

Question on Notice

Date: 3/06/2021

Time: 21:47; 21:48; 21:48; 21:49; 21:50; 21:50; 21:51; 21:51; 21:51; 21:52; 21:53; 21:53; 21:54

Senator Tony Sheldon

Topic: Vatican - Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Question:

1. Has the Australian Government offered to provide any assistance to the Vatican in interpreting the findings or provided any further assistance regarding these matters?
2. Would you be able to give me the actual dates [of the representations made by our Ambassador to the Vatican regarding the National Redress Scheme]?
3. Has the Vatican expressed any views on the Redress Scheme and the Catholic Church's participation in it?
4. The Royal Commission recommended redress payments of up to \$200,000, but the Australian Government decided to cap them at \$150,000. Did the Vatican express any views on the cap on redress payments? [*Response from Frances Adamson, Secretary, DFAT: We can ask overnight.*] – **Please note this deadline.**
5. Has any assistance been provided to the Vatican to act on the findings of the Royal Commission, as far as they pertain to the Catholic Church?
6. The answer to QoN 2351, attachment 56, asked by Senator Ayres on 12 November 2020, states 'the Royal Commission's unredacted findings on Cardinal Pell were released on 7 May 2020, and DFAT provided a full, unredacted copy of findings to staff of the Embassy of the Holy See'. Was it a full, unredacted copy, briefing or both?
7. What subsequent action took place following the receipt [of the findings]?
8. With reference to answer to the QoN 2345, on 12 November 2020, is it common practice for the Australian Embassy to issue invitations to events it hasn't organised [referring to a Domus Australia event attended by Cardinal Pell]?
9. Does it [the embassy] provide invitations for other organisations?
10. [In relation to previous question] Can you give me the number of times and occasions and what the essence of those invitations were? For the Domus Australia event?
11. Back to the last event, that we just spoke about, at the last event, were these invitations for private events - were they an exclusive list?
12. Asked by Senator the Hon Penny Wong, ALP, SA: What's the reason for non-provision [of the details of attendees at the event, given invitations were sent out by the Australia Embassy]? Is it because it's a religious service or because it's an event? You're wrong that function lists are not provided – I've previously received them from PM&C.

Answer:

1.
 - *Former Ambassador (Melissa Hitchman) provided a summary of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, as they relate to the Holy See and Catholic Church on 15 December 2017 to the Holy See and Pontifical Commission on the Protection of Minors and Gregorian Centre for Child Protection.*
2.
 - *Since Ambassador Porro took up her role as Ambassador (credentials presented to Pope Francis on 27 August 2020), she has discussed the National Redress Scheme with the Holy See's Secretariat of State (August 2020) and with the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (September, October, and December 2020).*

3.
 - *We are not aware of any views expressed by the Vatican on the Redress Scheme and the Catholic Church's participation in it.*
4.
 - *We are not aware of any views expressed from the Vatican on this issue.*
5.
 - *We are not aware of any specific assistance that may have been provided to the Vatican on the recommendations contained in the report of the Royal Commission, so far as they pertain to the Catholic Church.*
6.
 - *This was the link to the unredacted material released by the Royal Commission.*
7.
 - *Links to the unredacted reports of the Royal Commission relating to Cardinal Pell's testimony were sent by then Australian Charge (Matt Wise) to the Holy See Secretariat of State and the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors on 7 May 2020.*
8.
 - *No.*
 - *The occasion (the anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary Mackillop was a significant event for Australia and the Australian community in Rome, and could not be marked by the Embassy as planned due to the pandemic. It represented a useful engagement opportunity for our Embassy.*
 - *The Embassy only sent invitations to the guests it had selected to be invited to the event.*
 - *Domus invited its own guests.*
9.
 - *No, it does not provide invitations for other organisations.*
10.
 - *An email message, forwarding the invitation from Domus Australia to mark the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary Mackillop, was sent to contacts in the Australian community, the diplomatic corps and the Holy See, by the Australian Embassy to the Holy See.*
11.
 - *Domus Australia had to limit the number of attendees due to the pandemic and COVID restrictions in place in Italy at the time.*
12.
 - *We will provide a list of the individuals invited by the Embassy.*

Question on Notice

Date: 3/6/2021

Time: 15:22

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Topic: RCEP ratification prospects given the situation in Myanmar

Question:

What's your perception of the RCEP ratification prospects in Myanmar? Given the situation in Myanmar, have you considered the prospects of progress on ratification on RCEP?

