p>

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Visit	Dates	Days Away	Locations Accompanying Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shanghai: Attended the Agri-Business Investment Forum. Met with Shanghai Mayor, business leaders and AustCham members - Suzhou: Opened Suzhou Campus - Monash University Joint Graduate School Joint Research Institute. Met Vice Governor, Jiangsu Provincial Government - Hong Kong: Attended the Australian education briefing to promote Future Unlimited digital media campaign; and an Investor Roundtable. Met with business leaders and AustCham members 			
Indonesia	30 September to 7 October 2013	8	Jakarta: 30 September to 2 October 2013 Bali: 2 to 6 October 2013 Adviser: Gareth Simpson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jakarta: Accompanied the Prime Minister to Indonesia. Met with the President, members of the Indonesian Cabinet, and Indonesian and Australian business leaders - Bali: Attended APEC and TPP meetings. Met with ministerial counterparts including from Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, United States; and the Director-General of the WTO 			

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Mr Mason has travelled to the following locations. The mode of transport to each country listed has been aeroplane.

Country	Dates	Days Away	Locations	Reason
Japan	24 to 28 October 2013	5	Tokyo 24 to 25 October Sendai 26 to 27 October Minami Sanriku 27 October	Attend PALM meeting Bilateral meetings Adviser: Arthur Chrenkoff
Vietnam	17 to 20 October 2013	4	Ho Chi Minh City 17 to 18 October Cao Lanh 19 October	Meetings with Ministers Ground-breaking ceremony of Cao Lanh Bridge Adviser: Arthur Chrenkoff

(b) The Department of Finance covers the costs of ministerial travel overseas.

2. Forward travel plans are a question for the Minister.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 178

Program: DFAT

Topic: Grants

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. Provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date.***
- 2. Provide the recipients, amount, intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those locations.***
- 3. Update the status of each grant that was approved prior to 7 September 2013, but did not have financial contracts in place on 7 September 2013.***
- 4. Provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those grants.***

Answer

1. A list of the department's grants is publicly available on the department's website.
2. The department has published on its website all grant agreement details that are required to be reported under the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines including details of the grant recipient, amount, purpose and funding location.
3. Only 6 grants that were approved prior to 7 September 2013 but did not have a financial contract in place on 7 September are yet to have their financial contracts finalised. We expect all 6 of these grants to be finalised within the next two months.

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4. The department has published on its website all grant agreement details that are required to be reported under the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines where the grant agreement has been finalized. Details of the 6 grants that were approved prior to 7 September 2013 but did not have a financial contract in place on 7 September and are yet to have their financial contracts finalised are provided below:

Recipient	Amount	Purpose	Grant funding location	Status
University of Sydney	\$20,000	To develop new people-to-people connections across the University of Technology, Sydney, University of Tokyo and the University of Osaka by fostering the exchange of knowledge, sharing of expertise and engagement around social robotics.	Sydney	Expected to be finalised by May 2014
Australian Studies Association of Japan	\$30,000	To host an international symposium at the Otemon Gakuin University in Osaka entitled '2014 - Transformation of Australia in the Age of Globalisation'.	Osaka, Japan	Expected to be finalised by May 2014
Gendaikikakushitsu Publishers	\$20,000	To translate and launch the book 'The Slap' by Christo Tsiolkas as part of a promotion of Australian contemporary literature.	Tokyo, Japan	Expected to be finalised by May 2014
Mr Shimpei Fukuzumi	\$29,700	To select contemporary Australian musicians and showcase their expertise in a Japanese music festival in Tokyo.	Tokyo, Japan	Expected to be finalised by April 2014

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Legs on the Wall	\$33,000	To support the tour of 'The tale of Samulnori', a live music theatre production in collaboration with AsiaNow in the Republic of Korea.	NSW	Expected to be finalised by May 2014
Shaun Parker & Co	\$33,000	To support the tour of the dance production 'Happy as Larry', participating in the American Dance Festival, The River to River Festival and the Festival of Art and Ideas in the USA.	NSW	Expected to be finalised by May 2014

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 179

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government payment of accounts

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. From Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date, what has been the average time period for the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors, consultants or others?***
- B. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in under 30 days?***
- C. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 30 and 60 days?***
- D. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 60 and 90 days?***
- E. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 90 and 120 days?***
- F. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days?***
- G. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency since 7 September 2013?***
- H. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?***

Answer

A. The 2013-14 statistics relating to payments to small business will be collated following the end of the financial year and provided to the Department of Industry in response to their yearly survey. To collate this data at this stage of the year will entail significant diversion of resources and in these circumstances I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

B. N/A

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C. N/A

D. N/A

E. N/A

F. N/A

G. Departmental practices accord with the requirements outlined in Finance Circular 2012/02 Procurement On-Time Payment Policy for Small Business. The department is aware of late payment interest penalty being paid for 2013-14 to date of \$1,463.07 to small business across all supplier categories.

H. The interest charge is calculated in accordance with the Finance Circular 2012/02 procurement On-Time Payment Policy for Small Business. The penalty interest rate was determined at the General Interest Charge (GIC) daily rate for the applicable quarter as detailed on the Australian Taxation Office website.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 180

Program: DFAT

Topic: Consultancies

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *How many consultancies have been undertaken from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?***
- a. *Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).***
 - b. *Also include total value for all consultancies.***
- B. *How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not?***
- a. *In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.***
- C. *Have any consultancies not gone out for tender?***
- a. *If so, which ones and why?***

Answer

- A. Two consultancy contracts have been undertaken and reported on AusTender since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013. To provide details of consultancy contracts awarded valued at less than \$10,000 would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.
- a. A contract valued at \$15,670.60 (GST inclusive) for the period 6 December 2013 to 31 January 2014 for the provision of monitoring and evaluation services was awarded to Pilbrow Global Pty Ltd under the Aid Advisory Services Panel which was established via an open tender. A contract valued at \$80,000 (GST inclusive) was awarded to ORIMA Research Pty Ltd under the Australian Public Service

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Commission's Leadership, Learning and Development Panel, which was established via an open tender, to facilitate internal reviews. The contract started on 4 February 2014 and ends on 30 April 2015.

- b. The total value of the two contracts is \$95,670.60 (GST inclusive).

- B. Details of planned open approaches to market (including consultancies), including subject matter, estimated date of approach to market, and proposed method of procurement are published in DFAT's Annual Procurement Plan on AusTender. The cost of future procurements and the name(s) of successful bidder(s) are not known until a procurement process has been completed. For agreements at or above \$10,000 these details are published on AusTender after a contract is awarded.

- C. All contracts valued at or above \$10,000, including consultancies, are on AusTender and include the method of procurement.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 181

Program: DFAT

Topic: Meeting costs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.**
- 2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.**
- 3. What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.**
- 4. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs**

Answer

As financial information is not collected for meeting costs, to provide the details as requested would entail a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 182

Program: DFAT

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. *What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date including any catering and drinks costs.***
- 2. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- 3. *What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- 4. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- 5. *What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- 6. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering***
- 7. *and drinks costs.***
- 8. *What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***

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9. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering*
10. *and drinks costs.*
11. *Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?*

Answer

1. For the period 21 November 2013 to 28 February 2014, the total amount spent by the department on hospitality and entertainment was \$1.21 million. The bulk of this was expenditure by Heads of Mission and other DFAT officers at overseas posts. All entertainment expenditure at overseas posts is fully acquitted.

Details of specific hospitality and entertainment events are maintained on individual files across the department's domestic and overseas network. To provide these details would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

2. The department's expenditure on hospitality and entertainment for each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office for the period 21 November 2013 to 28 February 2014 is nil.
3. Refer to 1.
4. Refer to 2.
5. The department's planned hospitality and entertainment expenditure for 2013-14 is \$5.679 million.

Details and breakup of costs are maintained on individual files across the department's domestic and overseas network. To provide these details would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

6. The department's planned expenditure on hospitality and entertainment for each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office is nil.
7. Refer to 5.
8. Refer to 6.
9. The amount each work unit spends on hospitality and entertainment is determined by the work unit and based on their particular business needs.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 183

Program: DFAT

Topic: Executive coaching and leadership training

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date:

a) Total spending on these services

b) The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification

c) The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)

d) The names of all service providers engaged

2. For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:

a) The name and nature of the service purchased

b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based

c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification

d) The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)

e) The total amount spent on the service

f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

l) Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:

g) The location used

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h) The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)

i) The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)

j) Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

I) In relation to education/executive coaching and/or other leadership training services paid for by the department what agreements are made with employees in regards to continuing employment after training has been completed?

II) For graduate or post graduate study, please breakdown each approved study leave by staffing allocation and degree or program title.

Answer

1.a.

For the period November 2013 to 28 February 2014 in the financial year 2013-2014 \$594,888.60 has been spent on leadership training services and executive coaching. These figures include costs of courses by the former AusAID (integrated into DFAT from 1 November 2013).

b.

Leadership training services and executive coaching has been offered to executive employees at EL1, EL2 and SES levels. As at 21 November 2013, there were 21 SES Band 3; 64 SES Band 2; 194 SES Band 1; 622 EL2 officers; and 1,412 EL1 officers (numbers are DFAT and former AusAID headcount).

c.

A total of 362 executive employees (EL1, EL2 and SES) engaged in leadership training and executive coaching during this period. Study leave was not granted to these employees for their training.

d.

Providers engaged were Melbourne Business School; the Australian Public Service Commission; Centre for Public Management; the Australian Government School of Management; SAI'D Business School Oxford University; Harvard Kennedy School Boston; Centre for Executive Education University of California Berkeley; Australian New Zealand School of Government; National Security College; Focusworks; Jeff Whalen Learning Groups; Amanda Horne PTY LTD; Yellow Edge PTY LTD; Dragonfly Consulting and coaching; Sue Adams Coaching and

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Facilitation Services; Foresight Management Group; Right Management; Executive Central; and Adept Career Moves.

2a.

Providers engaged for leadership and management training were Melbourne Business School; the Australian Public Service Commission; Centre for Public Management; the Australian Government School of Management; SAID Business School Oxford University; Harvard Kennedy School Boston; Centre for Executive Education University of California Berkeley; Australian New Zealand School of Government; Jeff Whalen Learning Groups; and the National Security College. The provider engaged for executive coaching services was Focusworks; Amanda Horne PTY LTD; Yellow Edge PTY LTD; Sue Adams Coaching and Facilitation Services; Dragonfly Consulting and coaching; Foresight Management Group; Right Management; Executive Central; and Adept Career Moves.

b.

Executive coaching services were provided on a one-on-one basis whilst all leadership training programs were group based.

c. and d.

For the 362 executive employees, coaching and leadership training totaled approximately 2,857 hours for all executive employees (EL1-SES officers).

e. and f. (i)

The \$594,888.60 spent for the services was on package fees rather than per hour fees. Leadership training and executive coaching was offered at DFAT and external locations.

g.

External training locations that were used were Melbourne Business School; the Australian Public Service Commission; Centre for Public Management; the Australian Government School of Management; SAID Business School Oxford University; Harvard Kennedy School Boston; Centre for Executive Education University of California Berkeley; Australian New Zealand School of Government; National Security College; Focusworks; Jeff Whalen Learning Groups; Amanda Horne PTY LTD; Yellow Edge PTY LTD; Dragonfly Consulting and coaching; Sue Adams Coaching and Facilitation Services; Foresight Management Group; Right Management; Executive Central; and Adept Career Moves.

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h. and i.

For the 362 executive employees, coaching and leadership training totaled 2,857 hours for all executive employees. To breakdown the number of employees by training location and employment classification would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

j.

The cost to utilise external premises in Canberra for the delivery of leadership training for DFAT executives was nil. The costs of external premises are contained within the package fees.

j.(i).

Training is provided to public servants employed by DFAT. All employees of the department have an annual performance agreement that includes training and development. Each departmental officer will review their training and development needs within the performance cycle and it is a requirement to discuss this at the final performance appraisal. This ensures commitment to the agreed training needs of the employee has been met during the cycle.

j.(ii).

Three EL1 departmental officers are completing a Masters of National Security; two EL2 officers are completing an Executive Masters of Public Administration; one EL2 officer is attending the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies and is completing a Masters in Strategic Studies; one officer is completing a Master of Business; and one officer is completing a PhD in Management. One Band 2 SES officer is completing a Master of Public Policy and Management. All officers have been granted study leave to complete their post graduate study.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 184

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing profile

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. What is the current staffing profile of the department/agency?*
- 2. Provide a list of staffing numbers, broken down by classification level, division, home base location (including town/city and state)*

Answer

- Table One** details the staffing profile of DFAT (headcount) as at 31 January 2014 including ongoing and non-ongoing APS and Locally Engaged Staff.
- (i) The department is part way through implementing organizational restructures and associated staff transfers on a division by division basis. This work is due to be completed by 1 July 2014. In parallel, the department is undertaking significant changes to its human resource information systems to align structures to staff. As a result a definitive divisional breakdown of APS staff is not possible at this time.

(ii) **Table Two** details the number of APS staff (headcount) by classification level as at 31 January 2014. In addition to the APS workforce of 4,201 DFAT employs 2,392 locally engaged staff who perform work value within the APS1-6 range³.

(iii) **Table Three** details the number of staff (headcount) by location as at 31 January 2014.

Table One: Staff headcount

Employment type ¹	Headcount
APS staff ²	4,201
Locally Engaged Staff (LES)	2,392
Total DFAT	6,593

¹Data based on headcount as at 31 January 2014.

²Includes all APS ongoing and non-ongoing employees. Does not include contractors.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Table Two: Staff by classification level

APS Classification level	Total DFAT	% of APS Staff by level	% of TOTAL workforce (APS and LES)
SES	281	6.7%	4.2%
EL2	615	14.6%	9.3%
EL1	1,412	33.6%	21.3%
APS6	674	16.0%	10.2%
BB2 (APS4/5)	961	22.9%	14.5%
BB1 (APS1/2/3)	251	6.0%	3.8%
Medical Officers	7	0.2%	0.1%
Total APS	4,201	100.0%	63.7%
LES staff ³	2,392	~	36.3%
Total Workforce	6,593	~	100.0%

Table Three: Staff by location

Location	Total APS ¹	LES	Total DFAT
Canberra	3,035	~	3,035
Americas	71	196	267
Asia			
<i>North Asia</i>	83	218	301
<i>South Asia</i>	86	215	301
<i>South East Asia</i>	216	722	938
Total Asia	385	1,155	1,540
Europe	92	278	370
Middle East and Africa	108	292	400
Multilateral ²	53	60	113
New Zealand and the South Pacific	150	411	561
Total Staff at Posts	859	2,392	3,251
Queensland	56	-	56
Victoria	91	-	91
Western Australia	36	-	36
New South Wales	88	-	88
South Australia	19	-	19
Tasmania	9	-	9
Northern Territory	8	-	8
State & Territory Total	307	0	307
Total Staff Numbers	4,201	2,392	6,593

¹Includes 48 former Climate Change staff. Headcount is the actual numbers of employees on the day, regardless of whether they are full-time or part-time.

²Posts in this category are Geneva UN, Geneva WTO, New York UN, Paris OECD and Vienna.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 185

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing reductions

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What was the reason for these reductions?

2. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.

3. Are there any plans for further staff reductions/voluntary redundancies? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.

4. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.

5. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.

6. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What classification were these staff?

7. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What classification were these staff?

Answer

1. The department must ensure that its staffing profile supports integration of foreign affairs, trade and development functions and supports a \$5 billion aid program (rather than an \$8 billion aid program). It is unlikely that the department will be able to implement an appropriate staffing profile through natural attrition alone. Accordingly, the department has decided to implement a voluntary redundancy program. As at 27 February 2014, four staff members had ceased employment with the department through the voluntary redundancy process.

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2. No.

3. Expressions of interest in voluntary redundancy have been invited from all DFAT APS staff. The department has received more than 350 expressions of interest.

As at 27 February 2014, the department had approved 26 formal offers of voluntary retrenchment. The final number of offers of voluntary retrenchment to be made is yet to be determined.

4. Staffing reductions will ensure the department's staffing profile supports integration of foreign affairs, trade and development functions and supports a \$5 billion aid program (rather than an \$8 billion aid program).

5. The department has not planned for involuntary redundancies.

6-7. Table One details the number of ongoing and non- ongoing staff by classification that have separated from the department between 21 November 2013 and 27 February 2014.

	Ongoing	Non-Ongoing
APS1	0	1
APS2	0	0
APS3	2	5
APS4	5	26
APS5	12	24
APS6	11	18
EL1	12	16
EL2	12	10
SES1	3	0
SES2	2	0
SES3	3	0

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 186

Program: DFAT

Topic: Staffing recruitment

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. How many ongoing staff recruited from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What classification are these staff?**
- 2. How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What classification are these staff?**
- 3. From Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?**

Answer

1. There have been ten ongoing APS staff recruited between November 2013 and 31 January 2014. The classification of the staff are:

APS ongoing headcount			
Classification	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14
EL2	3		
EL1		1	
APS6		1	
APS5	1		
APS4			2
APS2			2

2. The numbers of non-ongoing DFAT staff between November 2013 and 31 January 2014 were:

APS non-ongoing headcount			
Employment Type	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14
Non-ongoing APS	185	156	149
Casual APS	5	1	1

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

The APS classifications of the APS non-ongoing staff as at 31 January 2014 were:

APS non-ongoing headcount	
Classification	Jan-14
SES	10
EL2	10
Medical Officers	7
EL1	21
APS6	10
BB2 (APS4/5)	73
BB1 (APS1/2/3)	19
Total	150

3. There have been ten APS staff employed on non-ongoing contracts between November 2013 and 31 January 2014. The average length of the employment contract period is 12 months.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 187

Program: DFAT

Topic: Coffee machines

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. Has the department/agency purchased coffee machines for staff usage since Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013?

a) If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased?

b) Why were coffee machines purchased?

c) Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were purchased?

Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?

d) Where did the funding for the coffee machines come from?

e) Who has access?

f) Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?

g) What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?

2. Does the department/agency rent coffee machines for staff usage?

a) If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.

b) Why are coffee machines rented?

c) Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were rented? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?

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d) Where does the funding for the coffee machines come from?

e) Who has access?

f) Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?

g) What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?

Answer

It is not Departmental practice to purchase or rent coffee machines for staff.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 188

Program: DFAT

Topic: Printing

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. *How many documents (include the amount of copies) have been printed from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?***
- 2. *How many of these printed documents were also published online?***
- 3. *Did the Department/agency use external printing services for any print jobs since 7 September 2013?***
 - a. *If so, what companies were used?***
 - b. *How were they selected?***
 - c. *What was the total cost of this printing?***

Answer

Printing is decentralised and is managed and budgeted across 95 posts overseas and by seven state and territory offices, according to their varying requirements.

Aggregating printing costs across all DFAT offices, both overseas and in Australia, would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 189

Program: DFAT

Topic: Corporate cars

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. *How many cars are owned by each department/agency?***
- 2. *Where is the car/s located?***
- 3. *What is the car/s used for?***
- 4. *What is the cost of each car from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?***
- 5. *How far did each car travel from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?***
- 6. *How many cars are leased by each department/agency?***
- 7. *Where are the cars located?***
- 8. *What are the cars used for?***
- 9. *What is the cost of each car from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?***
- 10. *How far did each car travel from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?***

Answer

1. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade owns 602 cars including some armoured vehicles, which includes fleet vehicles overseas.
2. The vehicles owned by DFAT are dispersed across our posts overseas.
3. DFAT maintains vehicle fleets at its overseas posts to facilitate post operations and to meet the everyday official transport needs of the post. Vehicles are provided to facilitate effective discharge of the mission's operational requirements.
4. Details and breakup of costs are maintained on individual files across DFAT's overseas network. To provide these details would entail a significant

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- diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.
5. Details of car mileage are maintained on individual files across DFAT's overseas network. To provide these details would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.
 6. Ninety vehicles are leased by the department as part of the executive vehicle scheme. A further eight vehicles are leased by DFAT.
 7. The ninety vehicles leased as part of the executive vehicle scheme are located primarily in Canberra. Of the eight other leased vehicles, six are located in Canberra and two in New York.
 8. The vehicles are used for logistics, diplomatic and consular matters and Department business matters.
 9. Details and breakup of costs are maintained on individual files across DFAT. To provide these details would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.
 10. Details of car mileage are maintained on individual files across DFAT. To provide these details would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 190

Program: DFAT

Topic: Taxi costs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.*
- 2. What are the reasons for taxi costs?*

Answer

- Information on DFAT expenditure on taxis is not separately recorded. It would entail significant diversion of resources to collate this expenditure and to break it down into business groups. In the circumstances, I do not consider that additional work can be justified.
- Taxis are utilised by officers within Australia and overseas in undertaking official business and executing operational requirements.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 191

Program: DFAT

Topic: Hire cars

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.***
- 2. What are the reasons for hire car costs?***

Answer

1. For the period 1 November 2013 to 28 February 2014 the department spent \$66,563 on car hire.

The department does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow for the breakdown of hire car costs for each business group. To provide details in this format would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

2. Car hire is undertaken by officers within Australia and overseas in undertaking official business and executing operational requirements.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 192

Program: DFAT

Topic: Credit cards

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.**
- 2. Please update details of the following:**
 - a) What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?**
 - b) How is corporate credit card use monitored?**
 - c) What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?**
 - d) Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered since Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.**
 - e) What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?**

Answer

1. As of 25 March 2014, 1,561 officers had an Australian Corporate Credit Card. Information on the number of officers issued with credit cards overseas is not maintained centrally. To provide information on the employment classification of corporate credit card holders would entail a significant diversion of resources. In these circumstances I do not consider the additional work can be justified.
2. (a) If a criminal offence is identified, the department will seek prosecution through the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. The department will also take action under the APS Code of Conduct.

(b) Monthly card statements are reconciled and independently checked and reviewed. A representative sample of card statements of Australian issued

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cards is also checked by the central card management area to ensure compliance with departmental policy.

(c) The matter is referred to the department's Conduct and Ethics Unit for investigation. If a criminal offence is identified, the department will seek prosecution through the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. The department will also take action under the APS Code of Conduct.

(d) There have been three instances of corporate credit card misuse since the Budget Estimates in November 2013 by two staff members (one APS5 and two APS4). In each case the officer inadvertently used their DFAT credit card for a private purchase. Upon discovery of the unintentional use the card manager was advised and the officers repaid the amount immediately.

(e) Cardholders are required to sign an agreement that sets out the conditions of use of the credit card, including the need to safeguard the card and card number and to provide supporting documentation to substantiate transactions. Monthly card statements are reconciled and independently checked and reviewed. A representative sample of card statements of Australian issued cards is also checked by the central card management area to ensure compliance with departmental policy.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 193

Program: DFAT

Topic: Senate estimates briefing

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. How many officers were responsible for preparing the department, agency, Minister or representing Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of senate estimates?*
- B. How many officer hours were spent on preparing that information?
 - a. Please break down the hours by officer APS classification**
- C. Were drafts shown to the Minister or their office before senate estimates?
 - a. If so, when did this occur?*
 - b. How many versions of this information were shown to the minister or their office?**
- D. Did the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?
 - a. If so, when did this occur?*
 - b. What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.*
 - c. When were the changes made?**
- E. Provide each of the contents page of the Department/Minister/representing Minister's Senate Estimates folder prepared by the department for the Additional Estimates hearings in February 2014.*

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Answer

A. Officers across the Department prepare briefs for Estimates. No briefing pack was prepared for the Minister. Briefing material was prepared for the Secretary for the Senate Estimates hearings. A copy of the Secretary's briefing was provided to Senator Hon George Brandis QC, who represented the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Trade.

B. As foreign policy and trade matters vary from day to day and briefs are prepared by officers across the Department, there is no way of calculating time spent preparing Senate Estimates briefs.

C. In the days preceding the Additional Estimates hearing, briefing prepared for the Secretary, DFAT, was provided to Senator Hon George Brandis QC, who represented the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Trade.

D. No

E. In accordance with long standing practice, it is not appropriate to provide briefing material prepared for the Secretary.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 194

Program: DFAT

Topic: Question time

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. How many officers are responsible for preparing the department, agency, Minister or representing Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of Question Time?*
- B. How many officer hours are spent each sitting day on preparing that information?*
 - a. Please break down the hours by officer APS classification*
- C. Are drafts shown to the Minister or their office before Question Time?*
 - a. If so, when does this occur?*
 - b. How many versions of this information are shown to the minister or their office?*
- D. Does the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?*
 - a. If so, when does this occur?*
 - b. What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.*
- E. Provide each of the contents page of the Minister and representing Minister's Question Time folder prepared by the department for the week of 11 February 2014.*

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Answer

A. The Parliamentary Engagement Unit (PRU) is responsible for the management of Ministerial briefing packs for the purposes of Question Time. During a Parliamentary sitting period the PRU, consisting of one EL2, one EL1 and one APS5, consults on a daily basis within the Department on the preparation of briefing material for the Ministers.

B. As foreign policy and trade matters vary from day to day and briefs are prepared by officers across the Department, there is no way of calculating the time spent each sitting day on preparing Ministerial briefing packs for the purposes of Question Time.

C. No

D. No

E. In accordance with long standing practice, it is not appropriate to provide Departmental briefing material prepared for Ministers.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 195

Program: DFAT

Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator Ludwig

Question

1) Can the department please outline the process it under goes to access Freedom of Information requests?

- FOI requests are processed by the FOI & Privacy Law Section (FPL) in the Department.
- Decisions on FOI requests are made by Senior Executive Service ('SES') decision-makers from the substantive line areas with the exception of requests by consular and passport clients for their own information, which are decided by Directors in the Consular Branch and the Australian Passports Office.
- The Department seeks to release all material which can legally be released under the FOI Act within the statutory time frames.
- The Department charges for processing FOI requests in line with the FOI Charges Regulations.
- We publish on the Department's disclosure log as required by the FOI Act.

2) Does the department consult or inform the Minister when it receives Freedom of Information requests?

a. If so, when?

b. If so, how does this occur?

- The Department consults the Ministers if the subject matter of the FOI request involved the Minister's personal information or where documents originate from the Minister's office.

3) Does the department consult or inform other departments or agencies when it receives Freedom of Information requests?

a. If so, which departments or agencies?

b. If so, when?

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c. If so, how does this occur?

- In line with FOI legislation the Department consults as necessary with other departments or agencies where (a) the subject matter of the request is closely connected to the functions of another department or agency or (b) where relevant material identified within the Department has been generated by another department or agency. We consult through the FOI area of other agencies.

4) Does the department consult or inform the Minister when or before it makes a decision on a Freedom of Information request?

a. If so, when?

b. If so, how does this occur?

- The Minister is informed by Ministerial submission of FOI decisions considered sensitive and likely to attract media interest. The Minister plays no role in the Department's decision-making process.
- In those instances where the Minister is informed of the Department's decision, the advice is given via a ministerial submission after the access decision has been made, but prior to the release of documentation to the applicant.

5) Does the department consult or inform other departments or agencies when or before it makes a decision on a Freedom of Information request?

a. If so, which departments or agencies?

b. If so, when?

c. If so, how does this occur?

- Yes – see response to 3 above. Where departments and agencies are involved in the assessment and clearance of material relevant to a particular request, the release of material is only made once the consultative process has been finalised. We may at times inform departments we have consulted on an imminent release date.

6) What resources does the department commit to its Freedom of Information team?

- The Department combines its FOI and privacy legislation responsibilities in the one section – the Freedom of Information and Privacy Law ('FPL') Section. The combined section is supervised by a Director and has the equivalent of 8 full time staff. Decision-making responsibilities are shared by SES officers throughout the Department

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in line areas responsible for the subject matter captured by a particular request.

7) List the staffing resources by APS level assigned solely to Freedom of Information requests

- 1xEL2; 5xEL1; 2xAPS5

8) List the staffing resources by APS level assigned indirectly to Freedom of Information requests

- Processing an FOI request involves staff at various levels across the Department both in Canberra and overseas in the identification, provision and assessment of relevant material, handling of charges payments, and decision making responsibilities.

9) Does the department ever second additional resources to processing Freedom of Information requests?

a. If so, please detail those resources by APS level

- The Department employs one former departmental SES officer on contract as a decision-maker on a non-ongoing basis for complex and voluminous FOI requests.

10) Information Act 1982 within the Minister's office?

a. How does this differ to the number of officers designated as at 6 September 2013?

- All departmental officers designated SES Band 1 in Canberra, and the Directors in the Department's Consular Branch, along with the Directors in the Australian Passport Office, and the Director of the FPL Section are currently designated as decision makers. All officers designated SES Band 2 and above are designated internal review decision-makers.

11) How many officers are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Minister's office?

a. How does this differ to the number of officers designated as at 6 September 2013?

- The Senior Adviser within the Foreign Minister's Office has delegation with respect to Freedom of Information matters. The officer occupying the position of Chief of Staff at the Trade Minister's Office has delegation with respect to Freedom of Information matters.
- Prior to 6 September 2013, the Foreign and Trade Ministers were decision-makers in their respective offices. In addition, the former

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Foreign Minister had designated one SES level decision-maker in his office.

12)Of the officers that are designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Ministers office, how many are seconded officers from the department?

. N/A

13)What training does the department provide to designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act who work within the department?

- a. Of the officers designated as decision makers within the department, how many have received formal training?**
- b. Of the officers designated as decision makers within the department, how many have received informal training?**
- c. How long after each officers appointment as a designated decision maker did they receive formal training?**
- d. What did the training involve?**
- e. How long was the training?**
- f. By whom was the training conducted?**

Decision-makers responsible for deciding on the release of documents to an applicant are provided with a personal preliminary briefing by officers of the FPL Section. In addition, and under cover of an instruction Minute, they are also provided with a copy of the FOI Act 1982, the Department's Guidelines for decision-makers (<http://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/foi-guidelines.html>) and a summary of the exemptions in the FOI Act and factors to be considered in determining whether release of material is in the public interest prepared by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC). This advice is available at:

[http://www.oaic.gov.au/publications/guidelines.html#foi_guidelines.](http://www.oaic.gov.au/publications/guidelines.html#foi_guidelines)] From time to time, this advice is updated. The online version represents the most up-to-date version of the advice.

. The Department issued an administrative circular to all staff on 11 November 2013 entitled '*Freedom of Information – Responsibilities for management and processing of FOI requests*' which provides a general overview of FOI and associated processes.

. In addition, detailed information on the FOI process including statutory timeframes, the document search and retrieval process, decision-making and appeals processes, can be found in the Legal Handbook: http://dfatintranet.titan.satin.lo/Pages/Legal-Handbook-chapter7.aspx#_toc318474451

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. Officers of the FPL Section have received formal training at various training modules and practitioner forums organised by the Australian Government Solicitor. These officers are responsible for providing advice, guidance and opinion to decision-makers prior to, and in the course of, their deliberations of material to ensure the quality of the decision-making process. The Director FPL also gives a regular FOI presentation to officers of the Department involved in processing FOI requests.

a. We do not maintain records of this.

b. All

c. N/A

d-f. See above comments

14)What training does the department provide to designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act who work within the Minister's office, excluding those officers on secondment from the department?

a. Of the officers designated as decision makers, how many have received formal training?

b. Of the officers designated as decision makers, how many have received informal training?

c. How long after each officers appointment as a designated decision maker did they receive formal training?

d. What did the training involve?

e. How long was the training?

f. By whom was the training conducted?

- . Within the Foreign Minister's Office the Senior Adviser has delegation with respect to Freedom of Information matters.
- . Within the Trade Minister's Office the person occupying the position of Chief of Staff has delegation with respect to Freedom of Information matters.
- . Staff of the Ministers' offices have been provided with informal briefing and have been provided with relevant documentary guidance on the FOI obligations of their offices.
- . The Department does not keep a record of the time between appointment of officers as designated decision-makers and the dates on which training to those officers was provided.
- . The training involved informal oral briefings.
- . The Department does not keep a record of how long the training was for.

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- The Ministers' offices can contact the Department to seek guidance on FOI matters as necessary.
- The training was conducted by senior departmental officers.

15) Since 7 September 2013, how many Freedom of Information requests been shown or alerted to the Minister or their office?

