

Additional Estimates 2021-22 – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade QON Index

Dept	Portfolio Q No	Senator	BroadTopic	QuestionText	Written Hansard	Proof Hansard Page
DFAT	1	Kimberley Kitching	Ambassador to France	<p>Senator KITCHING: The ambassador's met with whom in the French government?</p> <p>Senator Payne: We'd have to take that on notice but are happy to provide you with a response on that. She certainly presented her credentials to the President in December, at the Elysee.</p> <p>Ms Cooper: That was on 2 November, for the record.</p> <p>Senator Payne: In November.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Was there any discussion there of the Future Submarine Program?</p> <p>Senator Payne: Not that I'm aware of, but, again, we'll take this on notice.</p>	Hansard	6
DFAT	2	Kimberley Kitching	Indo-Pacific Forum	<p>Senator KITCHING: What other countries—and I'm happy for a list to be provided later on in the day—have been invited to the forum?</p> <p>Senator Payne: The EU Indo-Pacific forum?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Payne: We'll take that on notice. It's a large group, and we will provide that on notice. It's not our invitation of course.</p>	Hansard	12
DFAT	3	Timothy Ayres	Countries that submitted NDCs	<p>Senator AYRES: The assertion that the government of the United Kingdom made was that 153 other countries submitted new 2030 reduction targets for COP26. I am going to ask you to provide that list on notice, but Australia is not one of those 153 countries, is it?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: Senator, I think what you're referring to is the document that the UK put out that sort of summarised their elements. I think the latest figure is actually 155 countries that submitted new NDCs. Australia is one of those countries. The number of countries that included increases on their headline target was around 91 of those 155. Those new NDCs, obviously, reflect a whole range of elements around what countries are going to do and continue to do over this decade and over the next decades under the Paris agreement. And, obviously, as said, the government did bring the 2050 net zero commitment; we outlined significant ambitious technology targets, not only with cost points but also with the date ranges; and we also committed and announced, as part of our broader packages, a doubling of our climate financing commitment.</p>	Hansard	15
DFAT	4	Timothy Ayres	Bilateral meetings in Glasgow	<p>Senator AYRES: In the interests of precision, which we've had some discussion about, Chair, I would like a list of all the bilateral meetings that the Prime Minister had at Glasgow. Perhaps, if possible, that could be provided later on during the day. I see that it's 10.30, so I'll bring that line of questioning to a close there.</p> <p>CHAIR: That question is being taken on notice.</p>	Hansard	18
DFAT	5	Mehreen Faruqi	Support for Tonga	<p>Senator Payne: I'd also like to provide on notice the details of the engagement of the 14 RAAF flights, the aerial surveillance et cetera. We'll provide that to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: That would be good.</p>	Hansard	20
DFAT	6	Mehreen Faruqi	Climate finance pledge	<p>Senator FARUQI: Is the funding 100 per cent grant based or is it loans as well?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: The majority of it is grant based, though we are increasingly, through a range of initiatives, looking at how we're using some non-grant mechanisms to engage and partner with the private sector, particularly in investments that can accelerate the uptake of renewables, low-emissions technologies, but also some nature based solutions partnerships such as marine coastlines, blue carbon et cetera.</p> <p>Senator FARUQI: If 100 per cent is not grant based, what percentage is grant based and what percentage is loans?</p> <p>Mr Isbister: I do have to take the exact percentage on notice.</p>	Hansard	20
DFAT	7	David Fawcett	Myanmar	<p>Senator FAWCETT: I'm being conscious off time here, so I won't extend this. Statements are important—I understand that—but, for many people on the ground in Myanmar, those statements don't change the daily reality of what they are facing in terms of military attacks, health, food shortages and a whole range of things. I'm keen to understand what practical steps we</p>	Hansard	31

				with like-minded nations can take with ASEAN and the UN to bring about pressure on the Tatmadaw to re-engage positively in the transition back to civilian power. You can take that on notice in the interests of time.		
DFAT	8	Kristina Keneally	Women and children in Al-Roj	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Do you have information as to how many Australian women or, indeed, children who have a claim to Australian citizenship are located in al-Roj?</p> <p>Mr Noble: We listened to your questions to Home Affairs on Monday.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Thank you.</p> <p>Mr Noble: We haven't got the answer yet. The number I have is 65 men and women in Syria. The children number is probably always going to be an estimate and we don't have it yet, but I'll undertake to get it to you and Home Affairs will do that.</p> <p>Senator Payne: We're seeking that, Senator.</p>	Hansard	32
DFAT	9	Kristina Keneally	Report to Government	<p>Senator KENEALLY: I suppose what I'm asking here is not if the policy has changed, because demonstrably it has not; I'm asking if there has been a report to government on possible repatriations since September. Has there been a report to government on possible repatriations? Has government been advised by the department? I'm not asking the content of that advice; I'm asking if a report or advice has been forwarded to government since September on possible repatriations.</p> <p>Mr Noble: I'll take that on notice. I'm not tracking that. I'd need to check.</p>	Hansard	33
DFAT	10	Rex Patrick	Defence Minister statements	<p>Senator PATRICK: Has DFAT received any responses from the Chinese government to the claims made by the defence minister last week? If so, what has the Chinese government had to say about that?</p> <p>Senator Payne: There are responses in the Global Times.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: I beg your pardon?</p> <p>Senator Payne: There is a response, as I understand it, in the Global Times today.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: That's the formal way in which DFAT receives advice from the Chinese government, is it?</p> <p>Senator Payne: No. I was simply saying that that does include a response. A number of communications have been received in recent times, but I will see if the officials have anything to add.</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: We have regular exchanges with Chinese officials. They can and do offer critical comments about some public remarks in Australia. I don't know whether they have specifically in relation to this. We'll take it on notice and get back to you.</p>	Hansard	35
DFAT	11	Eric Abetz	Safeguard Defenders report	<p>CHAIR: Are you aware of the report by Safeguard Defenders about involuntary returns to China?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: I'm not personally acquainted with that report.</p> <p>CHAIR: In that case, could I encourage you to acquaint yourself with it. That report indicates that Chinese so-called law enforcement agencies are right around the world, either forcibly or under threat, removing people from the countries in which they're in back to China. The assertion is made that 10 Australians have been so removed from Australia. They were told that, if they didn't come with these people back to China, their family in China would be under severe pressure. Australia isn't the only country targeted. I think it's a report that came out on 18 January, so it's relatively new. It would be helpful if you could give us some indication as to the veracity of its commentary. I've got to say that it looks pretty robust.</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: We'll follow it up, including with the Australian Federal Police and other security agencies.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you for that. Our travel advice to people travelling to China, has that—</p> <p>Senator Payne: Can I just ask Ms Lawson to make a very short statement in relation to the Safeguard Defenders piece?</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>Ms Lawson: We are aware of that report. We have looked into it. It's a different division who looks after those matters, but we are aware of that report.</p> <p>Senator Payne: We'll provide further information on notice.</p>	Hansard	37
DFAT	12	Janet Rice	Cambodia	<p>When did the Department or Post become aware that the hand-over for medical equipment to the Cambodian government would occur at the headquarters of Brigade 70? https://vodenglish.news/rights-group-slams-australian-meeting-with-notorious-rcaf-unit/</p> <p>What steps did the Department take to advocate for a different location for the ceremony?</p>	Written	
DFAT	13	Eric Abetz	Olympics	<p>CHAIR: How many countries were engaged in the diplomatic boycott of the Olympics?</p> <p>Mr Hayhurst: I will ask Ms Lawson if she's got the full list.</p>	Hansard	38

