

DepartmentOrAgency	Hearing Date	Q No.	Senator	BroadTopic	QuestionText	Written Hansard	Proof Hansard Page	DueDate
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	1	Eric Abetz	China - Exit Bans	<p>CHAIR: Whilst we're on matters Chinese, can I quickly ask DFAT about exit bans in China and how many Australians are affected and for what time periods? Is that readily available?</p> <p>Mr Todd: Sorry, Senator?</p> <p>CHAIR: Exit bans, as in not allowing people to leave the country.</p> <p>Mr Todd: We certainly are aware of those provisions and make very clear, in DFAT's travel advice—</p> <p>CHAIR: The question is: how many, if any, Australians are currently so detained, and for what period of time?</p> <p>Mr Todd: I don't have those figures with me.</p> <p>CHAIR: You can take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Todd: We would certainly be prepared to take it on notice. We probably won't be able to get that to you this evening, but we are happy to take it on notice.</p>	Hansard	86	24/05/2019
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	2	Penny Wong	Brunei	<p>Senator WONG: Thank you; I appreciate that. Can I go back to Brunei, please. Ms Heckscher, this may or may not have been canvassed. These laws were first flagged in 2013 and there was an international outcry, an international reaction, and they were not proceeded with at that stage. When did the department first become aware that that decision to not proceed with these laws was being reversed and that there was a flagging that they intended to implement these laws?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: I will take that on notice and get back to you. I think there was some hope, frankly, that they would not be proceeded with. My recollection, but I will need to check, is that sometime late last year, or perhaps early this year, there was an indication that they were going to proceed but it was not made very public. I will need to check.</p> <p>Senator WONG: That is what I'm flagging. I can accept that there may be a judgement to a point that the best way to try to press the case that they not be given—that what was averted in 2013 continue to be in abeyance. But, given that that previous public outcry appeared to have an effect, surely at some point there was an assessment as to whether or not the best tactical response was to steer from private exhortations and representations to a public response?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: After it became clear that they were going to be rolled out, because of course there was a public response back at the UPR in 2014. It's not as if that was behind closed doors.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Sure, but these laws were implemented in April. When did you become aware they were going to be implemented in April?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: That's what I need to take on notice and check.</p>	Hansard	87	24/05/2019

					<p>Senator WONG: I don't want to go into private discussions but it was quite clear from public reporting that this was occurring. That then led to various public statements, including from the opposition. Why was the judgement made within government, after the period where there was public reporting—I will withdraw that. Was there a judgement made and, if so, why, notwithstanding public reporting of the intention to bring these laws into effect that public statements were not the most effective way to proceed?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: I will need to take on notice exactly when we became aware that there was an intention to roll these laws out. I will need to check that. We have made strong statements directly to the Bruneian government since that time and before the measures were rolled out. We have to make very strong statements consistently to express our views, which we have done. I will just need to check the exact date.</p>			
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	3	Penny Wong	Budget	<p>Senator WONG: Mr Wood, first, thank you for your document. I understand what has been transacted through the secretariat but can we be clear why. In the reporting of the equivalent document in 2019, you gave me three columns for each financial year of the forward estimates—the budget estimate, total activity approval amount and committed—and you've dropped one of the columns off in the March one. Why?</p> <p>Mr Wood: It's just a timing issue, in terms of the budget, to prepare this information. It takes a little bit of time, following the announcement of the budget. I mentioned to the secretariat that, for the Thursday hearing, we'll have a bit more information for you. We had a similar conversation in the last budget estimates and also I think in the 2016 one.</p>	Hansard	89-90	24/05/2019
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	4	Penny Wong	HOM Washington address	<p>Senator WONG: I am just quickly following up to enable the secretary to respond to the document. Do you have any response, Secretary?</p> <p>Ms Adamson: I've had a quick look at this document. I have to say the details in it and the significance of them are not something that I am personally familiar with or have professionally encountered. In order to express a considered view, I would have to get advice about what it actually means. I would also, as always, want to give Ambassador Hockey an opportunity to explain to us what this means.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Obviously there are some addresses here, but there are no postbox addresses. My assumption is that for this document postbox addresses do not suffice, as I think those serving overseas often encounter. But, beyond that, I would need to have it looked at. I would need to ask Ambassador Hockey what it means.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Payne: The secretary has said that she wishes to check on these matters. I think that's entirely appropriate.</p> <p>Senator WONG: I'm not going to press this. I have raised the concern. I accept the</p>	Hansard	81-82	24/05/2019

					secretary's request or indication about how she wants to handle it. I would make the point that we've had a number of issues, in these hearings, about Mr Hockey's conduct and today the declaration of interests, where I think he has effectively applied a lower standard to himself by way of annotation, which I have expressed concerns about. I think the secretary has made an appropriate comment about that. We then have, in relation to this, an address, which is the residence's address. But I accept that the secretary wants to go and have a look at that.			