Answer:

- . Myanmar participated in the negotiation of the RCEP Agreement, which was signed by Australia, Myanmar and 13 other countries [on 15 November 2020], before this year's coup in Myanmar.
- . We have not been advised of any change in Myanmar's approach to RCEP.
- . At least nine RCEP signatory states need to complete their domestic procedures and ratify the Agreement before it can enter into force. RCEP has been ratified by Singapore (9 April) and China (15 April).
- . The Agreement will enter into force 60 days after at least six ASEAN member states and three non-ASEAN member states have ratified the Agreement.
- . The Agreement's entry into force does not require ratification by all ten ASEAN Member States.

Question on Notice

Date: 3/06/2021

Time: 20:45

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Topic: Cyber Cooperation Project

Question:

1. Can you, on notice, perhaps provide more detail on the Cyber Cooperation Project – how many projects funded, in what countries, KPIs, etc.?
2. What workshops have been held in South East Asia since the program started?

Answer:

1. As at 4 June 2021, there have been 80 projects programmed over a nine-year period (2016-2025), in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Of these projects, 37 have been completed and 43 are ongoing. Projects are implemented bilaterally and regionally in Southeast Asian and Pacific island countries eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Program is at [Attachment A](#).

2. List of what workshops have been held in Southeast Asia under the Cyber and Critical Tech Cooperation Program since 2016:
 - Monash University cyber short courses for Myanmar Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) and information technology (IT) students (2016/17 – 2017/18)
 - Australian National University-led (ANU) Cyber Bootcamp Project, with Bootcamps for Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand (2016/17 – 2022/23)
 - Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) cyber policy workshops in Indonesia (2017/2018)
 - ICT4 Peace Foundation cyber security workshops for Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam (2016/17 – 2018/19)
 - Australian Federal Police (AFP) digital forensics workshop for Royal Thai Police in Thailand (2017/18)
 - UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) crypto-currency workshop for Royal Thai Police in Thailand (2017/18)
 - Supported 10 Southeast Asia officials' attendance at the 2017 Australian Cyber Security Centre Conference (2017/18)
 - Supported 13 Southeast Asia (and Pacific) officials' attendance at the 2017 Global Conference on Cyberspace, and Global Forum for Cyber Expertise (2017/18)
 - UNODC conference on countering child sexual exploitation in Southeast Asia (2017/18)

- Singapore-hosted ASEAN cyber risk reduction workshop (2017/18)
- ASPI cyber workshops in Indonesia (2017/18)
- Cyber Law International (CLI) workshops on the application of international law in cyberspace (tri-lateral Australia/ Singapore/ The Netherlands funded, 2017/18 – 2020/21)
- Qantas aviation cyber resilience project in ASEAN (2018/19 – 2019/20)
- International Foundation for Electoral Systems cybersecurity election support for Indonesia (2018/19 – 2021/22)
- ASPI training for ASEAN Member States on UN Group of Governmental Experts reports and norms implementation (2018/19 – 2021/22)
- Australian Cyber Security Centre-led ASEAN 'Capture the Flag' workshop (2018/19)
- AFP cybercrime investigative training for Southeast Asian countries (2018/19 – 2022/23)
- CLI workshops on international law in the cyber era – balancing state interests and individual rights (Australia-only supported workshops; 2019/20 – 2021/22)
- Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre training supporting women in the ASEAN Internet industry (2019/20 – 2021/22)
- Retrospect Labs defensive readiness and cyber security exercise program – Thailand (2019/20 – 2021/22)
- UNODC cryptocurrency training for Southeast Asian countries (2019/20 – 2022/23)
- FireEye cyber security services in the Philippines (2020/21 – 2021/22)