				Ms Lawson: I don't have a full list with me here, but I could take that on notice and provide that to you. CHAIR: If you could.		
DFAT	14	Eric Abetz	Taiwan	CHAIR: I will move to Taiwan and the relationship there. On the overflights by the Chinese air force et cetera, have we made any representations to the People's Republic regime as to the inappropriateness of that behaviour, to use a mild term? Ms Lawson: We have made representations. CHAIR: When were they last made? You can take it on notice.	Hansard	39
DFAT	15	Janet Rice	Australians detained in China	Senator RICE: I want to move on to China. How many Australian citizens and permanent residents are arbitrarily detained in China currently? Senator Payne: I'll ask officials from our consular section to answer that question. There are a number of consular cases which we are engaged on, some of which have already been discussed here today. I would also note that, on occasions where there is detention of dual citizens, that does add complexity to our ability to both assist and, on occasion, be aware of legal processes, but Mr Wilcock may wish to add to that. Mr Wilcock: On the exact number of Australians detained in China, I would need to come back to you. You used the term 'arbitrarily detained', Senator. We refer to the detention of Dr Yang Jun as arbitrary detention. Senator RICE: Our consideration is their arbitrary detention, and my question did absolutely want to include dual citizens who may not be recognised, and whom I know aren't recognised, as Australian citizens in China.	Hansard	42
DFAT	16	Timothy Ayres	SDGs	Senator AYRES: Secretary, what's the nature of that work? I hesitate to use the phrase 'gap analysis', but what is the gap between when what our objective is and what is likely to occur? Ms Klugman: The sustainable development goals are a really important motivating force behind the development cooperation program. We have done work over the last couple of years to take account of the COVID situation and, with the coming of the Partnerships for Recovery framework, to translate the SDGs into our Partnerships for Recovery. We can come back to you on notice, if you wish, with some of the detail of that work that has been done. You're quite right, particularly in light of the economic and other damage done by COVID-19, but before that some countries in our region were also struggling to achieve the progress they wanted to achieve against the SDGs. We are in very active dialogue with each of those governments, particularly but not only in the Pacific, and the SDGs continue to be a really important touch point for us as we go through. Senator AYRES: Are you able to provide that on notice? That deals with the other objectives of education, health care, gender equality— Ms Klugman: The sustainable development goals, yes.	Hansard	75
DFAT	17	Janet Rice	Travel advice	Senator RICE: We've obviously got the report of the individual detained in Hong Kong. Is the government aware of any other Australian citizens detained in Hong Kong under the national security law? Mr Wilcock: Under the national security law, no, Senator. We're aware of one other Australian, a dual national again, detained in Hong Kong. This is on criminal charges, not national security charges. That person has been deemed by the local authorities to be Chinese and not Australian. The Chinese authorities typically will give us consular access when the individual enters China on their Australian passport. Senator RICE: But, even where we haven't got access to them, you're saying there's one other Australian citizen who, you understand, is detained under the national security law? Mr Wilcock: No, one other Australian detained in Hong Kong not under the new national security offences; on a criminal matter. Senator Payne: I might ask Mr Wilcock to speak briefly to the nature of the travel advice. Senator RICE: Can we not do that, because I've only got 20 minutes. I'm very happy to have that information tabled.	Hansard	42
DFAT	18	Janet Rice	Olympics	Senator RICE: Yes. I did want to go to whether the Australian government had made any representations to the UN Secretary-General regarding his attendance at the Olympic Games in Beijing. Senator Payne: Not that I'm specifically aware of, Senator. Mr Hayhurst: We might have to take that on notice, Senator.	Hansard	42
DFAT	19	Timothy Ayres	ODA figures MYEFO	Senator AYRES: The MYEFO measure on international economic support includes a loan of 250 million IMF special drawing rights—I think that's nearly half a billion Australian dollars. There's a further contribution of 36 million special drawing rights to	Hansard	76

				<p>the IMF Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust. I understand that's a Treasury measure, but the question for DFAT, I suppose, is whether a portion of those special drawing rights, loans and contributions is ODA.</p> <p>Mr Hilton: I understand there is a proportion. I'd have to take it on notice and get back to you with the exact proportion.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: So the answer is 'a proportion' and you'll be able to come back to me on notice with a bit more information about that?</p> <p>Mr Hilton: Yes.</p>		
DFAT	20	Timothy Ayres	SDRs issued to Australia from the IMF	<p>Senator AYRES: I think the IMF made a general allocation of SDRs to member countries in August last year. According to the IMF's website, that included 6.3 billion SDRs issued to Australia. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Hilton: I'd need to check that.</p> <p>Ms Klugman: That's a Treasury lead, but we can check and come back to you.</p>	Hansard	76
DFAT	21	Timothy Ayres	SDRs to developing countries	<p>Senator AYRES: Is the Australian government considering channelling further SDRs to assist developing countries, beyond the 286 million?</p> <p>Ms Klugman: The Australian government has recently made a decision to allow that to happen. I don't know where your briefing takes you up to. As I said, that's a Treasury lead. But we can take on notice what we've done so far and what might be contemplated for future reallocations of SDRs.</p>	Hansard	76
DFAT	22	Janet Rice	Peng Shuai	<p>Senator RICE: What representations has the government made to the IOC regarding the disappearance and censorship of tennis player Peng Shuai and the IOC's involvement in Chinese government propaganda alleging that everything is fine when others like the International Tennis Association haven't been able to get in contact with Peng Shuai at all?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I'll ask Ms Lawson to add anything that she wishes to. Those matters have been raised by the IOC; I don't have details with me.</p> <p>Ms Lawson: We don't have details about the IOC. We have raised the case of Peng Shuai with the Chinese government, but I'll have to come back to you on that specific question.</p> <p>Senator RICE: And whether we've made presentations to the IOC. You said you've raised it with the Chinese government, but it's the—</p> <p>Senator Payne: Ms Lawson said we'll come back to you on that.</p> <p>Ms Lawson: I'm not aware of any representations.</p> <p>Senator RICE: You're not aware of any and you'll get back to me.</p>	Hansard	42
DFAT	23	Janet Rice	Amnesty International report	<p>Senator RICE: Could you take on notice, if there are particular issues that you feel Amnesty have got wrong in this report, to tell us what they are?</p> <p>Mr Innes-Brown: Sure.</p>	Hansard	45
DFAT	24	Kristina Keneally	Bangkok LES	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Are you aware of whether the accused has written to some of the complainants and asked them to withdraw their complaints and offered them compensation to do so?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I was unaware of that, so I expect Mr Hudson's not aware.</p> <p>Mr Hudson: I'm not specifically aware of that.</p> <p>Senator Payne: But we will chase that up and see if that's been part of media reporting. If any information we have would be helpful, we're happy to chase that up.</p>	Hansard	45
DFAT	25	Kristina Keneally	Bangkok LES - advice to Minister	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Yes. When was the minister advised of the existence of these hidden cameras in the embassy?</p> <p>Mr Hudson: I don't have those specific dates with me, so I'll have to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	46
DFAT	26	timothy Ayres	SDR re-distribution mechanisms	<p>Senator AYRES: Thank you. What mechanisms for redistributing Australia's holdings are under examination?</p> <p>Ms Klugman: It's done through the IMF and our participation as a member of the IMF. As I said, that's led by the Treasury.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: There's a 100 billion target, I think, that's been—</p> <p>Ms Klugman: That's my understanding.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: What does Australia regard as our fair share of that undertaking?</p> <p>Ms Klugman: I'll have to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	76-77

DFAT	27	Timothy Ayres	SDR Allocations	<p>Senator AYRES: The G20 summit in October set the target that I just outlined, which is 15 per cent of the additional IMF SDR allocation last year. I suspect you'll take this on notice as well, but are the Australian contributions of 286 million SDRs to the IMF Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust 4½ per cent of Australia's additional SDR allocation last year? It seems, in the absence of some change, we're lagging.</p> <p>Ms Klugman: I'll have to take that on notice</p>	Hansard	77
DFAT	28	Timothy Ayres	High Commissioner to the UK car incident	<p>Senator AYRES: I want to know whether the driver had been rostered to work that morning, when he was notified that he would be required to drive that day, whether he had been rostered to drive Mr Brandis the day before and, if so, what time the driver finished that evening. I assume those questions will be taken on notice.</p>	Hansard	50
DFAT	29	Kimberley Kitching	Composition of regional media - Pacific	<p>Senator KITCHING: Do we have a breakdown of what percentage of media in the region would be Australian, what percentage would be Chinese, what percentage would be from the island nations of the Indo-Pacific?</p> <p>Senator Payne: In terms of the volume of voice?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Payne: I'm not sure; we can check.</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I would say it does vary from country to country. We can have a look at it, but it's probably not something we have readily available. We could take it on notice and have a look.</p>	Hansard	79
DFAT	30	Kimberley Kitching	East Micronesia Cable - Kiribati, Nauru, Melanesia	<p>Senator KITCHING: Have you got timings for the project, when it's expected to be commencing and then ending?</p> <p>Ms Peak: I would have to take that one on notice. The first step for us, the one we're working very hard towards, is closing the financing. At that point there will be a procurement process.</p>	Hansard	79
DFAT	31	Timothy Ayres	Heads of Mission	<p>Senator AYRES: Since 2013, on my count, 17 former Liberal-Nationals politicians—I think only one National; I might be wrong—have been appointed to diplomatic posts. Is my count correct, Secretary?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I don't think I'm counting them along that line, but I can take on notice when non-career diplomats have been appointed to posts overseas.</p>	Hansard	52
DFAT	32	Timothy Ayres	Passport application processing times	<p>Senator AYRES: Can you tell me how many applications take longer than six weeks?</p> <p>Ms Brill: I don't have that information with me, but I can certainly look to see if I can provide it. Unfortunately our systems are quite complex, but I will absolutely do my best to be able to provide it to you.</p>	Hansard	53
DFAT	33	Timothy Ayres	Passports phone line	<p>Senator AYRES: So you can't tell me how often the phone contact line was too congested for people to be able to get through?</p> <p>Ms Brill: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	54
DFAT	34	Timothy Ayres	APO Staff	<p>Senator AYRES: Are they all permanent staff, or do you engage people through labour hire companies?</p> <p>Ms Brill: We have a mix of permanent and contractor staff to give us the flexibility to surge the business as necessary.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: What proportion of the 600 are permanent staff or staff engaged directly by the department, and what proportion are employees of labour hire companies?</p> <p>Ms Brill: We have a large proportion as permanents. I can give you the exact breakdown on notice. We obviously have quite a skilled workforce, so a larger proportion is permanent compared to our contractors, which are essentially for our surge. I can take it on notice, but it is about a 70-30 split. That will change, obviously, as we continue to staff up. At the same time, we are currently running a permanent recruitment process.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Putting aside my concerns about the very high level of labour hire and casual insecure work across the Commonwealth, there are significant security issues attached to dealing with passport applications properly. How many labour hire companies are engaging their staff?</p> <p>Ms Brill: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: More than a dozen?</p> <p>Ms Brill: I don't think it's more than a dozen, but I will take it on notice.</p>	Hansard	54
DFAT	35	Timothy Ayres	APO and border reopening	<p>Senator AYRES: When was the Passport Office aware that the border was programmed to open on 1 November?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I would have to check the actual date for when the government took the decision, but the Passport Office had</p>	Hansard	55

