

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Select Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media

QoN Number: 6

Subject: Expert advisors – Strengthening Democracy Taskforce

Asked by: James Paterson

Question:

PATERSON: Moving on to some related issues, the Strengthening Democracy Taskforce fact sheet was released on the 8 December last year and it said the Minister will appoint expert advisors in early 2023 to guide challenge tests and support the work of the taskforce. Have the expert advisors now been appointed?

Ms Pfeiffer: I am not across that detail, I would have to take that question on notice

PATERSON: I have asked this question at estimates, on a QoN on notice, so I look forward to hearing the answer from that or this one

Answer:

The Expert Advisors were initially engaged on 30 March 2023 and entered formal contractual arrangements between 3 and 30 May 2023, for a period of 12 months.

There are four Expert Advisors:

- Professor Rod Sims AO, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU.
- Ms Leila Smith, CEO of Aurora Education Foundation.
- Professor Ngaire Woods (CBE), founding Dean of the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford.
- Professor Larry Diamond, Senior Fellow at Stanford University.

The expert advisors provide high-level advice to guide, challenge, test and support the work of the Taskforce. They provide a sounding board for the Minister for Home Affairs and will provide advice to her as the Taskforce's work advances.