- List those notified request**
- How many instances were each of this requests brought to the office or the Minister's attention?**
- How many of these items resulted in a separate formal brief being provided to the Minister?**
- How many of these items resulted in a separate informal briefing (including by email) being provided to the Minister?**
- How many requests have resulted in multiple formal briefs being provided to the Minister or their office?**
- How many requests have resulted in multiple informal briefs (including by email) being provided to the Minister or their office?**

- The department's formal process for alerting the Minister or their office to a Freedom of Information request is by a formal ministerial submission.
- A total of 5 submissions have been notified to the Minister since 7 September 2013.
- In those instances where the Minister is informed of the Department's decision, the advice is given after the access decision has been made but prior to the release of documentation to the applicant.

16) Does the department provide FOI PDFs for download on their website?

Yes.

17) If not, what is the cost associated with staffing to require monitor email and collate and forward requested FOI documents?

The Department does not routinely keep a record of this information.

18) How does the department test it is complying with accessibility standards for its websites?

Staff trained in website accessibility, review and adapt, as appropriate, content before publishing.

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19) Does the department comply with accessibility standards for all its websites?

The Department is working towards accessibility compliance by the Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO) due date of December 2014.

20) What would be the effect on the accessibility rating of the department's website if FOI PDFs were provided on the department websites?

The Department currently releases FOIs as PDF documents. FOI PDFs are scanned documents which include redactions. Scanned PDFs are not accessible to people with disability using assistive technology. The DFAT website states that 'There may be documents in the disclosure log that are currently unavailable in an accessible format. If the information is not available on the website or you are unable to access the document in the format provided, DFAT will endeavour to meet all reasonable requests for an alternate format of the document in a timely manner and at the lowest reasonable cost to the applicant.' As defined by the AGIMO website (<http://webguide.gov.au/accessibility-usability/accessibility/>)

21) What accessibility testing of the website was done and what were the points of failure prior to this change in access for FOI documents?

DFAT commissioned a web accessibility review of its departmental website in 2012. Points of failure included:

- Images and non-text content missing text alternatives
- Form fields missing descriptive labels
- Text with insufficient colour-contrast
- Inconsistent page layouts

This accessibility review did not include the PDF files published on the website; they are scanned PDFs and they are not accessible by people with disabilities using assistive technology.

22) Have the website accessibility standards been solely or partly responsible for not putting FOI PDF documents on the department websites?

No.

23) How does the department facilitate anonymous access to the FOI disclosure files?

The Department facilitates anonymous access to documents released under FOI via its FOI disclosure log. Individuals are also able to email the FPL

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Section anonymously to seek access to documents released separate to the disclosure log via post or other means as required.

24) How many times were the last 20 FOI requests PDFs which were made available on the website downloaded? How often have the FOI requests only available by email request been sent?

PDF file	Date published	Total times accessed since publication
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-14-4161.pdf	7 March 2014	18
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-13-20365.pdf	6 March 2014	58
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-1401-F734.pdf	21 Feb 2014	45
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-1312-F722.pdf	20 Feb 2014	201
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-13-18982.pdf	4 Feb 2014	335
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-13-18709.pdf	3 Feb 2014	236
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-13-18772.pdf	24 Jan 2014	165
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-13-15924.pdf	2 Jan 2014	104
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-1311-F707.pdf	19 Dec 2013	123
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-1310-F687.pdf	18 Dec 2013	123
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-13-19377.pdf	11 Dec 2013	95
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-13-19105.pdf	9 Dec 2013	173
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-13-15626.pdf	22 Nov 2013	396
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-1311-F669.pdf	11 Nov 2013	328
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-1309-F654.pdf	24 Oct 2013	103
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-12-1608.pdf	16 Oct 2013	153
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-13-14139.pdf	16 Sep 2013	255

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http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-13-13584.pdf	4 Sep 2013	464
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-13-9152.pdf	26 Aug 2013	637
http://dfat.gov.au/foi/downloads/dfat-foi-1307-F611.pdf	26 Aug 2013	987

- The Department publishes all documents released under FOI on its FOI disclosure log, except those containing personal or business information.
- We have not received any requests for these documents to be provided by email or in hard copy in the last 3 months.
- The Department does not keep records of email requests for disclosed documents.

25) How long does it take to requests for disclosed FOI files to be processed? What was the average turn around from request to sending of files in the last 3 months?

- The Department's policy is to upload completed FOI requests on its disclosure log within 48 hours of release to an applicant (with the exception of personal/business information or any other information which is not appropriate to publish publicly). Requests made for access to disclosed FOI files are processed as soon as a request for that information is received.
- In the last 3 months the Department has not had any requests for FOI files disclosed.

26) What was the content of communications with other departments about the website accessibility standards and FOI PDFs?

The Australian Government Information Management Office in the Department of Finance has informally acknowledged that FOI PDFs created by scanning are an issue for all websites with an FOI disclosure log.

27) Where did advice concerning the website accessibility certification and provision of PDFs come from and what was the content of that advice?

No formal advice regarding FOI PDFs has been received.

28) Does the department consider that not providing direct download of PDFs is more accessible for people with disabilities and the general public than providing the links?

No.

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29) What efforts have been made to make FOI PDFs accessible to members of the public who have disabilities?

As stated on the DFAT website, DFAT understands that “some users may still find accessing PDF files difficult and we have, where possible, taken steps to ensure that alternative formats are available.” Members of the public who have disabilities are able to contact the FPL Section to seek access to the documents via alternate means (i.e. by post).

30) Has advice from the information commissioner been sought regarding providing FOI requests available by email request only?

- Yes. In line with the Information Commissioner’s Guideline 3.30 requests by email must be sent to the FOI address specified by the agency or minister. A request will not meet the requirements of the FOI Act if it is sent to another address or number (for example, the email address of an agency staff member).

31) Has any disability advice group or consultant been contacted regarding making the FOI requests accessible to people with disabilities?

No.

32) Is this compatible with the information commissioners guidelines- specifically that “published information should be accessible — in particular, it should comply with an agency’s obligation to meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (Version 2)”

As stated on the DFAT website, DFAT understands that “some users may still find accessing PDF files difficult and we have, where possible, taken steps to ensure that alternative formats are available.”

33) How does email PDF provision meet the information commissioner’s requirement that “13.124 Information that forms part of the IPS must be published ‘to members of the public generally’”?

- The Department publishes documents released under FOI on the FOI disclosure log (with the exception of personal/business information or any other information which is not appropriate to publish publicly).
- The Department makes documents available to members of the public generally (including via alternate means i.e. by post or email) by publishing the details of the request if the document is too large to be published on the website.

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34) Is not providing the FOI PDFs on the website a means of avoiding not conforming to the WCAG 2.0 or other guidelines?

Not applicable.

35) Does the department have a separate email address or inbox for receiving and responding to FOI requests?

The Department has an FOI mailbox for receiving and responding to FOI requests and enquiries.

a. If so, list each email account

FOI@dfat.gov.au

b. List the officers who can assess and reply from those separate accounts, broken down by staffing classification level

1 x EL2 (Director); 5 x EL1 (Executive Officers); 2 x APS5 (Desk Officers)

36) Do FOI officers ever receive or respond to applicants from their individual email account as opposed to from a central account?

FOI officers use both their individual departmental email accounts and the central FOI account when communicating with applicants.

a. If so, how does the officer distinguish between communication related to their task as a decision maker and their primary work task ?

FOI officers are not decision-makers, however, the Director in FPL has delegation to make FOI decisions. Decisions on FOI requests are made by SES officers and they do not have access to the FOI mailbox.

b. How do FOI decision makers that receive emails related to FOI decisions in their normal work capacity distinguish these emails from FOI decision emails?

FOI decision makers do not have access to the FOI mailbox. Only officers in the FPL Section have access to the FOI mailbox.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 196

Program: DFAT

Topic: Function

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1) Provide a list of all formal functions or forms of hospitality conducted for the Minister. Include:

- a) The guest list of each function***
- b) The party or individual who initiated the request for the function***
- c) The menu, program or list of proceedings of the function***
- d) A list of drinks consumed at the function***

2) Provide a list of the current wine, beer or other alcoholic beverages in stock or on order in the Minister's office

Answer

To provide these details would entail a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 197

Program: DFAT

Topic: Red tape reduction

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1) Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?**
 - a. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target**
 - 2) How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?**
 - 3) How have they been recruited?**
 - 4) What process was used for their appointment?**
 - 5) What is the total cost of this unit?**
 - 6) Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?**
 - 7) Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.**
 - 8) What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?**

Answer

1) The department has established a deregulation unit (DU) for the foreign affairs and trade portfolio. The DU is the central contact point within the portfolio for guidance on the deregulation agenda and regulatory impact analysis processes, and has responsibility for driving red tape reduction across the portfolio. The DU conducts regular meetings with portfolio regulators to consult on progress towards meeting the government's red tape reduction target.

(a) The department is making progress towards the government's red tape reduction target.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

- 2) Three officers (one SES Band 1, one EL2, one APS 6).
- 3) No additional recruitment was undertaken.
- 4) Officers were drawn from existing resources within the department's Executive, Planning and Evaluation Branch, which is responsible for portfolio coordination.
- 5) Funded from within existing resources.
- 6) Yes.
- 7) All staff have appropriate security clearances.
- 8) Deregulation Unit.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 198

Program: DFAT

Topic: Official residences

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1) Provide a list of all formal functions conducted at any of the Official Residences, or for the Prime Minister's office or Prime Minister's Dining Room where it has been used in place of the official residences. Include:

a. The guest list of each function, including if any ministerial staff attended

b. The party or individual who initiated the request for the function

c. The menu, program or list of proceedings of the function

d. A list of drinks consumed at the function

2) Provide a list of the current wine, beer or other alcoholic beverages in stock or on order at any of the official residences, or venues or offices acting as official residences.

Answer

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has not conducted any formal functions at any of the Official Residences.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 199

Program: DFAT

Topic: Land costs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. How much land (if any) does the Department or agencies or authorities or Government corporation within each portfolio own or lease?**
- 2. Please list by each individual land holding, the size of the piece of land, the location of that piece of land and the latest valuation of that piece of land, where that land is owned or leased by the Department, or agency or authority or Government Corporation within that portfolio? (In regards to this question please ignore land upon which Australian Defence force bases are located. Non Defence Force base land is to be included)**
- 3. List the current assets, items or purse (buildings, facilities or other) on the land identified above.**
 - a. What is the current occupancy level and occupant of the items identified in (3)?**
 - b. What is the value of the items identified in (3)?**
 - c. What contractual or other arrangements are in place for the items identified in (3)?**
- 4. How many buildings (if any) does the Department or agencies or authorities or Government Corporation within each portfolio own or lease?**
- 5. Please list by each building owned, its name, the size of the building in terms of square metres, the location of that of that building and the latest valuation of that building, where that building is owned by the Department, or agency or authority or Government corporation within that portfolio? (In regards to this question please ignore buildings that are situated on Australian Defence force bases. Non Defence Force base buildings are to be included).**
- 6. In regards to any building identified in Q4, please also detail, the occupancy rate as expressed as a percentage of the building size. If occupancy is identified as less than 100%, for what is the remaining space used?**

Answer: Please refer to the following table.

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Q No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Thursday Island	York Park Block 2 Section 1 Barton		
199	Ludwig	Land Costs	1. How much land (if any) does the Department within each portfolio own or lease?	Owned land and residence	York Park Block 2 Section 1 Barton (leased car park)		
			2A The size of the piece of land	800m2	443 car spaces		
			2B the location of the land	33 Chester Street Thursday Island	Block 2 Section 1 Barton		
			2C The latest valuation	Land valuation \$325,000.00			
			3 Current assets on land A. Current Occupancy Level B. Value of items on the land C. Contractual arrangements in place for assets	4 Bedroom House valuation: \$525,000 Contractual arrangements: no contracts in place. Services completed through DTZ managed work orders.	443 car spaces		
			Leased / Owned Buildings				
			4. How many buildings does the Department own or lease	Total number of buildings in domestic portfolio owned and leased: 17 leased 1 owned			
			5. Owned Property Details	33 Chester Street Thursday Island House size: 300m2 Building valuation: \$525,000			
6. In regards to any building identified in Q4, please also detail, the occupancy rate as expressed as a percentage of the building size. If occupancy is identified as less than 100%, for what is the remaining space used?	Details below						
Address			Occupancy Rate as % building size	Building Size (includes areas defined as 'non-useable' for prodac reporting purposes)	Remaining Space Usage		
RG Casey Building Canberra			90.97%	45,382m2	Non-contiguous work points		
Maddocks House Canberra			94.99%	916m2	Non-contiguous work points		
255 London Circuit Canberra			88.74%	9,167m2	Non-contiguous work points		
20 Allara Street Canberra			87.57%	9,929m2	Non-contiguous work points		

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40 Allara Street	85.39%	3,038m2	Non-contiguous work points
2 Lonsdale Street Melbourne	95.62%	2,044m2	Non-contiguous work points
Angel Place 123 Pitt Street Sydney	94.11%	815m2	Non-contiguous work points
Gateway House 26 Lee Street Sydney	98.69%	1,834m2	Non-contiguous work points
77-79 Hunter Street Newcastle		217m2	Not reportable for prodac purposes
NT House 22 Mitchell Street Darwin		314m2	Not reportable for prodac purposes
150 Charlotte Street Brisbane	94.5%	1,492m2	Non-contiguous work points
55 Currie Street Adelaide	89.99%	608m2	Non-contiguous work points
111 Macquarie Street Hobart		335m2	Not reportable for prodac purposes
Exchange Plaza Level 17 Sherwood Court Perth	100%	827m2	Fully occupied
4 Victoria Parade Thursday Island		68m2	Not reportable for prodac purposes

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 200

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial staff code

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. Have there been any identified breaches of the Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct by the Minister, their office or the department?

If so, list the breaches identified, broken by staffing classification level

If so, what remedy was put in place to manage the breach? If no remedy has been put in place, why not?

If so, when was the breach identified? By whom? When was the Minister made aware?

2. Can the Minister confirm that all ministerial and electorate officers in their office comply fully with the ministerial staff code of conduct?

If not, how many staff don't comply, broken down by classification level?

How long have they worked for the Minister?

3. Can you confirm they all complied with the code on the date of their employment?

If not, on what date did they comply?

4. Can you confirm that all disclosures as required by the code were made to the government staffing committee?

If so, on what date were those disclosure made?

5. By position title list the date each staff member was approved by government staff committee

6. Can you confirm all staff have divested themselves of any and all relevant shares as of the date of their appointment

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

7. *Can you list by number if any staff have been granted exception by the SMOS to remain a director of a company as allowed by the Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct, break down by position level*

Answer

These questions are a matter for each ministerial office.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 201

Program: DFAT

Topic: Boards (for Departments or agencies with boards)

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. Since September 7th 2013;**
 - a. how often has each board met, break down by board name;**
 - b. what travel expenses are provided;**
 - c. what is the average attendance at board meetings;**
 - d. how does the board deal with conflict of interest;**
 - e. what conflicts of interest have been registered;**
 - f. what remuneration is provided to board members;**
 - g. how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?**
 - h. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members since September 7, 2013?**
 - i. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings**
 - j. what have catering costs been for the board meetings held this year; is alcohol served;**

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Answer

Answers for DFAT Foundations, Councils and Institutes (FCIs) *by Board name:*

Australia-China Council (ACC):

1.
 - a) ACC Board met twice since 7 September 2013.
 - b) Secretariat covers flights, accommodation, meals and taxi/transfers to meetings for board members (except Chair, who chose to cover his own travel and accommodation expenses).
 - c) 85%
 - d) Board members are required to report on any conflict of interest issues in the beginning of each board meeting and fill in a private interest declaration form. Board member who has an interest in a particular grant withdraws from that grant selection/voting process.
 - e) None.
 - f) Sitting fees, travel and accommodation expenses in accordance with Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal Determinations (currently 2014-03) for part-time holders of public offices. Ex officio members do not receive sitting fees and are paid the travel allowance that they would normally receive in the course of their work.
 - g) Such instances have not occurred in ACC.
 - h) No.
 - i) Professor Fiona Wood AM (has not attended 3 December 2014 meeting, due to family reasons. Professor Wood's appointment on the board expired on 31 January 2014, hence her non-attendance at the 24 March meeting).
 - j) 3 Dec 2013 meeting: Catering - \$2,910.31 (Event), 24 March 2014 meeting - \$887.87. Alcohol was not served for the board meetings.

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Australia-Korea Foundation (AKF):

1.
 - a) AKF met twice on 28 October 2013 and 7 March 2014 respectively.
 - b) Secretariat covers flights, accommodation, meals and taxi/transfers to meetings for board members.
 - c) 85% attendance on 28 October 2013 and full attendance on 7 March 2014.
 - d) Board members are required to report on any conflict of interest issues in the beginning of each board meeting and fill in a private interest declaration form. Board member who has an interest in a particular grant withdraws from that grant selection/voting process.
 - e) None.
 - f) Sitting fees, travel and accommodation expenses in accordance with Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal Determinations (currently 2014-03) for part-time holders of public offices. Ex officio members do not receive sitting fees and are paid the travel allowance that they would normally receive in the course of their work.
 - g) No member has been dismissed since 7 September 2013.
 - h) No.
 - i) Mr James Casey was the only one absence from 28 October board meeting.
 - j) \$449.50 (morning/afternoon tea/working lunch), alcohol was not served on 7 March 2014. \$987.85 (morning tea, working lunch and dinner the night before board meeting), alcohol was served during dinner at the restaurant.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Australia-Japan Foundation (AJF):

1.
 - a) AJF has met twice - on 20 November 2013 and 20 February 2014.
 - b) Secretariat covers flights, accommodation, meals and taxi/transfers to meetings for board members.
 - c) 93%.
 - d) Board members are required to report on any conflict of interest issues in the beginning of each board meeting and fill in a private interest declaration form. Board member who has an interest in a particular grant withdraws from that grant selection/voting process.
 - e) 'Nil responses' are recorded in the minutes; one specific conflict was recorded in documentation for a procurement contract with Asialink - the fact that there was no involvement in any aspect of the process by an AJF Board member who is also Asialink deputy director was recorded.
 - f) Sitting fees, travel and accommodation expenses in accordance with Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal Determinations (currently 2014-03) for part-time holders of public offices. Ex officio members do not receive sitting fees and are paid the travel allowance that they would normally receive in the course of their work.
 - g) This issue has not arisen since the AJF's incorporation into DFAT in 2006. Formal provision for dismissal exists under the AJF Order in Council whereby the Governor General may terminate the appointment of the Chairman or a member on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (refer to AJF OIC 3.1) and also the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade may terminate the appointment of a member of the Board, other than the ex-officio DFAT member (refer to AJF OIC 3.2).
 - h) No.
 - i) Not applicable.
 - j) The two meetings both had in-house catering for refreshments and working lunches. For the meeting on 20 November 2013, the catering cost was \$176.00 (no alcohol served). A dinner for the board and Secretariat (total of 10 people) was held at a cost of \$565.50. Alcohol was served and this cost was \$274.00 so total cost of \$839.50 was incurred. For the meeting on 20 February, total catering cost was \$422.54 (no alcohol served). (NB: no dinner involved).

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Australia-Indonesia Institute (AII):

1.
 - a) Once.
 - b) Secretariat covers flights, accommodation, meals and taxi/transfers to meetings for board members.
 - c) 70%.
 - d) Board members are required to report on any conflict of interest issues in the beginning of each board meeting and fill in a private interest declaration form. Board member who has an interest in a particular grant withdraws from that grant selection/voting process.
 - e)
 - 1) Professor Lindsey re: a grant applicant to organise the Muslim Exchange Program (MEP) who had previously been his research assistant.
 - 2) Mr Sheridan re: a number of applicants for the Elizabeth O'Neill Award.
 - 3) Ms Martin re: application from Australian Institute of Architects NT for a grant.
 - 4) Professor Lindsey (Chair) re: application from Asialink for a grant.
 - f) Sitting fees, travel and accommodation expenses in accordance with Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal Determinations (currently 2014-03) for part-time holders of public offices. Ex officio members do not receive sitting fees and are paid the travel allowance that they would normally receive in the course of their work.
 - g) The procedures for the conduct of meetings of the Institute shall be as determined from time to time by the Institute. There have been no incidents of members not meeting attendance standards.
 - h) No.
 - i) Only 1 meeting held since 7 Sept 2013, absence from that meeting were: Dr James Moody, Ms Gillian Bird (ex-officio) and Greg Sheridan who participated by phone for part of the meeting.
 - j) Catering costs include dinners and lunches held during the last board meeting visit in Indonesia (3 days) including costs of invited guests Total: \$3,394. Alcohol was served.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Australia-India Council (AIC):

1.
 - a) The AIC has met on one occasion since 7 September 2013.
 - b) Secretariat covers flights, accommodation, meals and taxi/transfers to meetings for board members.
 - c) All serving Board members and the Chairperson attended the meeting.
 - d) Board members are required to report on any conflict of interest issues in the beginning of each board meeting and fill in a private interest declaration form. Board member who has an interest in a particular grant withdraws from that grant selection/voting process.
 - e) None.
 - f) Sitting fees, travel and accommodation expenses in accordance with Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal Determinations (currently 2014-03) for part-time holders of public offices. Ex officio members do not receive sitting fees and are paid the travel allowance that they would normally receive in the course of their work.
 - g) The Order Constituting the AIC provides the authority for termination of the Board Chairperson and members.
 - h) No requests have been made to ministers to dismiss the Board Chairperson or members since 7 September 2013.
 - i) N/A.
 - j) A cold lunch was provided during the course of the meeting at a cost of \$153.50. No alcohol was served.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Australia-Malaysia Institute (AMI):

1.
 - a) The AMI has met twice since 7 September 2013.
 - b) Secretariat covers flights, accommodation, meals and taxi/transfers to meetings for board members.
 - c) 80%.
 - d) Board members are required to report on any conflict of interest issues in the beginning of each board meeting and fill in a private interest declaration form. Board member who has an interest in a particular grant withdraws from that grant selection/voting process.
 - e) At the Board's 24th meeting on Monday 4 November 2013, two conflicts were declared. No conflicts were declared during the Board's 25th meeting on 17-18 March 2014.
 - f) Sitting fees, travel and accommodation expenses in accordance with Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal Determinations (currently 2014-03) for part-time holders of public offices. Ex officio members do not receive sitting fees and are paid the travel allowance that they would normally receive in the course of their work.
 - g) The issue has not arisen, but the Charter allows for the Minister to terminate the appointment of the Chair or any member (other than the ex officio member) at any time by notice in writing.
 - h) No.
 - i) Geraldine Doogue AO.
 - j) \$1,781 – comprised of \$478 for the working lunch at the Board meeting and \$1,803 for related receptions/functions. Alcohol is served at receptions/functions.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Australia-Thailand Institute (ATI):

1.
 - a. The ATI has met three times.
 - b. Secretariat covers flights, accommodation, meals and taxi/transfers to meetings for board members.
 - c. 95%.
 - d. Board members are required to report on any conflict of interest issues in the beginning of each board meeting and fill in a private interest declaration form. Board member who has an interest in a particular grant withdraws from that grant selection/voting process.
 - e. No conflicts were declared during the Board's 24th meeting on Friday 15 November 2013.
At the Sub-Committee Board Meeting of 24 February 2014 the Chair, Mr Mike Courtnall, declared a possible conflict of interest arising from his appointment as a member of the BRIDGE program's advisory board. To avoid any perceived conflict of interest he elected not to participate in any decisions regarding further funding for the BRIDGE program. The meeting accepted this option.
At the full Board meeting on Tuesday 1 April 2014 Mr Courtnall repeated his previous declaration and his decision not to participate in any decisions on further funding for the BRIDGE program.
 - f. Sitting fees, travel and accommodation expenses in accordance with Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal Determinations (currently 2014-03) for part-time holders of public offices. Ex officio members do not receive sitting fees and are paid the travel allowance that they would normally receive in the course of their work.
 - g. The issue has not arisen; under the Institute's Charter the Minister may terminate the appointment of any member by notice in writing (other than the ex-officio member).
 - h. No.
 - i. None.
 - j. \$364 for a working lunch and morning tea at the Sub-Committee Board meeting. No alcohol was served. Alcohol is served at receptions/functions.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Council on Australia-Latin America Relations (COALAR):

1.
 - a) COALAR Board has met twice since September 7th.
 - b) Secretariat covers flights, accommodation, meals and taxi/transfers to meetings for board members
 - c) 80%
 - d) Board members are required to report on any conflict of interest issues in the beginning of each board meeting and fill in a private interest declaration form. Board member who has an interest in a particular grant withdraws from that grant selection/voting process.
 - e) Nil to date since 7 September.
 - f) Sitting fees, travel and accommodation expenses in accordance with Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal Determinations (currently 2014-03) for part-time holders of public offices. Ex officio members do not receive sitting fees and are paid the travel allowance that they would normally receive in the course of their work.
 - g) N/A
 - h) No.
 - i) Craig Foster has missed the last two meetings since September 7th 2013– has in the interim tendered his registration as of July due to his inability to continue with the Board due to pressing work commitments.
 - j) \$293 for morning tea and lunch for 12 March Board Strategy Meeting – 15 attendees including ex officio members. No alcohol served at the meeting.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Council for Australia-Arab Relations (CAAR):

1.
 - a. CAAR has met once since 7th September 2013.
 - b. Secretariat covers flights, accommodation, meals and taxi/transfers to meetings for board members.
 - c. 57 % (66.66% counting ex officio members).
 - d. Board members are required to report on any conflict of interest issues in the beginning of each board meeting and fill in a private interest declaration form. Board member who has an interest in a particular grant withdraws from that grant selection/voting process.
 - e. None
 - f. Sitting fees, travel and accommodation expenses in accordance with Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal Determinations (currently 2014-03) for part-time holders of public offices. Ex officio members do not receive sitting fees and are paid the travel allowance that they would normally receive in the course of their work.
 - g. Under the CAAR Charter, the Minister for Foreign Affairs (not the board) may terminate the appointment of the chair or a member of the Council at any time by notice in writing. This does not apply to ex officio members.
 - h. No.
 - i.
 - Mrs Aziza Abdel-Halim missed both meetings in 2013 and is considering resigning for personal reasons.
 - The Hon Mark Vaile missed the 6 December meeting but had only just been appointed a week before, on 28 November 2013.
 - Other members have missed one out of two meetings in the last year: Dr Glen Simpson in April 2013 because the meeting was re-scheduled but he still supplied inputs by email, Mr Roland Jabbour in December because of a sudden death in his family abroad.
 - j. The catering of the working sandwich style lunch at the December board meeting was slightly under \$330.00. No alcohol is served at board meetings.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Australian National Commission for UNESCO:

1.
 - a) Once.
 - b) Secretariat covers flights, accommodation, meals and taxi/transfers to meetings for board members.
 - c) 70% (excludes ex officio members from Government Departments)
 - d) The process for conflicts of interest is dealt with in the Charter of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO. Paragraph 21 reads: *All members of the National Commission, including ex officio members, are required to abide by the principles set out in the Australian Public Service Values and Code of Conduct, and where applicable, the Department's Code of Conduct for Overseas Service with the exception that they shall not be subject to the Department's disciplinary procedures. In particular, the members of the National Commission are required to:*
 1. *disclose potential conflicts of interest and address any issues in accordance with Departmental policies;*
 2. *not use their position and information for personal benefit or advantage at the expense of the National Commission;*
 3. *deal with other members and the Secretariat with courtesy and respect;*
 - and
 4. *respect the privacy and confidentiality of information obtained in the course of their participation and not share information that members are instructed to keep confidential.*

5. Paragraph 16 sub-paragraph c reads: *the Chair is responsible for managing potential conflicts of interest in accordance with departmental policies.*
 - e) Nil.
 - f) Sitting fees, travel and accommodation expenses in accordance with Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal Determinations (currently 2014-03) for part-time holders of public offices. Ex officio members do not receive sitting fees and are paid the travel allowance that they would normally receive in the course of their work.
 - g) The issue has not arisen.
 - h) No.
 - i) There has only one meeting since September 2013. Two members did not attend this meeting.
 - j) \$419.21 expended on catering for the one meeting since September 2013. No alcohol served.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Editorial Advisory Board:

1.

- a) Once.
- b) Airfares and taxi vouchers to and from the venue of the meeting in Canberra.
- c) 85%.
- d) Board members are aware that any potential conflicts of interest are to be declared.
- e) None.
- f) The Chairman is entitled to a yearly fee.
- g) The issue has not arisen.
- h) No.
- i) None.
- j) \$359.13; yes alcohol was served.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 202

Program: DFAT

Topic: Shared resources following MOG changes

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. Following the Machinery of Government changes does the department share any goods/services/accommodation with other departments?***
- B. What resources/services does the department share with other departments; are there plans to cease sharing the sharing of these resources/services?***
- C. What were the costs to the department prior to the Machinery of Government changes for these shared resources? What are the estimated costs after the ceasing of shared resource arrangements?***

Answer

A. The department has not changed its sharing arrangements with other departments since the Machinery of Government changes.

B. The department shares security, IT and administrative services/resources with other departments at overseas locations in line with the Prime Minister's Directive on the Guidelines for the Management of the Australian Government Presence Overseas. There are currently no plans to cease these sharing arrangements.

C. As records are held in individual files across the department's domestic and overseas network, to provide the costs to the department prior to the Machinery of Government changes for shared resources would entail a significant diversion of resources and in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

Estimated costs for ceasing shared resources/services arrangements cannot be provided as these arrangements have not ceased.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 203

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial Leave

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. Was the minister on leave at any point during the Christmas break (between the last sitting of parliament in 2013 and the first sitting in 2014)?

If so:

- a. Please table a schedule of the ministers leave. Please include:**
 - i. The dates the minister was on leave.**
 - ii. The dates the minister was out of the country (if applicable).**
- b. Who was acting in the minister's place?**
 - i. What date was it decided to have this person act in the minister's place?**
 - ii. What was the process for selecting this person?**
 - iii. Who was involved in making this decision?**
- c. Were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the minister during this time? If so:**
 - i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred**
 - ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the minister and the department during this time.**
 - iii. Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the minister?**
 - iv. Were there any times that the department tried to contact the minister but were unable?**
- d. Were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the acting minister during this time? If so:**
 - i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred**
 - ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the acting minister and the department during this time.**

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- iii. Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the acting minister?*
- iv. Were there any times that the department tried to contact the acting minister but were unable?*
- v. but were unable?*
- vi. provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the minister and or acting minister and the department during this time.*
- e. Did the department contact the Minister or acting minister during this time? If so:*
- i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred*
- ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the minister and or acting minister and the department during this time.*

Answer

- 1a. The Minister for Foreign Affairs did not take leave during the period in question.

The Minister for Trade and Investment took leave for the following periods:

- 21 December 2013 to 8 January 2014; and
- 10 January 2014 to 17 January 2014.

- b. The Minister for Foreign Affairs was Acting Minister for Trade and Investment on both these occasions.

These details are arranged between the Ministers and their offices.

- c, d, e.

The Department, as a matter of routine where an Acting Minister is in place due to leave or overseas travel of the Minister, would liaise with the Ministerial office and the Acting Minister as appropriate.

It would be a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources to identify matters and dates when the Department needed to make contact with the Minister and provided copies of correspondence, emails and notes between the Department and the Minister during this period. No instances of any communication problems were brought to the attention of the Executive, Planning and Evaluation Branch in the Department.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 204

Program: DFAT

Topic: Departmental Rebranding

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. Has the department/Agency undergone a name change or any other form of rebranding since September 7, 2013? If so:

a. Please detail why this name change / rebrand were considered necessary and a justified use of departmental funds?

i. Please provide a copy of any reports that were commissioned to study the benefits and costs associated with the rebranding.

b. Please provide the total cost associated with this rebrand and then break down by amount spent replacing:

i. Signage.

ii. Stationery (please include details of existing stationery and how it was disposed of).

iii. Logos

iv. Consultancy

v. Any relevant IT changes.

vi. Office reconfiguration.

c. How was the decision reached to rename and/or rebrand the department?

i. Who was involved in reaching this decision?

ii. Please provide a copy of any communication (including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, notes etc) from within the department, or between the department and the government regarding the rename/rebranding.