				been included in all the work up to it. It didn't come as a surprise at all to us because we had been working with our colleagues on that.		
DFAT	36	Timothy Ayres	APO Staff	<p>Senator AYRES: With the 130 additional staff: is that because you got approval to increase the full-time-equivalent-staff footprint at the Passport Office, or are they all labour hire staff?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: We had some headroom in our ASL cap, so that allowed us to do some issues there.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Perhaps on notice: what was the headroom—</p> <p>Ms Campbell: We can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: and what is the proportion of the 130 new employees who are full time?</p>	Hansard	55
DFAT	37	Kristina Keneally	High Commissioner of Vanuatu	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Minister, when did you become aware of the warrant and its inclusion of the High Commissioner of Vanuatu?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I would have to take the actual date on notice, but I can say that the secretary hosted an event recently at which the High Commissioner of Vanuatu was in attendance, with both Minister Seselja and me also attending. Obviously, we engaged with him there. But as to when I became aware of it, I'll have to check.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Was that via a briefing from the department or when it came through the media?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I'll check, Senator.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Did the department prepare a brief for the minister?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I think, by recollection, I was advised by my staff, which would have been advised to my office from the department. But let me check so that the answer is complete; I'll come back to you.</p>	Hansard	57
DFAT	38	Kimberley Kitching	LNG exports	<p>I might move on to LNG exports. I want to ask questions particularly in relation to the Russian-Ukrainian tensions. Can I ask what advice DFAT provided to the PMO and to ministers' offices prior to a government press release on 26-27 January? ...</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: One is entitled 'Australian LNG readied to aid Europe over Ukraine crisis'. Sorry, it's not a press release; it was a media conference in Sydney on 27 January. I don't have those documents in front of me, but when did DFAT provide this advice?</p> <p>Mr Growder: I'll have a look if I can. I think I'd have to take it on notice. I'm not aware of any advice we've provided specifically to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on, but I will have to take that on notice to be sure.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Sure. Did DFAT advise on the model or the impact on Australian relations with our energy buyers in Asia? Did we advise them that we might be providing LNG to Europe?</p> <p>Mr Growder: Again, I'd have to take out a notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Did we liaise with any LNG exporters?</p> <p>Mr Growder: To the best of my knowledge, no, but again I will take it on notice to be sure.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Prior to that announcement, did DFAT seek advice from our posts in the EU regarding the risk of LNG shortage?</p> <p>Mr Growder: I will take that also on notice. Sorry.</p>	Hansard	83
DFAT	39	Janet Rice	Detainees in Syrian camp	<p>Senator RICE: Do you know whether the Kurdish authorities plan to take the Australian women and children to court for any alleged crimes? Have you asked the Kurdish authorities about this?</p> <p>Mr Noble: Our interactions with them are indirect, or through our posts periodically. I don't believe we have asked them that specific question.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Why not, given they have been detained now for a period of some years?</p> <p>Mr Noble: I would have to take it on notice.</p>	Hansard	60
DFAT	40	Janet Rice	West Papua	<p>What advocacy has the Australian Government undertaken in relation to human rights in West Papua following the provision of 15 Bushmasters?</p>	Written	
DFAT	41	Janet Rice	Engagement with Syrian Kurdish authorities	<p>Senator RICE: Since September 2021 when has the Australian government actually engaged with the Syrian Kurdish authorities?</p> <p>Mr Noble: Regularly, but often not in Syria—principally through our post contacts—</p> <p>Senator RICE: When you say regularly—weekly, fortnightly, monthly?</p> <p>Mr Noble: The most recent was February. It is not periodic. It's regular. So probably monthly. February this month was the—</p>	Hansard	60

				<p>Senator RICE: If you could take notice the details.</p> <p>Mr Noble: Sure. I can give you a list, yes.</p> <p>Senator RICE: During those engagements have we raised the question of the detention status of Australians?</p> <p>Mr Noble: I would have to take that on notice.</p>		
DFAT	42	Kimberley Kitching	COVID-19 Supply chain impacts	<p>I'm going to move on to the global COVID-19 supply chain. Has DFAT done modelling on the impact of the global COVID-19 supply chain crunch on the Australian economy?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: This might be with the other officers whom we've just let go.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: I will go through the questions, if you are able to answer; otherwise, I can put them on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: What liaison has the government had with regional economic partners to secure supply?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I know we have information on that and we will be able to answer that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Has DFAT been in contact with shipping companies to discuss supply chain issues?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I do not think we have been in contact. That has been led by the infrastructure department, but we will take that on notice and give you a full answer.</p>	Hansard	84
DFAT	43	Janet Rice	The Melzer Report	<p>Senator RICE: The department of foreign affairs has on file that there's a report by independent UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Nils Melzer, confirming that Mr Assange has all the symptoms typical for prolonged exposure to psychological torture. Minister, have you read that report in its entirety?</p> <p>Senator Payne: The Melzer report I have read in part. I'm not sure that I've read it in its entirety. I recall at the time that I was advised that the report was produced with, and I stand to be corrected by officials, no contact with the Australian government. We were not given an opportunity to engage with the special rapporteur. That is my recollection. If I need to correct the record I will.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Have you or the department raised any factual inaccuracies about that report with Mr Melzer?</p> <p>Senator Payne: I will take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	61
DFAT	44	Kimberley Kitching	Supply chain modelling COVID-19	<p>CHAIR: Do you receive modelling of that nature [when the supply chain crunch would end] from another department?</p> <p>Mr Growder: I do not believe we have. I will take that on notice but I don't think we have seen anything that you would call modelling on supply chain issues.</p>	Hansard	84
DFAT	45	Kristina Keneally	Reporting disclosures processes	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Has the department engaged any external experts to review its processes of reporting disclosures of sexual assault and misconduct?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: My recollection—I am looking around for someone who knows—is that this may have been done a couple of years ago or 18 months ago. I'm recalling that in my incoming secretary's brief that there were some items about the fact that there had been a recent review of mechanisms. I'll chase that up in the next break, Senator.</p>	Hansard	48
DFAT	46	Timothy Ayres	Preliminary report	<p>Senator AYRES: Can you copy a table of the preliminary report a bit later in the day?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I will review it. I think there are some privacy issues in it, but we will have a look at that for you.</p>	Hansard	51
DFAT	47	Timothy Ayres	Waiving sitting day requirement before review of intl treaty	<p>[Waiving the requirement for 20 joint sitting days before JSCOT can review a major international treaty]</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Can you tell me how many times that requirement has been waived since Minister Downer—who got a mention earlier this morning—implemented the convention, I think, in 1996?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: We'd probably need to take that on notice. I don't think anyone has got that statistic to hand.</p>	Hansard	88
DFAT	48	Eric Abetz	IHRA definition of antisemitism	<p>CHAIR: In recent times I've been delighted that the government has taken on the IHRA definition of antisemitism. How many other countries have now adopted that definition?</p> <p>Mr Innes-Brown: I will have to take that on notice; I don't have that to my fingertips.</p>	Hansard	64
DFAT	49	Eric Abetz	Abolition of the death penalty	<p>CHAIR: We are part of a group of countries seeking the abolition of the death penalty. As is my wont at estimates, I will ask for an update. How many more countries have signed up, if any? Do we have any extra statistics one way or another on the use of the death penalty?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I'm looking for the relevant officer to come to the table.</p> <p>CHAIR: If the relevant officer is not here, I've put it on the Hansard. Let's take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Campbell: We'll take it on notice because I'm not seeing any movement.</p>	Hansard	65

