

COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No. 1)

Senator Kimberley Kitching asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 12 July 2021:

How has ASPI informed policy development within Defence?

Senator Kimberley Kitching – The Department Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

Defence draws upon a wide range of information sources to inform policy development, including the work of think tanks like the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI). Defence provides grant funding to ASPI to foster and deepen strategic policy discourse, debate and research of value to the Australian Government, Department of Defence and wider Australian public. As an alternative source of input, ASPI provides important contestability of advice to Government thinking and decision making processes on strategic and defence policy issues.

COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No. 3)

Senator Kimberley Kitching asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 12 July 2021:

Does Defence see merit in the proposal for standing funds for thematic research areas such as human security and peacemaking?

Senator Kimberley Kitching – The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

The Strategic Policy Grants Program is the key mechanism for Defence to support independent research, events and activities to deepen the public Australian strategic debate and enhance Defence's strategic policy advice. Applications are required to demonstrate how their proposals address one or more of a set of Australian defence and security priority policy topics.

Defence reviews the list of priority policy topics each year to ensure that proposals have a direct relevance to Australia's future defence and security needs. The list of policy topics for the current round of the Strategic Policy Grants Program is based on the 2020 Defence Strategic Update and includes 'Threats to human security and state fragility in our immediate region.'