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Answer

No. The name of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has not changed. The Australian Agency for International Development is no longer used as the Agency was abolished on 31 October 2013. The Australian aid identifier, which identifies aid projects and initiatives, has been updated. It does not brand the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 205

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial Motor vehicle

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. *Has the minister been provided with a motor vehicle? If so:***
 - a. *What is the make and model?***
 - b. *How much did it cost?***
 - c. *When was it provided?***
 - d. *Was the entire cost met by the department? If not, how was the cost met?***
 - e. *What, if any, have been the ongoing costs associated with this motor vehicle? Please include costs such as maintenance and fuel.***
 - f. *Are these costs met by the department? If not, how are these costs met?***
 - g. *Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine if a minister is entitled to a motor vehicle.***
 - h. *Have these guidelines changed since September 7, 2013? If so, please detail.***
 - i. *Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine how a minister is to use a motor vehicle they have been provided with. Please include details such as whether the motor vehicle can be used for personal uses.***
 - j. *Have these guidelines changed since September 7, 2013? If so, please detail.***

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Answer

(a)-(b) Mr Robb leases a 2012 Holden Calais. Ms Bishop and Mr Mason have not been provided with a motor vehicle.

(c) June 2012.

(d)-(f) So far the department has paid \$2,079.39 for the ongoing costs of Mr Robb's vehicle. DFAT did not pay the costs of the vehicle prior to him becoming the Minister for Trade and Investment.

(g)-(h) Ministerial and Parliamentary Services in the Department of Finance issues guidelines relating to ministerial entitlements. In accordance with Part 4 of the Members of State Entitlements Handbook (Travel), DFAT meets the cost of all official Ministerial car transport. The Handbook was last updated in December 2013 and is attached.

(i) The use of a vehicle provided to a minister or parliamentary secretary is governed by the Department of Finance's Guidelines on Provision of Private-Plated Vehicles for Senators and Members 2012, which is attached.

(j) No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 206

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial Staff vehicles (non-MoPS)

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. Outside of MoPS Act entitlements, have any of the Minister's staff been provided with a motor vehicle? If so:**
 - a. What is the make and model?**
 - b. How much did it cost?**
 - c. When was it provided?**
 - d. Was the entire cost met by the department? If not, how was the cost met?**
 - e. What, if any, have been the ongoing costs associated with this motor vehicle? Please include costs such as maintenance and fuel.**
 - f. Are these costs met by the department? If not, how are these costs met?**
 - g. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine this entitlement to a motor vehicle.**
 - h. Have these guidelines changed since September 7, 2013? If so, please detail.**
 - i. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine how a motor vehicle is to be used that they have been provided with. Please include details such as whether the motor vehicle can be used for personal uses.**
 - j. Have these guidelines changed since September 7, 2013? If so, please detail.**

Answer

No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 207

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial Staff vehicles

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. Have any of the Minister's staff been provided with a motor vehicle under the MoPS Act entitlements? If so:**
 - a. What is the make and model?**
 - b. How much did it cost?**
 - c. When was it provided?**
 - d. Was the entire cost met by the department? If not, how was the cost met?**
 - e. What, if any, have been the ongoing costs associated with this motor vehicle? Please include costs such as maintenance and fuel.**
 - f. Are these costs met by the department? If not, how are these costs met?**
 - g. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine this entitlement to a motor vehicle.**
 - h. Have these guidelines changed since September 7, 2013? If so, please detail.**
 - i. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine how a motor vehicle is to be used that they have been provided with. Please include details such as whether the motor vehicle can be used for personal uses.**
 - j. Have these guidelines changed since September 7, 2013? If so, please detail.**

Answer

DFAT does not administer or fund entitlements under the MoPS Act. Questions relating to entitlements under the MoPS Act should be directed to the Department of Finance.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 208

Program: DFAT

Topic: Building Lease Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. What has been the total cost of building leases for the agency / department since September 7, 2013?

a. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is currently leased. Please detail by:

i. Date the lease agreement is active from.

ii. Date the lease agreement ends.

iii. Is the lease expected to be renewed? If not, why not?

iv. Location of the building (City and state).

v. Cost of the lease.

vi. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.

b. Please provide a detailed list of each building that had a lease that was not renewed since September 7, 2013. Please detail by:

i. Date from which the lease agreement was active.

ii. Date the lease agreement ended.

iii. Why was the lease not renewed?

iv. Location of the building (City and state).

v. Cost of the lease.

vi. Why the building was necessary for the operations of the agency / department.

c. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is expected to be leased in the next 12 months. Please detail by:

i. Date the lease agreement is expected to become active.

ii. Date the lease agreement is expected to end.

iii. Expected location of the building (City and state).

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iv. Expected cost of the lease.

1. Has this cost been allocated into the budget?

v. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.

d. For each building owned or leased by the department:

i. What is the current occupancy rate for the building?

ii. If the rate is less than 100%, detail what the remaining being used for.

Answer: Please refer to the following table.

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Q No.	Senator	Broad Topic						Question	
221	LUDWIG	Building Lease Costs	1.						2. What has been the total cost of building leases for the agency / department since September 7, 2013? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is currently leased. Please detail by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Date the lease agreement is active from. ii. Date the lease agreement ends. iii. Is the lease expected to be renewed? If not, why not? iv. Location of the building (City and state). v. Cost of the lease. vi. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.
Street Address		Date lease agreement is active from	Date lease agreement ends	Is the lease expected to be renewed?	Location of the Building	Cost of the Lease for period October 2013 to February 14, noting the September rent is paid prior 7 Sept 14.	Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency/Department		
RG Casey Building John McEwen Crescent		29/02/2012	28/02/2017	Yes	Barton, ACT	\$8,449,002.22	DFAT office environment		
40 Macquarie Street		1/07/2013	30/06/2014	Yes	Barton, ACT	DTZ have not processed charges for 40 Macquarie Street	DFAT office environment		
Yorke Park Car park Block 2, Section 1		1/12/2002	Holdover	Not Applicable -	Barton, ACT	\$66,450.00	DFAT staff car park		

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			holdover			
Level 10 Angel Place 123 Pitt Street	1/08/2011	31/07/2017	Yes	Sydney, NSW	\$215,013.90	DFAT office environment
Level 7 26 Lee Street	1/11/2007	31/10/2017	Yes	Sydney, NSW	\$450,033.68	DFAT office environment
Sydney International Airport	1/03/2013	28/02/2018	Yes	Sydney, NSW	\$25,426.55	DFAT safe hand mail storage
Street Address	Date lease agreement is active from	Date lease agreement ends	Is the lease expected to be renewed?	Location of the Building	Cost of the Lease for period October 2013 to February 14, noting the September rent is paid prior 7 Sept 14.	Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency/Department
Level 1 Deutsche Bank Building 77-79 Hunter Street	1/06/2012	31/05/2014	Yes	Newcastle, NSW	\$35,572.75	DFAT office environment
Levels 16 & 17 150 Charlotte Street	1/07/2012	30/06/2022	Yes	Brisbane, QLD	\$342,025.24	DFAT office environment
Torres Strait Treaty Liaison Office Commonwealth Centre Victoria Parade	1/03/2012	28/02/2017	Yes	Thursday Island, QLD	\$5,444.17	DFAT office environment

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5th Floor Allianz House 55 Currie Street	1/03/2013	28/02/2018	Yes	Adelaide, SA	\$104,519.30	DFAT office environment
5th Floor Northern Territory House 22 Mitchell Street	1/05/2013	30/04/2023	Yes	Darwin, NT	\$69,025.00	DFAT office environment
Level 1 111 Macquarie Street	1/05/2013	30/04/2023	Yes	Hobart, TAS	\$46,298.98	DFAT office environment
Levels 13 & 14 Casselden Place 2 Lonsdale Street	1/03/2013	28/02/2015	No	Melbourne, VIC	\$434,767.52	DFAT office environment
Level 17 Exchange Plaza 2 The Esplanade	14/12/2012	13/12/2017	No	Perth, WA	\$387,596.20	DFAT office environment

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Q No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question				
221	LUDWIG	Building Lease Costs	Please provide a detailed list of each building that had a lease that was not renewed since September 7, 2013. Please detail by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vii. Date from which the lease agreement was active. viii. Date the lease agreement ended. ix. Why was the lease not renewed? x. Location of the building (City and state). xi. Cost of the lease. xii. Why the building was necessary for the operations of the agency / department. 				
Street Address	Date lease agreement is active from	Date lease agreement ends	Is the lease expected to be renewed?	Location of the Building	Why was the lease not renewed?	Cost of the Lease for period October 2013 to February 14, noting the September rent is paid prior 7 Sept 14.	Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency/Department
Not applicable							

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Q No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question					
221 cont.	LUDWIG	Building Lease Costs	<p>a. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is expected to be leased in the next 12 months. Please detail by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> xiii. Date the lease agreement is expected to become active. xiv. Date the lease agreement is expected to end. xv. Expected location of the building (City and state). xvi. Expected cost of the lease. <p>1. Has this cost been allocated into the budget?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> xvii. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department. <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. For each building owned or leased by the department: REFER BELOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> xviii. What is the current occupancy rate for the building? xix. If the rate is less than 100%, detail what the remaining being used for. 					
Street Address			Date lease agreement is expected to be active from	Date lease agreement is expected to end	Expected location of the Building	Expected cost of the lease (expected rent committed over the term)	Has the lease cost been allocated into the budget?	Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency/Department
Walter Turnbull Building, 44 Sydney Avenue Barton			1/04/2013	31/03/2017	Barton, ACT	\$ 3,575,369.00	Yes	DFAT office space
55 Collins Street, Melbourne			1/01/2015	31/12/2024	Melbourne, VIC	\$ 4,448,262.00	Yes	DFAT office space
747 Collins Street, Melbourne			1/04/2014	4/04/2027	Melbourne, VIC	\$ 15,511,433.60	yes	DFAT Office Space

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Q No.	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	
221 cont.	LUDWIG	Building Lease Costs	c. For each building owned or leased by the department: xx. What is the current occupancy rate for the building? xxi. If the rate is less than 100%, detail what the remaining being used for.	
Building Name			Current Occupancy Rate	If the rate is less than 100%, detail what the remaining being used for.
40 Allara Street			85.39%	Non-contiguous work points
2 Lonsdale Street Melbourne			95.62%	Non-contiguous work points
Angel Place 123 Pitt Street Sydney			94.11%	Non-contiguous work points
Gateway House 26 Lee Street Sydney			98.69%	Non-contiguous work points
77-79 Hunter Street Newcastle				Not reportable for prodac purposes
NT House 22 Mitchell Street Darwin				Not reportable for prodac purposes
150 Charlotte Street Brisbane			94.5%	Non-contiguous work points
55 Currie Street Adelaide			89.99%	Non-contiguous work points
111 Macquarie Street Hobart				Not reportable for prodac purposes
Exchange Plaza Level 17 Sherwood Court Perth			100%	Fully occupied
4 Victoria Parade Thursday Island				Not reportable for prodac purposes

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 209

Program: DFAT

Topic: Diner's Club cards

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. What is the arrangement with diners club for provision of credit cards for the Whole of Government Travel arrangements?***
- 2. What is the cost of using diners club to the government, listed by government and agency in fees and other charges?***
- 3. What are the criteria for staff receiving credit cards? Does the criteria vary between SES and other levels; do they require pre approval for certain classes of expenses?***
- 4. Please detail the limits of the credit cards issued to departmental staff; the types of cards; the card issuers;***
- 5. Have any credit cards been issued to ministers or ministers staff?***

Answer

1. The Whole-of-Australian-Government (WoAG) travel arrangements are managed by the Department of Finance (Finance). Any enquiries about how the travel card arrangements work should be direct to Finance.
2. Under the WoAG arrangements there are no annual membership fees, reporting fees or card administration fees for Diners Club.
3. Staff are issued credit cards where a clear business need is demonstrated – frequent travel or for the purchase of goods and services. There is no difference in the criteria for SES and non-SES. Pre-approval is required for all classes of expenditure.
4. National Australia Bank Visa Card – Maximum Limit is \$75,000
Westpac Visa Card – Maximum Limit is \$20,000
5. No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 210

Program: DFAT

Topic: Government advertising

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. How much has been spent on government advertising (including job ads) since 7 September 2013?**
 - a. List each item of expenditure and cost**
 - b. List the approving officer for each item**
 - c. Detail the outlets that were paid for the advertising**
- 2. What government advertising is planned for the rest of the financial year?**
 - a. List the total expected cost**
 - b. List each item of expenditure and cost**
 - c. List the approving officer for each item**
 - d. Detail the outlets that have been or will be paid for the advertising**

Answer

1. Between 7 September 2013 and 28 February 2014, the Department has spent approximately \$1.71 million on government advertising. This includes advertising for job vacancies, Smartraveller, white pages and other public notices.

The above figures are comprised of a large volume of transactions and it would entail significant diversion of resources to collate and report individual transaction details. In the circumstances, I do not consider that additional work can be justified.

2. The Department's financial planning systems do not report down to this level of detail. Manually sourcing this information would require consultation with a large number of business areas, and would entail significant diversion of resources to collate and report. In the circumstances, I do not consider that additional work can be justified.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 211

Program: DFAT

Topic: Workplace assessments

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. How much has been spent on workplace ergonomic assessments since 7 September 2013?**
 - a. List each item of expenditure and cost**
- 2. Have any assessments, not related to an existing disability, resulted in changes to workplace equipment or set up?**
 - a. If so, list each item of expenditure and cost related to those changes**

Answer

1. Total expenditure on workplace ergonomic assessments since 7 September 2013 is \$ 29,754.88

a. Monthly totals are as follows:

September 2013 (15 assessments)	\$3,975.49
October 2013 (21 assessments)	\$6,094.00
November 2013 (17 assessments)	\$5,157.17
December 2013 (8 assessments)	\$1,954.33
January 2014 (13 assessments)	\$4,147.90
February 2014 (27 assessments)	\$8,051.99
March 2014 (1 assessment)	\$374.00
Total	\$29,754.88

Note: individual assessment costs may vary depending on factors including duration, complexity and provider.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

2. Assessments, not related to an existing disability, have resulted in changes to workplace equipment or setup.

a. Cost of resultant changes to workplace equipment or setup are as follows:

Item		Amount
Anti-Glare Screen	(1 item)	\$220.00
Chair	(22 items)	\$9,176.50
Chair Mat	(1 item)	\$87.00
Document Holder	(23 items)	\$3,407.55
Foot Stool /Rest	(25 items)	\$2,287.00
Headset	(36 items)	\$7,228.50
Keyboard	(58 items)	\$7,560.50
Laptop stand	(1 item)	\$48.00
Microdesk	(24 items)	\$3,036.00
Monitor Raiser	(79 items)	\$5,955.56
Special mouse	(22 items)	\$2,312.00
Numeric Key pad	(10 items)	\$135.86
Sit/Stand Workstation	(6 items)	\$6,337.00
Swiss Ball	(1 item)	\$30.00
Restbreak Software	(8 items)	\$870.32
Wrist Support	(28 items)	\$1,062.00
Total		\$49,753.79

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 212

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial website

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. How much has been spent on the Ministers' websites (3) since 7 September 2013?

a. List each item of expenditure and cost

2. Who is responsible for uploading information to the Minister's website?

a. Are any departmental staff required to work outside regular hours to maintain the Minister's website?

Answer

1. \$113,130.19—includes full redevelopment of 3 websites on new platform.

a.

Item	Cost
Website testing	\$68,044.32
Training	\$19,866.91
Website release management	\$15,097.68
Website deployment	\$10,121.28
Total	\$113,130.19

2. DFAT staff.

b. Yes.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 213

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial payouts

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. *How much has been spent on redundancy payments to staff employed by members of the Liberal or National Parties since 7 September 2013?***
 - a. *List each item of expenditure, staffing level, employing member and cost***

Answer

DFAT does not have data on any redundancy payments that may have been made to staff employed by members of the Liberal or National Parties since 7 September 2013.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 214

Program: DFAT

Topic: Ministerial staff turnover

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. List the current staffing allocation for each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary*
- 2. For each Minister or Parliamentary Secretary list the number of staff recruited, broken down by their staffing classification*
- 3. For each Minister or Parliamentary Secretary list the number of staff that have resigned, broken down by their staffing classification*
- 4. For each Minister or Parliamentary Secretary list the number of staff that have been terminated, broken down by their staffing classification*
- 5. For each Ministerial staff position, please provide a table of how many individual people have been engaged against each position since the swearing in of the Abbott Government, broken down by employing member and the dates of their employment*

Answer

(1), (2) and (5)

Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Staff Entitlement 16 (14 MoPS staff and 2 DLOs)

Position	Employing member	Commencement Date	End Date
Chief of Staff	MOPS	18 September 2013	-
Adviser	MOPS	18 September 2013	-
	DFAT	16 September 2013	13 December 2013
Executive Assistant	MOPS	18 September 2013	-
Assistant Adviser	MOPS	18 September 2013	-

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Position	Employing member	Commencement Date	End Date
Assistant Media Adviser	MOPS	18 September 2013	-
Senior Adviser	MOPS	16 September 2013	-
DLO	DFAT	16 September 2013	-
DLO	DFAT	14 October 2013	-
EO Office Manager	MOPS	23 October 2013	-
Assistant Adviser	MOPS	28 October 2013	-
Senior Adviser	MOPS	6 November 2013	-
Office Manager	MOPS DFAT DFAT	11 November 2013 14 October 2013 16 September 2013	- 11 November 2014 11 October 2013
Receptionist	MOPS DFAT DFAT	11 November 2013 1 October 2013 12 September 2013	- 12 November 2013 27 September 2013
Adviser	MOPS DFAT	25 November 2013 16 September 2013	- 11 October 2013
Adviser	MOPS	16 December 2013	-
Adviser	MOPS	17 December 2013	-
Senior Media Adviser	MOPS DFAT DFAT	19 December 2013 10 December 2013 16 September 2013	- 19 December 2013 6 December 2013

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING**Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment**

Staff Entitlement 13 (11 MoPS staff and 2 DLOs)

Position	Employing member	Commencement Date	End Date
Senior Media Adviser	MOPS	11 November 2013	-
Adviser	MOPS	18 September 2013 2 October 2013	- 16 December 2013
Office/Diary Manager	MOPS	18 September 2013	-
Senior Adviser	MOPS	21 October 2013	-
Assistant Adviser	MOPS	28 October 2013	-
DLO	DFAT DFAT	4 November 2013 18 September 2013	- 4 November 2013
Senior Adviser	MOPS	4 November 2013	-
Adviser	MOPS	6 November 2013	-
Chief of Staff	MOPS MOPS	11 November 2013 18 September 2013	- 11 November 2013
Executive Assistant	MOPS	11 November 2013	-
Receptionist EO	MOPS	13 November 2013	-
Austrade DLO	Austrade Austrade	2 December 2013 18 September 2013	- 29 November 2013
Assistant Media Adviser	MOPS MOPS	12 December 2013 19 September 2013	- 16 December 2013

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Office of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Staff Entitlement 3 (2 MoPS staff and 1 DLO)

Position	Employing member	Commencement Date	End Date
Adviser	MOPS	18 September 2013	-
DLO	DFAT	04 October 2013	-
	DFAT	25 September 2013	16 October 2013
Assistant Adviser	MOPS	14 October 2013	-

(3) and (4) DFAT records suggest no staff have resigned or been terminated. However, staff are employed under the MOPS Act administered by the Department of Finance and enquiries on their status should be directed to DOF.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 215

Program: DFAT

Topic: Christmas party costs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. *List what functions were held by the department/agency for either Christmas or end of calendar year since 7 September 2013***
 - 1. *What was the cost of each of these functions?***
 - 2. *How was the money identified?***
 - 3. *What was the location of these functions?***
 - 4. *Provide a table of food and alcohol purchased for the function***

Answer

Christmas and end of calendar year functions are held in accordance with the Department's policies on hospitality and representational expenses.

As records are held in individual files across the department's domestic and overseas network, to provide these details would entail a significant diversion of resources and in these circumstances, I do not consider the additional work can be justified.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 216

Program: DFAT

Topic: Multiple tenders

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. *List any tenders that were re-issued or issued multiple times since 7 September 2013***
- 2. *Why were they re-issued or issued multiple times?***
- 3. *Were any applicants received for the tenders before they were re-issued or repeatedly issued?***
- 4. *Were those applicants asked to resubmit their tender proposal?***

Answer

1. Details of open approaches to market, including revised and re-released tenders, are published on the AusTender website. No tenders have been re-issued or issued multiple times on AusTender since 7 September 2013.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 217

Program: DFAT

Topic: Market research

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. *List any market research conducted by the department/agency since 7 September 2013.***
- 1. *List the total cost of this research***
- 2. *List each item of expenditure and cost, broken down by division and program***
- 3. *Who conducted the research?***
- 4. *How were they identified?***
- 5. *Where was the research conducted?***
- 6. *In what way was the research conducted?***
- 7. *Were focus groups, round tables or other forms of research tools used?***
- 8. *How were participants for these focus groups et al selected?***

Answer

Between 7 September 2013 until 28 February 2014, the Department has expended nil on market research.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 218

Program: DFAT

Topic: Departmental upgrades

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. *Since 7 September 2013 has the department/agency engaged in any new refurbishments, upgrades or changes to their building or facilities?*
 1. *If so, list these*
 2. *If so, list the total cost for these changes*
 3. *If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure*
 4. *If so, who conducted the works?*
 5. *If so, list the process for identifying who would conduct these works*
 6. *If so, when are the works expected to be completed?*

Answer

#	Description of Work	Total Cost Exclusive of GST	Itemised Cost Exclusive of GST	Who conducted the works	Process for identifying who would conduct these works	Expected completion date
1	Level 8 20 Allara Street, Canberra ACT Minor work to create additional space.	\$5,539.00	\$4,147.00 for cabling works. \$1,392.00 for furniture items.	1. Millhouse Enterprises 2. Ninetwofive Interiors	In-house suppliers and limited tender.	Completed December 2013.

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#	Description of Work	Total Cost Exclusive of GST	Itemised Cost Exclusive of GST	Who conducted the works	Process for identifying who would conduct these works	Expected completion date
2	Level 5 255 London Circuit, Canberra, ACT Minor work to create additional space.	\$54,301.00	\$11,384.00 construction and cabling works. \$42,917.00 supply and installation of furniture.	1. Millhouse Enterprises 2. Ninetwofive Interiors	In-house suppliers and limited tender.	Completed February 2014.
3	Walter Turnbull Building, 44 Sydney Avenue, Forest, ACT Works to enable occupancy of new site. Medium works, PWC submission pending.	Estimated \$2,500,000 subject to further scope development.	Not available at this time. Project is pending tender.	DTZ are the head contractor.	Existing contract.	Third quarter 2014.
4	R.G. Casey Building, Barton, ACT Various refurbishments within the building to create additional and efficient workspace.	Estimated \$1,500,000 subject to further scope development.	Not available at this time. Project is pending tender.	DTZ are the head contractor.	Existing contract.	Second quarter 2015.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 219

Program: DFAT

Topic: Wine coolers / Fridgers

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. Since 7 September 2013 has the department/agency purchased or leased any new wine coolers, or wine fridges or other devices for the purpose of housing alcohol beverages, including Eskies?

1. If so, list these

2. If so, list the total cost for these items

3. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure

4. If so, where were these purchased

5. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased

6. If so, what is the current location for these items?

7. If so, what is the current stocking level for each of these items?

Answer

Information related to expenditure on wine coolers, wine fridges and other devices for housing alcoholic beverages is not separately recorded. It would entail significant diversion of resources to collate this expenditure and to break it down into business groups. In the circumstances, I do not consider that additional work can be justified.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 220

Program: DFAT

Topic: Office plants

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. *Since 7 September 2013 has the department/agency purchased or leased any new office plants?***
- 1. *If so, list these***
- 2. *If so, list the total cost for these items***
- 3. *If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure***
- 4. *If so, where were these purchased***
- 5. *If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased***
- 6. *If so, what is the current location for these items?***

Answer

Information on DFAT expenditure on office plants is not separately recorded. It would entail significant diversion of resources to collate this expenditure. In the circumstances, I do not consider that additional work can be justified

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 221

Program: DFAT

Topic: Office recreational facilities

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. Since 7 September 2013 has the department/agency purchased or leased or constructed any office recreation facilities, activities or games (including but not limited to pool tables, table tennis tables or others)?

- 1. If so, list these**
- 2. If so, list the total cost for these items**
- 3. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure**
- 4. If so, where were these purchased**
- 5. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased**
- 6. If so, what is the current location for these items?**
- 7. If so, what is the current usage for each of these items?**

Answer

The department has not constructed any office recreational facilities since 7 September 2013. The department does not keep centralised records of for the purchase or lease of recreational facilities, activities or games. To gather this information would involve a lengthy process and would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 222

Program: DFAT

Topic: Vending machines

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. Since 7 September 2013 has the department/agency purchased or leased or taken under contract any vending machine facilities?

1. If so, list these

2. If so, list the total cost for these items

3. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure

4. If so, where were these purchased

5. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased

6. If so, what is the current location for these items?

7. If so, what is the current usage for each of these items?

Answer

No. Since September 2013, the department has not purchased or leased or taken under contract any vending machines.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 223

Program: DFAT

Topic: Legal costs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since 7 September 2013**
- 2. List the total cost for these items, broken down by source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice and the level of counsel used in preparing the advice, whether the advice was internal or external**
- 3. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spend briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)**
- 4. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice**

Answer

1. As at 28 February 2014, the total expenditure on legal costs by the department (including the former AusAID) since 7 September 2013 was \$7,284,299 (excl GST). This figure includes bills paid and payable to external legal firms \$1,584,964, external legal expenditure by posts overseas \$477,893 and internal legal expenditure \$5,221,442.

2. The figure of \$1,584,964 for external legal firms can be broken down into: King & Wood Mallesons \$82,144; Australian Government Solicitor \$830,367; Clayton Utz \$14,609; Minter Ellison \$223,450; and Norton Rose Fullbright \$434,394.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the total legal services expenditure according to each service, its costs and the hours taken to prepare advice. This level of detail is currently unavailable and it would involve an unreasonable diversion of government resources to complete. More detailed information is provided at the end of the financial year in the Office of Legal Services Coordination

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(OLSC) Report. A copy of the OLSC report for 2012-13 is available on <https://www.dfat.gov.au/dept/lse> . The OLSC report for 2013-14 will be made available on the website by 30 October 2014.

3. As at 28 February 2014, the total expenditure on briefing Counsel by the department (including the former AusAID) since 7 September 2013 was \$25,902 (excl GST). Seven briefings were provided to male Counsel and one briefing to female Counsel. These eight Counsel were engaged through the Australian Government Solicitor.

4. From 1 June 2013 the Department has been utilising the Commonwealth whole-of-government Legal Services Multi-Use List for the procuring of external advice in Australia.

External legal service providers are selected on the basis of best value for money, including relevant expertise.

The Legal Services Directions states that legal work is tied to the Australian Government Solicitor and the Attorney-General's Department if it involves:

- constitutional law issues
- national security issues, or
- Cabinet work.

Overseas posts obtain external legal advice from those local firms which have established the necessary expertise and level of service.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 224

Program: DFAT

Topic: Australian Public Affairs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

1. List all interactions between the department/agency with Australian Public Affairs since 7 September 2013. List the participants in the meeting, the topic of the discussion, who arranged or requested the meeting, the location of the meeting

2. List all interactions between the Minister/parliamentary Secretary and/or their offices with Australian Public Affairs since 7 September 2013. List the participants in the meeting, the topic of the discussion, who arranged or requested the meeting, the location of the meeting

Answer

1. The Department is unaware of the Australian Public Affairs.
2. The Department is not privy to all interactions of the Ministers/Parliamentary Secretary and/or their offices. Questions on Ministers offices' interactions should be directed to the relevant Ministerial office.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE /IN WRITING

Question No 225

Program: EFIC

Topic: Reviews

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

A. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced?

Please list them including:

- a) the date they were ordered**
- b) the date they commenced**
- c) the minister responsible**
- d) the department responsible**
- e) the nature of the review**
- f) their terms of reference**
- g) the scope of the review**
- h) Whom is conducting the review**
- i) the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review**
- j) the expected report date**
- k) the budgeted, projected or expected costs**
- l) If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public**

B. For any review commenced or ordered since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?

- a) If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names**
- b) If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent**
- c) If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item**
- d) If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement**

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- e) *If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.*
 - f) *If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them*
 - g) *If yes, for each, who selected them*
 - h) *If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,*
 - i. *If yes, please detail what involvement it was*
 - ii. *If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list*
 - iii. *If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur*
 - iv. *If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department*
 - v. *If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur*
- C. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews are on-going?**
- a) *Please list them.*
 - b) *What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?*
- D. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.**
- E. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.**
- F. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.**
- G. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?**
- H. What reviews are planned?**
- a) *When will each planned review be commenced?*
 - b) *When will each of these reviews be concluded?*
 - c) *When will government respond to each review?*
 - d) *Will the government release each review?*
 - i. *If so, when?*
 - ii. *If not, why not?*

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 226

Program: EFIC

Topic: Commissioned reports

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many Reports (including paid external advice) have been commissioned by the Minister, department or agency? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.***
- B. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental or external staff were involved in each report and at what level?***
- C. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?***

Answer

- A. Not applicable.

Responses to Question 293 (Market Research) and Question 299 (Legal Costs) detail these forms of reports and paid external advice.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 227

Program: EFIC

Topic: Briefings for other parties

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Non-Government parties other than the Australian Labor Party? If yes, please include:***
- a. *How are briefings requests commissioned?***
 - b. *What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.***
 - c. *Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.***
 - d. *Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.***
 - e. *How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.***
 - f. *Which Non-Government Parties or Independents, excluding the Australian Labor Party have requested briefings and/or information***

Answer

Nil.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 228

Program: EFIC

Topic: Appointments

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. Please detail any board appointments made from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date.*
- B. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?*

Answer

- A. None
- B. EFIC board's gender ratio is 3 female members to 5 male members (not including ex officio members).

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 229

Program: EFIC

Topic: Stationery requirements

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers / Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?***
- a. *Detail the items provided to the minister's office***
- B. *How much was spent on departmental stationery requirements from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date.***

Answer

- A. Not applicable.
- B. Stationery costs from November 2013 to date (as at March 27 2014) were \$23,159.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 230

Program: EFIC

Topic: Electronic Equipment

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. Other than phones, ipads or computers – please list the electronic equipment provided to the Minister’s office since 7 September 2013.**
 - a. List the items**
 - b. List the items location or normal location**
 - c. List if the item is in the possession of the office or an individual staff member of minister, if with an individual list their employment classification level**
 - d. List the total cost of the items**
 - e. List an itemised cost breakdown of these items**
 - f. List the date they were provided to the office**
 - g. Note if the items were requested by the office or proactively provided by the department**

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 231

Program: EFIC

Topic: Media subscriptions

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *What pay TV subscriptions does your department/agency have?***
- a. *Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.***
 - b. *What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?***
 - c. *What is provided to the Minister or their office?***
 - d. *What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?***
- B. *What newspaper subscriptions does your department/agency have?***
- a. *Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.***
 - b. *What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?***
 - c. *What is provided to the Minister or their office?***
 - d. *What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?***
- C. *What magazine subscriptions does your department/agency have?***
- a. *Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.***
 - b. *What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?***
 - c. *What is provided to the Minister or their office?***
 - d. *What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?***
- D. *What publications does your department/agency purchase?***
- a. *Please provide a list of publications purchased by the department and the reason for each.***
 - b. *What is the cost from 7 September 2013 to date?***
 - c. *What is provided to the Minister or their office?***
 - d. *What is the cost for this from 7 September 2013 to date?***

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Answer

NB: EFIC does not provide any media subscriptions for the Minister's Office.

- A. EFIC has a subscription with pay TV provider Foxtel for units positioned in common staff areas of the building.

EFIC subscribes to FOXTEL's Business Package. Subscription to this package is for the purpose of staff use and enables access to relevant current affairs, business, and financial and public affairs information relevant to EFIC work.