Goals	<p>A peaceful and stable on-line environment; and An open, free and secure Internet that protects national security, promotes international stability, while driving global economic growth and sustainable development</p>				
End of Program Outcome	<p>Selected states in ASEAN and the Pacific region increase awareness, commitment, action and international engagement to strengthen cyber resilience and build sustainable partners with Australia by 2023</p>				
Intermediate Outcome	<p>An international cyber stability framework which promotes responsible state behaviour in cyberspace</p>	<p>Stronger cybercrime prevention, prosecution and cooperation</p>	<p>Build cyber security capability for a strong and resilient cyber security posture</p>	<p>Best practice use of technology to support economic growth and sustainable development</p>	<p>Human rights and democracy online</p>
Program Outcomes	<p>Countries in the region:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have taken practical steps to support the application of existing international law to state conduct in cyberspace 2. Commit to and implement norms of responsible state behaviour and practical confidence building measures 3. Actively promote and protect an open, free and secure Internet 	<p>Countries in the region:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen national legal frameworks for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of cybercrimes. 2. Have increased human and institutional capacity for preventing, investigating and prosecuting cybercrime. 3. Cooperate in the sharing of information to combat cybercrime. 	<p>Countries in the region:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish and strengthen national cyber security and governance frameworks, in line with best practice 2. Have increased human and institutional capacity for cyber incident prevention, response and management 3. Coordinate and share information on cyber incident management across the region 	<p>The Australian aid program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrates cyber security by design; and respect for human rights in all technology for development initiatives 2. Promotes an open, free and secure Internet through engagement with governments in the region 	<p>Countries in the region:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish and strengthen national frameworks that respect and protect human rights and democracy online – 2. Have increased human and institutional capacity to respond to and manage online content consistent with human rights and democratic principles
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops and short courses - Regional and multilateral forums - Policy dialogues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for policy and legislative reform - Workshops and short courses - Network building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for policy development - CERT training and mentoring - CERT networks - Simulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilot projects - Guidance Notes and training for aid program managers - Leadership from Heads of Mission and Senior Executives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops and training - Network building - Guidance Notes

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment mainstreamed across all activities

Question on Notice

Date: 3/06/2021

Time: 22:27

Senator the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells

Topic: Pacific Coastal Fisheries Management Program

Question:

Could you tell me how the Coastal Fisheries Management Program is going, as many Pacific Island countries didn't have Coastal Fisheries Management Plans - I think you were doing some work on that with the University of Wollongong?

Answer:

As part of Australia's extensive support to maritime and security and sustainable fisheries management in the Pacific, the department provides funding for Community Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) to help secure sustainable fish stocks and local supply of fish (AU\$8 million, 2017-21, including AU\$2 million of co-funding from Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research). The project is implemented by the University of Wollongong's Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS). The project has supported the development of CBFM plans in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu which will help promote long term sustainability and empower the communities to manage their resources. As a result of this work, these communities have reported improvements to fish stocks.

The University of Wollongong provides world class expertise in oceanic and coastal governance and has directly supported national policy development and facilitated community engagement. The project has established strong partnerships with governments to strengthen the enabling environment for CBFM, including the development of policy and legal frameworks and capacity building at the national and community levels.

In October 2020, the Foreign Minister announced a continuation of funding to support coastal fisheries in the Pacific (AU\$10 million, 2021-26) as part of the Pacific Regional COVID-19 Development Response Plan.

Question on Notice

Date: 3/06/2021

Time: 22:57

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Topic: Spending on programs on forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery; ODA spending compared to US, UK and Canada

Question:

We would like to know what money, in which programs, are in whole or in part directed towards forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery?

Answer:

There are many drivers of modern slavery and human trafficking. Drivers include poverty, gender inequality, lack of economic opportunity, access to education, and weak rule of law. Australia provides significant Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding to programs and activities to address these issues. The Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy includes as a minimum that DFAT aid investments must avoid the use of forced labour, including trafficked persons, slavery, servitude, debt bondage and deceptive recruiting of labour.

Some investments specifically target modern slavery and human trafficking, for example, the ASEAN Australia Counter Trafficking initiative (\$80m, 2018-2028). In addition, other investments support Australia's objectives on modern slavery and human trafficking less directly, by addressing the drivers or the impacts on a broader scale. For example, we fund programs that seek to reduce violence against women, improve labour conditions, and build law and justice capacity. These are not targeted programs that focus on modern slavery and human trafficking, but often have broader objectives of improving governance or gender equality. It is difficult to measure exactly what proportion of these broader programs contribute specifically to human trafficking and modern slavery objectives.

The following is an estimate of ODA expenditure on programs and activities that, in whole or in part, address modern slavery or human trafficking, including funding for the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime:

ODA Funding	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
	22,939,619	27,895,171	27,269,461	24,031,122

Question on Notice

Date: 3/06/2021

Time: 22:59

Senator Tony Sheldon

Topic: Spending on programs on forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery; ODA spending compared to US, UK and Canada

Question:

How does our ODA compare to the US, UK and Canada, proportionally? What is the total amount from the US, UK and Canada and how does our allocation compare with those three countries?