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	5	Penny Wong	Budget	<p>Senator WONG: I want to know what the impacts are. It might be that you have to take this on notice, because we're not talking about a budget change to an out year; we're talking about a cut—I'll have to go back and look at Mr Wood's—of \$126 million for the financial year which commences in a few months. So there must have been programs approved and potentially contracts, or certainly things were already happening which can no longer happen, and I would like to know what they are. That might be something we can discuss on Thursday, if that information can be obtained, but I would like to know what's going to happen particularly in what is described, I think, as the South-East Asia and East Asia total.</p> <p>Mrs Adamson: We will come prepared for further discussion.</p> <p>Mr Wood: Senator, I would probably just note that we have had similar questions on notice in the past. So the supplementary—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Do you just remember everything we ask you? Wow!</p> <p>Mr Wood: In some of those responses we spoke about our intention not to cancel any current activities and not to stop any contracts as sometimes—</p> <p>Senator WONG: That's the intention, but isn't your problem the time frame?</p> <p>Mr Wood: That's correct. What our hope would be is that we can do this through reprofiling or rephasing some projects rather than ceasing them. But what our posts and our programs are currently doing is having those consultations with our partner governments.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can you come prepared to give me what you can give me about where you're at? If the answer is—and that's not particularly good, frankly—'We're not quite sure yet,' as at April, and the financial year where this cut commences starts in a few months, that's a bit of a problem.</p> <p>Mrs Adamson: We are keenly aware of the sorts of impacts that you are concerned about and are doing our very best to minimise those impacts. We will, as I said, come prepared for more detailed discussion next time.</p>	Hansard	94-95	24/05/2019
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	6	Penny Wong	Australia Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific	<p>Mr Wood: In simple terms, the \$500 million for the grant component of the AIFFP is all being found from within the aid budget. It is made up of a combination of reprioritisations and in 2022-23 that growth in the overall aid budget, so it's—</p> <p>Senator WONG: That comes to \$326 million; correct?</p> <p>Mr Wood: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: So you're telling me that \$126 million cut to ODA in 2019-20 will</p>	Hansard	96	24/05/2019

				<p>all be reprioritised to the facility or whatever it's called?</p> <p>Mr Wood: No. What is happening over the forward estimates will be the continuation of some of those reductions, so if a program is reduced by \$10 million next year there will then be the flow-on of that saving over the forward estimates.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Which is not currently reflected in the ODA document. What you're essentially telling me is that there are more cuts to come.</p> <p>Mr Wood: There will be more reductions over the forward estimate. If you're looking at page 25 you can see that the country program line shows a reduction over the forward estimates. You will see that the regional program line shows an increase. A large part of that increase in the regional program line is the funding for the AIFPP, because at this stage that is a broad regional program.</p> <p>Senator WONG: We can calculate, in that regional program budget line, what the funding for the AIFPP is. Can you give that to me?</p> <p>Mr Wood: We can come back with that. ...</p> <p>Senator WONG: Okay. Mr Wood, given this country program line item in 1.2.1 is reducing, it's the case isn't it that if you did an orange book over the forward estimate what you would see is further country cuts?</p> <p>Mr Wood: There would be a continuation of some of those reductions, yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: What is the total reduction over the forwards?</p> <p>Mr Wood: I would have to take that</p>				
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	7	Penny Wong	IWD Statement	<p>Senator WONG: Has Australia not signed up to, or joined, statements before that don't precisely follow the Cairo declaration?</p> <p>Ms Rogers: We've had a look through previous statements that we've signed on to. We were able to find examples where we'd made comments in relation to other countries on UPRs, universal periodic reviews. In terms of resolutions, though, the language has in the past been caveated by that reference to 'legal'.</p> <p>Senator WONG: As a result of this interaction between the foreign minister's office and DFAT, the eventual position of Australia was not to join the statement. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Rogers: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Senator Payne, was there any discussion between your office and the Prime Minister's office about Australia's position in relation to this statement?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I'm not specifically aware of that, but I'll take that on notice and ask my office. What I can say, further to what Ms Rogers just said, is that, since March 2013 and a statement at the CSW, this is the language that Australia, according to advice I received, has adopted. In the March 2013 session of the CSW, the phrase was 'safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law'. That was replicated with similar language in the CSW of 2014, again in 2016</p>	Hansard	100	24/05/2019