The cost of EFIC's pay-TV subscription from 7 September 2013 to date was \$1,400.

- B. EFIC has subscriptions for the following newspapers:

- Sydney Morning Herald
- Australian Financial Review
- The Australian
- The Daily Telegraph
- The Financial Times.

All newspaper subscriptions are for the purposes of staff use and enable access to relevant business, financial and other news relevant to EFIC work.

EFIC records newspaper and magazine subscription expenditure in aggregate. Newspaper and magazine subscription costs for the period 7 September 2013 to date was \$13,871.

- C-D. EFIC's magazine and other publication subscriptions include the following:

- Trade Finance
- The Economist
- Australian Journal of Mining
- BRW
- Global Trade Review
- IPI Euromoney
- Thomson Reuters IFR
- KangaNews
- MiningNews.net
- Petroleum News
- PNG News
- Project Finance
- PFI
- Basis Point
- Mining Monthly.

All magazine/other publication subscriptions are for the purposes of staff use and enable access to business, financial and other news relevant to EFIC work.

See response to Question 2 for aggregate expenditure.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 232

Program: EFIC

Topic: Media monitoring

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office from 7 September 2013 to date?***
- a. *Which agency or agencies provided these services?***
 - b. *What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date?***
 - c. *Itemise these expenses.***
- B. *What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency from 7 September 2013 to date?***
- a. *Which agency or agencies provided these services?***
 - b. *What has been spent providing these services from 7 September 2013 to date?***
 - c. *Itemise these expenses***

Answer

- A. Not applicable.
- B.
- a. iSentia has provided media monitoring services for EFIC since 16 December 2013. During the period 7 September – 15 December no external media monitoring service was used.
 - b. \$3,736.44.
 - c. Media monitoring and media clipping service.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 233

Program: EFIC

Topic: Media training

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. In relation to media training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information from 7 September 2013 to date:**
- a. Total spending on these services**
 - b. an itemised cost breakdown of these services**
 - c. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification**
 - d. The number of employees who have utilised these services and their employment classification**
 - e. The names of all service providers engaged**
 - f. the location that this training was provided**
- B. For each service purchased from a provider listed under (1), please provide:**
- a. The name and nature of the service purchased**
 - b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based**
 - c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)**
 - d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)**
 - e. The total amount spent on the service**
 - f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)**
- C. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:**
- a. The location used**

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- b. The number of employees who took part on each occasion*
- c. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
- d. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location*

Answer

EFIC is not an APS body and as such, APS employment classifications are not applicable to EFIC staff.

A-B. Since 7 September 2013:

Training	Provider	Structure	No. of employees	Total hours	Total spend	Description of fees
Interview & presentation skills training	Mediaways Pty Ltd	One-on-one	2 staff members (1 SES equivalent, 1 non-SES equivalent).	6 hours	\$5,500	Costs charged on an hourly rate basis.

C. Not applicable. No location other than EFIC's premises were used.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 234

Program: EFIC

Topic: Communication staff

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:**
- a. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location.**
 - b. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location**
 - c. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location**
 - d. How many are graphic designers?**
 - e. How many are media managers?**
 - f. How many organise events?**

Answer

A.EFIC is not an APS body and as such, APS employment classifications are not applicable to EFIC staff.

- a. EFIC has one ongoing Manager, Communications and Marketing (non-SES equivalent). This staff member is located in EFIC's main office in Sydney.
- b. Nil.
- c. Nil.
- d-f. EFIC employs one graphic designer and one events manager on a contracting basis as part of a broader marketing function. The communications staff member referred to in part a) provides media management services where necessary in collaboration with EFIC's broader marketing function.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 235

Program: EFIC

Topic: Provision of equipment - ministerial

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

A. For departments/agencies that provide mobile phones to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and/or their offices, what type of mobile phone is provided and the costs?

a. Itemise equipment and cost broken down by staff or minister classification

B. Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to department/agency staff? If yes, provide a list of what is provided across the department of agency, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives each item.

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 236

Program: EFIC

Topic: Provision equipment - departmental

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. Other than desktop computers, list all electronic equipment provided to department/agency staff.**
- a. List the items**
 - b. List the purchase cost**
 - c. List the ongoing cost**
 - d. List the staff and staff classification that receive the equipment.**

Answer

- A. Yes. EFIC provides the following electronic equipment to staff for both temporary and/or ongoing use:

Equipment	Purchase cost
Home desktop	\$10,000
Home printer	\$2,984
iPad	\$15,216
Smart phone	\$70,168
Wireless cards	\$2,600
Laptops	\$45,500
Thumb drives	\$900
Satellite phone	\$1,300
Total	\$148,668

The ongoing cost for this equipment is \$1,055 per quarter.

EFIC staff are entitled to ongoing use of IT equipment for work purposes pending approval from the EFIC executive. Staff may borrow IT equipment for short periods of time (usually under two weeks) for work purposes.

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EFIC is not an APS body, as such APS employment classifications do not apply to EFIC staff: The breakdown of staff (both executive and non-executive staff) with ongoing use of EFIC IT equipment is as follows:

Equipment	Staff with ongoing use
Home desktop	3
Home printer	6
iPad	11
Smart Phone	62
Wireless card	4
Laptops	6

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 237

Program: EFIC

Topic: Computers

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. List the current inventory of computers owned, leased, stored, or able to be accessed by the Ministers office as provided by the department, listing the equipment cost and location and employment classification of the staff member that is allocated the equipment, or if the equipment is currently not being used**
- B. List the current inventory of computers owned, leased, stored, or able to be accessed by the department, listing the equipment cost and location**
- C. Please detail the operating systems used by the departments computers, the contractual arrangements for operating software and the on-going costs**

Answer

- A. Not applicable
B.

Item	Count	Lease d	Location	Total cost
EFIC Desktops+	120	No	All states*	\$173, 878.1
Pool Computer Resources^	17	No	NSW (14 items) All states (3 items)	\$36, 482.59
Permanently Allocated Resources#	6	No	All states	\$17, 325.00

*All states consists of NSW, WA, VIC and QLD

+ EFIC Desktops – All desk workstations allocated to staff.

^ Laptops available for staff use while travelling /working from home

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Laptops permanently allocated to users for ongoing out-of-office use

C. Operating system: Windows 7 to Windows 8.1

Contractual arrangement: EFIC licenses its operating software with Government Microsoft Volume Sourcing Arrangement (VSA II) and Core Desktop License (CDL).

Ongoing costs: Annual licensing cost is \$3,032.68

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 238

Program: EFIC

Topic: Travel costs - department

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. From 7 September 2013, detail all travel for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).***
- B. From 7 September 2013, detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.***
- C. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.***

Answer

- A. Not applicable.
- B. EFIC's systems do not record travel data in a way that would readily allow total expenditure to be broken down into the level of detail sought. To attempt to extract this data manually would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, the additional work cannot be justified.

EFIC records total travel expenditure in its Annual Report.

- C. EFIC's systems do not record planned travel in a way that would readily allow this information to be provided without significant diversion of resources.

All travel is arranged in line with EFIC's Corporate Travel Policy and Procedures and coordinated through specified travel arrangers.

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This process involves the establishment of a clear business case for travel and a travel request which must be approved by EFIC's Executive (in the case of international travel) or the relevant delegated authority such as department heads (in the case of domestic travel).

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 239

Program: EFIC

Topic: Travel costs - ministerial

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *From 7 September 2013, detail all travel conducted by the Minister/parliamentary secretary***
- a. *List each location, method of travel, itinerary and purpose of trip;***
 - b. *List the total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals), and;***
 - c. *List the number of staff that accompanied the Minister/parliamentary secretary, listing the total costs per staff member, the class of airplane travelled, the classification of staff accompanying the Minister/parliamentary secretary.***
- B. *What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.***

Answer

A. Not applicable to EFIC.

B. Not applicable to EFIC.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 240

Program: EFIC

Topic: Grants

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. Provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants from the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Provide the recipients, amount, and intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those locations.**
- 2. Update the status of each grant that was approved prior to 7 September 2013, but did not have financial contracts in place on 7 September 2013. Provide details of the recipients, the amount, and the intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those grants.**

Answer

Not applicable.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 241

Program: EFIC

Topic: Government payment of accounts

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. From Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date, what has been the average time period for the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors, consultants or others?*
- B. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in under 30 days?*
- C. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 30 and 60 days?*
- D. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 60 and 90 days?*
- E. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 90 and 120 days?*
- F. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days?*
- G. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency since 7 September 2013?*
- H. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?*

Answer

- A. EFIC's policy is to make payments three times per month.
- B. 100 per cent.
- C. Not applicable.
- D. Not applicable.
- E. Not applicable.
- F. Not applicable.
- G. Not applicable.
- H. Not applicable.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 242

Program: EFIC

Topic: Consultancies

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. How many consultancies have been undertaken from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.**
- B. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.**
- C. Have any consultancies not gone out for tender?**
a. If so, which ones and why?

Answer

- A. Under the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, EFIC as a relevant CAC Act body, is required to report details of Australian procurement contracts awarded on AusTender, the Government's tender and procurement reporting system, where the total contract value is above \$400,000 or above \$7.5 million for construction contracts.

To provide details of consultancy contracts below this reporting threshold would entail significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, EFIC does not consider the additional work can be justified.

- B. In terms of reporting requirements for CAC Act bodies under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules, EFIC has no further consultancies planned for this calendar year.
- C. Refer to answer to question A above.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 243

Program: EFIC

Topic: Meeting costs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *What is the Department/Agency's meeting spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.***
- B. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total meeting spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.***
- C. *What meeting spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- D. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what meeting spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs***

Answer

A & C.

EFIC's total entertainment, hospitality and meeting spend from 21 November 2013 to date as at 25 March 2014 is approximately \$123 000.

This total expenditure captures hospitality and entertainment and meeting spend (including expenditure for external meetings) for EFIC's Australian clients, potential clients, other corporations, companies, institutions, development banks and agencies external to the Corporation, in addition to event hosting expenses associated with client and staff functions.

EFIC's reporting systems do not capture expenditure in such a way that would readily enable the requested breakdown of meeting expenditure only. To manually collect this information would entail a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources.

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EFIC is a self-funded corporation with well-established policies on the proper management of hospitality and entertainment expenses. All staff must justify the purpose of, and maintain written records for each item of hospitality or entertainment expenditure. All expenditure and supporting documentation is reviewed and must be approved by EFIC's cost centre managers (head of department level) to ensure the criteria for expenditure has been met; department heads' expenditure must in turn receive Executive approval.

EFIC's hospitality and entertainment spending for FY13-14 is expected to be in line with the entertainment and hospitality budget for FY12-13.

B & D.

Not applicable to EFIC.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 244

Program: EFIC

Topic: Hospitality and entertainment

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date including any catering and drinks costs.***
- B. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- C. *What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- D. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- E. *What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- F. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- G. *What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- H. *For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.***
- I. *Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?***

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Answer

A& C. EFIC's total entertainment and hospitality spend from 21 November 2013 to date (as at 25 March 2014) is approximately \$123 000.

This total expenditure captures hospitality and entertainment (including expenditure for external meetings) for EFIC's Australian clients, potential clients, other corporations, companies, institutions and agencies external to the Corporation, in addition to event hosting expenses associated with client and staff functions.

EFIC's reporting systems do not capture expenditure in such a way that would readily enable the requested breakdown of this total expenditure. To manually collect this information would entail a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources.

B, D, F & H. Not applicable.

E, G, I. EFIC's hospitality and entertainment spending for FY13-14 is expected to be in line with the entertainment and hospitality budget for FY12-13.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 245

Program: EFIC

Topic: Executive coaching and leadership training

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each department/agency, please provide the following information from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date:

- A. Total spending on these services*
- B. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification*
- C. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
- D. The names of all service providers engaged. For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:*
 - a) The name and nature of the service purchased*
 - b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based*
 - c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification*
 - d) The total number of hours involved for all employees*
 - e) (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
 - f) The total amount spent on the service*
 - g) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)*
- E. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:*
 - a) The location used*
 - b) The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*
 - c) The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)*

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d) Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location

F. In relation to education/executive coaching and/or other leadership training services paid for by the department what agreements are made with employees in regards to continuing employment after training has been completed?

G. For graduate or post graduate study, please breakdown each approved study leave by staffing allocation and degree or program title.

Answer

Note: EFIC is not an APS body, APS classifications are not applicable to EFIC staff.

- A. Total spending from November to date on executive coaching and leadership training was \$18,145.00.
- B. 16 – 1 SES-equivalent and 15 non-SES equivalents.
- C. 16 – 1 SES and 15 non SES.

Each employee (both SES and non-SES equivalent attended one full-day leadership course and 14 hours of coaching. No study leave was granted.

- D. Forte Communications:
 - a) Forte Communications – communications skills training
 - b) One-on-one coaching
 - c) 14 hours
 - d) \$9655
 - e) Hourly fee.

Women in Banking and Finance:

- a) Women in Banking and Finance leadership development programs
- b) Group course (full day)
- c) 13
- d) One 2-day course, and 12 9-hour (3x3 hour) courses
- e) \$6300
- f) Complete package fee.

AIM:

- a) AIM– Leadership training
- b) Group Course
- c) 1 non SES-equivalent
- d) 2 days
- e) \$2190
- f) Complete package fee.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

E. Forte Communications:

- a. Training at EFIC's head office in Sydney
- b. See above
- c. See above
- d. Nil.

Women in Banking and Finance (WiBF):

- a. Training located at WiBF premises
- b. See above
- c. See above
- d. Nil

AIM:

- a. At AIM premises
- b. See above
- c. See above
- d. Nil.

F. Study assistance is viewed as part of overall career development as part of a staff members individual remuneration and benefits package. Once training is completed staff remain subject to the provisions of their employment contracts.

Temporary employees (or people employed on less than 6 month contracts) are not eligible to apply for study assistance.

G. From 21 November 2013 to date (as at 27/4/2014) 4 staff members received study assistance for relevant study among these 4 staff:

A total of 4 days study leave were granted for post-graduate masters study
1 day of study leave was granted for Securities Institute qualification training.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 246

Program: EFIC

Topic: Staffing profile

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. What is the current staffing profile of the department/agency?***
- B. Provide a list of staffing numbers, broken down by classification level, division, home base location (including town/city and state)***

Answer

Note: EFIC is not an APS body, as such APS classifications do not apply to EFIC staff.

EFIC has 94.2 full time equivalent staff: 7 SES-equivalent and 87.2 non SES-equivalent

- 91.2 FTE staff in Sydney, NSW 7 SES-equivalent and 84.2 non SES-equivalent
- 1 FTE staff in Brisbane, QLD non SES-equivalent
- 1 FTE staff in Perth, WA non SES-equivalent
- 1 FTE staff in Melbourne, VIC non SES-equivalent

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 247

Program: EFIC

Topic: Staffing reductions

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. How many staff reductions/voluntary redundancies have occurred from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What was the reason for these reductions?*
- B. Were any of these reductions involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.*
- C. Are there any plans for further staff reductions/voluntary redundancies? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut.*
- D. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.*
- E. Are there any plans for involuntary redundancies? If yes, provide details.*
- F. How many ongoing staff left the department/agency from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What classification were these staff?*
- G. How many non-ongoing staff left department/agency from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What classification were these staff?*

Answer

Note: EFIC is not an APS body. APS classifications do not apply to EFIC staff.

- A. 0.
- B. NA.
- C. No.
- D. Not applicable.
- E. One due to end of project.
- F. 2 non-SES equivalent.
- G. 2 non-SES equivalent.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 248

Program: EFIC

Topic: Staffing recruitment

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. How many ongoing staff recruited from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What classification are these staff?*
- B. How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? What classification are these staff?*
- C. From Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?*

Answer

Note: EFIC is not an APS body. As such APS classifications do not apply to EFIC staff.

- A. 4 ongoing non-SES equivalent staff since 21 November 2013 to date (18 March 2014).
- B. 3 non-ongoing positions exist/have been created since 21 November 2013 to date (18 March 2014). 3 non-SES equivalent.
- C. 2 employees have been employed on contract from 21 November 2013 to date (18 March 2014). Average length of their employment period was 1.5 months.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 249

Program: EFIC

Topic: Coffee machines

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. Has the department/agency purchased coffee machines for staff usage since Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013?**
- a. If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased?**
 - b. Why were coffee machines purchased?**
 - c. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were purchased?**
- B. Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?**
- a. Where did the funding for the coffee machines come from?**
 - b. Who has access?**
 - c. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?**
 - d. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?**
- C. Does the department/agency rent coffee machines for staff usage?**
- a. If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.**
 - b. Why are coffee machines rented?**
 - c. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were rented? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?**
 - d. Where does the funding for the coffee machines come from?**
 - e. Who has access?**

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

- f. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?*
- g. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?*

Answer

- A. EFIC did not purchased or hire any additional coffee machines for staff usage since the Supplementary Estimates in November 2013.
- B. Yes.
- a.

Number of machines:	3
Type:	Saeco Royal Cappuccino
Cost	Average total cost of \$750 per month.
Machine hire per month	\$130 (+ GST) each
Coffee Beans per 1kg bag	\$30 per bag
Hot Chocolate per 500g bag	\$14 per bag
Ongoing costs:	Refer to above
Date of rental:	April 2005 (for 3 machines)

- b. For use by EFIC's staff and visitors.
- c. Yes.
- d. EFIC is a self-funded agency.
- e. All EFIC staff.
- f. Included in the \$130 (plus GST) per month cost to hire each machine, is a fortnightly maintenance service, when the representative visits to restock coffee beans/hot chocolate.
There are no extra charges for service calls to fix or replace a machine.
- g. Ongoing average monthly cost of maintaining the 3 machines (including restocking and hire fee) is approximately \$750 (see above).

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 250

Program: EFIC

Topic: Printing

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. How many documents (include the amount of copies) have been printed from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? How many of these printed documents were also published online?**
- B. Did the Department/agency use external printing services for any print jobs since 7 September 2013?**
- a. If so, what companies were sued?**
 - b. How were they selected?**
 - c. What was the total cost of this printing?**

Answer

1. Details for EFIC collateral printed since 21 November 2013 to date (at 24 March 2014) are outlined in the table below:

Document	Quantity	Online
Pull-Up Banners	10	Not applicable
Business Cards	5200	Not applicable
Lectern Signage	2	Not applicable
Placeholder Artwork	7	Not applicable
Brochures/Fact Sheets	1670	Yes

2. Yes.
- a. Display Systems Australia
Kwik Kopy (Angaga)
No Time To Lose
Paragon Australasia Group
Satellite Digital.
 - b. Existing Vendors.
 - c. \$15,872.00 (Pre-GST).

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 251

Program: EFIC

Topic: Corporate cars

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. How any cars are owned by each department/agency?*
- B. Where is the car/s located?*
- C. What is the car/s used for?*
- D. What is the cost of each car from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?*
- E. How far did each car travel from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?*
- F. How many cars are leased by each department/agency?*
- G. Where are the cars located?*
- H. What are the cars used for?*
- I. What is the cost of each car from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?*
- J. How far did each car travel from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date?*

Answer

1. EFIC owns 9 cars (as at 25 March 2014).
2. The cars are located in Sydney.
3. The cars are for personal use.
4. The cars are fully costed to personal employment packages.
5. These figures are provided by the drivers on annually on 30 March – hence figures from November 2013 to date are not available).

As at 30 March 2013 the distances travelled for each car were:

Car	Kms
1 (sold 14/2/14 kms as at 14/2/14)	13,654
2	400.00
3	220

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4	68,896
5	27,311
6	6,886
7	n/a – purchased 30-09-13
8	n/a – purchased 26-04-13
9	n/a – purchased 23-12-13
10	n/a – purchased 14-02-14
Total	117,367
Average Kms	19,561

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 252

Program: EFIC

Topic: Taxi costs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. How much did each department/agency spend on taxis from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in each department/agency.***
- B. What are the reasons for taxi costs?***

Answer

- A. EFIC's systems do not readily enable the separation of this information from total travel expenses. To manually breakdown records to supply the information required would constitute a significant diversion of resources and I believe the additional work cannot be justified.

EFIC records its total travel expenditure in its Annual Report.
- B. EFIC staff may hire taxis when conducting work-related travel in line with the provisions of EFIC's Corporate Travel Policy and Procedures.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 253

Program: EFIC

Topic: Hire cars

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. How much did each department/agency spend on hire cars from Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.***
- B. What are the reasons for hire car costs?***

Answer

- A. EFIC's systems do not readily enable the separation of this information from total travel expenses. To manually breakdown records to supply the information required would constitute a significant diversion of resources and I do not believe that the additional work can be justified.

EFIC records its total travel expenditure in its Annual Report.
- B. EFIC staff may hire cars when conducting work travel in line with the provisions of EFIC's Corporate Travel Policy and Procedures.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 254

Program: EFIC

Topic: Credit cards

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.**
- B. Please update details of the following?**
- a. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?**
 - b. How is corporate credit card use monitored?**
 - c. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?**
 - d. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered since Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.**
 - e. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?**

Answer

EFIC is not an APS body and therefore APS employment classifications do not apply to EFIC staff.

- A. Total of 57 EFIC staff have a corporate credit card.
- This includes:
- a. 8 SES-equivalent staff, and
 - b. 49 non-SES equivalent staff.
- B. a) EFIC has an established policies governing the use of corporate credit cards and a system of monitoring credit card expenditure to prevent misuse. Where appropriate, instances of suspected corporate credit card misuse would be investigated in line with EFIC's Incident & Breach Escalation Policy.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

b) Staff must account and provide documentation for all expenses paid on corporate credit card accounts. This is regularly monitored and checked by designated staff and the signatory executive. Department expenses are subject to EFIC's regular audit processes and staff complete regular compliance training on anti-corruption and fraud policies.

c) See response to A above. In instances where corporate credit card misuse is proven, action may be taken in accordance with EFIC's policies and procedures. Where appropriate, this may extend to termination of employment on the grounds of misconduct.

d) Nil.

e) See response to part b above.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 255

Program: EFIC

Topic: Senate estimates briefing

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *How many officers were responsible for preparing the department, agency, Minister or representing Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of senate estimates?***
- B. *How many officer hours were spent on preparing that information?***
 - a. *Please break down the hours by officer APS classification***
- C. *Were drafts shown to the Minister or their office before senate estimates?***
 - a. *If so, when did this occur?***
 - b. *How many versions of this information were shown to the minister or their office?***
- D. *Did the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?***
 - a. *If so, when did this occur?***
 - b. *What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.***
 - c. *When were the changes made?***
- E. *Provide each of the contents page of the Department/Minister/representing Minister's Senate Estimates folder prepared by the department for the Additional Estimates hearings in February 2014.***

Answer

EFIC provides input on EFIC's operations for Ministerial briefing on an ad hoc basis as requested by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and/or Minister's office. This includes input into Senate Estimates briefing papers prepared by the Department.

Please refer to Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade response.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 256

Program: EFIC

Topic: Question time

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *How many officers are responsible for preparing the department, agency, Minister or representing Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of Question Time?***
- B. *How many officer hours are spent each sitting day on preparing that information?***
 - a. *Please break down the hours by officer APS classification***
- C. *Are drafts shown to the Minister or their office before Question Time?***
 - a. *If so, when does this occur?***
 - b. *How many versions of this information are shown to the minister or their office?***
- D. *Does the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?***
 - a. *If so, when does this occur?***
 - b. *What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.***
- E. *Provide each of the contents page of the Minister and representing Minister's Question Time folder prepared by the department for the week of 11 February 2014.***

Answer

EFIC provides input on EFIC's operations for Ministerial briefing on an ad hoc basis as requested by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and/or Minister's office. This may include input for Question Time briefing papers prepared by the Department.

Please refer to Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade response.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 257

Program: EFIC

Topic: Freedom of Information

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. Can the department please outline the process it under goes to access Freedom of Information requests?**
- 2. Does the department consult or inform the Minister when it receives Freedom of Information requests?**
 - a. If so, when?**
 - b. If so, how does this occur?**
- 3. Does the department consult or inform other departments or agencies when it receives Freedom of Information requests?**
 - a. If so, which departments or agencies?**
 - b. If so, when?**
 - c. If so, how does this occur?**
- 4. Does the department consult or inform the Minister when or before it makes a decision on a Freedom of Information request?**
 - a. If so, when?**
 - b. If so, how does this occur?**
- 5. Does the department consult or inform other departments or agencies when or before it makes a decision on a Freedom of Information request?**
 - a. If so, which departments or agencies?**
 - b. If so, when?**
 - c. If so, how does this occur?**
- 6. What resources does the department commit to its Freedom of Information team?**
- 7. List the staffing resources by APS level assigned solely to Freedom of Information requests**
- 8. List the staffing resources by APS level assigned indirectly to Freedom of Information requests**
- 9. Does the department ever second addition resources to processing Freedom of Information requests?**
 - a. If so, please detail those resources by APS level**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

10. *Information Act 1982 within the Minister's office?*
 - a. *How does this differ to the number of officers designated as at 6 September 2013?*
11. **How many officers are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Minister's office?**
 - a. **How does this differ to the number of officers designated as at 6 September 2013?**
12. **Of the officers that are designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Ministers office, how many are seconded officers from the department?**
13. **What training does the department provide to designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act who work within the department?**
 - a. **Of the officers designated as decision makers within the department, how many have received formal training?**
 - b. **Of the officers designated as decision makers within the department, how many have received informal training?**
 - c. **How long after each officers appointment as a designated decision maker did they receive formal training?**
 - d. **What did the training involve?**
 - e. **How long was the training?**
 - f. **By whom was the training conducted?**
14. **What training does the department provide to designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act who work within the Minister's office, excluding those officers on secondment from the department?**
 - a. **Of the officers designated as decision makers, how many have received formal training?**
 - b. **Of the officers designated as decision makers, how many have received informal training?**
 - c. **How long after each officers appointment as a designated decision maker did they receive formal training?**
 - d. **What did the training involve?**
 - e. **How long was the training?**
 - f. **By whom was the training conducted?**
15. **Since 7 September 2013, how many Freedom of Information requests been shown or alerted to the Minister or their office?**
 - a. **List those notified request**
 - b. **How many instances were each of this requests brought to the office or the Minister's attention?**
 - c. **How many of these items resulted in a separate formal brief being provided to the Minister?**
 - d. **How many of these items resulted in a separate informal briefing (including by email) being provided to the Minister?**

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- e. **How many requests have resulted in multiple formal briefs being provided to the Minister or their office?**
- f. **How many requests have resulted in multiple informal briefs (including by email) being provided to the Minister or their office?**
- 16. **Does the department provide FOI PDFs for download on their website?**
- 17. **If not, what is the cost associated with staffing to require monitor email and collate and forward requested FOI documents?**
- 18. **How does the department test it is complying with accessibility standards for its websites?**
- 19. **Does the department comply with accessibility standards for all its websites?**
- 20. **What would be the effect on the accessibility rating of the department's website if FOI PDFs were provided on the department websites?**
- 21. **What accessibility testing of the website was done and what were the points of failure prior to this change in access for FOI documents?**
- 22. **Have the website accessibility standards been solely or partly responsible for not putting FOI PDF documents on the department websites?**
- 23. **How does the department facilitate anonymous access to the FOI disclosure files?**
- 24. **How many times were the last 20 FOI requests PDFs which were made available on the website downloaded? How often have the FOI requests only available by email request been sent?**
- 25. **How long does it take to requests for disclosed FOI files to be processed? What was the average turn around from request to sending of files in the last 3 months?**
- 26. **What was the content of communications with other departments about the website accessibility standards and FOI PDFs?**
- 27. **Where did advice concerning the website accessibility certification and provision of PDFs come from and what was the content of that advice?**
- 28. **Does the department consider that not providing direct download of PDFs is more accessible for people with disabilities and the general public than providing the links?**
- 29. **What efforts have been made to make FOI PDFs accessible to members of the public who have disabilities?**
- 30. **Has advice from the information commissioner been sought regarding providing FOI requests available by email request only?**
- 31. **Has any disability advice group or consultant been contacted regarding making the FOI requests accessible to people with disabilities?**
- 32. **Is this compatible with the information commissioners guidelines- specifically that "published information should be accessible**

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— in particular, it should comply with an agency’s obligation to meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (Version 2)“

33. How does email PDF provision meet the information commissioner’s requirement that “13.124 Information that forms part of the IPS must be published ‘to members of the public generally’”?
34. Is not providing the FOI PDFs on the website a means of avoiding not conforming to the WCAG 2.0 or other guidelines?
35. Does the department have a separate email address or inbox for receiving and responding to FOI requests?
 - a. If so, list each email account
 - b. List the officers who can assess and reply from those separate accounts, broken down by staffing classification level
36. Do FOI officers ever receive or respond to applicants from their individual email account as opposed to from a central account?
 - a. If so, how does the officer distinguish between communication related to their task as a decision maker and their primary work task ?
 - b. How do FOI decision makers that receive emails related to FOI decisions in their normal work capacity distinguish these emails from FOI decision emails?

Answer

1. A request from an applicant (the ‘Applicant’) is referred to EFIC’s legal department and EFIC’s General Counsel & Board Secretary will nominate EFIC’s authorised person (for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act (the ‘FOI Act’)) to assess the request (the ‘Reviewer’) with regard to the FOI Act, guidelines published by the Information Commissioner (‘Guidelines’), the Information Publication Scheme (the ‘IPS’) and internal policies.

The Reviewer will be the Chief Financial Officer, Chief Credit Officer or any person with a title which includes the words, “Executive Director” or word “Counsel”. The Reviewer will obtain the requested information and collate the information in a restricted access folder on an internal drive and make a decision on whether access to the information will be given.

External legal advice may be sought to assist this decision. A decision will be provided to the Applicant and EFIC records the decision in accordance with the IPS in its disclosure log on its website.

2. 2a-b. Yes, where it’s appropriate to do so in accordance with the FOI Act and the Guidelines. This would include where requested information may affect Commonwealth and State relations or national security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth or the Minister is likely to contend that the information is exempt. Any consultation or informing of the

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Minister or the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will occur during the decision process and occur between either the General Counsel or Executive and the responsible officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

3. a-c. Where it's appropriate to do so in accordance with the FOI Act and the Guidelines. Departments or other agencies which may be affected by the decision may be informed of the information request and pending decision. Any consultation or informing of a department or agency will occur during the decision process and occur between either the General Counsel or Executive and the responsible officer of the department or agency. Where the Reviewer determines the department or agency might reasonably wish to make an exemption contention, access will not be given to the requested information without reasonable opportunity being provided to the department or agency to make a submission in support of an exemption and regard being had to any submissions made. Such department or agency will be given notice of any decision.
4. a-b. Refer to 2a-b above.
5. a-c. Refer to 3a-b above.
6. Not applicable. FOI requests are processed by EFIC's in-house Legal and Compliance team.
7. Not applicable.
8. Not applicable. For each FOI request received one authorised person (for the purposes of the FOI Act) is assigned by EFIC's General Counsel, being either the Chief Financial Officer, Chief Credit Officer or any person with a title which includes the words, "Executive Director" or word "Counsel", as the designated decision maker for the purpose of assessing that request. EFIC's General Counsel and members of its Executive are considered SES-equivalent officers.
9. No.
10. Offices rather than individuals are appointed as authorised persons for the purposes of the FOI Act. Under authorisation by the Managing Director of EFIC the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Credit Officer or any person with a title which includes the words, "Executive Director" or "Counsel" may act as an authorised person for the purposes of the FOI Act. Currently there are 5 Executive members and 7 Legal Counsel (including the General Counsel). The number of offices for the purposes of the FOI Act has not changed since 6 September 2013.
11. Not applicable.
12. Not applicable.
13. a-f. Nil. Occasional external training is undertaken by Legal Counsel.

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14. Not applicable.
15. 1-6. One. The request related to communications between the Chairman of EFIC and the Minister for Trade and Investment. DFAT was advised of the request by email during the decision process. No separate briefings were provided to the Minister for Trade and Investment by EFIC.
16. Yes.
17. Recent costs are minimal as requests have been infrequent.
18. All new pages and /or documents are tested before publishing and all website changes are managed by EFIC's Digital Manager to ensure guidelines are consistently met.
19. EFIC complies with accessibility standards for its main website www.efic.gov.au. EFIC is currently reviewing its specialised Structured Trade and Project Finance portal (www.stpf.efic.gov.au) with a view to incorporating this into its main website by the end of financial year.