DFAT	50	David Van	Dispute settlement under RCEP	<p>Senator VAN: By extension, do those provisions provide Australia with any course of action against tariffs, whether it be barley tariffs or wine tariffs, that have been imposed?</p> <p>Ms Bowes: Under most FTAs there is a dispute settlement mechanism, and my colleague Mr Kenna might want to pop back. There are dispute settlement mechanisms under most FTAs, but in many cases where there is a breach—and you mentioned the issue of trade remedies, for example, on barley, and wine—consideration is given to what would be the most appropriate forum in which to bring a complaint in relation to that particular breach. In many cases it includes opting for the WTO rather than an FTA dispute settlement mechanism. In the case of trade remedies, for example, there is a well-established set of jurisprudence on trade remedies disputes in the WTO, and it is a well-established set of rules as well. So it provides a foundation for those particular complaints.</p> <p>Senator VAN: But do you have to choose one or the other, or could we pursue both?</p> <p>Ms Bowes: In many cases most FTAs would have that choice of forum if you commence an action, but not exclusively.</p> <p>Senator VAN: I am talking specifically about RCEP in this case.</p> <p>Ms Bowes: I would have to take that on notice. I don't have those details in front of me.</p> <p>Senator VAN: If you could consider it carefully and look at what options are available under that.</p> <p>Ms Bowes: I would note that those disputes arose before RCEP entered into force on 1 January 2022, so generally we would only be looking, in any case, at anything that arises from 1 January.</p>	Hansard	90
DFAT	51	Eric Abetz	Manuka Honey	<p>Ms Duff: I mentioned last time that we were able to get an observer into the Australian Manuka Honey Association's opposition hearing to the New Zealand case in October, and we continue to watch that very closely. As you point out, none of the ongoing certification trademark cases have succeeded at this stage. There are some still under objection procedures or that have been rejected or are being assessed. In December last year, the UK Intellectual Property Office rejected the trademark bid in the UK.</p> <p>CHAIR: The secretariat can pass that to Attorney-General's if need be. But the moneys being made available are for new cases, as I understand it. If that is the case, are appeals considered new cases?</p> <p>Ms Duff: I would need to take that on notice and refer it to the Attorney-General's Department as manager of that particular process, but I am very happy to do so.</p> <p>CHAIR: The release tells us the federal government will lend financial support to future legal proceedings, so I hope that future legal proceedings include appeals.</p> <p>Ms Campbell: We will pass it on to the Attorney-General's Department, and I will mention it to the secretaries—</p>	Hansard	91
DFAT	52	Kristina Keneally	Indonesia Working Holiday Visa	<p>Senator KENEALLY: I want to go back—on Indonesia, it's my understanding that they are already entitled to send 4,264 backpackers to Australia each year under the working holiday visa. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: I don't know the exact number; I can't confirm that. But they can—</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: They have an allocation.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: So, the agriculture visa would allow visa holders from Indonesia to work in Australia for up to three years. Do you have any sense of how many of the Indonesian visa holders are currently in Australia on working holiday visas?</p> <p>Ms Heinecke: We'd have to get that data from Home Affairs as to how many are actually here at the moment.</p>	Hansard	68
DFAT	53	Janet Rice	Bangladesh	<p>Has the Australian government raised concerns of reports of retaliation against human rights activists, their families, and families of victims of enforced disappearances following the announcement of US sanctions? If so, at what level?</p> <p>Has the Australian government raised concerns with the Bangladesh government over reports of abuses by security forces in the Chittagong Hill Tracts? What is the government of Australia doing to call for monitoring and accountability for abuses against indigenous groups in the hill tracts?</p>	Written	
DFAT	54	Janet Rice	Sanctions	<p>Given that the US has implemented sanctions on RAB and its leadership, has Australia considered sanctioning the Rapid Action Battalion and members of its leadership implicated in human rights abuses—whether directly or for abuses committed under their command? What is the process that organizations or individuals should follow in order for RAB to be sanctioned by the Australian government?</p>	Written	

DFAT	55	Janet Rice	Sri Lanka	Has Australia raised concerns with the government of Sri Lanka about violations, including arbitrary detention and torture committed against people detained under Sri Lanka's Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA)? How many times and at what level, and what was the response? What is the department's assessment of changes to the human rights situation in Sri Lanka since the election of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in November 2019? What steps has the department taken to address the rise in authoritarian rule?	Written	
DFAT	56	Janet Rice	ISIS Sanctions Assets	The UK publishes quarterly reports of its Counter-Terrorist Asset Freezing Regime. This includes the ISIL-AQ asset freezing regime implemented as a consequence of UN Security Council resolution. Does the Australian Government/ DFAT intend to do this? What is the value of ISIS assets frozen under comparable sanctions regimes implemented by Australia since 2014?	Written	
DFAT	57	Janet Rice	Chechnya	Following the passage of Magnitsky sanctions, will the Minister sanction the Chechen leaders, Ayub Kataev and Abuzayed Vismuradov, responsible for LGBTQ+ human rights abuses in Chechnya?	Written	
DFAT	58	Mehreen Faruqi	Climate finance	1. Why is the Government unable to provide sufficient climate finance to meet the immediate needs of our neighbours in the Pacific region and beyond? 2. For over six years running, Vanuatu has been the country most at risk to natural disasters as a result of climate change. What is Australia's current level of investment in climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) specifically in Vanuatu? a. And are these commensurate with the existential threat that is posed by climate change to Vanuatu? 3. When does the Government estimate it will be able to provide its fair share of climate finance to meet the global goal of \$100 billion USD and an amount which is consistent with a pathway to keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees?	Written	
DFAT	59	Mehreen Faruqi	Climate finance - quality of commitments	How much climate finance is currently provided to local organisations or locally led projects in the countries where Australia provides climate finance? 2. When will the Government provide full transparent reporting on all activities funded by Australian climate finance? 3. Is the Government currently considering shifting its long-held 'grants only' climate finance policy to include concessional loans and other financing instruments that shift the burden of climate action to low-income countries? [Part of this question was taken on notice during the hearing] 4. Is the Government still committed long term to at least 50% of climate finance being allocated to climate change adaptation? 5. Is the Government still committed long term to prioritising LDCs and SIDS for receiving climate finance?	Written	
DFAT	60	Mehreen Faruqi	ODA Transparency	1. Which organisations (implementing agencies) receive the largest amounts of Australia's foreign aid program? Please provide this information, broken down by (at least) type of organisation (managing contractor, UN agency, international financial institutions, NGOs, etc). 2. Which humanitarian crises receive support from the foreign aid program? Specifically, which organisations receive how much to respond to which humanitarian crises?	Written	
DFAT	61	Timothy Ayres	Partnership with ASEAN	Senator AYRES: In MYEFO the government provided just over \$160 million over nine years for the comprehensive strategic partnership with ASEAN. Will any of that funding be ODA? Ms Klugman: Yes. A portion of that is ODA. Senator AYRES: How is that portion allocated? Ms Klugman: It depends on what it's being spent on. Senator Payne: In conformity with the DAC guidelines and assessed against the DAC guidelines. Senator AYRES: Does that mean all you can say about that at this stage is that a portion of it will, because there's some and there's beyond the forwards— Ms Klugman: Yes, well— Senator AYRES: Is it possible to determine now how much of that will be allocated, or is that something that can't be determined at this stage? Ms Klugman: We have some indicative figures, but always with these things you only really know in retrospect— Senator AYRES: Could you provide those on notice? Ms Klugman: Sure.	Hansard	76

