

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Written

Hearing Name: Inquiry into the Rights of Women and Children

Hearing Date: 31 August 2023

Topic: QoN 006 - DFAT engage with local networks of women's groups in international jurisdictions

Senator Maria Vamvakinou

Question

To what extent does DFAT engage with local networks of women's groups in international jurisdictions who advocate for social change within their communities? Could Australia have a role in supporting or facilitating rights-based organisations or networks like these?

Answer

Australia has a role in supporting rights-based organisations and networks across the Indo-Pacific. DFAT engages with local networks of women's groups in international jurisdictions who advocate for social change within their communities through its international development program.

These partnerships strengthen Australia's engagement on gender equality to inform policy, practice and engagement in multilateral forums, including to protect norms, strengthen commitments and oppose efforts that weaken women's and girls' human rights.

Australian aid programs that work with women's rights organisations include Pacific Women Lead (\$170 million, 2021-26), Amplify-Invest-Reach (\$10 million, 2021-2025) and RiseUp! (\$6 million, 2020-2025).

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Hearing Name – Inquiry into the Rights of Women and Children

Hearing Date: 31 August 2023

Topic: QoN 007 - Children’s rights considerations when allocating funding to new aid investments

Senator Maria Vamvakinou

Question

Does DFAT consider children’s rights considerations when allocating funding to new aid investments in the same way that gender equity is a factor when assessing new aid investments?

Answer

Australia is a state party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and takes its obligations under the Convention seriously.

Children figure prominently across Australia’s international development program. We support a range of programs and initiatives that benefit children, directly and indirectly, including education and health programs, the advancement of children’s rights, access to clean water and protection from harm.

DFAT is committed to ensuring that children are protected in all its work, including in the international development program. Australia was the first international donor government to implement a policy (2008) to protect children from exploitation and abuse.

DFAT’s current Child Protection Policy applies to all DFAT-funded business and aims to protect children from abuse and exploitation. It requires an upfront assessment of risk to determine whether activities may impact children, and immediate reporting by DFAT staff and partners of any instances of child abuse and exploitation. It also sets out minimum standards to ensure all funded partners understand their obligations to manage risks to children. DFAT’s Child Protection Policy is available on its website: www.dfat.gov.au/childprotection.

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Written

Hearing Name - Inquiry into the Rights of Women and Children

Hearing Date: 31 August 2023

Topic: QoN 009 - Progress report on the Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for 2021-2031

Senator Maria Vamvakinou

Question

Has DFAT released the progress report on the Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for 2021-2031? If not, can you share any of its findings so far?

Answer

The first progress report of Australia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2021-31 will be released by the end of 2023. It will provide an overview of implementation efforts by implementing agencies for the period July 2021-June 2023. The National Action Plan identifies the following as implementing agencies: Defence, Australian Federal Police, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Civil Military Centre.