All new information from May 2011 published on www.efic.gov.au website meets WCAG 2.0 (A rating).
20. Nil. PDFs are available from EFIC's website either by email request or directly.
21. All new information from May 2011 published on www.efic.gov.au website meets WCAG 2.0 (A rating). All new pages and/or documents are tested before publishing and all website change are managed by EFIC's Digital Marketing Manager to ensure guidelines are consistently met.
22. No.
23. Requests may be made to a designated email address. A hyperlink is provided for Adobe Acrobat Reader to be downloaded for free. If documents are unable to be read in the format provided, the contact details of the General Counsel are provided to further facilitate the request.
24. EFIC has provided documents in response to 3 FOI requests since May 2011.

The website does not currently track downloads of FOI PDFs so this data is currently unavailable. EFIC is currently working to set up reporting for this type of information.

No documents were requested by email.
25. Nil. No requests to send documents were made in the last 3 months.
26. Nil.

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27. Advice is from the Government issued guidelines. We also seek advice from an external digital agency where appropriate.
28. Wherever practical FOI PDFs are made available for direct download.
29. Wherever practical FOI PDFs are made available for direct download.
30. No.
31. No.
32. All new information from May 2011 published on EFIC's website meets WCAG 2.0 (A rating).
33. Where practical FOI PDFs are made available for direct download from EFIC's website. Where this is not practical, information is made available to the public by email request.
34. Not applicable.
35. Yes. foi@efic.gov.au

EFIC's Compliance Counsel and Assistant Board Secretary are on the direct distribution list for this account (both non-SES equivalent).

EFIC's in house legal team are also able to access the foi@efic.gov.au account via a shared mailbox.

36. Requests are usually made to the designated email. Decisions in respect of a request are usually sent by email from the email address of the authorised person. As requests are infrequent communications concerning information requests are readily identified and separated by subject matter.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 258

Program: EFIC

Topic: Function

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. *Provide a list of all formal functions or forms of hospitality conducted for the Minister. Include:***
- a. *The guest list of each function***
 - b. *The party or individual who initiated the request for the function***
 - c. *The menu, program or list of proceedings of the function***
 - d. *A list of drinks consumed at the function***
- B. *Provide a list of the current wine, beer or other alcoholic beverages in stock or on order in the Minister's office***

Answer

Nil.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 259

Program: EFIC

Topic: Red tape reduction

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
 - a. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target**
- B. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?*
- C. How have they been recruited?*
- D. What process was used for their appointment?*
- E. What is the total cost of this unit?*
- F. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?*
- G. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.*
- H. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?*

Answer

See DFAT answer.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 260

Program: EFIC

Topic: Official residences

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. Provide a list of all formal functions conducted at any of the Official Residences, or for the Prime Minister's office or Prime Minister's Dining Room where it has been used in place of the official residences. Include:**
- a. The guest list of each function, including if any ministerial staff attended**
 - b. The party or individual who initiated the request for the function**
 - c. The menu, program or list of proceedings of the function**
 - d. A list of drinks consumed at the function**
- B. Provide a list of the current wine, beer or other alcoholic beverages in stock or on order at any of the official residences, or venues or offices acting as official residences.**

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 261

Program: EFIC

Topic: Land costs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- A. How much land (if any) does the Department or agencies or authorities or Government corporation within each portfolio own or lease?**
- B. Please list by each individual land holding, the size of the piece of land, the location of that piece of land and the latest valuation of that piece of land, where that land is owned or leased by the Department, or agency or authority or Government Corporation within that portfolio? (In regards to this question please ignore land upon which Australian Defence force bases are located. Non Defence Force base land is to be included)**
- C. List the current assets, items or purse (buildings, facilities or other) on the land identified above.**
 - a. What is the current occupancy level and occupant of the items identified in (3)?**
 - b. What is the value of the items identified in (3)?**
 - c. What contractual or other arrangements are in place for the items identified in (3)?**
- D. How many buildings (if any) does the Department or agencies or authorities or Government Corporation within each portfolio own or lease?**
- E. Please list by each building owned, its name, the size of the building in terms of square metres, the location of that of that building and the latest valuation of that building, where that building is owned by the Department, or agency or authority or Government corporation within that portfolio? (In regards to this question please ignore buildings that are situated on Australian Defence force bases. Non Defence Force base buildings are to be included).**
- F. In regards to any building identified in Q4, please also detail, the occupancy rate as expressed as a percentage of the building size. If occupancy is identified as less than 100%, for what is the remaining space used?**

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Answer

- A. 821.1m²
- B. Sydney: 821.1m², 22 Pitt Street Sydney NSW, \$10,900,000, owned.
- C. 11 storey commercial office building.
 - a) 73% occupied by various commercial tenants, including EFIC.
 - b) \$24,700,000 (includes depreciation, and excludes land value)
 - c) Various commercial property leases.
- D. 1 building.
- E.
 - a. Export House
 - b. 6585m²
 - c. 22 Pitt Street Sydney, NSW 2000
 - d. \$38,900,000.
- F. 73%, remaining office space is vacant and being actively marketed for lease.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 262

Program: EFIC

Topic: Ministerial staff code

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

1. Have there been any identified breaches of the Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct by the Minister, their office or the department?

-If so, list the breaches identified, broken by staffing classification level

-If so, what remedy was put in place to manage the breach? If no remedy has been put in place, why not?

-If so, when was the breach identified? By whom? When was the Minister made aware?

2. Can the Minister confirm that all ministerial and electorate officers in their office comply fully with the ministerial staff code of conduct?

-If not, how many staff don't comply, broken down by classification level?

How long have they worked for the Minister?

3. Can you confirm they all complied with the code on the date of their employment?

-If not, on what date did they comply?

4. Can you confirm that all disclosures as required by the code were made to the government staffing committee?

-If so, on what date were those disclosure made?

5. By position title list the date each staff member was approved by government staff committee

6. Can you confirm all staff have divested themselves of any and all relevant shares as of the date of their appointment

7. Can you list by number if any staff have been granted exception by the SMOS to remain a director of a company as allowed by the Ministerial Staff Code of Conduct, break down by position level

Answer

Not applicable.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 263

Program: EFIC

Topic: Boards (for Departments or agencies with boards)

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

Boards (for Departments or agencies with boards)

1. Since September 7th 2013;

a. how often has each board met, break down by board name;

b. what travel expenses are provided;

c. what is the average attendance at board meetings;

d. how does the board deal with conflict of interest;

e. what conflicts of interest have been registered;

f. what remuneration is provided to board members;

g. how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?

h. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members since September 7, 2013?

i. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings

j. what have catering costs been for the board meetings held this year; is alcohol served;

Answer

1.

a. Board Title: Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC).

The Board meets seven times per year at approximately six week intervals. Since 7 September 2013 to date (as at 25 March 2014), the EFIC Board has met three times.

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- b. Travel expenses are provided in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal's Determination 2013/16.
- c. The average attendance at board meetings is 96% attendance per meeting (not including ex officio members).
- d. Board members are formally advised of their obligations regarding conflicts of interest on their appointment to the Board and annually thereafter.

Board members are required to complete a disclosure form prior to attendance at their first Board Meeting and to notify the Board Secretary when a material change occurs. An updated register of disclosed interests is made available to all Directors at each Board Meeting.

The general disclosure by Board members alerts Management to possible conflicts of interest which may require the withholding of a particular Board paper. If a Director has, or Board Secretary forms a view that or believes a Director may have, a conflict of interest in relation to a matter, the relevant Board paper is withheld from that Director. Similarly, if a Director has, or believes he or she may have, a conflict of interest in relation to a matter which Management has not detected, the Director is required to return the relevant Board paper unread, and the potential conflict declared at the Board Meeting.

Where a Director declares a conflict of interest, the Director is required to leave the Board Meeting before any discussion of the relevant item begins. In the Director's absence, the Board determines whether the Director may participate in the discussion and the decision. If the Board determines that the Director should not be involved, they will remain excluded from any discussion on the relevant item.

- e. Nil.
- f. EFIC Board members are remunerated in accordance with the Remuneration and Allowance for Holders of Part Time of Public Office as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal.

For the period 7 September 2013 to 28 February 2014, the Determination 2013/11 applied and for the period 1 March 2014 onwards the Determination 2014/03 applies.

- g. The process of termination of appointment of appointed members of the Board is set out in section 43 of the *Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Act 1991 (Cth)*.
- h. No.

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- i. Nil.
- j. Alcohol is not served at Board Meetings. The catering costs for a Board Meeting are approximately \$100 per meeting where coffee, tea and light refreshments are provided.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 264

Program: EFIC

Topic: Boards (for Departments or agencies with boards)

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

Shared resources following MOG changes

- 1. Following the Machinery of Government changes does the department share any goods/services/accommodation with other departments?***
- 2. What resources/services does the department share with other departments; are there plans to cease sharing the sharing of these resources/services?***
- 3. What were the costs to the department prior to the Machinery of Government changes for these shared resources? What are the estimated costs after the ceasing of shared resource arrangements?***

Answer

1. No.
2. EFIC has three business origination staff located in three Austrade offices in:
 - a. Perth
 - b. Melbourne, and
 - c. Brisbane.

These arrangements have not been subject to Machinery of Government changes. There are no current plans to cease sharing these resources.

3. Not applicable.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 265

Program: EFIC

Topic: Ministerial Leave

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

Ministerial Leave

1. Was the minister on leave at any point during the Christmas break (between the last sitting of parliament in 2013 and the first sitting in 2014)?

If so:

a. Please table a schedule of the ministers leave. Please include:

i. The dates the minister was on leave.

ii. The dates the minister was out of the country (if applicable).

b. Who was acting in the minister's place?

i. What date was it decided to have this person act in the minister's place?

ii. What was the process for selecting this person?

iii. Who was involved in making this decision?

c. Were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the minister during this time? If so:

i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred

ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the minister and the department during this time.

iii. Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the minister?

iv. Were there any times that the department tried to contact the minister but were unable?

d. Were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the acting minister during this time? If so:

i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred

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- ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the acting minister and the department during this time.*
- iii. Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the acting minister?*
- iv. Were there any times that the department tried to contact the acting minister but were unable?*
- v. but were unable?*
- vi. provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the minister and or acting minister and the department during this time.*
- e. Did the department contact the Minister or acting minister during this time? If so:*
 - i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred*
 - ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the minister and or acting minister and the department during this time.*

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 266

Program: EFIC

Topic: Departmental Rebranding

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

Departmental Rebranding

1. Has the department/Agency undergone a name change or any other form of rebranding since September 7, 2013? If so:

a. Please detail why this name change / rebrand were considered necessary and a justified use of departmental funds?

i. Please provide a copy of any reports that were commissioned to study the benefits and costs associated with the rebranding.

b. Please provide the total cost associated with this rebrand and then break down by amount spent replacing:

i. Signage.

ii. Stationery (please include details of existing stationery and how it was disposed of).

iii. Logos

iv. Consultancy

v. Any relevant IT changes.

vi. Office reconfiguration.

c. How was the decision reached to rename and/or rebrand the department?

i. Who was involved in reaching this decision?

ii. Please provide a copy of any communication (including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, notes etc) from within the department, or between the department and the government regarding the rename/rebranding.

Answer

No. EFIC has not undergone any rebranding from September 7 to date. EFIC is conducting an internal review of its branding as part of its broader marketing function. The outcome of which may inform future decisions on EFIC's branding.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 267

Program: EFIC

Topic: Ministerial Motor vehicle

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. Has the minister been provided with a motor vehicle? If so:*
 - a. What is the make and model?*
 - b. How much did it cost?*
 - c. When was it provided?*
 - d. Was the entire cost met by the department? If not, how was the cost met?*
 - e. What, if any, have been the ongoing costs associated with this motor vehicle? Please include costs such as maintenance and fuel.*
 - f. Are these costs met by the department? If not, how are these costs met?*
 - g. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine if a minister is entitled to a motor vehicle.*
 - h. Have these guidelines changed since September 7, 2013? If so, please detail.*
 - i. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine how a minister is to use a motor vehicle they have been provided with. Please include details such as whether the motor vehicle can be used for personal uses.*
 - j. Have these guidelines changed since September 7, 2013? If so, please detail.*

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 268

Program: EFIC

Topic: Ministerial Staff vehicles (non-MoPS)

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. Outside of MoPS Act entitlements, have any of the Minister's staff been provided with a motor vehicle? If so:

a. What is the make and model?

b. How much did it cost?

c. When was it provided?

d. Was the entire cost met by the department? If not, how was the cost met?

e. What, if any, have been the ongoing costs associated with this motor vehicle? Please include costs such as maintenance and fuel.

f. Are these costs met by the department? If not, how are these costs met?

g. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine this entitlement to a motor vehicle.

h. Have these guidelines changed since September 7, 2013? If so, please detail.

i. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine how a motor vehicle is to be used that they have been provided with. Please include details such as whether the motor vehicle can be used for personal uses.

j. Have these guidelines changed since September 7, 2013? If so, please detail.

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 269

Program: EFIC

Topic: Ministerial Staff vehicles (non-MoPS)

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. Have any of the Minister's staff been provided with a motor vehicle under the MoPS Act entitlements? If so:

a. What is the make and model?

b. How much did it cost?

c. When was it provided?

d. Was the entire cost met by the department? If not, how was the cost met?

e. What, if any, have been the ongoing costs associated with this motor vehicle? Please include costs such as maintenance and fuel.

f. Are these costs met by the department? If not, how are these costs met?

g. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine this entitlement to a motor vehicle.

h. Have these guidelines changed since September 7, 2013? If so, please detail.

i. Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine how a motor vehicle is to be used that they have been provided with. Please include details such as whether the motor vehicle can be used for personal uses.

j. Have these guidelines changed since September 7, 2013? If so, please detail.

Answer

Not applicable to EFIC.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 270

Program: EFIC

Topic: Building Lease Costs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. What has been the total cost of building leases for the agency / department since September 7, 2013?**
 - a. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is currently leased. Please detail by:**
 - i. Date the lease agreement is active from.**
 - ii. Date the lease agreement ends.**
 - iii. Is the lease expected to be renewed? If not, why not?**
 - iv. Location of the building (City and state).**
 - v. Cost of the lease.**
 - vi. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.**
 - b. Please provide a detailed list of each building that had a lease that was not renewed since September 7, 2013. Please detail by:**
 - i. Date from which the lease agreement was active.**
 - ii. Date the lease agreement ended.**
 - iii. Why was the lease not renewed?**
 - iv. Location of the building (City and state).**
 - v. Cost of the lease.**
 - vi. Why the building was necessary for the operations of the agency / department.**
 - c. Please provide a detailed list of each building that is expected to be leased in the next 12 months. Please detail by:**
 - i. Date the lease agreement is expected to become active.**
 - ii. Date the lease agreement is expected to end.**

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- iii. Expected location of the building (City and state).*
- iv. Expected cost of the lease.*
 - 1. Has this cost been allocated into the budget?*
- v. Why the building is necessary for the operations of the agency / department.*
- d. For each building owned or leased by the department:*
 - i. What is the current occupancy rate for the building?*
 - ii. If the rate is less than 100%, detail what the remaining being used for.*

Answer

- 1.
 - a. Not applicable.
 - b. Not applicable.
 - c. Not applicable.
 - d. See response to QoN 274 Land Costs.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 271

Program: EFIC

Topic: Diner's Club cards

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. What is the arrangement with diners club for provision of credit cards for the Whole of Government Travel arrangements?***
- 2. What is the cost of using diners club to the government, listed by government and agency in fees and other charges?***
- 3. What are the criteria for staff receiving credit cards? Does the criteria vary between SES and other levels; do they require pre approval for certain classes of expenses?***
- 4. Please detail the limits of the credit cards issued to departmental staff; the types of cards; the card issuers;***
- 5. Have any credit cards been issued to ministers or ministers staff?***

Answer

1. EFIC is not a participating CAC Act body to the Whole of Australian Government travel arrangements (WoAG). EFIC has no arrangement with Diner's Club.
2. Nil.
3. EFIC has an established corporate credit card policy with guidelines for use and system for monitoring credit card expenditure to prevent misuse. Applications for a corporate credit card must establish a clear business case and be approved by EFIC's Executive. Credit cards are issued for payment of approved travel and hospitality expenses only. All other payments are made via electronic funds transfer.

EFIC is not an APS body. APS classifications do not apply to EFIC staff.

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4. Card limit: Individual liability corporate account. No specified limit.
Card Type: American Express Corporate Credit Card.
Card issuer: American Express

5. Not applicable.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 272

Program: EFIC

Topic: Government advertising

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

- 1. How much has been spent on government advertising (including job ads) since 7 September 2013?**
 - a. List each item of expenditure and cost**
 - b. List the approving officer for each item**
 - c. Detail the outlets that were paid for the advertising**
- 2. What government advertising is planned for the rest of the financial year?**
 - a. List the total expected cost**
 - b. List each item of expenditure and cost**
 - c. List the approving officer for each item**
 - d. Detail the outlets that have been or will be paid for the advertising**

Answer

1. EFIC undertakes general advertising activities to generate awareness of EFIC's products and services among Australian exporters. EFIC has not been involved in any communication of a broader Government advertising to the public.

Advertisement (a)	Cost (a)	Approving officer (b)	Outlet paid (c)
Western Australian Export Awards finalist advertisement	\$3818.18	Executive Director, SME	WA Newspaper
Mining and Energy Services Council of Australia (MESCA) Annual directory	\$2268.18	Executive Director, SME	MESCA directory

2. Advertising for the remainder of the financial year has not yet been planned or booked. The expected advertising costs will be in line with or below budgeted advertising spend in FY13.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 273

Program: EFIC

Topic: Workplace assessments

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. How much has been spent on workplace ergonomic assessments since 7 September 2013?

a. List each item of expenditure and cost

2. Have any assessments, not related to an existing disability, resulted in changes to workplace equipment or set up?

a. If so, list each item of expenditure and cost related to those changes

Answer

1. Nil.

2. Nil.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 274

Program: EFIC

Topic: Ministerial website

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. How much has been spent on the Minister's website since 7 September 2013?

a. List each item of expenditure and cost

2. Who is responsible for uploading information to the Minister's website?

a. Are any departmental staff required to work outside regular hours to maintain the Minister's website?

Answer

Not applicable.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 275

Program: EFIC

Topic: Ministerial payouts

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. How much has been spent on redundancy payments to staff employed by members of the Liberal or National Parties since 7 September 2013?

a. List each item of expenditure, staffing level, employing member and cost

Answer

Not applicable.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 276

Program: EFIC

Topic: Ministerial staff turnover

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

A. List the current staffing allocation for each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary

B. For each Minister or Parliamentary Secretary list the number of staff recruited, broken down by their staffing classification

Answer

A. Not applicable.

B. Not applicable.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 277

Program: EFIC

Topic: Christmas party costs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. List what functions were held by the department/agency for either Christmas or end of calendar year since 7 September 2013

(a) What was the cost of each of these functions?

(b) How was the money identified?

(c) What was the location of these functions?

(d) Provide a table of food and alcohol purchased for the function

Answer

Function(1)	Total Cost (a)	Location (c)	Catering costs (d)
EFIC Client Christmas Function	\$34,744.50	Sydney	\$27962.00
EFIC Client Christmas Function	\$8267.36	Perth	\$5964.40
EFIC Staff Christmas Function	\$10290.68	Sydney	\$4158.00

(b) EFIC is a self-funding agency.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 278

Program: EFIC

Topic: Multiple tenders

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. List any tenders that were re-issued or issued multiple times since 7 September 2013

1. Why were they re-issued or issued multiple times?

2. Were any applicants received for the tenders before they were re-issued or repeatedly issued?

3. Were those applicants asked to resubmit their tender proposal?

Answer

Since 7 September 2013, EFIC has had no tenders in line with its procurement reporting requirements as a CAC Act body under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 279

Program: EFIC

Topic: Market research

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. List any market research conducted by the department/agency since 7 September 2013.

1. List the total cost of this research

2. List each item of expenditure and cost, broken down by division and program

3. Who conducted the research?

4. How were they identified?

5. Where was the research conducted?

6. In what way was the research conducted?

7. Were focus groups, round tables or other forms of research tools used?

8. How were participants for these focus groups et al selected?

Answer

	Australian International Business Survey*	EFIC SME Exporter Index (Quarter 1)
Cost	\$40 000	\$37 500
Vendor	University of Sydney	East & Partners
Vendor Selection	Part of Export Council of Australia project proposal.	Selected from shortlist based on competitive proposal.
Where	N/A	N/A
Method	Online questionnaire	Telephone Interviews
Participant selection	Convenience sampling by inviting qualified responses from partner databases.	Random sampling from East & Partners database.

* Conducted in collaboration with Austrade, Export Council of Australia and The University of Sydney

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 280

Program: EFIC

Topic: Departmental upgrades

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. Since 7 September 2013 has the department/agency engaged in any new refurbishments, upgrades or changes to their building or facilities?

1. If so, list these

2. If so, list the total cost for these changes

3. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure

4. If so, who conducted the works?

5. If so, list the process for identifying who would conduct these works

6. If so, when are the works expected to be completed?

Answer

1. EFIC has not undertaken any new refurbishments, upgrades or changes to the building facilities since 7 September 2013.

Please note that work engaged prior to 7 September 2013 to upgrade building services (sprinklers, air conditioning) was completed during this period.

Since 7 September 2013, EFIC has had no procurement contracts in line with its procurement reporting requirements as a CAC Act body under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 281

Program: EFIC

Topic: Wine coolers / Fridgers

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

Wine Coolers/Fridges

1. Since 7 September 2013 has the department/agency purchased or leased any new wine coolers, or wine fridges or other devices for the purpose of housing alcohol beverages, including Eskies?

1. If so, list these

2. If so, list the total cost for these items

3. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure

4. If so, where were these purchased

5. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased

6. If so, what is the current location for these items?

7. If so, what is the current stocking level for each of these items?

Answer

1. Nil

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 282

Program: EFIC

Topic: Office plants

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

Office plants

1. Since 7 September 2013 has the department/agency purchased or leased any new office plants?

A. If so, list these

B. If so, list the total cost for these items

C. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure

D. If so, where were these purchased

E. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased

F. If so, what is the current location for these items?

Answer

A-C. Yes:

	Hire/ purchased	Quantity	Price per item (incl. GST)	Total cost (Incl. GST)
Lomandra plants	Hired	4	\$15 per month	\$60 per month
Planter boxes	Purchased	4	\$231	\$924

D. Green Design Indoor Plant Hire

E. The supplier was chosen after reviewing availability of suitable planters and plants by various suppliers.

F. EFIC's head office in Sydney

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 283

Program: EFIC

Topic: Office recreational facilities

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

Office recreation facilities

1. Since 7 September 2013 has the department/agency purchased or leased or constructed any office recreation facilities, activities or games (including but not limited to pool tables, table tennis tables or others)?

1. If so, list these

2. If so, list the total cost for these items

3. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure

4. If so, where were these purchased

5. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased

6. If so, what is the current location for these items?

7. If so, what is the current usage for each of these items?

Answer

Nil.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 284

Program: EFIC

Topic: Vending machines

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

Vending machines

1. Since 7 September 2013 has the department/agency purchased or leased or taken under contract any vending machine facilities?

1. If so, list these

2. If so, list the total cost for these items

3. If so, list the itemised cost for each item of expenditure

4. If so, where were these purchased

5. If so, list the process for identifying how they would be purchased

6. If so, what is the current location for these items?

7. If so, what is the current usage for each of these items?

Answer

1. Nil

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 285

Program: EFIC

Topic: Legal costs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

Legal costs

1. List all legal costs incurred by the department or agency since 7 September 2013

1. List the total cost for these items, broken down by source of legal advice, hours retained or taken to prepare the advice and the level of counsel used in preparing the advice, whether the advice was internal or external

2. List cost spend briefing Counsel, broken down by hours spend briefing, whether it was direct or indirect briefing, the gender ratio of Counsel, how each Counsel was engaged (departmental, ministerial)

3. How was each piece of advice procured? Detail the method of identifying legal advice

Answer

Please note that EFIC reports on its internal and external legal services expenditure, including any briefing of Counsel, to the Office of Legal Services Coordination (**OLSC**) of the Attorney General's Department on an annual basis. EFIC's reported Legal Service Expenditure for the financial year ended 30 June 2013 is available in the OLSC's Legal Services Expenditure Report 2012-2013.

A.

Internal legal advice/services

EFIC maintains an in-house legal function which provides the majority of corporate and transactional legal advice/services to the organisation.

Internal legal services are not recorded in a way to enable a full list of advice/services and their costs to be broken down by source of legal advice, hours

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retained or time taken to prepare the advice without undertaking an unduly burdensome administrative exercise.

External legal advice/services

For the period from 7 September 2013 to 11 March 2014, EFIC's gross spend for external legal services (including any payable disbursements and GST) comprised of approximately \$148,000 in non recoverable legal costs and \$378,000 in recovered or recoverable legal costs from EFIC's clients. These recovered or recoverable external legal costs are generally incurred in connection with transactions where EFIC is providing financial or insurance products or services to its clients.

External legal services are not recorded in a way to enable a full list of advice/services and their costs to be broken down by source of legal advice, hours retained or time taken to prepare the advice. This would entail a significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances; EFIC does not consider the additional work can be justified.

B. Nil.

C.

Internal legal advice is generally procured to assist in the origination, execution and management of transactions or for general corporate purposes.

Generally, external legal services are procured in circumstances where specialist experience is required or where an international jurisdiction is involved in a transaction. It is EFIC's practice to ensure that appropriately qualified external lawyers are engaged on assignments and that their costs are kept to reasonable levels. To assist in this process, all external legal engagements must be authorised by EFIC's internal legal function.

External legal services from domestic law firms are obtained from legal services providers which have been appointed to the Commonwealth's Legal Services Multi-Use List and in accordance with the requirements as set out in the Legal Services Directions 2005 and Legal Services Multi-Use List Guidance Material Reference.

Please note:

- All costs are as at 11 March 2014 since 7 September 2013.
- Gross costs are provided noting some of EFIC's legal spend for transactions is recoverable from EFIC's clients.
- Costs are inclusive of legal spend associated with EFIC's Commercial Account and the National Interest Account which EFIC administers on behalf of Government.
- A list of each legal service and individual cost cannot be provided as this would constitute a significant diversion of EFIC resources.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 286

Program: EFIC

Topic: Australian Public Affairs

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

Australian Public Affairs

- 1. List all interactions between the department/agency with Australian Public Affairs since 7 September 2013. List the participants in the meeting, the topic of the discussion, who arranged or requested the meeting, the location of the meeting***
- 2. List all interactions between the Minister/parliamentary Secretary and/or their offices with Australian Public Affairs since 7 September 2013. List the participants in the meeting, the topic of the discussion, who arranged or requested the meeting, the location of the meeting***

Answer

Nil.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 287

Program: DFAT

Topic: Cosmetics imports and exports

Question in Writing

Senator Ludwig

Question

1. *What is the dollar value of cosmetics imports from and cosmetics exports to China?*

Answer

1. In 2013, Australian cosmetic imports from China were valued at \$103.2 million while cosmetic exports to China were valued at \$25.7 million.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 288

Program: DFAT

Topic: EFIC

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

1. What is the level of support to the mining industry from DFAT?

a) How many people in DFAT facilitate and assist Australian mining companies operating overseas?

b) How many DFAT people working in trade centres, embassies, consulates, High Commissions and other postings overseas are tasked with job of assisting Australian mining companies expand their overseas operations?

c) What is the role of these people?

Answer

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) staff at post routinely assist Australian companies overseas. The nature and level of assistance varies depending on the country and the sector. The majority of direct assistance to mining companies at post is provided through the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade).

Austrade helps Australian businesses, including mining companies, to develop international markets and win productive foreign direct investment.

Austrade achieves this by generating market information and insight, promoting Australian capabilities, developing policy, making connections through an extensive global network of contacts, leveraging the badge of government offshore and providing quality advice and services.

Austrade can guide businesses through the process of selecting suitable markets for their products or services, advise them on upcoming overseas promotions for Australian organisations such as trade missions, and alert them to the potential financial assistance and government grants available for Australian exporters.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 289

Program: DFAT

Topic: Nuclear Disarmament

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 2. *How many people did the Australian Government send to the Second Conference on Catastrophic Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons Use in Nayarit Mexico on 13-14 February 2014?***
- 3. *Why did Australia's representatives at Nayarit apparently, say nothing?***
 - a) *Was an Australian statement ever contemplated, and if so why wasn't it given?***
- 4. *Will the Australian Government note and factor into its nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation policies, the Chairman's summary of the Nayarit Conference and the preceding Oslo conference?***
 - a) *If not, why not?***
- 5. *Will the Government be attending the upcoming Vienna conference?***
- 6. *Does the Government agree that Australia should take a positive and constructive leadership role in nuclear disarmament?***
- 7. *How does the Government seek to further such a role in the upcoming 2014 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty meeting in New York; at the proposed Vienna meeting; and at UN First Committee in October?***
- 8. *Minister Bishop has said she wants to 'engage, not enrage' the Nuclear Weapons States. Just how does the government plan to engage the nuclear weapon states over the fulfilment of their Article VI NPT obligations to negotiate to zero their nuclear arsenals?***
 - a) *What vision does the Government have of an effective and practical road to that goal?***
- 9. *May I have details of the actions and plans that demonstrate the commitment of the Government to work towards the goal of nuclear abolition?***

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10. *Is the Government still committed to the unanimous resolution passed some years ago by the Australian Parliament, committing Australia to the abolition of nuclear weapons?*
11. *May I have an explanation or details of any consideration/risk analysis that has been applied to a policy of 'extended deterrence' compared to the risks*

Answer

2. Australia sent three people: one from Canberra, one from our Mexico City Post and one from our UN New York Post.
3. The Australian delegation at Nayarit did make a statement at the conference.
4. The Australian Government notes the Chairman's summary of the Nayarit conference and the preceding Oslo conference, but will not be amending Australia's longstanding disarmament and nonproliferation policies on that basis.
 - a) The Oslo conference summary restated well-known views on the effects of nuclear detonation. The Chairman's summary at the Nayarit conference restated the same, but also ignored the expressed views of Australia, Canada, Netherlands, Germany and other like-mindeds at the meeting.
5. A decision will be made on possible Australian attendance at the upcoming Vienna conference closer to the date.
6. Yes. That is why the Government continues to be a prominent and active advocate of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Initiatives we have promoted include a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests and negotiations on a treaty to cap the production of fissile materials. Australia is also, along with Japan, a founding member of the 12-nation Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI). The NPDI's key objective is to take forward the 64-point action plan from the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference, which was agreed by consensus and includes most of the steps required to advance the disarmament and non-proliferation objectives encapsulated by the NPT.
7. Australia will continue its prominent role at the upcoming 2014 NPT Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meeting in New York, including through its membership in the NPDI. Minister Bishop attended the NPDI Ministerial meeting in Hiroshima, Japan, on 12 April to, inter alia, review and endorse NPDI's platform for participation at the PrepCom and agree on a ministerial statement. The NPDI has also submitted a number of working papers to the PrepCom, including on nuclear disarmament, transparency in disarmament

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

and the de-alerting of nuclear weapons. At the UN First Committee meeting in October, Australia will continue to focus on the importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and, pending its entry into force, of maintaining the moratorium on nuclear testing. We will also continue to play an active role in trying to kick start negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, including support for the work of the Group of Government Experts, of which we are a member. As per the answer to question 5, we have yet to decide on attendance at the Vienna conference.