DFAT	62	Mehreen Faruqi	Sexual and reproductive health in the Pacific	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does the government plan to support our Pacific neighbours to ensure gains in sexual and reproductive health are not lost and continue to be made despite the COVID-19 pandemic? 2. Has the government considered promoting the important interlinkages between sexual and reproductive health rights and climate change in regional forums, in less traditional regional forums such as the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development where Australia has a role as Vice Chair? 	Written
DFAT	63	Jordon Steele-John	Budget	<p>When the last budget was reported, DFAT's operational budget rose \$10 million to \$1.45 billion in 2020-21 but would have \$93 million slashed from it a year later. And in 2022-23, it will still be \$83 million below the 2020-21 peak. This is while the Defence budget continues to rise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is diplomacy being deprioritised by the government? • How is the reduction in funding for DFAT affecting our international relations? • Is a cut in DFAT's budget affecting our diplomatic ability to engage with China in a measured way which reflects our Australian values and priorities? 	Written
DFAT	64	Jordon Steele-John	AUKUS	<p>Australia has just contributed more staff to the AUKUS diplomatic team at DFAT to 'fight against Chinese and Russian disinformation' about AUKUS at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. The Director-General of the IAEA has said that AUKUS established complex legal questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does this demonstrate to the Australian community that the government is engaging in questionable nuclear activity? • Does AUKUS contradict this country's commitments to international law and multilateral agreements? 	Written
DFAT	65	Mehreen Faruqi	Women and girls	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The latest Pacific Practice Note says women's economic participation will not automatically lead to empowerment and economic equality and makes several recommendations to address women's empowerment. Have you read and responded to this report? 2. The report also warns that COVID-19 is reversing progress on women's rights and gender equality by several decades and asks that an approach beyond economic participation be taken. Which recommendations is DFAT taking on board from this report into our aid programming broadly in the Pacific and more specifically programs for women and girls? 	Written
DFAT	66	Penny Wong	Counter-Disinformation Branch	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When was DFAT's counter-disinformation branch established? 2. How many staff are in the Branch? 3. What are the Branch's policy objectives? 4. Please provide a summary of the Branch's work since it was established. 5. Is DFAT the policy lead in the Australian Government on countering disinformation overseas? 6. How does the Counter-Disinformation Branch work with Home Affairs counterparts on countering disinformation in Australia that originates or is directed from overseas actors? 7. Does the Branch focus on countering disinformation overseas that is about Australia specifically? 8. What other areas of disinformation does the Branch aim to counter? 	Written
DFAT	67	Penny Wong	Counter-Disinformation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which countries would DFAT assess as being model examples of having effective structures in place to counter disinformation? 2. Has the Department engaged with these countries to learn from their experiences? 3. If so, when and at what level? Please provide a list of engagements with foreign counterparts on countering disinformation. 	Written
DFAT	68	Penny Wong	UNEA and Global Plastics Treaty	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Australian government support an international treaty to address marine plastic pollution? 2. Has the Department had discussions with other countries about resolutions that could be put forward at the upcoming UN Environment Assembly to establish such a treaty? 3. What instructions has the Department received from Government in relation to the drafting of such resolutions and/or the parameters of Australia's support? 4. How many engagements has the Foreign Minister had with her international counterparts regarding a global plastics treaty and UNEA draft resolutions? 5. Please provide a list of meetings/calls and dates. 6. Has the Government formed a view on which draft resolution it would likely to support at the UNEA? 7. Does the Australian Government support the need for an open mandate to be included in such a Treaty? 	Written

DFAT	69	Penny Wong	Mohamed El Halabi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Department provide an update on Mr Halabi's case? 2. Have any Departmental staff attended any of Mr Halabi's court hearings? If so, when? 3. Can the Department confirm Mr Halabi's trial concluded in September last year, but there is yet to be a verdict delivered? 4. Has Australia sought information from Israel about why the verdict has been delayed? 5. Has the Department met with World Vision to discuss the trial and its own conclusion that Mr Halabi remains innocent? 6. Has the Australian Government expressed any concerns to Israeli representatives about Mr El Halabi's treatment and trial processes by Israeli forces? 7. If yes: What were the nature of these communications? 8. If no: Has the Department been previously aware of the expressed concerns about his treatment? If so, do not these reports raise concerns for Australia? 	Written	
DFAT	70	Penny Wong	Ethiopia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Department provide an update on the situation in Tigray and the Australian government's response? 2. What steps has Australia taken to ensure a ceasefire and guarantee humanitarian access? 	Written	
DFAT	71	Penny Wong	Pacific Labour Mobility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many Pacific workers arrived in Australia under each of the Seasonal Workers Program and the Pacific Labour Scheme during each of calendar 2019, 2020 and 2021? 2. How many Pacific workers have arrived in Australia under each of the Seasonal Workers Program and the Pacific Labour Scheme in each month from August 2021 to February 2022? 3. How many Pacific workers participating in each of the Seasonal Workers Program and the Pacific Labour Scheme have left Australia in each month from August 2021 to February 2022? 4. What was the total number of Pacific workers currently in Australia under each of the Seasonal Workers Program and the Pacific Labour Scheme as of the end of February 2022? 	Written	
DFAT	72	Penny Wong	AIFFP	<p>In response to the Senate FADT Committee's 2020-21 Additional Estimates Question on Notice 92 DFAT said there was to be a review of the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has this review been completed? 2. If yes, provide the Committee with a copy of the review report, including any redactions necessary for reasons of the Commonwealth's commercial interests or Australia's security or foreign policy interests. 3. If no, when is the review expected to be completed? 	Written	
DFAT	73	Penny Wong	Climate change and Pacific maritime boundaries	<p>With respect to the Pacific Islands Forum's August 2021 Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the Face of Climate Change-Related Sea-level Rise and the declaration by Australia and the other PIF member countries that once they have established their maritime boundaries under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), they will maintain those zones without reduction despite climate change-related sea-level rise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What support is there for this position amongst countries other than PIF members? 2. Have any countries other than PIF members made similar declarations about the impact of sea level rise on maritime boundaries? 3. Have any countries indicated that they do not agree with the position set out in the PIF Declaration? 4. International law experts have discussed a number of options for dealing with the impact of sea level rise including a protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, an amendment to UNCLOS, a decision by a meeting of the parties to UNCLOS, a UN General Assembly resolution or an advisory opinion by the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea. Does the Australian Government support any of these options? 5. What processes are under way in international forums to deal with the impact of climate change-related sea level rise on maritime boundaries? 6. What is the Australian Government doing to secure wider support for the principles set out in the PIF Declaration? 	Written	
DFAT	74	Penny Wong	Aid evaluation unit	<p>With reference to Ms Delaney's evidence at 2020-21 Budget estimates that the functions of the Office of Development Effectiveness were being integrated into the Office of the Chief Economist and that there would be an aid evaluation unit under the Chief Economist (FADT Hansard, 2020-21 Budget Estimates, 29 October 2020, p 106):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are the functions of the former Office of Development Effectiveness still being performed within the Office of the Chief Economist? 	Written	

