

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Senate Budget Estimates, June 2011

Questions on Notice: AusAID

Question No.17

Senator Boswell asked in writing

Marie Stopes International Australia was reported in answer to Question on notice no. 11 at Supplementary Estimates October 2010 to be receiving \$79,283 in 2010-11 for new capacity building in China but this was not reported as one of the activities involving abortion.

- a) How does this relate to the report on the Marie Stopes International Australia website <http://www.mariestopes.org.au/how-we-help/where-we-work/china> that in China it is opening new abortion services through its “You&Me youth focused” centres?
- b) What protocols are in place to ensure that no client served by Marie Stopes International Australia in China is acting under duress under China’s draconian one child policy which includes punitive measures including forced abortion and sterilisation for violations of the birth permission quota system?
- c) What protocols are in place to ensure that no abortion provided by Marie Stopes International Australia in China is a sex selection abortion?

Answer:

- a) AusAID does not fund abortion related services in China. AusAID funding for the ‘You&Me’ youth focussed services is primarily for the provision of family planning services but also includes STI and HIV prevention through behaviour change communication, information, education, communication and a wide range of sexual and reproductive health services.
- b) Marie Stopes International has standardised clinical protocols in accordance with a human rights framework. AusAID does not fund abortion related services in China.
- c) As under a) above, AusAID does not fund abortion related services in China.