8. Australia will continue to take advantage of all opportunities to engage the nuclear-weapon states. The NPDI, for example, has become an increasingly prominent voice in the global discourse on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In the lead up to the 2014 NPT Preparatory Committee meeting and the 2015 NPT Review Conference, the NPDI will urge nuclear-weapon states to do more on disarmament in particular in reducing nuclear arsenals and de-alerting weapons.
 - a) Only a pragmatic, step-by-step approach will bring about nuclear disarmament. These steps include bringing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty into force, negotiating a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty, and implementation of the 2010 NPT 64-point action plan. Only those states which possess nuclear weapons can take the necessary steps to get rid of them; and those states will only disarm when they feel more secure without nuclear weapons than with them. We must create a world where the utility of nuclear weapons is greatly diminished, both for the nuclear-armed states and those who still rely on their extended deterrence.
9. Please refer to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) website for access to the NPDI working papers as submitted to the three sessions of the NPT PrepCom.

http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/NPT_Review_Conferences.shtml

The DFAT website section on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament is currently being reviewed and updated.

10. Yes.

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11. Successive Australian Governments have always considered the role, risks and implications of extended nuclear deterrence in Australia's national security policy concerns and doctrines, including in the development of defence white papers.

As long as nuclear weapons exist, many countries (including Australia) will have to continue to rely on extended deterrence to help prevent nuclear attack or coercion. The end of the Cold War has not diminished the broad considerations underlying deterrence, and the need, for example, for countries to maintain defence forces and capabilities. The primary obligation of any government is to safeguard the nation's security. Relying on extended deterrence as part of Australia's alliance relationship with the United States does not conflict with Australia's advocacy for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation to lower and eventually removing that threat.

We must create a world where the utility of nuclear weapons is greatly diminished and ultimately eliminated for all countries.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 290

Program: DFAT

Topic: Global forest programs & ODA - Outcome 1

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

12. Does DFAT retain the commitment that AusAID has to reduce deforestation in developing countries? If so, what measures does it propose to take to further this goal?

13. Considering the August 30 2013 statement by the Minister for Environment that the government would be attempting to broker a deal to protect global rainforests, will any of the money expended on this work be classified as ODA under the Environment portfolio or will it be part of the overseas aid program administered by DFAT?

14. What global environment programs have been shifted from AusAID or DFAT to the Environment Department?

15. What amount of funding, if any, has been allocated for the purposes of furthering a global deal on rainforest protection?

Answer

12. Future support for reducing deforestation in developing countries will be considered as part of the DFAT annual budget process.

13. Future support for environmental activities will be considered as part of the DFAT annual budget process.

14. No global environment programs have been moved from AusAID or DFAT to the Department of the Environment.

15. Future support for environmental activities will be considered as part of the DFAT annual budget process.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 291

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA budget – Climate change and environment

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 1. What consideration has been undertaken to ensure that sustainable economic growth is backed up by sound risk assessment with regard to investment in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction initiatives?**
- 2. Within each of Australia's bilateral aid programs, how much money will be available for climate change initiatives?**
- 3. What will be the value (in terms of the grant equivalent) of Australia's total support for climate change mitigation and adaptation overseas, excluding private finance, for the financial year 2013/14?**
- 4. Which programs and projects will be affected by the elimination of all funding to Global Environment Programs through the \$650 million budget reduction for 2013-14?**
- 5. Does the the government fund any of the following multilateral climate change funds, stating from which budgeted program these funds were dispersed, and the amount of disbursement?**
 - a) The Adaptation Fund**
 - b) The Least Developed Country Funds**
 - c) The Global Environment Facility**
 - d) The Climate Investment Funds**
 - e) The Green Climate Fund**
- 6. What is the allocation for 2013/2014 to the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative?**
 - a) Of this, how much will go to Community-Based Adaptation Activity Grants?**

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7. Has the Department altered the methodology used to account for climate finance within the aid budget?

a) How?

8. What is the current methodology, and what measures are taken to ensure no double counting of aid money and climate finance?

9. How much money will be available for climate change initiatives within each of Australia's bilateral aid programs?

10. What will be the value (in terms of the grant equivalent) of Australia's total support for climate change mitigation and adaptation overseas, excluding private finance, for the financial year 2013/2014?

Answer

1. DFAT aid investments are subject to quality assurance processes. These processes require consideration of environmental risks such as climate change and natural disasters.

2. Funding for these activities will be determined as part of the annual budget process.

3. This information will not be available until after the completion of the 2013-14 financial year.

4. This information will not be available until after the completion of the 2013-14 financial year.

5. a) The Government is not providing funds to the Adaptation Fund in 2013-14.

b) The Government is not providing funds to the Least Developed Country Funds in 2013-14.

c) Australia's contribution to the Global Environment Facility for 2013-14 is \$19.4 million from the Multilateral Replenishments budgeted program.

d) The Government is not providing funds to the Climate Investment Funds in 2013-14.

e) The Government is not providing funds to the Green Climate Fund in 2013-14.

6. The International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative was part of Australia's climate change Fast Start investment period which ended in June 2013. No funding allocation in 2013-14.

6.a) Answered in Question 6 above.

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7. No.

7.a) DFAT's Official Development Assistance (ODA) reporting aligns with the OECD DAC Statistical Reporting Directives.

8. The OECD DAC Statistical Reporting Directives incorporate methodology that tracks climate expenditure. Adherence to standard statistical compilation practices ensures data are not double counted. Further information on the methodology can be found on this OECD webpage:

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/methodology.htm>

9. See question 2.

10. Answered in Question 3 above.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 292

Program: DFAT

Topic: DFAT Structure AusAID integration

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

1. The integration is intended to be completed by 1 July with the integration of all country programs. Is it the intention of the integration to also integrate the humanitarian, multilateral development and partnership and development policy divisions?

2. How many staff have resigned or taken redundancy since 1 November 2013?

3. Could you provide a breakdown of the staff who have either resigned or taken redundancy since 1 November 2013, on the basis of the agency/department that employed them prior to the integration?

4. Of the former AusAID staff who have either resigned or taken redundancy since 1 November 2013, could you provide a breakdown of the number of staff who filled specialist roles vs generalist roles?

5. Is there an intention to retain a 'development' stream within the graduate program and career development of employees of the department?

6. What strategies are being adopted in the integration of the country programs to retain development expertise within the structure and staffing?

7. Prior to the integration the Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) reported directly to the Director-General of AusAID, now it appears to report to a Deputy Secretary, can you confirm that change and explain why the ODE does not report directly to the Secretary of the Department? Who made this decision to modify the reporting line of the ODE?

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Answer

1. Yes. These divisions are part of the integrated structure.
2. As at Thursday 27 February 2014, four staff members have ceased employment with the department via voluntary redundancy, and 36 staff members have resigned.
3. As at Thursday 27 February 2014:
 - three staff members who were employed by AusAID on 31 October 2013 have ceased employment with the department via voluntary retrenchment, and 17 staff members have resigned.
 - one staff member who was employed by DFAT on 31 October 2013 has ceased employment with the department via voluntary retrenchment, and 19 staff members have resigned.
4. As at Thursday 27 February 2014:
 - of the three staff members who were employed by AusAID on 31 October 2013 and ceased employment with the department via voluntary retrenchment, none filled specialist positions.
 - of the 17 staff members who were employed by AusAID on 31 October 2013 and have subsequently resigned, two filled specialist roles.
5. It is expected that the future graduate program for the integrated department will be based on a generalist model. The department will seek to attract candidates from diverse academic backgrounds able to take on foreign affairs, trade policy, development and corporate roles in the department.
6. Retention of development expertise throughout integration has been a key consideration in the development of integrated organisational structures. Dedicated development focused divisions have been established to ensure continuity of high quality advice to the aid program. In addition to these dedicated divisions there will be dedicated development positions within each of the geographic divisions to ensure ongoing support for country programs.
7. Yes. The Office of Development Effectiveness now reports to a Deputy Secretary. The decision was made by the Integration Steering Committee in the context of an integrated department.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 293

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 1. Has the government considered if the recent policy changes to the aid program are in line with the OECD guidelines?
 - a) If so what was the finding?**
 - b) If not why not?****
- 2. As Australia is a signatory to the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda have either of these been considered in light of the need for poverty alleviation to be the fundamental principle for aid programs?**
- 3. Does the government recognise it has any obligations under the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda?**
- 4. What role do the Multilateral Development Goal's have in determining aid policy?**
- 5. When the government promotes an aid for trade approach what does this mean?**
- 6. Does this mean Australia's aid policy will include using aid to promote free trade agreements such as PACER Plus in the Pacific?**

Answer

1. & 2. Poverty reduction has not been removed as an objective for the Australian aid program. The purpose of the Government's aid program is to promote Australia's national interests by contributing to international economic growth and poverty reduction. This purpose was clearly stated in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (page 3 – Portfolio Overview).

3. Australia continues to support the principles of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Action Agenda. The Government is implementing the principles in these documents as well as the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation through a strong focus on aid effectiveness, aid funding predictability and rigorous performance benchmarks to deliver a strong and effective aid program.

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4. The Australian Government is committed to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Australian aid program contributes to international efforts to achieve the MDGs.

5. The Government is seeking to undertake enhanced and better targeted aid for trade activities under Australia's aid program. Australia adheres to the accepted definition of aid for trade set by the World Trade Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The OECD definition is here <http://www.oecd.org/dac/aft/>. Australia has supported the global Aid for Trade Initiative of the WTO and the OECD since it began in 2005.

6. The World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) recognised in 2005 that developing countries might need capacity building assistance to negotiate and implement free trade agreements in order to get the most from such agreements. Consistent with this, the Australian Government has provided assistance to Forum Island Countries for PACER Plus since 2007. Australia's assistance is now valued at approximately \$13.3 million (2007-16), which has helped build the capacity of Forum Island Countries to negotiate in their national interest.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 294

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid and ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

1. *I would like some clarification on aid for trade – what does this mean?*
 - a. *What is the criteria or outcomes sought?*
 - b. *How will those outcomes be measured?*
 - c. *May I have any discussion papers or other documents outlining how aid for trade will work?*
2. *Does this mean Australia’s aid policy will include using aid to push free trade agreements such as PACER Plus in the Pacific? May I have details of how?*

Answer

1. Aid for trade was first used by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2005 under the Global Aid for Trade Initiative. The WTO defined aid for trade as “*about assisting developing countries to increase exports of goods and services, to integrate into the multilateral trading system, and to benefit from liberalised trade and increased market access*”.

Aid for trade activities are designed to help developing countries address constraints to trade such as:

- weak public sector institutions, including in formulating economic policy and regulations, and negotiating trade agreements;
- poor infrastructure, including roads, ports, and information and communications technology; and
- lack of private sector capability, including poor access to finance and distribution channels, and a lack of a skilled workforce.

Depending on the type of aid for trade activity and the situation of the developing country partner, there are potential varying outcomes.

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Just as for any other kinds of development assistance, appropriate measuring, monitoring and evaluation is undertaken to ensure that the assistance is effective, efficient and sustainable.

More information on Australia's aid for trade is available at <http://dfat.gov.au/trade/aid-for-trade/>

- 2. Does this mean Australia's aid policy will include using aid to push free trade agreements such as PACER Plus in the Pacific? May I have details of how?**

Please refer to the answer for QoN 293 part 6 in relation to using aid to promote free trade agreements.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 295

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid and ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 1. Recently Secretary of the Department, Mr Varghese, made comments to the effect that aid could only be effective if it is aimed at promoting economic growth, and that the core purpose of Australia's aid program should be focussed primarily on the same.**
 - a) May I have an expanded explanation of what was meant by those comments?**
 - b) The implication from the comments is that other aims or purposes could not be considered effective aid. Is this a correct interpretation? Was this a deliberate implication?**
- 2. Is the Secretary and/or the Department aware of the 2010 UN Millennium Development Goals Progress Report?**
 - a) With regard to that Report, what is the response to the UN Secretary General's statement that "While economic growth is necessary, it is not sufficient for progress" in alleviating poverty? (See: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/ga10922.doc.htm>)**
 - b) In what way does the Secretary or the Department agree or disagree with the UN Secretary General?**
- 3. May I have clarification of how the Department intends to promote economic growth that is sustainable, and that takes into account other social and structural factors that impact on the poverty of the most vulnerable and poorest people going forward?**

Answer

Question 1

- a) The Government has set the purpose of the aid program to promote economic growth. Australia's aid program recognises – consistent with evidence from international experience – that economic growth is the most effective way to sustainably lift large numbers of people out of poverty in developing countries.
- b) No.

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Question 2

- a) and b) The secretary is aware of the report, and agrees with the UN Secretary General's remarks that inclusive growth is critical for progress toward poverty reduction.

Question 3

- The Government will release a policy framework in due course.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 296

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 1. Will there be any cuts to Australian aid funding of Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program?***
- 2. If yes, how much is likely to be cut from this program and when?***
- 3. May I have details of discussions or consideration given to this program with regards to funding cuts?***

Answer

The total commitment to Pacific Women remains at \$320 million over 10 years (2012-2022). Country and regional plans have been developed which document initial activities to be funded under the initiative. Where reductions in program allocations this financial year have affected the initiative, some activities have been deferred to commence next financial year.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 297

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid and ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 1. Which Australian government funded aid projects and programs that had been planned, have been cut, delayed or had their budget reduced to make the cut to the 2013-14 budgeted amount?**
- 2. How many direct and indirect beneficiaries of Australian aid projects that have now been cut, reduced or delayed will now not benefit because of those changes? May I have their details?**
- 3. For the projects that have been delayed, will they be implemented in the 2014-15 budget?**
- 4. What Australian aid projects and programs have been cut, delayed or had their budget delayed in the following countries and regional programs:**
 - a) Solomon Islands,**
 - b) Pacific Regional Program**
 - c) Indonesia**
 - d) South East Asia - Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia**
 - e) East Asia Regional**
 - f) Bangladesh**
 - g) Sub Saharan Africa**
 - h) Cross regional**
 - i. education**
 - ii. health**
 - iii. water and sanitation**
 - iv. infrastructure**
 - v. rural development**
 - vi. governance**
 - vii. climate change and environmental sustainability**
 - viii. disability**
 - ix. gender**
 - i) Humanitarian and emergency response**
- 5. When was written advice provided to partner governments, multilateral organisations, contractors, NGOs and other implementing partners impacted by funding reductions from the revised 2013-14 budget?**
 - a) Can a copy of written advice be provided?**

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Answer

1. Details on the implementation of the revised budget for 2013-14 are available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) website.
2. DFAT is unable to speculate on the exact number of direct and indirect beneficiaries that may or may not be affected by the changes to the 2013-14 aid budget.
3. Funding allocations for 2014-15 will be determined through the budget process. Where possible, deferred program payments will be made in 2014-15 and in some cases the end date of the program will be extended due to the payment deferral.
4. Details on the implementation of the revised budget for 2013-14 are available on the DFAT website. Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process.
5. Partner governments and organisations were informed of the 2013-14 revised aid budget by DFAT officials on the day of the Minister's announcement, 18 January 2014, or as close as practical to that day. At many overseas posts, it was the DFAT Head of Mission who discussed the implications of the 2013-14 revised aid budget with partners. Written advice specific to the partner concerned would have been provided only in such cases where partners were unavailable for a meeting or discussion.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 298

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 1. Which programs and projects which had been planned have been cut, delayed or had their budget reduced to make the cut to the 2013-14 budgeted amount?*
- 2. How many direct and indirect beneficiaries would have benefited but will now not benefit from the programs that have been cut, delayed or had their budget reduced?*
- 3. For projects that have been delayed, are they guaranteed to be implemented in the 2014-15 budget?*
- 4. Have all governments, multilaterals, contractors, NGOs and other implementing partners been advised of any impact that cuts announced by the Federal Government what impact it will have on them?*

Answer

1. Details on the revised budget for 2013-14 are available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) website.
2. DFAT is unable to specify the exact number of direct and indirect beneficiaries that may or may not be affected by the changes to the 2013-14 aid budget.
3. Funding allocations for 2014-15 will be determined through the budget process. Where possible, delayed program payments will be made in 2014-15 and in some cases the end date of the program will be extended due to the delayed payment.
4. Partner governments and organisations were informed of the 2013-14 revised aid budget by DFAT officials on the day of the Minister's announcement, 18 January 2014, or as close as practical to that day. At many overseas posts, it was the DFAT Head of Mission who discussed the implications of the 2013-14 revised budget with partners. Written advice specific to the partner concerned would have been provided only in such cases where partners were unavailable for a meeting or discussion.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 299

Program: DFAT

Topic: Humanitarian Expenditure

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

1) DFAT answer to QoN 306, from Nov 2013 estimates shows that at November 2013 Australia had spent \$62.52 million on humanitarian emergency response (HER). Is this correct?

2) Since November 2013, the government has announced an additional:

- \$10 million for Syria (to UN agencies)*
- \$3 million to South Sudan (to the UN Common Humanitarian Fund)*
- and \$50,000 to Tonga.*

Is it correct this brings total reported expenditure on “humanitarian emergency response” to date to \$75.57 million? Is this correct?

3) Is it correct that in January 2014 the government cut AU\$119.7 humanitarian, emergency and refugee programs?

4) Is it correct that currently the Federal Government has budgeted AU\$264.2 million to global humanitarian, emergency and refugee program, which includes:

- a) \$22 million to ICRC*
- b) \$104.8 for ongoing partnerships with UN agencies*
- c) \$137.40 million allocated to humanitarian and emergency response (HER)*

5) Could you please confirm as correct that the remaining budget for HER therefore should be \$137.4 less the \$75.57 = \$61.83 million?

6) Given there is \$61.83 million available in the HER budget why has Australia only given one-tenth of its fair share to the global \$6.5 billion appeal for the Syria crisis?

7) What will the Federal Government do with remaining HER funding if it is not committed to emergencies before 30 June?

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8) How much of the entire Global Humanitarian Emergency and Refugee program has now been spent against each of the three budget lines (which are HER, ICRC and UN humanitarian)?

9) For expenditure against the HER budget line how much money was allocated to each emergency and how much has been allocated to each recipient (ie. NGO, UN agency, ICRC etc)?

10) In allocating expenditure to the HER program above, how does the department decide which emergencies to allocate funding to, and how much funding to give? What principles and policy guidelines is used in making such decisions?

11) In allocating expenditure to the HER program above, how does the department decide which partners (NGOs, UN, ICRC etc) to allocated funding to and which mechanisms to use?

12) What principles and policy guidance is used in making these decisions?

13) Did Australia's \$3 million contribution to South Sudan come out of the Africa program or out of the global humanitarian, emergency and refugee program?

14) Did Australia's \$10 million contribution to Syria appeal come out of the Middle East program or out of the global humanitarian, emergency and refugee program?

15) How does Australia report on official humanitarian expenditure allocated from within its country programs? For example, if funding has been allocated for South Sudan from the Africa program, how is this publicly reported?

16) Does Australia report on all of its official humanitarian assistance flows to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Financial Tracking Service?

a) If not, why does Australia not fully utilize this service, noting that according to Good Humanitarian Donorship principles Australia should be reporting its humanitarian assistance flows accurately and in a timely manner?

17) This year, what proportion of Australia's aid program has been allocated towards Disaster Risk Reduction?

a) What amount and proportion of ODA allocated to DRR annually per financial year from 2005/06 to 2013/14?

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Answer

1. Yes.
2. No, examples of other expenditure are at parts 8 and 9 of this response.
3. No.
4. Yes.
 - a) Yes
 - b) Yes
 - c) Yes.
5. No.
6. The Government does not accept Oxfam's assessment of 'fair share'. For the basis on which the government allocates humanitarian funding, please refer to question 313 part 10, below.
7. Refer to answer to QoN 52, Mandated Flexibility Fund. Funding will be fully committed before 30 June.
8. Humanitarian Emergency Response \$97m; ICRC \$22m, UN Humanitarian \$85.76m.

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9.

Event in order of occurrence	Country	Emergency	Humanitarian Response Total Expenditure (13/14 FY) \$m	Running Total (13/14 FY as at 4 April 2014) \$m	Recipient Agency \$m			
					UN	NGO	RED CROSS	OTHER
1	Tonga	Tropical Cyclone Ian	0.50	0.5			0.50	
2	Indonesia	Flooding and Landslides	0.05	0.55			0.05	
3	Philippines	Civil Conflict - Mindanao	0.75	1.30	0.70		0.05	
4	Philippines	Bohol earthquake	2.07	3.37	2.01		0.06	
5	Philippines	Typhoon Haiyan	41.22	44.59	19.07	9.76	7.00	5.39
6	Syria	Civil Conflict	30.50	75.09	23.50	5.00		2
7	Guinea-Bissau	Civil Conflict	0.5	75.59	0.50			
8	Mozambique	Demining	0.40	75.99	0.40			

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9	South Sudan	Protracted Crisis	3.00	78.99	3.00			
10	Somalia		10	88.99	2.00	2.50	5.50	
11	CAR		4	92.99			4.00	
12	Fiji	Dengue	0.75	93.74				0.75
13	Vanuatu	Tropical Cyclone Lusi	0.04	93.78			0.03	0.01
14	RMI	Flooding	0.05	93.83				0.05
15	Palau	Tropical Cyclone	0.1	93.93				0.1
16	Vanuatu	Landslide	0.05	93.98		0.03	0.02	
17	Indonesia	Earthquake	0.02	94.00				0.02
18	DPRK	Food insecurity	3	97.00	3.00			
TOTALS				97.00	54.18	17.29	17.21	8.32
				%	55.86	17.83	17.74	8.58

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10. The Humanitarian Action Policy, 2011, guides decision making on responses. As described on page 43, we consider;
- Needs of the affected population
 - Scale of the disaster and affected government response capacities, circumstances and preferences, including whether a request for assistance has been made
 - Funding and plans of other donors
 - Capacity and activities of humanitarian partners on the ground
 - Australia's national interest, including where our resources will be most efficient and effective
 - Geographic location – Australia is committed to support our near neighbours, while continuing to be responsive to humanitarian requests globally
 - Good Humanitarian Donorship, including predictable, flexible, diversified and longer-term funding arrangements with limited ear-marking.

Within this framework, appropriateness, effectiveness, timeliness, efficiency and accountability are our prime considerations in determining how to respond.

11. The Humanitarian Action Policy, 2011, guides decision making on what partners to use. As described on page 45, we consider;
- Pre-existing partnership
 - On-the-ground experience and capability
 - Expertise and experience in the type of response required
 - Ability to deliver appropriate, effective, timely, efficient and accountable response.
12. The Humanitarian Action Policy, 2011.
13. The \$3 million contribution to Sudan was from the Global Program – Humanitarian, Emergencies and Refugees.
14. Australia's \$10 million contribution to the Syria appeal came out of the Middle East program (\$6 million), the Global program – Humanitarian, Emergency and Refugees (\$3 million) and Mandated Flexibility (\$1 million).
15. Australia reports annually on humanitarian expenditure to the OECD Development Assistance Committee against globally agreed Development Assistance Committee codes. This is examined critically by the OECD to ensure consistency across donors. This is publically available and published on their website: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/data.htm>
16. No.
- a) Australia puts response funding on the Financial Tracking Service. Australia reports its full humanitarian expenditure – response plus risk reduction and preparedness annually to the OECD (see question 15).

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17. Disaster risk reduction expenditure can only be calculated at the end of each financial year. Figures for 2013/14 will be finalized at the end of 2014.

a) Tracking of disaster risk reduction expenditure commenced following the 2009 launch of Investing in a Safer Future: A disaster risk reduction policy for the aid program. Australia's investment in disaster risk reduction has been steady at around \$100m per year for the past three years (see table below). This is more than 2 per cent of the total Australian budget for overseas development assistance, double the UN target of 1 per cent.

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
\$	\$41.6m	\$59.1m	\$102.8m	\$111.2m	\$106.4m
% ODA	1.09%	1.51%	2.36%	2.3%	2.07%

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 300

Program: DFAT

Topic: ODA

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 1. How much aid money is being used for:**
 - a) offshore processing**
 - b) domestic detention of refugees and asylum seekers in detention centres**
 - c) domestic detention of refugees and asylum seekers in processing centres**
- 2. In light of reports from Cambodian officials that they expect an increase in aid funding from Australia, are you aware of plans to increase Australian aid money to Cambodia?**
 - a) If so what is the increase in dollars and the increase by percentage?**
 - b) Could this increase in aid money to Cambodia be used as a bargaining chip for proposed refugee resettlement deal?**
- 3. How much Australian aid money to Sri Lanka is used on aid programs to stop asylum seekers from leaving Sri Lanka?**
- 4. Is Australian aid money given to the Sri Lankan navy?**
 - a) If so how much Australian aid money has been allocated to the Sri Lankan navy?**
 - b) Have any conditions been put on using this money?**
 - c) If so what are those conditions and have they been abided with?**
 - d) Has any aspect of Australian assistance been used to for activities to stop asylum seekers from leaving Sri Lanka?**

Answer

1.
 - a. None. These costs are not ODA eligible under the OECD DAC directives.
 - b. None. These costs are not ODA eligible under the OECD DAC directives.
 - c. None. These costs are not ODA eligible under the OECD DAC directives.
2. Funding allocations for the aid program will be determined through future budget processes.
3. None.
4. None.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 301

Program: DFAT

Topic: Deforestation

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 1. *In response to a question I asked at the last Supplementary Budget Estimates (21 November 2013), DFAT stated that ‘All IFCI budget measure funding has been spent.’ Considering this response and that Australian contributions funded through the International Forest Carbon Initiative to projects including the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership, the World Bank Forest Investment Program, a Research Partnership with the Centre for International Forestry Research, and the Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership:***
 - a) Does DFAT retain the commitment AusAID had to reducing deforestation in developing countries?***
 - b) If so, what measures does it propose to take to further this goal?***

Answer

- a) Future support for reducing deforestation in developing countries will be considered as part of the DFAT annual budget process.
- b) Future support for reducing deforestation in developing countries will be considered as part of the DFAT annual budget process.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 302

Program: DFAT

Topic: Aid

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 1. *Considering the Cambodian Daily has reported that the Australian aid funded Cambodian railways project has been indefinitely postponed with 300km of rail still to be laid,***
 - a) has the Australian government fulfilled its funding commitments for the Cambodian railway project that? If not why?***
 - b) Will the Australian government provide funding to complete the railway? If not why?***
- 2. *Considering the Asian Development Bank has admitted to inadequately compensating families, failing to properly consult affected families, deficiencies with the resettlement sites, an inadequate grievance process, delays in helping evictees make a living and to weak monitoring:***
 - a) Does the Australian government agree with the Asian Development Bank's admission that the Cambodian railways project breached the human rights of people in communities living alongside and relocated away from the railway line?***
- 3. *Does the Australian government admit fault for these human rights abuses?***
- 4. *What is the Australian government doing to ensure affected people are properly compensated and supported? Which body will be overseeing the process?***

Answer

1. a) Yes.

b) The Australian Government is not currently considering providing additional funding to the Railway Rehabilitation Project.

2. a) The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Compliance Review Panel (CRP) assessed the ADB's compliance with its own safeguard policies. The CRP report found the project to be non-compliant in a number of areas, and recommended actions to bring the project back into compliance with these policies. The

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Australian Government welcomes the CRP's report as a constructive assessment of the needs of families affected by the Cambodia Railway Rehabilitation Project, but as this report is about the ADB's compliance with its own policies, this is a matter for the ADB and the Cambodian Government.

3. No. The Australian Government is firmly of the view that its decision to fund the project is fully consistent with Australia's domestic and international legal obligations, including under international human rights law.

4. The ADB is working with the Cambodian Government to agree on an Action Plan to implement the CRP report's recommendations. The Australian Government will wait until these parties agree on an Action Plan, and carefully consider how it can best support implementation of the recommendations.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 303

Program: DFAT

Topic: Afghanistan

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 1. Will the \$17.7m to Afghanistan for elimination of violence against women announced last year be affected by any aid cuts?**
- 2. How will the program be affected and what is the dollar amount that will be cut?**
- 3. Will Australia be doing anything at the United Nations Security Council this year to advocate for human rights and women's rights protections in Afghanistan? If so what is the government planning on doing?**
- 4. When will the government provide a response to the 2012 Senate FADT Committee report into Aid to Afghanistan particularly in respect to the recommendations 30 (aid to women's groups); 26 (human rights and gender training by ADF and AFP in advisory role to Afghan forces)?**
- 5. How is Australia monitoring/applying pressure to ensure progress towards Afghanistan's commitment in the Development Framework Agreement between the two countries to: "improve the future of women and girls by prioritising health and education outcomes, and finalising and implementing the National Action Plan to implement UNSCR 1325 [involving women in peace negotiations and ensuring their participation in the promotion of peace and security]"**
- 6. Is the Australian government encouraging the full participation of Afghan women in any peace and negotiation talks? If so what actions have been taken to achieve this? If not, why not?**
- 7. What women groups is the Australian government working with to ensure this full participation?**

Answer

1. Implementation of the proposed aid budget expenditure for 2013-14 has been finalised and is available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. The Afghanistan Elimination of Violence Against Women Program budget has not been affected.

Funding allocations for future years will be determined through the 2014-15 budget process. Support for women and girls will remain a key element of Australia's development efforts in Afghanistan.

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2. See (1) above.
3. As UN Security Council (UNSC) coordinator ('pen-holder') for Afghanistan, Australia is working to ensure the Council remains committed to international efforts to protect and advance the basic rights of the Afghan people. The Government advocates for the protection and promotion of human rights (including the rights of women and girls) through the UNSC-mandated United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

As pen-holder, Australia has facilitated the adoption of renewed mandates for ISAF in 2013, and UNAMA in 2013 and 2014. Most recently, the Council renewed the UNAMA mandate (Resolution 2145) on 17 March 2014. The resolution was drafted and negotiated by Australia. Resolution 2145 bolstered the role of the UN in supporting the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. It includes new and strengthened provisions to support political participation by Afghan women, enhance protection from sexual violence and hold perpetrators of gender-based violence to account, and maintain legislative protections for Afghan women. The resolution also ensures the UN can continue to support Afghan-led efforts to strengthen governance and human rights (such as the capacity and independence of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission), build capacity and direct much-needed resources to the Afghan people.

Australia highlights the importance of protection of human rights through our national statements to the Council during quarterly open debates. The Government has used these statements to encourage Afghanistan to finalise and implement a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and to hold Presidential and Provincial elections that maximise voter participation, especially the participation of women.

As pen-holder, Australia has also authored press statements on behalf of Council members condemning attacks against civilians and violations against human rights, including in response to the 17 January La Taverna and 20 March Serena Hotel attacks. Australia will continue to work with Council members to ensure these statements reinforce the importance of protection of all persons including women, children, media workers and detainees.

Looking ahead, the Council will be considering the UN role in Afghanistan post-2014. In this context, Australia will continue to advocate for strong human rights protections as a core tenet of any post-2014 UNSC framework.

4. The Government's response is being considered, including to Recommendations 26 and 30, and will be tabled when approved.
5. Australia's aid program to Afghanistan is guided by the Development Framework Agreement 2012-2017, signed with the Afghan Government in July 2012. The Agreement identifies specific commitments by the Afghan

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government to women and girls' protection and development, including the prioritization of health and education outcomes and finalization and implementation of the Afghan Government's National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UNSCR 1325. Progress against these commitments is reviewed annually at senior level Development Cooperation Dialogue (DCD) meetings held between Australian and Afghan government officials.

Australia also works closely with the international community to monitor action by the Afghan Government in line with its commitments to protect and promote the rights of women and girls. This includes monitoring progress on implementation of the Elimination of Violence Against Women Law and the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan, which are two key indicators in the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (agreed by international donors and the Afghan Government at the July 2012 Tokyo Conference).

Australia works with the Afghan Government and other key donors (the '5+3 Group') to ensure rigorous oversight of TMAF progress and sustained focus on reform, including through an active role in TMAF technical and steering committees in Kabul, working-level collaboration between '5+3' donor capitals and high-level meetings.

Australia also has strong bilateral policy engagement in the education sector including monitoring progress against key aid effectiveness and performance indicators. For example, DFAT posted officers meet regularly with the Ministry of Education and independent monitoring is conducted on Australia's bilateral investments to assess and verify results and agree mutual management actions, as required.