				2. Is there still an aid evaluation unit within the Office of the Chief Economist? 3. If yes, how many staff are in the aid evaluation unit? 4. If no, what happened to the aid evaluation unit?		
DFAT	75	Penny Wong	ODA Budget Base	What amounts of base ODA (excluding temporary, targeted and supplementary measures) are currently budgeted for each year of the forward estimates?	Written	
DFAT	76	Penny Wong	ODA Temporary targeted and supplementary measures	With reference to the response provided by DFAT to Senator Wong at Supplementary Budget Estimates on 28 October 2021, please update the table at item 2 to show what amounts of temporary, targeted and supplementary ODA are currently budgeted for each year of the forward estimates.	Written	
DFAT	77	Penny Wong	ODA Indexation	(1) Is the Government resuming indexation of ODA in 2022-23? (2) If yes, (a) what component of the total ODA budget is subject to indexation; (b) what is the amount of indexation in percentage terms in each year of the forward estimates.	Written	
DFAT	78	Penny Wong	ODA share of GNI	What will ODA be as a share of Gross National Income in each year of the forward estimates?	Written	
DFAT	79	Penny Wong	ODA and new Estimates measures	With respect to the new measures taken since the 2021-22 Budget as set out in Table 1.2 on page 15 of the Foreign Affairs and Trade 2021-22 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements: (1) Do any of the amounts shown in the table include amounts that are eligible as Official Development Assistance? (2) If yes, what are the details of the new measure amounts that are ODA-eligible?	Written	
DFAT	80	Penny Wong	ODA Expenditure	Provide the Committee with a table showing actual Official Development Assistance expenditure by the Australian Government in 2020-21 broken down by country, regional, sectoral and global programs.	Written	
DFAT	81	Penny Wong	Loans to ODA eligible countries	With respect to DFAT's response to 2021-22 Supplementary Budget Estimates Question on Notice 57 from Senator Faruqi: (1) Does the Australian Government have any current bilateral loans to Official Development Assistance-eligible countries, or to their State Owned Enterprises with or without government guarantees, apart from the loans to Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the Republic of Palau and Fiji detailed in the response to QON 57? (2) If yes, provide a table setting out the details of these loans including the borrowing country, the relevant Australian legislative framework, and the value, interest rate, and repayment schedule for each loan or guarantee.	Written	
DFAT	82	Penny Wong	Aid program gender reporting	(1) What percentage (and \$ figure) of aid in 2020-2021 was coded as "principle" against the OECD DAC Gender Equality Marker? (2) What percentage (and \$ figure) of aid in 2020-2021 was coded as "significant" against the OECD DAC Gender Equality Marker? (3) Can you confirm that DFAT does not have any targets in place in terms of a minimum spend or minimum number of projects in the aid program that address gender issues? (a) Is the Department contemplating any sort of similar target? (b) Do you know if any other countries have set similar performance targets? (4) What strategies does DFAT have in place to improve performance against this measure? (5) What is the 2021-22 DFAT budget for technical gender equality staff?	Written	
DFAT	83	Penny Wong	OPCAT Implementation	(1) Can the Department confirm that the Australian Government agreed to the ratification of the OPCAT in the context of Australia's election to the UN Human Rights Council?	Written	
DFAT	84	Penny Wong	DFATs role in OPCAT Implementation	What is DFAT's role in ensuring Australia's compliance with OPCAT and the implementation of the National Preventative Mechanism?	Written	
DFAT	85	Penny Wong	DFATs role in OPCAT Implementation	A 2017 Report by the Australian Human Rights Commission recommended that "the Australian Government commit to the development of national standards that govern how detention inspections should take place by the bodies performing the NPM function. Those standards should have legislative force..."	Written	

				<p>And - “the Australian Government incorporate OPCAT’s core provisions in a dedicated federal statute.” https://humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/document/publication/20180618_OP_CAT_Stage2_ConsultationPaper_Interim_report.pdf</p> <p>(1) Can the Department confirm whether it was consulted in the course of the Australian government rejecting those recommendations for national standards with legislative force and Commonwealth legislation? (2) If yes, when? (3) Was the Foreign Minister consulted? If yes, when?</p>		
DFAT	86	Kimberley Kitching	AFiniti report to leaders	<p>Senator Payne: We will also seek to do that, and Ms Wood has been leading some very important work, both in the implementation of AFiniti and more broadly. But it does give us a very sound basis for the cooperation. I think we've done two reports to leaders, if I remember correctly. And it gives us the opportunity to reinforce those partnerships in the region. It has come about most recently through a devastating natural disaster, but it does remind us of how particularly important those Pacific relationships are.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Is the update public? Can you table—</p> <p>Senator Payne: It's a report to leaders. I'm not sure whether it is public, but let me see what it is possible to make public.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Lovely. Thank you. That would be great.</p>	Hansard	11
DFAT	87	Timothy Ayres	Ashurst report timing - Brandis car crash	<p>Senator AYRES: So you won't be able to say at this stage whether any speed limits were exceeded or other traffic laws broken? Ms Campbell: Not at this stage.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: That's a matter for this inquiry that, to use Mr Gaetjens's phrase, is weeks, not months away—is that right? Ms Campbell: I will have to engage again with Ashurst. They are doing their best, but they are limited because of some of the restrictions we've had in place. Some of our staff in London have been working from home rather than in the high commission, so I will engage and get back to you on the timing on when we're expecting that</p>	Hansard	49
DFAT	88	Timothy Ayres	ODA-to-GNI ratio	<p>Senator AYRES: Where do we currently rank amongst the OEC Development Assistance Committee donor countries in terms of ODA assistance as a proportion of gross national income? Ms Klugman: I don't have a ranking with me, but I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: Can you tell me where we were in 2020 and 2021 in terms of our ODA-to-GNI ratio? Senator Payne: We'll come back to you on that</p>	Hansard	75
DFAT	89	Kristina Keneally	Mr Chau Van Kham	<p>Senator KENEALLY: How often does the department provide updates to Mr Chau's family? Mr Wilcock: I would have to come back to you on the exact frequency, but we are in regular contact with Mr Kham's family, yes.</p>	Hansard	77
DFAT	90	Kimberley Kitching	COVID supply chain crunch	<p>Senator KITCHING: Do you have any views or have you given information to government around when you think this supply chain crunch will end? Mr Growder: I will take that on notice but I do not think we have been giving advice on the length of time we would be looking at.</p>	Hansard	84-85
DFAT	91	Jordon Steele-John	COVID-19 Outbreak in Tonga	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regarding the outbreak of Covid-19 in Tonga. Has the Australian Government assisted Tonga by conducting analysis on samples from the dock workers? 2. What strain were the samples? 3. What advice has been given to Tonga about the source of these samples? 4. What does the Australian Government infer from the results? 	Written	
DFAT	92	Janet Rice	Bangladesh - Human Rights Abuses	<p>Has the Australian government raised concerns with the Bangladesh government about well-documented allegations of abuses by the Rapid Action Battalion including enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and torture? If so, at what level?</p>	Written	

Additional Estimates 2021-22 – Austrade Questions on Notice Index

Agency	Portfolio Q No	Senator	BroadTopic	QuestionText	Written Hansard	Proof Hansard Page
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	1	David Van	Export Market Development Grants Program	<p>Senator VAN: I think Australian businesses diversifying, particularly their markets, is a very topical point and a point well made. I think it's something that we very much should be supporting. I'm having a little bit of trouble, though, reconciling the number of applicants. It seems extraordinary to me that there would be a 100 per cent increase in applications. That says to me that either Australia has pivoted to export to the world overnight—or over a period of a year—or something else is going on with this scheme. Would you agree?</p> <p>Mr Simonet: I don't have any particular view on that. Do you have a view, Ms Palmer?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: I do have information about some of the backgrounds of and some of the data about the new applicants, who've never applied before. I don't know if you might find that useful, Senator.</p> <p>Senator VAN: Maybe on notice...</p>	Hansard	88
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	2	David Van	Export Market Development Grants Program	<p>Senator VAN: ... Under the old scheme there was a \$5,000 minimum spend that you had to do, and with this new one it's matched funding. You would see that that might be a disincentive to applying, but we've seen there's been a doubling of applications—so people aren't seeing that as a barrier to applying. Do people have to demonstrate their export performance or how many widgets or services—or bottles of wine, in Senator Farrell's case—they're going to have to sell? What's the number of things they have to export to qualify?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: There's no export performance test in this system. We've streamlined and simplified the process. They need to provide evidence they've exported for tier 2 and tier 3, and we've made that quite a simple process.</p> <p>Senator VAN: Is there a hurdle they have to get over on that? How much exporting do they need to do to qualify?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: We recognise that diversifying your markets takes quite a bit of effort and reduces your ability to export. For some exporters, they may have a higher revenue and a higher volume of exporting if they simply continue to export within a single market. Diversifying to try new markets and expand within those markets—</p> <p>Senator VAN: I accept that, but can you answer my question?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: Having an increasing export performance test is acting against our diversification objective. There's no requirement there.</p> <p>Senator VAN: They could spend this money and not produce one extra export?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: They have to provide information about what they've exported, and we will be looking at evaluating that as we go through the program.</p> <p>Senator VAN: So at the moment there is no hurdle?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: There's no export hurdle. As part of the milestone reporting they have to show that they've done what they said they would do in their plan to market. For instance you</p>	Hansard	89-90