					at the CSW and twice in July 2018 at the Human Rights Council. In September 2018, again the phrase was 'safe abortion in accordance with international human rights law and where not against national law'. Then, in the third committee of the UNGA in November 2018, the phrase was 'safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law', consistent with the ICPD, which the—			
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	8	Penny Wong	Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia	<p>Senator WONG: Arms Trade Treaty assessment—is that your role?</p> <p>Ms Gorely: That's part of the role. We do an assessment in accordance with our obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty and we also take into account regional security, foreign policy and other considerations along those lines. So it's a broad assessment of a number of different considerations before reverting to Defence, with DFAT's perspective, and then the final decision rests with Defence.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Have you provided any such assessments in relation to Saudi Arabia?</p> <p>Ms Gorely: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Most recently? I assume whatever the dates are, which you can give me on notice, that the assessment was that there was no breach?</p> <p>Ms Gorely: In relation to—</p> <p>Senator WONG: I asked if you had undertaken any assessment in relation to arms sales to Saudi Arabia. You said yes. I asked you for the date. You couldn't find it. I said I was happy for you to take it on notice. I then said to you that I assume the result of that assessment was there was no breach of our obligations</p>	Hansard	102-103	24/05/2019
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	10	Murray Watt	Member for Dawson	<p>Senator WATT: And support was provided to the member for Dawson and presumably others in relation to that trip?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: Yes. I hope we provided it to others!</p> <p>Senator WATT: But the two other occasions, September 2014 and December 2016, were both during private visits?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WATT: And meetings were arranged by DFAT officers, first of all with the Speaker of the Philippines parliament?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WATT: And DFAT officers accompanied the member for Dawson to that meeting?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WATT: And in December 2016 it was—</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: With congress men and women and the Speaker of the Philippines House of Representatives.</p> <p>Senator WATT: Did multiple meetings occur, or was there one meeting with—</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: I think it was one meeting. If that is important I could check that, but I think it was just one meeting.</p> <p>Senator WATT: Okay. Was there any other assistance provided by the</p>	Hansard	105	24/05/2019

				<p>department, including post in Manila, to the member for Dawson during any of his travel to the Philippines?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: Those are the only three particular visits or meetings that the department assisted with.</p> <p>Senator WATT: What was the cost of providing that assistance?</p> <p>Mrs Adamson: We don't cost providing that sort of assistance, Senator. It's a routine thing for our missions overseas to assist parliamentarians with their meetings and, in some cases, some other arrangements. There are guidelines for all of this, but we don't cost it.</p> <p>Senator WATT: Would it be fair to say that multiple DFAT officers in post would have been involved in providing that assistance?</p> <p>Mrs Adamson: No, I wouldn't say it was fair to characterise it in that way.</p> <p>Senator WATT: Because it might have only been one officer each time?</p> <p>Mrs Adamson: It could have been one or two. These things are typically not onerous. They constitute routine business for embassies and high commissions overseas.</p> <p>Senator WATT: Do you have any information about how many DFAT officers accompanied the member for Dawson in any of these meetings that he had?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: I do not have that information.</p> <p>Senator WATT: Could you take that on notice, please? P. 105</p> <p>Senator WATT: And support was provided to the member for Dawson and presumably others in relation to that trip?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: Yes. I hope we provided it to others!</p> <p>Senator WATT: But the two other occasions, September 2014 and December 2016, were both during private visits?