6. Australia advocates for the inclusion of women in peace efforts in Afghanistan by ensuring provisions in Council resolutions such as the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) renewal authorisation and United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) mandate include not only the promotion and protection of women, but also women's participation in peace and reconciliation efforts.
7. Australia supports the participation of women in peace and reconciliation processes through its contribution to the Afghanistan Peace and Reconciliation Program (APRP). Through the APRP women are actively encouraged to engage in peace and reconciliation activities, including through conferences, civil society organizations, membership of the High Peace Council and of the Provincial Peace Councils (PPCs). In addition, APRP has established close partnerships with government institutions, including the Ministry of Women Affairs, to deliver its programs. At the provincial level, PPCs comprise key local stakeholders, including women, who are responsible for initiating and supporting peace initiatives in their communities.

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Australia is also finalising a partnership agreement with an Afghan women's network to provide funding to support strengthened national and international advocacy on priority peace and security, rights and legislative reform issues impacting Afghan women and girls.

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Question No 304

Program: DFAT

Topic: Green Climate Fund

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

1. *Considering the DFAT website, 'Aid' section, under the heading "Green Climate Fund," states that 'Australia ... has a Board seat for the first three-year Board term, on behalf of Australia and New Zealand' -*
 - a) *Has Australia retained its Board seat on the Green Climate Fund?*
 - b) *How much has been allocated by the relevant department to supporting Australia's Board seat obligations on the Green Climate Fund?*
 - c) *How much is earmarked in the budget for Australia's commitment to the Green Climate Fund?*
2. *Considering the Ausaid budget under the line item, 'Contribution to Global Environment Programs' the amount allocated had been reduced from \$74.6 million in the 2012-2013 budget to \$0 in the 2013-2014 revised budget -*
 - a) *What programs were previously funded under 'Global Environmental Programs'?*
 - b) *How much of this allocation has remained as contributions to global environmental programs but have been reallocated under the Environment portfolio?*

Answer

1. a) In mid-2012, Australia secured a seat on the Green Climate Fund Board for a three-year term on behalf of Australia and New Zealand.

b) There is no dedicated allocation to the Green Climate Fund in the 2013-14 budget. Costs associated with fulfilling our board responsibilities include staff time and travel.

c) There is no allocation to the Green Climate Fund in the 2013-2014 budget.

2. a) Of the \$74.6 million for Global Environment Programs in 2012-13, \$72.6 million were for programs that were part of the final year of Australia's climate change Fast Start financing package. A final account of Australia's Fast Start finance is available on the DFAT website located at this link <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Publications/Pages/fast-start-climate-finance-2010-13.aspx>. The remaining \$2 million was for the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

b) There has been no reallocation of contributions to global environmental programs to the Environment portfolio.

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Question No 305

Program: DFAT

Topic: Product Development Partnerships

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 1. Why, given the commitment of the Government to increasing engagement of the private sector in the aid program, did DFAT terminate funding of public-private Product Development Partnerships for TB and malaria by discontinuing the Medical Research Strategy in January 2014?*
- 2. What plans does the Government have to reinstate support to Product Development Partnerships to develop new tools to fight TB and malaria, given that the lack of effective drugs and vaccines for these diseases is undermining the effectiveness of Australian-funded health programs?*

Answer

1. Funding for Product Development Partnerships has not been cut, and agreements will continue as planned until June 2014.
2. Further funding for Product Development Partnerships will be considered through future budget processes.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 306

Program: DFAT

Topic: GAVI

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 1. Considering the Foreign Affairs Minister's recent praise of the vaccine group the GAVI Alliance, has the Government determined what amounts it will contribute to GAVI in 2014 and 2015, given that Australia's 2011 pledge covered only the first three years of the GAVI five-year planning period and is now completed?***
- 2. Is the Government planning to proceed with the \$40 million over four years for nutrition measures in Asia-Pacific countries, which Australia announced at the Nutrition for Growth Summit in June 2013?***
- 3. How much of the \$40 million committed at the Nutrition for Growth Summit will be allocated in 2013-14?***
- 4. Does the Government remain committed to developing a nutrition strategy for the Australian aid program, and when should we expect the strategy to be released?***

Answer

- No decision has yet been made as to the Government's future support for the GAVI Alliance. Funding allocations will be determined through future budget processes.
- 4.

The \$40 million commitment was a budget measure of the previous Government. \$1 million was allocated for 2013-14 and is fully committed to targeted nutrition research and analysis. Nutrition is an integrated element of Australia's aid program and Australia is also actively participating in the donor network of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement. Future priorities for the aid program will be considered through the 2014-15 budget process.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 307

Program: DFAT

Topic: Polio Eradication & other multilateral commitments

Question in Writing

Senator Rhiannon

Question

- 1. *Considering Australia made an \$80 million funding commitment to the Polio Eradication Initiative in May 2013, to cover the 2014-2018 eradication drive, and we are currently in the middle of the funding cycle of our previous pledging cycle, in which we are committed to 50 million dollars over 2011-2014, how much has the government disbursed this year, and how much remains outstanding on our pledge?***
- 2. *Is the Government still on track to provide \$20 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in the 2014-15 budget?***
- 3. *Is the Government also on track to meet the additional commitment of \$80 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative from 2015-16 to 2018?***
- 4. *If this information is not yet known, when will it be available?***
- 5. *If we have to wait until May, will the forward estimates of the 2014-15 budget also detail exactly when and how multilateral commitments that extend beyond 2014-15 will be delivered on?***
- 6. *Is the Government still on track to deliver on its commitment to provide \$270 million to the Global Partnership for Education by 2014?***
- 7. *Will the Government make an increased commitment of \$100 million p.a. to the Global Partnership for Education at the Partnership's replenishment conference in June?***
- 8. *Is the projected increase of aid to family planning to \$53 million p.a. by 2016 still on track, as committed to by the Australian government at the 2012 London Family Planning Summit?***
- 9. *Will the Government announce an additional contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria during the Fund's 2014-16 replenishment cycle, above and beyond the \$200 million commitment the Government announced in December 2013?***
- 10. *Given increased economic growth does not necessarily equate to a reduction in poverty, what safeguards are in place to ensure that Australian aid continues to support efforts to alleviate human suffering and poverty now that reference to poverty reduction has been changed in the aid program's policy objectives?***
- 11. *If the Government is of the opinion that higher economic growth automatically results in poverty alleviation, why was there a need to change reference to poverty alleviation in the aid program's policy objectives? Does this not send the message that aid spending in the first instance needs to drive economic growth before alleviating human suffering and poverty?***

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Answer

1. The previous Government's commitment of \$50 million to polio was over four years (2011-12 to 2014-15).
 - \$15 million has been paid to date, comprising \$5 million in 2011-12 and \$10 million in 2012-13.
 - \$15 million will be paid this financial year (2013-14).
2. Funding allocations for future years will be determined through budget processes.
3. The pledge of \$80 million over four years (2015-16 to 2018-19) to GPEI was made by the previous Government. Future funding for polio will be considered through budget processes.
4. See answer to question 3 above.
5. Funding allocations for future year multilateral commitments will be considered through budget processes.
6. Australia has a final payment of \$100 million to fulfil its \$270 million pledge to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). To date, all contributions have been made in line with the payment schedule.
7. The commitment to double funding for family planning services to \$53 million per year by 2016 was made by the previous Government. Future funding for family planning will be considered through budget processes.
8. Funding allocations for future years will be determined through future budget processes.
9. No.
10. Poverty reduction has not been removed as an objective for the Australian aid program. The purpose of the Government's aid program is to promote Australia's national interests by contributing to international economic growth and poverty reduction. This purpose was clearly stated in the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (page 3 – Portfolio Overview).
11. See answer to question 10 above.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 308

Program: DFAT

Topic: World Heritage Committee Lobbying

Question in Writing

Senator Waters

Question

In relation to representations made by the Australian Government to relating to the June 2014 meeting of the World Heritage Committee (WHC),

- 1. How many Government officials have been involved in formal and informal meetings with representatives of the WHC Secretariat and/or representatives of WHC members to date in the lead up to this meeting?*
- 2. How many meetings have already taken place between Departmental or Ministerial staff and representatives of each WHC member nation?*
- 3. Have Departmental or Ministerial staff had any correspondence or any meetings with the World Heritage Centre? If so, please provide a breakdown including dates.*
- 4. Have Departmental or Ministerial staff had any correspondence or any meetings with the International Union for Conservation of Nature? If so, please provide a breakdown including dates.*
- 5. Have Departmental or Ministerial staff had any correspondence or any meetings with the International Council on Monuments and Sites? If so, please provide a breakdown including dates.*
- 6. How does the current advocacy effort compare to the 2013 and 2012 meetings of the Committee? Please provide a breakdown of resources committed including staff and expenditure.*
- 7. Please provide a breakdown of the number of meetings held between Departmental and Ministerial staff and foreign representatives in relation to the Committee's deliberations in 2012, 2013 and 2014 to date.*
- 8. Will the Minister be participating in the delegation to the meeting in June?*
- 9. Will any Ministerial staff be participating in the delegation to the meeting in June?*
- 10. Can a breakdown be provided of how many staff attending are anticipated to be involved in the June meeting delegation, including,*
 - a. technical staff,*
 - b. other staff?*
- 11. Which Government official will lead the delegation in June? If this is not settled, which APS level would they hold?*
- 12. Will any industry, community, scientific or other non-*

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Government representatives form part of the Australian Government delegation in June? If yes, please provide details.

- 13.** *Have any Government Ministers been involved in making representations to the WHC Secretariat and/ or representatives of WHC members in the past six months? Please provide details.*

Answer

- A. This is a matter for the Department of Environment which has informed the Department of Foreign Affairs that it is preparing a response.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 309

Program: DFAT

Topic: Investor State Dispute Settlement Provisions

Question in Writing

Senator Whish-Wilson

Question

- 1. In relation to ISDS provisions in KAFTA, Minister Robb has referred to carve outs for environmental, health and public welfare legislation. Is there specific carve outs or are the carve outs based on standard text about indirect expropriations found in other agreements? If there are specific carve outs can you direct me to exactly where in the text of the KAFTA agreement the specific carve outs are mentioned?***

KAFTA includes a number of kinds of protections for public welfare regulation including with regard to human health and the environment. These include:

- General exceptions – which apply to all obligations of the Investment Chapter – for measures necessary to protect human, animal and plant life or health, and for measures relating to the conservation of exhaustible natural resources. Both of these exceptions explicitly include environmental measures (Article 22.1.3).
- a reservation (in Annex II to the Agreement) which preserves Australia's ability to maintain existing measures or any adopt new measures with respect to human health. This reservation applies to the obligations of National Treatment, Most-Favoured-Nation treatment, Performance Requirements, and Senior Management and Boards of Directors.
- There are a number of other Annex II reservations which expressly preserve policy space in relation to the relevant obligations including those with regard to:
 - . the regulation of blood and blood products,
 - . preferences to Indigenous persons or organisations,
 - . preferences to socially or economically disadvantaged groups,
 - . social services;
 - . culture and creative arts; and
 - . public education.
- In the Annex on Expropriation (Annex 11-B): confirmation that except in rare circumstances, non-discriminatory regulatory actions

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by a Party to protect legitimate public welfare objectives, such as public health and the environment, do not constitute expropriation. Similar formulations are contained in existing agreements however KAFTA contains an additional note which confirms, for greater certainty, that such regulatory actions to protect public health include regulation, supply and reimbursement with respect to pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, vaccines, medical devices, health-related aids and appliances and blood and blood products (footnote 21).

- The obligations of fair and equitable treatment and full protection and security – which have been interpreted broadly by some ISDS tribunals – are explicitly limited to the minimum standard of treatment at customary international law (Article 11.5).
- An expedited process which allow for frivolous claims to be dismissed at a preliminary stage and for costs to be awarded against the investor (Article 11.20.8).

2. Does DFAT have a legal fund set aside for defending ISDS litigation?

DFAT does not have a separate fund set aside for the defence of investor-State disputes.

a. How much money is set aside in this fund?

Not applicable. See response above to Question on Notice 323.2.

3. If a state government or local government is sued under ISDS provisions, does DFAT have a position on whether it would advise or financially assist the government in question to defend the ISDS case.

Any claim brought under an investor-State dispute settlement provision in one of Australia's existing international agreements would be against the Commonwealth of Australia as the party to the relevant international agreement.

4. Does DFAT have in house legal specialists on ISDS or does the Department seek legal advice as necessary?

DFAT has in-house legal specialists on ISDS.

5. How much money has DFAT spent so far on defending the cigarette plain packaging ISDS litigation?

The Department of Health has responsibility for funding the defence of the tobacco plain packaging legislation in the investor-State dispute brought by Philip Morris Asia under the Australia-Hong Kong bilateral investment treaty. Further questions relating to budgeting arrangements for the defence of this dispute should be directed to the Department of Health.

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6. *How many staff do DFAT currently have working on this case and what classification levels are they?*

The Attorney-General's Department is the agency with primary responsibility for defending the tobacco plain packaging dispute brought by Philip Morris Asia under the Australia-Hong Kong bilateral investment treaty. The Attorney-General's Department works closely with DFAT's Tobacco Plain Packaging Taskforce and the Department of Health in the defence of this dispute.

Resources are allocated to DFAT's Tobacco Plain Packaging Taskforce according to the requirements of the investor-State dispute as well as the challenges against tobacco plain packaging in the World Trade Organization dispute settlement system. The Taskforce currently comprises officers at the SES, Executive and APS levels.

7. *Do DFAT staff have access to the documents relating to the case that Phillip Morris have prevented from being publicly released?*

The Attorney-General's Department is the agency with primary responsibility for the tobacco plain packaging dispute brought by Philip Morris Asia under the Australia-Hong Kong bilateral investment treaty. The Attorney-General's Department works in close collaboration with DFAT's Tobacco Plain Packaging Taskforce and the Department of Health in the defence of this dispute.

Members of DFAT's Tobacco Plain Packaging Taskforce have access to documents relevant to the dispute by virtue of their role in the defence of the international legal challenges to tobacco plain packaging.

8. *How much money is Phillip Morris seeking in damages from the Australian Government?*

The amount of damages claimed by Philip Morris Asia in the tobacco plain packaging investor-State dispute is confidential information. Australia is not able to disclose this figure under the applicable rules relating to confidential information in the dispute proceedings.

The Attorney-General's Department is the agency with primary responsibility for the tobacco plain packaging dispute brought by Philip Morris Asia under the Australia-Hong Kong bilateral investment treaty. Further questions relating to the defence of this dispute should be directed to the Attorney-General's Department.

9. *How many times have Australian companies utilized ISDS provisions to litigate against a foreign government?*

The Government is aware that three Australian-incorporated companies have launched (separate) ISDS proceedings.

a. Can a list of the cases be provided?

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White Industries v the Government of India; Tethyan Copper Company Pty Limited v Islamic Republic of Pakistan (ICSID Case No. ARB/12/1); and Churchill Mining v Republic of Indonesia (ICSID Case No. ARB/12/40 and 12/14). The Government is also aware that the Australian-incorporated company OceanaGold has acquired Pacific Rim Mining (Pac Rim Cayman LLC v. Republic of El Salvador (ICSID Case No. ARB/09/12)).

- 10. *Is DFAT aware of the case in El Salvador where a Canadian Based company which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Australian Company OceanaGold is suing the Government under ISDS provisions?***

Yes.

- a. Has DFAT had any correspondence with OceanaGold regarding this issue?***

No.

- b. has DFAT provided advice to the Company on how to proceed under ISDS provisions?***

No.

- c. Has the company approached consular staff for information or assistance on this case?***

No.

- d. Has OceanaGold spoken to Austrade about this issue?***

No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 311

Program: DFAT

Topic: Trans Pacific Partnership

Question in Writing

Senator Whish-Wilson

Question

- 1. *How many staff are currently working on the TPP in DFAT and what classification levels are they?***

DFAT currently has 21 officers at the SES, Executive and APS levels devoting some of their time to TPP negotiations.

- 2. *Apart from DFAT which government departments sent representatives to the recent Singapore negotiation round?***

The February 2014 negotiations in Singapore were attended by representatives from the following government departments:

- . Attorney-General's Department (two officers)
- . Department of Environment (one officer)
- . Department of Finance (one officer)
- . Department of Health (two officers)
- . Department of Industry (one officer)
- . IP Australia (one officer).

- 3. *Can you provide the total cost to DFAT of negotiating the TPP from when preparations for the first negotiation rounds began? Include cost of staffing resources, travel, external consultancies.***

To identify and collate this amount of information would entail significant diversion of resources and, in these circumstances, DFAT does not consider the additional work can be justified.

- 4. *Of the 29 chapters in the agreement how many have actually been agreed?***

Although negotiations on some chapters are finalised, nothing is agreed until all chapters are agreed.

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- 5. *Have DFAT consulted with local government representatives about the TPP?***

Yes.

- 6. *Is DFAT aware of the Industry Trade Advisory Committee in the US which is made up of industry groups and companies who provide advice on technical issues and text wording to US trade representatives. Does DFAT have a similar committee? If not why not?***

No. DFAT consults with all relevant industry groups.

- 7. *Is DFAT aware of the US Trade Representatives (USTR) concept of 'cleared advisors'?***

Yes.

Does Australia grant similar rights to any stakeholders in Australia?

No.

- 8. *Has Minister Robb ever meet with USTR 'cleared advisors'?***
a. If yes when have these meetings occurred?

Minister Robb has met with a number of US stakeholders. DFAT is not aware of which US stakeholders are 'cleared advisors'.

- 9. *Did DFAT provide briefing to the Ministers office regarding the Senate motion for order of production of documents regarding the text of the TPPA?***

Yes.

- 10. *Does DFAT have a departmental policy on these types or orders in relation to the text of unsigned trade agreements?***

No.

- 11. *Did DFAT draft the letter signed by Minister Cormann which he provided to the Senate in response to the motion?***

DFAT provided input into the letter drafting.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 310

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Whish-Wilson

Question

1. *When was the modelling referred to in the media release of 5 December 2013 by the Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Investment titled 'Australia concludes FTA negotiations with the Republic of Korea' commissioned?*
2. *Over what time period was the modelling carried out?*
3. *How were the parameters set for the modelling?*
4. *Was the modelling peer reviewed in any way?*
5. *What was the cost of the contract for the modelling?*
6. *Has the Department provided advice to the Minister about publicly releasing the modelling?*
7. *What did the modelling indicate about the outcome for the car industry?*
8. *Did DFAT consult with car industry about KAFTA and the modelling parameters*
 - a. *If so how many meetings were held between DFAT and car industry representatives?*
 - b. *Can the detail of these meetings be provided? (where, when and who attended)*
9. *When were DFAT instructed to commission a new modelling report which was dated the 28 February 2014 and was tabled in the Senate on the 3rd of March*
 - a. *How much did it cost to produce this new report?*
10. *Has the Government commissioned similar modelling for the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement?*

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Answer

1. 15 November 2013.
2. The modelling was carried out between 15 and 29 November 2013. An updated report was prepared between 13 and 28 February 2014.
3. For the initial report the modellers were provided with the near final negotiated tariff outcomes for KAFTA. For the updated report they were provided with the final agreed tariff outcomes.
4. No.
5. The total cost of the two contracts was \$64,625 (GST inclusive). Details are publicly available on the Government's Austender website.
6. DFAT advised the Trade and Investment Minister's Office that economic modelling on a concluded trade agreement had not been previously conducted and that there was no precedent for releasing such analysis.
7. Based on information available at that time, the modelling estimated that the motor vehicle and parts industry would experience a 52 per cent (\$211 million) increase in exports to Korea by 2030.
8. Yes, DFAT regularly consulted with representatives from the Australian automotive industry about KAFTA, but not about the economic modelling parameters.
 - a. Since 1 January 2013, seven meetings have been held with industry representatives.
 - b. Since 1 January 2013, face-to-face meetings on the KAFTA negotiations took place with the following Australian automotive industry bodies:
 - . Federation of Automotive Products Manufacturers: 11 February 2013 and 29 February 2014 (both in Melbourne). The principal individual involved in the meetings was Richard Reilly – Chief Executive Officer.
 - . Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries: 5 March 2013 (Canberra). The principal individuals involved in the meetings were Mr Tony Weber, Chief Executive and Mr Ashley Wells Director of Policy.
 - . Ford Australia: 13 February 2013 (Melbourne). The principal individuals involved in the meetings were Russell Scoular – Regional Director Government Affairs, Asia Pacific and Africa and Ian Mearns – Government Affairs Director, Government Affairs.

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- . Toyota Australia: 11 February 2013 (Melbourne) and 6 March 2014 (Canberra). The principal individuals involved in the meetings were Vesna Bennis – Corporate Manager, Corporate Affairs and Andrew Willis, Manager Government Affairs and Trade Policy.
 - . GM Holden: 13 February 2013 (Melbourne). The principal individuals involved in the meetings were Matt Hobbs – Director, Government Relations and Internal Communications and David Magill – Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor.
9. DFAT commissioned an updated modelling report on 13 February 2014. The cost of the updated report was \$23,375 (GST inclusive).
10. No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 312

Program: DFAT

Topic: Pharmaceutical Patents Review

Question in Writing

Senator Whish-Wilson

Question

- 1. Is DFAT aware of the Pharmaceutical Patents Review?***
- 2. Has DFAT received a copy of the final report?***
- 3. Has the Minister been briefed on its contents and recommendations?***

Answer

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. The Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment has been briefed on the contents and recommendations of the Pharmaceutical Patents Review.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 313

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

a. What economic assessments and inputs were obtained during the final negotiation rounds to inform negotiators of the economic impact of considered concessions and negotiation position?

b. Who provided the advice?

c. What was the scope of their engagement?

d. What were they paid?

e. When was the Centre for International Economics ("CIE") engaged to provide economic analysis relating to the KAFTA negotiations and/or final text? When and how did CEI provide advice to DFAT?

f. What was the scope of engagement of CIE? What is their fee? Please provide a copy of the engagement letter or agreement.

g. When was the CEI report on KAFTA first received? Who provided input and comments? How many versions were provided? When was the final report delivered to DFAT? Is there a longer-form report from CEI? If so, can it be provided?

h. Is there any economic modelling or report from any other provider? If so, please provide details.

i. How many jobs will be created between implementation of KAFTA and 2030? Please provide a detailed profile (including by sector, area and times).

j. Please describe and explain the modelling process and projections in relation to job numbers per year, per industry sector, per state and in the aggregate.

k. What is the overall net jobs impact of both KAFTA and without KAFTA for Australia?

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l. What is the KAFTA estimated to reduce tariff revenue by over the forward estimates, keeping in mind that the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (“AANZFTA”) does not apply to goods exported from Korea?

m. In regards to the adjustment tariff revenue projected associated with the KAFTA, on what specific Australian industries and/or regions is the KAFTA likely to impose the most significant adjustment costs? Please provide a breakdown of the above.

n. Please explain how the car manufacturing industry in Australia was accounted for in all associated including impact projections.

o. Please explain and provide details why the total exports in the mining industry are expected to decline as a result of the implementation of KAFTA?

p. With reference to a 2013 DFAT Fact Sheet on the KAFTA Key Outcomes which states that by 2030 Australian exports to Korea would be 25% higher than they otherwise would have been, what is the source of this figure and how was it calculated?

q. With reference to the CIE report that states that the overall “total quantity of exports from Australia increases by 0.1 percent (or \$280 million) as a result of the FTA”, from which markets/countries are exports redirected from in favour of Korea? What sectors / goods /services?

r. What analysis has been done to assess the benefits of the agreed KAFTA (or prior versions) for Korea?

s. Who provided the analysis and who paid?

t. Was a comparative analysis done on the allocation of benefits and disadvantages for both State Parties? If so, please provide details.

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Answer

a. Modelling was not used as a specific input into final negotiations. The modelling did, however, help confirm the government's assessment of the benefits of the outcomes of KAFTA.

b. N/A.

c. N/A.

d. N/A.

e. CIE was engaged on 15 November 2013 and delivered a report on 29 November 2013.

CIE was engaged again on 13 February 2014 to conduct an update of its analysis, which was delivered on 28 February 2014.

f. CIE was asked to estimate the impact on the Australian economy of trade liberalisation under KAFTA. The total cost of the two contracts was \$64,625 (GST inclusive). Copies of the two official order forms are attached.

g. CIE first delivered a report of its modelling analysis on 29 November 2013.

The report did not incorporate comments from sources other than CIE itself. DFAT provided CIE with KAFTA tariff schedules as input to its report.

In total, five versions of the report – all consistent with each other – were provided.

CIE delivered its final report to DFAT on 28 February 2014.

No, there is no longer-form report from CIE.

The 29 November 2013 and 28 February 2014 versions of the report have been tabled in the Senate.

h. A joint Korean-Australian feasibility study was completed in April 2008. It is available on DFAT's website.

i. CIE's final analysis estimates 1,745 jobs would be created in the first year after KAFTA's entry into force (2015). In 2030, 950 jobs would be created.

The Appendix to the report details employment impacts by sector.

j. Section 2 (page 6) of CIE's updated report describes the modelling methodology. Modelled economic impacts, including employment impacts and effects on states and territories, are described in Section 4 (page 12). The Appendix (page 17) contains sectoral analysis of KAFTA.

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k. CIE's final analysis estimates 1,745 jobs would be created in the first year after KAFTA's entry into force (2015). In 2030, 950 jobs would be created.

The CIE report does not estimate the likely impacts on employment without KAFTA.

l. Treasury has estimated that tariff revenue would decline by a cumulative amount of \$635.9 million over the forward estimates. This figure does not include the un-modelled, second-round effects on government revenue from increased economic activity, which are expected to be positive.

m. The estimate of tariff revenue reductions prepared by Treasury does not include an analysis of the adjustment costs borne by Australian sectors and/or regions.

n. CIE's initial (November 2013) analysis treated the motor vehicles and parts industry no differently to other industries in the Australian economy.

As part of its updated (February 2014) analysis, CIE reflected the changes to car manufacturing operations in Australia in its base-case scenario (i.e. the status quo without KAFTA). On the basis of its analysis, CIE concluded "[a] consequence of this [modelling the end of car manufacturing operations in Australia] for the FTA simulation is that reduced Australian tariffs for motor vehicles under the FTA with Korea [is] unlikely to have any significant incremental effect on the Australian car manufacturing sector."

o. CIE used a modelling framework and database maintained by the Center for Global Trade Analysis at Purdue University (GTAP) to model sectoral impacts of KAFTA. In modelling the effects of KAFTA, the algorithms in the GTAP model assumed mining exporters would allocate an increased share of their exports to the most efficient market – in this case Korea – substituting away from other, less efficient markets. In this scenario, the GTAP model estimated this process to lead to a small decrease in total mining exports.

p. Table 4.1 on page 12 of CIE's February 2014 report on economic modelling of KAFTA provides key macroeconomic impacts of KAFTA on full implementation, including an estimate of the impact on total exports to Korea (25 per cent increase by 2030). This result was estimated by the GTAP model.

q. DFAT did not request these details and CIE did not include such data in its report.

r. DFAT did not request CIE to conduct analysis on the economic impacts on Korea. This is a matter for the Korean Government.

The joint feasibility study for KAFTA conducted in April 2008 (available on the DFAT website) includes an assessment of the benefits for Korea by the Korea Institute of International Economic Policy.

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s. N/A

t. DFAT did not request CIE to analyse the economic impacts on Korea. This is a matter for the Korean Government.

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Question No 314

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- a. What specific service sector types are likely to gain the most from KAFTA? Please explain why and how.*
- b. Are there any harmonisation or mutual recognition efforts in relation to particular service professions? If so please provide details.*
- c. What is the interaction between opening up the service sector and the movement of people with other government policies, such as immigration?*
- d. What benefits does KAFTA provide to the hi-tech and biotechnology sectors in both countries?*

Answer

a. The Australia-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA) will provide Australian services exporters with the best treatment Korea has agreed with any trading partner. This includes new market access for suppliers of legal, accounting, and telecommunications services and guaranteed access across a broad range of other services.

Specific gains include:

- . Preferential market access for Australian telecommunication service suppliers, now able to provide up to 100 per cent (previously 49 per cent) of the voting shares of a facilities-based telecommunications service supplier within two years. Service suppliers are also ensured they are not discriminated against, will enjoy a range of competitive safeguards and have access to key telecommunications infrastructure in Korea as required.
- . Access for law firms to Korea's legal consulting services market for the first time. Within two years Australian law firms will be permitted to enter into

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cooperative agreements (including profit sharing) with local firms, and within five years to establish joint ventures.

- . Accountants (holding a CPA or CA qualification) will for the first time be able to provide accounting consultancy services relating to Australian or international tax or accounting law through offices in Korea; and within five years work and invest in Korean tax agency or accounting corporations.
- . Extensive market access into Korea for Australian financial institutions and services firms, including guaranteeing rights to supply specified services such as investment advice and portfolio funds management and specified insurance and insurance related services. This will particularly benefit smaller and medium size firms by avoiding the need to establish a commercial presence in Korea.
- . Australian education providers will gain significant market access in Korea's growing adult education sector and areas where Korea did not previously guarantee access.
- . KAFTA will facilitate closer collaboration between Engineers Australia and its counterpart body in Korea, the Korean Professional Engineers Association (KPEA) via a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). This will enhance professional recognition of Australian engineers in Korea and facilitate closer collaboration by engineers from both countries in international markets.
- . KAFTA establishes a 'Professional Services Working Group' to facilitate deeper cooperation and mutual recognition between professional bodies in both countries including with respect to standards, licensing and certification. These initially include engineering services, accounting services, architectural services, healthcare services provided by pharmacists and radiographers, and veterinary services.
- . KAFTA guarantees existing access for Australian tour operator and tour guide services.

b. Australian engineers will benefit from closer collaboration under KAFTA between Engineers Australia and its counterpart body in Korea, the Korean Professional Engineers Association (KPEA) via a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). The MRA will enhance professional recognition of Australian engineers in Korea and facilitate closer collaboration by engineers from both countries.

Other Australian professionals will benefit from ongoing work to enhance mutual recognition of professional qualifications. This will initially focus on: engineering services; accounting services; architectural services; healthcare services provided by pharmacists and radiographers; and veterinary services

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An agreement by both countries for improving recognition of health professional qualifications over time, including for pharmacists and radiographers, is one example of this.

c. Both Australia and Korea have made commitments under KAFTA to allow temporary entry for business people engaged in bilateral trade and investment. These categories include business visitors, intra-corporate transferees, independent executives, and contractual service suppliers. KAFTA also commits Australia and Korea to process immigration applications expeditiously and to simplify immigration procedures and requirements.

d. KAFTA will provide Australian services exporters, with limited exceptions, treatment equal to those enjoyed by Korean firms in terms of investment and provision of cross-border services in these sectors. This is the best treatment Korea has agreed with any trading partner, on par with its agreements with the United States and Europe. This will ensure a level playing field for Australian hi-tech and biotechnology service providers vis-à-vis their US or European competitors.

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Question No 315

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- a. Did the Prime Minister's Taskforce on Manufacturing assess or make recommendations in relation to KAFTA (including alternatives and substitutes)? If so, what was its recommendations/assessments? If not, why not?*
- b. Will the concessions in the auto sector result in a hastening of the departure of the local auto industry? If so, please provide details.*
- c. What is the real growth potential of the auto component parts sector as a direct result of KAFTA? Please provide details.*
- d. Has the Minister and/or department received any representations from industry concerned about the impact of second hand car imports? If so, what is the nature of the concerns and how has the government responded? Is the Minister and/or department consulting the automotive sector on this issue in relation to Japan FTA negotiations? If so, how?*
- e. Has the department looked at the experience in NZ that opened market access to second hand vehicles over a decade ago? If so, how?*

Answer

- a. No, not as far as DFAT is aware.
- b. No. Recent decisions to cease motor vehicle manufacturing in Australia were driven by commercial imperatives. Both Holden and Toyota have clearly indicated there was a range of factors which contributed to the decision, including: the strong Australian dollar; high costs of manufacturing; low economies of scale for vehicle production and local supplier base; and one of the most open and fragmented automotive markets in the world.

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Important to note that reductions in Australia's tariffs on Korean motor vehicles and automotive parts will not start until the agreement enters-into-force, and some tariffs will be phased-out over a three to five year transition period.

3c. KAFTA will eliminate Korea's 8 per cent tariffs on automotive part imports from Australia immediately on entry into force of the Agreement. This will create further opportunities for Australian automotive parts exports. For example, Australian automotive manufacturers exported \$93 million of gear boxes (for which Korea is Australia's largest market) and \$53 million of engines and engine parts to Korea in 2012-13.

