

## Defence Portfolio

# INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No. 1)

Mr Josh Wilson MP asked the Department of Defence the following question, upon notice, on 19 June 2023:

CHAIR: One of the things that doesn't seem to be treated in these agreements is where countries might have multiple status of forces agreements. Therefore, you actually might find yourself cooperating, participating and being present in another country at the same time that the defence force of a third-party nation is there. In terms of our regional neighbours, do countries like PNG, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and East Timor have status of forces arrangements already in existence with other countries?

Brig. McDonald: I don't know the exact nature of what each of these nations have, but I know many of them have other status of forces agreements with multiple countries across the world.

CHAIR: Can you take that on notice? Status of forces agreements don't seem to grow on trees, taking the Japan example. In terms of the Pacific family nations in particular but also a little bit more widely in our region, in addition to the fact that these countries have settled those agreements with us, it would be interesting to see who else they have settled agreements with?

Brig. McDonald: We can certainly take that on notice.

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the above question:

Australia does not keep complete records of the international agreements entered into by other states.