				<p>couldn't do a plan to market, apply for a tier 3 grant and say you're going to diversify and then provide examples of your eligible expenses, but you don't diversify. You then wouldn't be eligible to receive a tier 3 payment. If you had indicated you were going to expand and diversify, and you'd only expanded, you'd only be eligible to receive a tier 2 payment.</p> <p>Senator VAN: What's the test for diversification?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: I'll have to take that on notice. I haven't got that information.</p>		
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	3	Don Farrell	Business Events Grants Program - amount of grants allocated to cancelled events	<p>Senator FARRELL: ... What was the total—I don't think you've given me this figure—amount of grants that were allocated to cancelled events?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: I might have to take that on notice. I'm not sure I have that with me. Do you mind?</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: No. Sure ... What's the plan for this returned funding? Will it be reallocated? If so, how?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: As I explained before, if a grantee has an event cancelled or moved to virtual and they already have a multiple grant agreement, they can request to reallocate that to another event. If it's the only one, it needs to come back.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Yes. I'm—</p> <p>Ms Palmer: Sorry. Are you asking me a different question? I'm not answering your question?</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Yes. I'm asking you that question. I understood what you said earlier but, if the money is returned, what is going to happen to that? We're not talking about the options of swapping. We're talking about when, for whatever reason, the money has been returned. What's going to happen to that money?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: We have given a grant to everyone who applied and was eligible. Any funds that are returned or not used—it's a matter for government what they do with that.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: You will find out how much that money is and you will let us know?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: Yes.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Thank you.</p> <p>Ms Palmer: I should say, I'll find out if I can answer that question, and if I can answer it I'll answer it.</p>	Hansard	93-94
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	4	Don Farrell	Supporting Australia's Exhibiting Zoos and Aquariums Program	<p>Senator FARRELL: What was the rationale of providing an additional \$45 million in August last year, given that the program already had an underspend at the time?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: I'm not sure that the program did have an underspend at the time. If you don't mind, I'd like to take that away and check if that's right. The program was due to end well before we expected international tourists to return at reasonable rates, noting that there's always going to be a time lag with the return of international visitation. Given the significant costs and animal conservation contribution that those attractions have, government considered that and decided to extend the program until the middle of this year.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Are recipients required to demonstrate a particular reduction in order to be eligible?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: Yes, 30 per cent.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: That's the figure you mentioned before.</p> <p>Ms Palmer: Yes.</p>	Hansard	94-95

				<p>Senator FARRELL: I have only one more set of questions about the regional tourism recovery program. On average, what was the reduction being experienced by recipients?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: For the zoos?</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Palmer: They have to achieve a 30 per cent reduction. I would have to look into the average—I don't have that with me.</p>		
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	5	Don Farrell	Recovery for Regional Tourism Program	<p>Senator FARRELL: Has all the funding from the regional tourism recovery program now been extended?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: All of the funding has been allocated.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Of the funding provided, what was the largest single event or project?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: I'll take that on notice. It'll be quicker than me looking through the pages.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Could you answer these questions in relation to that: where was this, how much funding was allocated and who were the project proponents?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: I'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: How many projects were postponed?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Are there any deadlines for when those projects need to be completed by, and what is the value of funding allocated to postponed events?</p> <p>Ms Palmer: I can tell you that the program has been extended by six months to end on 31 December 2022. The projects must be completed by 30 November 2022, and they've got a month to do the report. The program closes on 31 December 2022. I'll have to take the second part of your question on notice.</p>	Hansard	95
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	6	Don Farrell	COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide a breakdown of each round of the program including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total number of applications - Total number of approved applications - Total number of declined applications - How many exceptional circumstances applications were received and how many were approved - What date was the final application to this round finalised 2. What was the value of rejected applications across both rounds? 3. How many applications were received for the Multi-outlet round? 4. How many any applications to the Multi-outlet round were rejected and a summary of those reasons if possible 5. What happened in the circumstances where an agency pre-covid had two or more sites but then during the pandemic closed one of their sites, as a result of the pandemic. Were they eligible for funding through the multi outlet round? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many applications did you receive of people in this circumstances? 	Written	
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	7	Don Farrell	Business Events Grants Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Of the events which are participating in this program that have postponed, what was the value of these events in relation to the grant funding? 2. How many events were on the approved funding list in total? 3. Did all of these events receive funding from the program? If not, how many were 	Written	

				<p>registered but received no funding?</p> <p>4. Were organisers advised whether they had any attendees receiving the funding?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If not, why not? 2. If yes, how was this provided? <p>5. What were Austrade's metrics to determine the success of this program?</p> <p>6. Have you updated the list of cancelled and postponed events on the website?</p>		
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	8	Don Farrell	Supporting Australia's Exhibiting Zoos and Aquariums Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much funding has been allocated from this program to date? 2. Given that organisations are required to demonstrate a 30 per cent reduction, have any providers ceased to be eligible for funding through this program? 3. How many more rounds do you have planned? 4. Are you anticipating fewer applications in future rounds now that borders are mostly reopened and international travel is resuming? 5. Please provide a breakdown of funding for each round of the program including number of applications and total amount awarded. 6. How many rounds are you planning to run for this program? 7. What will happen to any underspend in this program? 	Written	
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	9	Don Farrell	Recovery for Regional Tourism Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In relation to the Regional Tourism Recovery Program, how many projects have been completed? 2. What is the value of funding allocated to completed events? 3. How many projects are still underway? 4. What is the value of funding allocated to projects still underway? 5. Please provide a breakdown of each project funded through this program including who arranged the project/event, the amount of funding provided, and the physical location of the project/event. 	Written	
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	10	Don Farrell	THRIVE 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many submissions did the THRIVE 2030 consultation receive? 2. What was the feedback from this process? 3. What action items came out of this process? 4. Did Austrade receive any feedback critical of the timing of the consultation? If yes, how many and what action was taken to address these concerns? 5. Was any consideration given to extending the consultation? 6. What are the next steps for the strategy? 7. What is the timeline for the strategy? 8. How much funding has been provided to THRIVE 2030? 	Written	
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	11	Don Farrell	Tourism Research Australia - Publications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide a timeline for all publications in 2022 including day and month if possible. 	Written	
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	12	Don Farrell	Tourism Research Australia - Administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can Tourism Research Australia please provide the following information in relation to Tourism Research Australia staffing numbers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many FTE b. A headcount c. A breakdown of APS salary bands and the number employed under each band. 	Written	

Australian Trade and Investment Commission	13	Don Farrell	Tourism Research Australia - Credit cards	<p>1. How many department issued credit cards does Tourism Research Australia have?</p> <p>2. How many department issued credit cards are allocated to staff within Tourism Research Australia?</p> <p>3. As of 24 February 2022, how many staff within Tourism Research Australia have been provided with department issued credit cards?</p> <p>a. Please provide a breakdown of the credit limits available on these cards</p> <p>4. Of those credit cards issued to staff, have there been any instances of credit card fraud detected in the past financial year? If yes, how many?</p>	Written	
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	14	Don Farrell	Tourism Research Australia - International travel	<p>1 Please detail any international travel completed by Tourism Research Australia staff in the last financial year</p> <p>a. How many individual staff travelled?</p> <p>b. What was the cost of this travel?</p> <p>c. Please provide as much detail as possible about the trips including outcomes.</p>	Written	
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	15	Don Farrell	Tourism Research Australia - Domestic travel	<p>1 Please detail any domestic travel completed by Tourism Research Australia staff in the last financial year</p> <p>a. How many individual staff travelled?</p> <p>b. What was the cost of this travel?</p> <p>c. Please provide as much detail as possible about the trips including outcomes.</p>	Written	
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	16	Don Farrell	International travel	<p>1 Please detail any international travel completed by tourism staff within Austrade in the last financial year</p> <p>a. How many individual staff travelled?</p> <p>b. What was the cost of this travel?</p> <p>c. Please provide as much detail as possible about the trips including outcomes</p>	Written	
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	17	Don Farrell	Domestic travel	<p>1 Please detail any domestic travel completed by tourism staff within Austrade in the last financial year</p> <p>a. How many individual staff travelled?</p> <p>b. What was the cost of this travel?</p> <p>c. Please provide as much detail as possible about the trips including outcomes.</p>	Written	
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	18	Don Farrell	Staffing	<p>1. How many dedicated tourism staff currently are employed within Austrade (separate from the Tourism Research Australia division) please provide both FTE and headcount.</p>	Written	
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	19	Don Farrell	Tourism Icons Program	<p>1. Please provide an update in relation to the work being completed as a part of the funding provided to Rottneest Island under the Tourism Icons program, including</p> <p>a) Has planning work been finalised? If not, when will it be complete?</p> <p>b) Has work commenced, if not when will it commence?</p> <p>c) How much has been spent to date?</p> <p>d) How much remains unspent?</p> <p>e) What is the expected completion date?</p> <p>2. Please provide an update in relation to the work being completed as a part of the funding provided to Sovereign Hill under the Tourism Icons program, including</p> <p>a) Has planning work been finalised? If not, when will it be complete?</p>	Written	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Has work commenced, if not when will it commence? c) How much has been spent to date? d) How much remains unspent? e) What is the expected completion date? <p>3. Please provide an update in relation to the work being completed as a part of the funding provided to the Wangetti Trail under the Tourism Icons program, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Has planning work been finalised? If not, when will it be complete? b) Has work commenced, if not when will it commence? c) How much has been spent to date? d) How much remains unspent? e) What is the expected completion date? <p>4. Please provide an update in relation to the work being completed as a part of the funding provided to the Northern Rivers Rail Trail under the Tourism Icons program, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Has planning work been finalised? If not, when will it be complete? b) Has work commenced, if not when will it commence? c) How much has been spent to date? d) How much remains unspent? e) What is the expected completion date? 		
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Additional Estimates 2021-22 – Tourism Australia Questions on Notice Index