Answer:

There is no internationally agreed definition of 'modern slavery'. In our international engagement, DFAT refers to 'human trafficking and its related forms of exploitation' as set out in the internationally recognised definition of this crime under the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (the Palermo Protocol).

Australia and the UK use the term 'modern slavery' as an umbrella term for slavery, servitude, forced labour, debt bondage, deceptive recruitment for labour or services, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage and human trafficking. The US and Canada do not use the term 'modern slavery'. Rather, they use the terminology of Trafficking in Persons (TIP – as set out in the Palermo Protocol) and forced labour (as defined by the relevant ILO conventions).

There is no common methodology determined by the OECD DAC for tracking ODA expenditure on human trafficking and modern slavery.

Question on Notice

Date: 04/06

Time: 14:01

Senator Janet Rice

Topic: Cambodia - Consular

Question:

1. How many Australians are currently in Phnom Penh?
2. So, in terms of the Australians that are impacted, how, I know it is very difficult on the ground, so I mean that probably sounds like there are Australians that are trapped by lockdowns in Phnom Penh that we aren't able to get to I presume?

Answer:

There are 385 Australians registered in Cambodia, with 137 seeking assistance to return.

Our Embassy in Phnom Penh continues to provide consular services in line with the Consular Services Charter to Australian citizens in Cambodia, including Phnom Penh.

The Australian Embassy provides updates to Australian citizens through Smartraveller, our social media channels (Facebook and Twitter), website, and responses to individual phone and email enquiries.

The Embassy assists Australian citizens, and importantly those who are vulnerable, with access to overseas financial assistance and flights to Australia.

The Embassy has remained available for in-person emergency consular appointments throughout the pandemic.

Question on Notice

Date: 04/06

Time: 14:29

Senator the Hon Eric Abetz (on behalf of Senator Janet Rice)

Topic: COVID cases amongst DFAT's staff and families

Question:

How many DFAT officials and families have caught COVID?

Answer:

As at 4 June 2021, a total of 139 Australia-based staff and dependents, and 269 locally engaged staff across our overseas network had contracted COVID-19.

This includes 61 Australia-based staff from DFAT, 29 Australia-based staff from other agencies, 49 dependants (across DFAT and other agencies), 154 locally engaged staff from DFAT, and 115 locally engaged staff from other agencies.

Question on Notice

Date: 4/06

Time: 1215

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Topic: Financial Support for PNG and Pacific

Question:

How much of [the financial support for PNG and the Pacific this year] is not allocated? You made a 304.7 announcement, I assume not all of it has been allocated is that right?

The release also says that Australia is assisting PNG by also providing 144.7 million through regional vaccine access and initiative. Is that an allocation from existing 500 million budget measure support for vaccine access in the Pacific and South-East Asia also announced on 31 October? You've already allocated all of that 500 million?

On notice, I want the 500 million broken down. That's not new money? That's the allocation of the previous announcement?

Answer:

Pacific COVID-19 Response Package: FY 2020/21 funding allocations

Country	Vulnerability and Economic Recovery Window	Fiscal Crisis Window	Total
Fiji	\$20 million	\$54 million	\$74 million
PNG	\$15 million	\$52 million	\$67 million
Timor-Leste	\$20 million	Nil	\$20 million
Vanuatu	\$10 million	Nil	\$10 million
Solomon Islands	\$10 million	Nil	\$10 million
Tonga	\$5 million	\$5 million	\$10 million
Kiribati	\$3 million	Nil	\$3 million
Sustainable Pacific Air Connectivity Program			\$6 million
Total	\$83 million	\$111 million	\$200 million

Note: \$100m in FY 2021/22 yet to be allocated.

Question on Notice

Date: 04/06

Time: 13:55

Senator Janet Rice

Topic: Kashmir

Question:

Could you take on notice, and again I know I am running out of time, when, and in what forum, human rights issues, including in Kashmir, have been raised with the Indian Government?

Answer:

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has raised human rights with the Indian Government both in Canberra and via the Australian High Commission in New Delhi. DFAT raised human rights 10 times in 2019, including once by the Secretary, five times in 2020, and once in 2021.