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WATT: And meetings were arranged by DFAT officers, first of all with the Speaker of the Philippines parliament?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WATT: And DFAT officers accompanied the member for Dawson to that meeting?</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WATT: And in December 2016 it was—</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: With congress men and women and the Speaker of the Philippines House of Representatives.</p> <p>Senator WATT: Did multiple meetings occur, or was there one meeting with—</p> <p>Ms Heckscher: I think it was one meeting. If that is important I could check that, but I think it was just one meeting.</p> <p>Senator WATT: Okay. Was there any other assistance provided by the department, including post in Manila, to the member for Dawson during any of</p>			
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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	11	Claire Moore	<p>Family Planning and Reproductive Health</p> <p>Senator MOORE: When we're talking about it, it's reproductive health and family planning? Mr Wood: Yes. Senator MOORE: Under that basis, 17-18 and 16-17—there still does seem to be a reduction. If you add those figures together of 16-17, of the titles 'reproductive health care' and 'family planning', it still seems to me to be a lower figure in 17-18 than in 16-17. Mr Wood: That may well be the case, Senator. I've got the 17-18 table here. That may well be the case, but we could come back and confirm that.</p>	Hansard	106	24/05/2019
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	12	Claire Moore	<p>Family Planning and Reproductive Health</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Under those, can you give me what the commitment is over what time? Ms Rogers: Yes, I can. Do you want me to do that now? Senator MOORE: If whatever page you are reading off can give all of those figures at once it would be very useful. Ms Rogers: Would you like me to provide those to you? Senator MOORE: It would be great to get that tabled or whatever, but can you</p>	Hansard	107	24/05/2019

				<p>give those commitments on record now as well?</p> <p>Ms Rogers: Yes.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: The last series of commitments have been to the UNFPA.</p> <p>Ms Rogers: There's also one to the IPPF that was signed in October.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: And Marie Stopes.</p> <p>Ms Rogers: That's right. The last I mentioned before was Marie Stopes International and then there was one with IPPF for \$18.4 million over 2018-2022.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Was that a new commitment?</p> <p>Ms Rogers: That was the signing of a new agreement, yes.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: So that's IPPF. UNFPA?</p> <p>Ms Rogers: Going backwards, UNFPA's was a first payment under a \$30 million four-year program. The second UNFPA payment was a new \$10 million three-year multilateral year funding agreement—so three years.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Three years of \$10 million or a total of \$10 million over three?</p> <p>Ms Rogers: A total of \$10 million.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: A total of \$10 million over three years?</p> <p>Ms Rogers: Yes. The UNFPA \$4 million was first payment to UNFPA under two new programs, with a total value of \$13.4 million. It does not have the time frame for that.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: It may actually be something that we can work out for the future. Does the total commitment over the period bring in 2018-19? What does that bring it up to? Is it possible to know that?</p> <p>Ms Rogers: I'm not a mathematician.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: I'm not either. Can you take that on notice to get a comparative? I'm not going to go to you, Mr Wood; you've done too much tonight.</p> <p>Mr Wood: That's okay; I was just—</p> <p>Senator Payne: We're only just starting, Senator Moore—please! We're not even out of the blocks yet.</p> <p>Mr Wood: I'm just following the NRL game at the moment, so it's okay.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: I really hope you weren't listening to the one last night. I turned off.</p> <p>Senator Payne: How did the Broncos go last night, Senator Moore?</p> <p>Senator MOORE: I think that should be a health committee one! Mr Wood, in the data that you have there, do you have a cumulative figure to cover everything Ms Rogers has just told me for 2018-19?</p> <p>Mr Wood: No, I don't.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: But we could get that somewhere?</p> <p>Mr Wood: Yes.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Could I put that on notice, because in the past you have given me what comes under that—so I can get that focused? Mr Wood: Yes, definitely.</p>			