Agency	Portfolio Q No	Senator	BroadTopic	QuestionText	Written Hansard	Proof Hansard Page
Tourism Australia	1	Don Farrell	International Marketing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much funding was directed at international marketing in the last financial year? 2. How much funding is earmarked for this financial year? 3. How much has been spent to date in this financial year? 4. How many people within Tourism Australia are dedicated to international marketing as of 25 February 2022. Both FTE and Headcount if possible. 5. Please provide a breakdown of the marketing campaigns underway in each of our top five markets, including budget and KPI's. 	Written	
Tourism Australia	2	Don Farrell	Domestic Marketing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much funding was directed to domestic marketing in the last financial year? 2. How much funding is earmarked for this financial year? 3. How much has been spent to date in this financial year? 4. How many people within Tourism Australia are dedicated to domestic marketing as of 25 February 2022. Both FTE and Headcount if possible. 5. How much funding did Tourism Australia provide to Christmas with Delta Goodrem, which was held on December 11 last year? 6. How did this partnership come about? 7. What was the return on investment of this partnership? 8. What KPI's were built into this partnership and were they achieved? 9. Who signed off on this partnership? 10. What domestic campaigns are currently underway? 11. What is the value of the campaigns currently in market in Australia? 	Written	
Tourism Australia	3	Don Farrell	Don't Go Small – Go Australia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide an update of the work currently underway as a part of this campaign? 2. What KPI's are in place for this campaign and how are we tracking towards meeting them? 3. Please provide a breakdown of the work to be undertaken in Germany, France, Italy and Canada as a part of this program, including timeframe and funding amount 4. How are you measuring success? 	Written	
Tourism Australia	4	Don Farrell	International Market – China	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much funding has been provided to marketing in China in the 2020/21 financial year? 2. How much was provided in 2019/20? 3. How does this compare with our other top five markets? 4. How many agents in China had completed the 'Aussie Specialist' travel agent training program? 5. Are you aware of how many of these agents are still operational? 6. What is the impact of there being less Aussie Specialists in China? 	Written	

Tourism Australia	5	Don Farrell	Travel costs	<p>1. Please detail any international travel completed by Tourism Australia staff this calendar year to date</p> <p>a. How many individual staff travelled?</p> <p>b. What was the cost of this travel?</p> <p>c. Please provide as much detail as possible about the trips including outcomes</p> <p>2. Please detail any domestic travel completed by Tourism Australia staff this calendar year to date</p> <p>a. How many individual staff travelled?</p> <p>b. What was the cost of this travel?</p> <p>c. Please provide as much detail as possible about the trips including outcomes</p>	Written	
Tourism Australia	6	Don Farrell	Social Media Team	<p>1. Please provide both a headcount and FTE of the number of staff in Tourism Australia's social media team. If there are multiple teams in different locations please also provide a breakdown of each location and the number of staff.</p> <p>2. Is social media their only responsibility or do they have other work to do as well?</p>	Written	
Tourism Australia	7	Don Farrell	Business Events Team	<p>1. How many staff are involved in the Business Events Team? Please provide a headcount and FTE</p> <p>2. Is this their only responsibility or do they have other work to do as well?</p>	Written	
Tourism Australia	8	Don Farrell	Bidfund	<p>1. How much has Tourism Australia spent this financial year to date with regards to the Bidfund program?</p>	Written	
Tourism Australia	9	Don Farrell	Administration	<p>1. Can Tourism Australia please provide the following information in relation to staffing numbers</p> <p>a. How many FTE</p> <p>b. A headcount</p> <p>c. A breakdown of APS salary bands and the number employed under each band</p> <p>2. Please provide the same information for the 2020/21 financial year</p> <p>3. Please provide the locations of all staff based overseas</p> <p>4. Please provide the salary bands of those staff based overseas</p> <p>5. Please provide information on any redundancies provided in 2020/21 including the number and amount paid out per redundant employee and whether they were voluntary or involuntary</p>	Written	
Tourism Australia	10	Don Farrell	Credit Cards	<p>1. How many department issued credit cards does Tourism Australia have?</p> <p>2. How many department issued credit cards are allocated to staff within Tourism Australia?</p> <p>3. As of 25 February 2022, how many staff within Tourism Australia have been provided with department issued credit cards?</p> <p>a. Please provide a breakdown of the credit limits available on these cards</p> <p>4. Of those credit cards issued to staff, have there been any instances of credit card fraud detected in the past financial year? If yes, how many?</p>	Written	

Tourism Australia	11	Don Farrell	Working Holiday Program	<p>1. Please detail the work which will be undertaken as a part of the 'Work and Play the Aussie Way' campaign</p> <p>2. What is the total budget of this campaign?</p> <p>3. Has it been rolled out? If yes, where</p> <p>4. What has the response been to date?</p>	Written	
Tourism Australia	12	Don Farrell	China Quarantine Period	<p>Ms Harrison: It's our assumption that we won't see a lot of visitation from China, and it's the same in other countries like Korea and Japan at the moment. The reason is that there is friction on the way back. People need to quarantine on the way—</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Could you run that by me again?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: There are barriers to coming back. In China, you have to go and quarantine when you return.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: The other way; okay.</p> <p>Ms Harrison: So that does generally knock out leisure travel.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Do you happen to know how long you have to quarantine for on the way back in China?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: My understanding is that it's 21 days.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: It's 21 days?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: Yes. The most recent information that I have says it's 14 days in a facility and seven at home.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Is that at your own expense or government expense?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: I don't know. I won't answer that, because I'm not sure, but I'll take that one on notice.</p>	Hansard	99
Tourism Australia	13	Don Farrell	Piccadilly Circus and Times Square Activation	<p>Senator FARRELL: Nothing if not predictable. Those ads in Piccadilly Circus just run along, don't they, and something else comes along?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: Yes, we get about 20 per cent of the time. It's digital.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: It's not like a billboard that sticks up there all the time. What was the figure?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: About 20 per cent of the time.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: And it runs for a full block, did you say?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: The Times Square one is long and thin, yes. Because we've pulled this all together in a week, we started with a still one, but there is moving image, which is the beauty of digital. You have to share the space, but you get to show moving image. That's going up now.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: When you say it's a moving image, it's a photograph of Australia?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: It's a video.</p> <p>CHAIR: Does South Australia feature on it?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: In this particular one? I will find it out for you. We feature South Australia all the time.</p> <p>CHAIR: If it doesn't, it doesn't matter. The more important question is: does Tasmania?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: I have a list of all of the destinations we feature.</p>	Hansard	98

				<p>Senator FARRELL: There wouldn't be anything sufficiently interesting in Tasmania to include in a video like that. No, I don't mean it!</p> <p>Ms Harrison: Tasmania is pretty hot, actually.</p> <p>CHAIR: Hear, hear!</p>		
Tourism Australia	14	Don Farrell	Production Cost	<p>Senator FARRELL: Earlier this week Tourism Australia launched the new international campaign, and I understand this included an advert in America following the Super Bowl and before the Olympics broadcast. How much did it cost to broadcast the advert at that time?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: We had a couple of big moments that we wanted to use to launch the campaign. That one you're talking about was a 30-second TVC that went out in Los Angeles only, and the cost of that was \$451,000.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Australian dollars?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: Australian dollars.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: How much did it cost to produce that advert?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: It's part of the production of the campaign. Do you know, Christine?</p> <p>Ms Liu: The \$451,000 was for production and marketing costs of that campaign in LA.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: I just missed that. Your microphone came on only halfway through, so maybe you'd like to repeat it.</p> <p>Ms Liu: Sorry. The A\$451,000 includes all the campaign production costs—the lot.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: That's the totality of everything, including the production costs.</p> <p>Ms Liu: Yes.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Thank you.</p> <p>CHAIR: Out of interest, what was the production cost?</p> <p>Ms Harrison: For every campaign we have an element of production cost. It varies between 10 and 25 per cent of the overall cost of the campaign.</p> <p>CHAIR: Take it on notice if you don't have it.</p>	Hansard	97