3d. Yes, representations have been made by both peak automotive bodies and motor vehicle manufacturers expressing concern about the potential impact of used road vehicle imports as the result of implementing free trade agreements.

Concerns expressed have mainly focussed on potential imports from Japan, which like Australia, generally uses right hand drive road vehicles. Australian trade negotiators are aware of industry's views and have adopted a negotiating strategy which seeks to accommodate such concerns.

3e. DFAT is aware of developments in the New Zealand automotive sector, but has not undertaken in-depth analysis.

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Question No 316

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question on Notice

Senator Wong

Question

a. With reference to claims the dairy industry will benefit from KAFTA in terms of increased exports to Korea, and total exports as well as increased employment, will drought, financial and other factors affect the industry's capacity to realise potential gains? If so, please provide any assessment.

b. Why does KAFTA not provide for market access gains for Australian rice growers? What trade-offs or concessions did Korea make?

c. Noting that KAFTA contains specific safeguard measures for the export of Australian beef, malt, maize and sugar, can the department explain the rationale for these carve outs and the related implications for industry? Do these safeguards act as a non-tariff barrier to trade for these Australian goods?

Answer

- a. The dairy industry's capacity to realise potential gains from KAFTA will be dependent on supply factors, including weather and business conditions, and alternative market opportunities. DFAT has not undertaken assessments of these possible outcomes.
- b. The FTA is an overall package of outcomes, reflecting a balance between each side's sensitivities. During these negotiations Korea was adamant that a very limited number of its highly sensitive products, including rice, would receive no tariff concessions. These sensitive tariff lines only account for 0.2 per cent of Australian exports to Korea. Korea excluded rice from all previous FTAs, including the US, meaning Australian exporters will not be disadvantaged vis-à-vis their competitors by the exclusion of rice from KAFTA. If we had insisted on including rice we would have had to wait many years and our key exports of

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beef, sugar, dairy, wheat, horticulture, wine and seafood would have suffered considerably in the meantime.

- c. FTAs including Korea's FTAs with the US and EU) often include specific safeguard measures to provide parties with a mechanism to manage an unexpected surge in imports resulting from market openings, by temporarily slowing or reversing tariff elimination. KAFTA's specific safeguards are not automatic. They may be applied only once a certain trigger level is reached and for a limited period. They do not constitute a non-tariff barrier. The safeguards themselves subject to phasing-out, as the trigger levels are raised over time and then eliminated (as specified in Annex 6-A).

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Question No 317

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

a. Why does KAFTA not contain specific safeguard measures for any Australian industry sector, including sensitive industries?

b. In relation to the safeguard provisions in general, and with reference all bilateral and multilateral trade agreements:

- *On how many goods does Korea currently maintain safeguard measures? Provide type and details.*
- *On how many goods does Australia currently maintain safeguard measures, if any? Provide type and details.*

c. Regarding article 6.2.1 Conditions and Limitations in KAFTA:

- *What is the competent authority in Korea for the purpose of safeguard investigations?*

d. Noting that in Australia the Productivity Commission must give particular consideration to the public interest requirements in clause 1 of the Competition Principles Agreement signed by the Commonwealth Government on 11 April 1995, do the other competent authorities in Korea and the nations which maintain safeguards on Korean goods have a similar requirement on their competent authorities?

e. Regarding Article 6.8.2 (C), does KAFTA potentially impact on the capacity of a responsible Minister or agency to take action under Australia's anti-dumping provisions?

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Answer

a. KAFTA has a trade remedies chapter that includes a safeguard measure covering all goods affected by the Agreement. The bilateral safeguard provisions allow the parties to temporarily increase tariffs on a product when increased imports as a result of the FTA are causing, or threatening to cause, serious injury to a domestic industry sector. KAFTA also reaffirms WTO rights and obligations for trade remedies.

b. Korea does not currently maintain any global safeguard action under the WTO Agreement on Safeguards.

In its most recent notification (dated 22 January 2013) on the use of special safeguard provisions under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, Korea indicated it used the special safeguard on ginseng products during the calendar years 2011 to 2012.

In terms of bilateral safeguard actions, Australia is not a party to Korea's other FTAs, and has no information regarding current safeguard measures.

(i) Currently Australia does not maintain any safeguard measures on goods.

c. Korean Trade Commission.

d. Korea's relevant safeguard legislation includes a provision that requires that in considering the imposition of a safeguard measure, the Trade Commission "shall comprehensively take into account impacts of the Safeguard Measures on the industries concerned, domestic price levels, consumers' interest and international trade relations, etc." In determining whether to impose a definitive or provisional safeguard measure, the impacts of such measures on international trade relations, the national economy and the industry as a whole are considered.

We are not aware whether specific Korean exported goods are currently affected by any safeguard measures being maintained by other countries.

The WTO Agreement on Safeguards provides that interested parties be able to submit views to competent authorities "as to whether or not the application of a safeguard measure would be in the public interest".

e. Article 6.8 of Section C of the KAFTA trade remedies text is intended to enhance transparency in the application of anti-dumping and countervailing duty measures. It describes anti-dumping practices in relation to the determination of the dumping margin for exporters and the level of duties imposed. This provision does not impact on Australia's ability to take anti-dumping action.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 318

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- a. What is the current level of co-investment between Korea and Australia? What has been the trend over past decade?*
- b. In light of the increase in the FIRB threshold for Korean investment up to \$1 billion, what is the anticipated/projected level of Korean investment in Australia, and in what areas/sectors, over the next 5, 10, 15 years? What was the projected increase in Korean investment in Australia over the same time frame without the KAFTA concession?*
- c. Under KAFTA, what is the projected level of Australian investment into Korea, and in what areas/sectors, over the next 5, 10, 15 years?*
- d. Are there any similar investment incentives provided to Australians – eg, an incentive of the same qualitative value as the FIRB threshold increase provided for Korean investment in Australia?*
- e. Noting that Australia has a very good country risk rating that is higher than Korea:*
 - *How have Australian businesses handled this country risk in their previous transactions and investments in Korea?*
 - *Have there been submissions from Australian entities that this country risk is a barrier to trade and investment in Korea?*
 - *Why was it necessary to provide a quasi-insurance policy against country risk in the form of a wide and general ISDS provision?*
- f. Is there an understanding, arrangement, side-letter or similar between the Australian and Korean Governments for the respective Government to indemnify, guarantee or otherwise insure its investors who choose to invest in the other country? If so, will such insurance arrangements prevent an investor making a claim against the other Government pursuant to the ISDS provisions?*

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Answer

a. The level of investment between Australia and Korea is relatively low, but has grown and diversified over the past decade.

In 2012 the stock of Australian investment in Korea totalled \$10.4 billion, more than five times the level in 2001.

The stock of Korean investment in Australia grew twenty-five-fold from a low base in 2001 to \$12 billion in 2012, with foreign direct investment (FDI) accounting for 16 per cent of this figure. This still only represents 0.6 per cent of all foreign investment in Australia.

b. DFAT has not made any projections of (or obtained any modelling regarding) future levels of investment by Korea.

The stock of Korean investment in Australia grew twenty-five-fold from a low base in 2001 to \$12.0 billion in 2012. Given this trend, and KAFTA provisions on investment, Korean investment into Australia can be expected to continue to increase under KAFTA.

KAFTA enhances protections for Korean and Australian investors through provisions which ensure non-discrimination and protection for investments.

KAFTA facilitates an increase in the flow of Korean investment into Australia by raising the screening threshold at which Korean investments in non-sensitive sectors are considered by FIRB from \$248 million to \$1,078 million.

c. DFAT has not made any projections of future levels of Australian investment in Korea.

The stock of Australian investment in the Korea was \$10.4 billion in 2012, more than five times the level in 2001. Under KAFTA, Australian investment into Korea can be expected to continue to increase. KAFTA enhances protections for Korean and Australian investors through provisions which ensure non-discrimination, and protection for investments.

Korea will further open its economy to Australian investors through the progressive reduction of market access barriers in key sectors such as telecommunications, legal services and accounting and tax agency services.

d. Korea has a different foreign investment screening regime to that of Australia.

KAFTA provides improved access and protection for Australian investors and investments in Korea. Under KAFTA, all forms of investments by Australians are protected, including enterprises, shares and stocks, debt instruments, property rights and intellectual property.

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Additionally Australian investors and investments may not be treated less favourably, in like circumstances, than Korean investors with respect to the establishment, acquisition, operation and sale of investments in Korea.

Investments may not be expropriated or nationalised in the absence of prompt, adequate, and effective compensation, and investments must be treated in accordance with an internationally accepted minimum standard of treatment, which includes obligations of fair and equitable treatment and full protection and security of investments.

e i. This question is best directed to Austrade.

e ii. A number of submissions addressed investment barriers in Korea. For example, the Victorian Government's public submission on KAFTA noted "FDI in Korea is constrained by a range of factors such as insufficient transparency in corporate governance and regulation, the dominant position of Korean conglomerates ("chaebol"), and an inflexible labour system." Also, the Investment and Financial Services Association submission noted that an FTA with Korea could mitigate "behind the border" barriers to investment into Korea.

e iii. ISDS does not operate as a quasi-insurance policy. It provides a mechanism for an investor of a Party to seek redress in the event of an alleged breach of an investment obligation by the other Party.

f. No. Whether or not a Party chooses to indemnify, guarantee or insure its investors is a matter for that Party.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 319

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- a. Has the Department undertaken an analysis of the Korean legal system for the purpose of assessing the ISDS provisions in KAFTA? If so, please provide details, including findings.*
- b. In what negotiation round were ISDS provisions first conceded?*
- c. What was negotiated in return for Australia's concession on ISDS provisions?*
- d. How many submissions were received during consultations advocating agreement to ISDS provisions? Who were they from?*
- e. How many submissions were received during consultations advocating opposition to ISDS provisions? Who were they from?*
- f. What consideration and weight did DFAT give to the findings and recommendations relating to ISDS provisions by the Productivity Commission in its Research Report on Bilateral and Regional Trade Agreements?*
- g. What consideration and weight did DFAT give to the United Nations UNCTAD publication Reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement: In Search of a Roadmap", IIA Issues Note No.2 June 2013?*
- h. What alternatives to an ISDS provision did DFAT consider? Please provide details.*
- i. With reference to the DFAT fact sheet on ISDS outcomes which states that the "KAFTA ISDS is a modern, balanced mechanism with explicit safeguards for legitimate public welfare regulation":*
 - On what basis or supporting authority does DFAT make this statement?*
 - Is the ISDS in KAFTA a new type of ISDS provision?*
 - Has this version (or any aspects of it) been used in other free trade agreements? If yes, what are the results/outcomes for the countries involved?*

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

j. With reference to the statement by Trade Minister Robb at his press conference on 17 February 2014: “we had to be satisfied that we could engage in public policy decisions in the future in regard to health or the environment and not have it subject to the ISDS. So ... that is the reservation.”

- ***Please explain and provide details how the KAFTA text guarantees that such future public policy decisions will not be subject to an ISDS claim.***

k. Noting Trade Minister Robb’s claim that the ISDS “does carve out public policy relating to environment”:

- ***Please explain and provide details how the KAFTA prohibits or makes impossible an ISDS claim relating to environmental measures.***

l. Please explain and provide details of how any changes to Australia’s PBS system, as well as any future new health system or measures, are immune from arbitration claims by Korean investors, including non-Korean companies with related entities in Korea?

m. How have the conditions “except in limited circumstances” and “necessary” been interpreted and applied in ISDS cases?

n. Have these proposed “safeguard” provisions been tested against recent landmark Australian legislation such as plain packing legislation and carbon emission environment protection legislation? Could they fall within the exception of “rare circumstances”?

o. Did the Government consider or analyse the ISDS safeguards included in the Central American Free Trade Agreement and in the Peru-US-Agreement, and/or the mining company actions against El Salvador and Peru over environmental regulations? If so, please provide details.

- ***How can these ISDS claims be distinguished in relation to the safeguards agreed to in the KAFTA?***
- ***Please explain key differences in the KAFTA “modern” provision that would safeguard Australia’s environmental measures.***

p. In Trade Minister Robb’s press conference relating to the KAFTA text and ISDS in particular, he referred to a US Mexican case involving cane sugar and corn syrup. Did the Department review or analyse this case? Please provide details, including an assessment of any health measures at issue in this case, and potential “lessons” or consequences for Australia and its negotiation of FTA provisions.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

q. If the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules apply to a particular arbitration, why has a KAFTA side letter been agreed between the Parties to opt-out / exclude the new UNCITRAL Transparency Rules, unless they otherwise consult within the first 12 months of the Agreement and agree?

r. Noting that Annex II-E of KAFTA provides that the Parties will “consider” the establishment of an appellate mechanism, if the lack of a genuine and authoritative appeal mechanism was acknowledged by the parties, why was an appeal procedure not drafted as part of the modern ISDS provisions?

s. What is the trend in the number of ISDS claims brought before international arbitration tribunals over the past decade?

t. How many ISDS-related claims have been brought involving Australia over the past decade?

u. How many ISDS-related claims have been made under FTAs as compared to under International Investment Treaties or agreements over the past decade?

v. In relation to the claims brought by Philip Morris Asia against Australia under the Hong Kong bilateral agreement:

- *What is the current status?*
- *What is the expected time period for resolution?*
- *What is the anticipated likelihood of success?*
- *If successful by Philip Morris, what is the compensation likely to be awarded against Australia? Will legal and other costs also be awarded against Australia?*
- *What are Australia’s total costs to date, by category of expenditure, in defending this claim?*
- *What future costs are expected?*

Answer

a. The Department is familiar with the key features of the Korean legal system. The Investment Chapter provides a set of key disciplines which are based in international law and are therefore independent of the legal systems of each Party and the ISDS procedures provide an independent mechanism to enforce these.

b. The Parties agreed on the ISDS provisions as part of the conclusion of negotiations during meetings held in December 2013.

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c. The Government agreed to include ISDS in the Agreement as part of a package deal to conclude negotiations, which included Korea meeting Australia's key requests and the agreement including appropriate protections for legitimate government regulation.

d. See the response to e.

e. Only one public submission received during the negotiation of KAFTA made specific reference to ISDS. A submission made by the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET) expressed opposition to the inclusion of ISDS in the Agreement.

f. The issues discussed in the Productivity Commission report were taken into account by negotiators.

g. This UNCTAD publication was taken into account by negotiators.

h. DFAT considered including State-to-State dispute settlement as an alternative to ISDS.

i. It is based on the explicit safeguards which are contained in the KAFTA Investment Chapter and ISDS mechanism when viewed in relation to older-style investment agreements which do not contain the same explicit safeguards.

(i) The ISDS mechanism in KAFTA contains features which are present in other agreements however we are not aware of any existing agreement which takes an identical approach to KAFTA or contains all of the same protections.

(ii) The ISDS mechanism in KAFTA contains features which are present in some existing agreements. In terms of agreements which have commonly provided the basis for investment disputes, NAFTA provides a reasonable comparison, although KAFTA contains significant additional protections when compared to NAFTA. Of the 35 NAFTA cases decided, 27 were decided in favour of the host State and eight were decided in favour of the investor. A further three cases were settled.

j. In relation to environmental measures see the answer to 7k.

In relation to human health KAFTA includes a number of kinds of protections for public policy decisions with regard to human health:

- A General exception – which applies to all obligations of the Investment Chapter – for measures necessary to protect human, animal and plant life or health (Article 22.1.3).
- a reservation (in Annex II to the Agreement) which preserves Australia's ability to maintain existing measures or any adopt new measures with respect to human health. This reservation applies to the obligations of

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National Treatment, Most-Favoured-Nation treatment, Performance Requirements, and Senior Management and Boards of Directors.

- a specific reservation (in Annex II to the Agreement) which preserves Australia's ability to maintain existing measures or any adopt new measures with respect to collection and distribution of blood, the manufacture of blood products and blood fractionation services. This reservation applies to the obligations of National Treatment, Performance Requirements, and Senior Management and Boards of Directors.
 - In the Annex on Expropriation (Annex 11-B): confirmation that except in rare circumstances, non-discriminatory regulatory actions by a Party to protect legitimate public welfare objectives, such as public health, do not constitute expropriation. In addition, a note to the Annex confirms, for greater certainty, that such regulatory actions to protect public health include regulation, supply and reimbursement with respect to pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, vaccines, medical devices, health-related aids and appliances and blood and blood products (footnote 21).
 - The Annex on Expropriation also contains disciplines and benchmarks that must be met in order for a claimant to make out an expropriation claim.
 - The obligations of fair and equitable treatment and full protection and security – which have been interpreted broadly by some ISDS tribunals – are explicitly limited to the minimum standard of treatment at customary international law (Article 11.5).
 - An expedited process which allows for frivolous claims to be dismissed at a preliminary stage and for costs to be awarded against the investor (Article 11.20.8).
- k. KAFTA contains a range of safeguards for environmental measures:
- General exceptions – which apply to all obligations of the Investment Chapter – relating to “exhaustible natural resources” and “human, animal or plant life or health” and which explicitly include environmental measures (Article 22.1.3).
 - In the Annex on Expropriation (Annex 11-B): confirmation that except in rare circumstances, non-discriminatory regulatory actions by a Party to protect legitimate public welfare objectives, such as the environment, do not constitute expropriation.
 - The Annex on Expropriation also contains disciplines and benchmarks that must be met in order for a claimant to make out an expropriation claim.

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- The obligations of fair and equitable treatment and full protection and security – which have been interpreted broadly by some ISDS tribunals – are explicitly limited to the minimum standard of treatment at customary international law (Article 11.5).
- An expedited process which allows for frivolous claims to be dismissed at a preliminary stage and for costs to be awarded against the investor (Article 11.20.8).

l. There is nothing in the Investment Chapter which would prevent the Government from changing health measures, including the PBS, or developing any future health system measures. For a detailed response on the protections which relate to health measures – including the PBS – see the response to 7j.

In terms of the PBS specifically, the legislation related to the PBS is explicitly listed in the Annex II reservation for health measures referred to in the response to 7j. The examples of legitimate regulatory actions in footnote 21 to the Annex on Expropriation (11-B) would cover the PBS and future changes to the PBS.

m. We are not aware of any interpretation of the phrase “except in limited circumstances”. The interpretation of “necessary” would depend on the context in which it appears. If the question is related to the interpretation of “necessary” in the context of general exceptions there is little jurisprudence on this in ISDS cases as the majority of investment agreements which have been the subject of ISDS claims do not include general exceptions.

n. In negotiating the KAFTA text, negotiators were conscious of the need to include appropriate protections to protect the Government’s ability to regulate in the public interest. The tobacco plain packaging legislation is consistent with Australia’s obligations under existing agreements, and with the KAFTA text. As a general matter, KAFTA does not prevent the Government from maintaining or adopting non-discriminatory environmental regulation, including legislation concerned with reducing carbon emissions.

o. The Department is aware of these Agreements. We are aware that the claims brought by Pac Rim Cayman against El Salvador based on the Central American Free Trade Agreement have been dismissed. We are also aware of a dispute brought by the Renco Group against Peru which is at an early stage.

(i) KAFTA contains a number of additional protections when compared to either of these agreements. In particular, unlike KAFTA, neither of these agreements include general exceptions which apply to environmental measures.

(ii) See responses to 7n and 7o above.

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p. The Department is aware of three ISDS cases brought against Mexico under NAFTA challenging a Mexican measure which applied to beverages sweetened with high-fructose corn syrup. The outcomes in these cases provide interpretations of the obligations of National Treatment, Expropriation, and the Minimum Standard of Treatment, which are useful in informing the Government's approach to the negotiation of FTA provisions. Mexico claimed that the measure was a counter measure taken in response to US violations of NAFTA with regard to sugar market access. We are not aware of Mexico claiming that the measure at issue was a health measure.

q. The ISDS mechanism in the FTA contains a high degree of transparency which in broad terms is similar to that provided under the UNCITRAL Transparency Rules.

The Parties also agreed to hold consultations on the application of the UNCITRAL Transparency Rules to arbitrations conducted under the FTA within 12 months of entry into force of the Agreement. This will give the Parties the opportunity to consider how the UNCITRAL Transparency Rules interact with the existing ISDS procedures. By this time there may have been some practical application of the Rules which the Parties can consider.

r. The Parties recognise that an effective appellate mechanism to review ISDS awards may be desirable, however there are a number of issues to consider including how any such appellate mechanism should be designed and how it would interact with the existing ISDS mechanism. The timeframe for consultations in Annex 11-E gives the Parties time to consider these issues further.

s. The most recent accurate figures on ISDS cases – published by UNCTAD – go to end 2012. In the decade to 2012 the number of cases brought has broadly ranged between 30-45 each year although there were higher numbers in 2011 and 2012 with 58 cases being brought in 2012.

t. The only ISDS dispute which has been brought against Australia is Philip Morris Asia's current challenge to tobacco plain packaging. Companies incorporated in Australia have used ISDS in proceedings against other countries, but the Australian Government is not a party to these disputes.

u. On available information, approximately 10-11% of known ISDS cases have been brought under FTAs up to 2012 (not only over the last decade).

v. Questions with regard to Philip Morris Asia's challenge to tobacco plain packaging are best directed to the Attorney-General's Department which has primary responsibility for the defence of the ISDS claim.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 320

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- a. Were unions, or other domestic or international labour organisations, consulted on any draft text for inclusion in KAFTA? If not, why not?*
- b. How many of Australia's FTAs have a labour chapter similar to the KAFTA chapter (ie, "promotional" rather than substantive commitments)?*
- c. How many of Korea's FTAs have a labour chapter similar to the KAFTA chapter rather than the more substantive chapter in the Korea-US FTA?*
- d. Have Australia's commitments to domestic and international labour standards been eroded by the labour provisions in this KAFTA?*

Answer

- a. Yes.
- b. One other FTA has a labour chapter (Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement)
- c. The Korea-Peru FTA contains a labour chapter. The Korea-EU FTA contains a Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter including provisions on labour. Each contains elements which are similar to both KORUS and to KAFTA.
- d. No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 321

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

a. Noting that Article 13.9(28) stipulates “Each Party shall provide measures to curtail repeated copyright and related right infringement on the Internet.”

- *What current measures exist in Australian domestic law to curtail repeated occurrences of online copyright infringement?*
- *Will these measures be sufficient to fulfil the obligations required by this article?*
- *If not, what does the Government believe are the minimum measures required to enforce this article?*
- *Will civil or criminal penalties be required?*
- *Will this include measures such as a ‘graduated response scheme’ implemented by ISPs?*

b. Do the ISDS provisions, or any other provisions, allow an investor to bring a claim against a government for failing to enforce Article 13.9(28) of the Agreement?

c. Will a Korean company be able to bring a claim against the Australian Government if it does not legislate measures to curtail repeated occurrences of online copyright infringement?

d. Will the Government be required to introduce a graduated response mechanism into Australian copyright law?

e. Noting this is the first agreement Australia is proposing to enter since the passing of the Customs and AusCheck Legislation Amendment (Organised Crime and Other Measures) Bill 2013:

- *Does anything in KAFTA Chapter 4 preclude the implementation of the regulations and requirements of amendments to the Customs Act in relation to goods imported from Korea or originating from Korea?*

f. Does Article 5.8, or any other provision, in KAFTA exempt persons participating in the development of Australian Standards from adhering to the Standards Australia Technical Group and Committee Member Code of Conduct.

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g. Noting Article 12.2.3 and the limited definition of ‘essential security interests’ in Article.22.2:

- ***Does anything in KAFTA prevent the Australian Government determining that Australian Passports and other essential citizenship documents be manufactured in Australia?***

Answer

- a. Questions on implementation of copyright provisions should be directed to the Attorney General’s Department.
- b. An investor can only bring a claim against Australia under the Agreement on the basis of a breach of an investment obligation. An ISDS claim cannot be based on an alleged breach of an obligation contained in the Intellectual Property Chapter.
- c. See answer to b.
- d. See answer to 9a
- e. The KAFTA Chapter on Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation (Chapter 4) does not preclude the implementation of the regulations and requirements of the Customs and AusCheck Legislation Amendment Act in relation to goods imported from Korea or originating from Korea.
- f. No.
- g. No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 322

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

Does Chapter 19 commit the Australian Government to a higher level of transparency and involvement in legislative matters for Korea and Korean investors than its obligations to its own citizens?

Answer

No.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 323

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

a. What changes to the text were made between the announcement on 5 December 2013 that negotiations on KAFTA had been concluded, and the initialling of the text by chief negotiators on 10 February 2014?

b. What changes to the text, if any, were made between the initialling on 10 February and the public release of the text on 17 February 2014?

Answer

a. The legal scrub corrected a number of non-substantive mistakes, inconsistencies in expression and grammatical errors across the Agreement. Some technical adjustments were also made to the text to clarify the outcomes agreed between negotiators. The policy of successive Australian governments is not to disclose detailed information about the negotiating history of treaties.

b. No changes were made to the text between 10 and 17 February 2014.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 324

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

a. When will the National Interest Analysis (NIA) be released?

b. Who prepared the NIA? If external to DFAT, what was the scope of engagement and fee?

c. When and by what process will KAFTA and the NIA be referred for consideration to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties?

Answer

a. The National Interest Analysis will be tabled in Parliament after it has been approved by Ministers. Once tabled in Parliament, the NIA will become a public reference document.

b. In accordance with usual practice, the NIA is being prepared by DFAT, in consultation with relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies.

c. Consistent with Australia's domestic treaty processes, DFAT will table KAFTA in both Houses of Parliament with the National Interest Analysis after signature and prior to binding treaty action being taken.

Treaties and NIAs tabled in Parliament are automatically referred to JSCOT, in accordance with JSCOT's instrument of appointment.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 325

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

a. How many legislative instruments will need to be created, and how many current legislative instruments will require amendment, as a result of KAFTA? Please list.

b. Can the required Korean domestic treaty-making process, including the role of the National Assembly, be outlined?

c. Can the steps in the implementation process be outlined?

d. Are the provisions of KAFTA consistent with other trade agreements to which Australia is a party? To the extent there are inconsistencies, are there any harmonisation efforts underway?

Answer

a. Implementation of KAFTA will require the enactment of new customs regulations for the product-specific rules of origin set out in Annex 3-A of the agreement.

Amendments to the following existing instruments will be required:

*Customs Act 1901;
Customs Tariff Act 1995 and relevant customs regulations;
Foreign Acquisition and Takeovers Regulations 1989; and
Life Insurance Regulations 1995.*

Additionally, the Attorney-General's Department has advised that, consistent with Australia's existing obligations in the Australia-US and Australia-Singapore FTAs, and also to implement fully its obligations under KAFTA, the Copyright Act 1968 will require amendment in due course to provide a legal incentive for online service providers to cooperate with copyright owners in preventing infringement.

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b. Following signature of KAFTA on 8 April, the ROK Government will submit the FTA and an economic impact study to the Korean National Assembly for ratification.

In accordance with normal Korean practice, once submitted to the National Assembly, the primary responsibility for passing KAFTA will likely fall to the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, with other affected committees – Finance; Agriculture; Trade, Industry and Energy - also potentially playing a role. After consideration the Committee will vote on whether to support KAFTA. If passed, KAFTA would then go to the floor of the National Assembly for a full vote.

c. Consistent with Australia's domestic treaty processes, following signature the text of the Agreement, along with the National Interest Analysis, will be tabled in the Australian Parliament for consideration by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT).

Following JSCOT's consideration and report, and consideration by the Government of any recommendations, amendments to relevant legislation will be introduced for consideration by Parliament. Korea will also undertake its own domestic treaty-making processes during this period, including approval by Korea's National Assembly.

Once necessary legislative amendments have been made, both countries will exchange Diplomatic Notes to certify they are ready for entry-into-force of the Agreement. Thirty days after this exchange of notes or on such other date as the Parties may agree, KAFTA will enter into force.

d. The provisions of KAFTA are consistent with Australia's trade policy settings. Some, but not all, of the provisions are identical or substantially the same as other trade agreements to which Australia is party.

Differences reflect variations in domestic requirements by our trading partners, and negotiating outcomes in particular agreements, which maximise the export opportunities for Australian businesses and benefits to Australian importers and consumers. No specific harmonisation efforts are underway for KAFTA.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 326

Program: DFAT

Topic: KAFTA

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

a. What were the costs involved in negotiating and “scrubbing”/finalising the KAFTA text over the past year? Which legal firm was engaged and on what basis were they selected? Please provide engagement agreement and details.

b. Have external lawyers been engaged on other free trade negotiations this year (eg, Japan, TPP, China, others) and again, on what basis and what cost?

c. What are the other costs and expenses associated with finalising the negotiations and agreeing to the text over the past year (including consultants and travel)? Please provide detailed breakdown.

Answer

- a. Since 1 July 2013, the direct costs (in addition to regular staffing costs) involved in negotiating and scrubbing/finalising the KAFTA text have totalled \$257,809. (exclusive of GST). The costs comprise expenses associated with hosting and attending negotiating meetings (\$ 199,660 - airfares, accommodation, other travel and meeting venue expenses) and verification of the Korean translation (\$58,149).
- b. All legal work was conducted in-house by DFAT staff in consultation, as necessary, with other agencies including the Attorney-General’s Department.
- c. Please refer to answer a. No consultants were engaged as part of the negotiation/finalisation process.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 327

Program: DFAT

Topic: General Process

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

- *Does Andrew Shearer independently contact the department?*
 - *Can you please provide a full list of all staff in the department with whom he has been in contact?*
 - *On which dates and times has he been in contact?*

Answer

This information was provided in the response to Question 1.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 328

Program: DFAT

Topic: General Process

Question on Notice

Senator Wong

Question

- *Are any staff members from the Prime Minister's office ever cc'ed on emails between the department and the Foreign Minister's office?*
 - *Can you please provide a full list of all staff in the PMO who have ever been cc'ed on emails between the department and the Foreign Minister's office?*
 - *On which dates and times were these emails sent?*

Answer

This information was provided in the response to Question 1.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 329

Program: DFAT

Topic: General Process

Question on Notice

Senator Wong

Question

- *Have any staff members of the Prime Minister's Office ever contacted an Australian mission overseas?*
 - *Can you please provide a full list of all missions who have been contacted by staff from the PMO, the names in each instance of the PMO who were in contact, and a full list of the dates on which the contact occurred?*

Answer

This information was provided in the response to Question 1.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 330

Program: DFAT

Topic: PACER Plus

Question in Writing

Senator Wong

Question

B. Was any of the funding announced (\$1.8 million) for the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser affected by the re-allocation of aid funding announced by the Government? Under what program was this funding allocated?

Answer

No. The Australian funding announced (\$1.8 million) for the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser by the Australian Government in November 2013 was not affected by the re-allocation of aid funding announced by the Australian Government.

The support for the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser is part of the PACER Plus Support Initiative funded under the Pacific Regional fund.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 331

Program: DFAT

Topic: Investor State Dispute Settlement Provisions

Question in Writing

Senator Singh

Question

The South Korean Australian Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA) includes an ISDS provision that ensures discriminatory regulations regarding pharmaceuticals are excluded and not affected by the ISDS. Can the government confirm that an ISDS in the TPP will not be broader than KAFTA and will protect our pharmaceutical benefit system?

Answer

The Government is considering the inclusion of ISDS provisions in FTAs on a case-by-case basis and has indicated it could consider ISDS in the TPP if certain conditions are met, including appropriate safeguards for public welfare measures such as health measures. The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is an integral part of Australia's health system and the Government will not agree to an outcome which undermines the PBS or Australia's health system more generally.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/IN WRITING

Question No 332

Program: DFAT

Topic: ASIS

Question in Writing

Senator Carr

Question

- 1. Can you provide a breakdown of the additional expenditure for the following organisations:
Australian Secret Intelligence Service***
- 2. Can you provide a breakdown of the additional related capital cost for the following organisations:
Australian Secret Intelligence Service***

Answer

DFAT is not in a position to respond to this question in respect of the Australian Secret Intelligence Agency (ASIS). DFAT notes that the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security is responsible for detailed examination of ASIS administration and expenditure and does so on an annual basis.