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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	13	Claire Moore	Family Planning and Reproductive Health	<p>Senator MOORE: We have had discussions here before about what the department's understanding of the impact has been of the US changes in this area. Up until the last Senate estimates, I had asked that each time and it was too early to have an assessment about what people had been feeding back from post and what people have been feeding back in various discussions. Has that changed? Has there been any more feedback to the department about what the impact, in our region in particular but also generally, has been of that major reduction of US funding?</p> <p>Ms Rogers: I've got some information here. You will be aware that there was a further expansion of the policy just recently.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: I am.</p> <p>Ms Rogers: According to my notes here, we have information that—2017, the IPPF and Marie Stopes International anticipated a combined funding loss of around \$270 million over 2017 to 2021. But there is no further information on the specifics. I know that some of those organisations didn't provide services in the Pacific, so—</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Some did.</p> <p>Ms Rogers: Yes, that's correct. So, we would need to get back to you on—</p> <p>Senator MOORE: That would be really useful, because I think there is still a lot of discussion going on, and it certainly is within the international groups...</p>	Hansard	108	24/05/2019
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	14	Claire Moore	Family Planning and Reproductive Health	<p>Senator MOORE: We have had an ongoing position where we have been giving money to UNFPA. I know it is in one of the books. Has that continued, or has it been increased?</p> <p>Mr Wood: That's been maintained at \$9.2 million.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Do we have any comparator about how that \$9.2 million compares with other comparable nations? At one stage, we were one of the major contributors to the UNFPA because of other countries not focusing in that area. Can you take that on notice. Ms Adamson has just been to the UNFPA. There has been quite a dynamic dialogue between that organisation and Australia over many years in terms of our engagement. So I would like to get a snapshot about that compares.</p> <p>Mr Wood: Yes.</p> <p>Mrs Adamson: And I think they have a very good website that sets out absolutely who does what, and what that means, and how that translates. So we will have a look and if we can get back to you this evening we will.</p>	Hansard	109	24/05/2019
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	15	Claire Moore	Family Planning and Reproductive Health	<p>Senator MOORE: In that same document there seems to have been a significant reduction in South-East Asia and East Asia around family planning and reproductive health care. Have any programs been cut in South-East Asia?</p> <p>Ms Rogers: I wouldn't be able to answer that question. We have already had the</p>	Hansard	109-110	24/05/2019

					<p>discussion about some of the decreases in the other places.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: This is 2016-17 and 2017-18. We still don't have the impact of anything from 2018-19 into the future. In the historical aspect of 2016-17 and 2017-18, were family planning programs cut in that area? Can I put that on notice? I haven't got that before me.</p> <p>Mr Wood: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Can I also get on notice how you define the difference between family planning and sexual and reproductive health. There must be a document somewhere that gives me what that means in terms of what comes where.</p> <p>Ms Rogers: Are you referring to the DAC codes around this?</p> <p>Senator MOORE: I've got the DAC codes. Is there something the department users in addition to the DAC codes? From the past, I think it is not just the DAC code on which you operate. I just want to make sure I have got that right. Also, you've given me information about the newest programs, which are the ones that have, particularly, come through UNFPA. Is it possible to tell me the allocations that have gone to UNFPAs, NGOs and managing contractors?</p> <p>Ms Rogers: We should be able to provide you with that information.</p>			
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	16	Alex Gallacher	China - Coal	<p>Senator GALLACHER: Just a procedural point on that: once the department was aware, obviously the trade minister was informed and there was a time line for that. When did the minister first become aware?</p> <p>Mr Fletcher: I believe it would've been in November. I think the letter from the Minerals Council of Australia was actually to the minister. I'll take that on notice; frankly, I'm not absolutely certain of that.</p>	Hansard	113	24/05/2019
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5/04/2019	17	Richard Di Natale	Aid Budget	<p>1) DFAT has indicated that \$170 million in payments to multilateral organisations have been brought forward from the 2019-20 Financial Year to 2018-19. Can DFAT provide details of the amounts for each multilateral organisation to which Australia is making an earlier payment?</p> <p>2) What provision overall is the Government making in the aid budget for multilateral replenishments in the next two financial years?</p>	Written		24/05/2019