Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee:
'Inquiry into Australian aid to Afghanistan'
Questions on notice—AusAID

<u>**Year 12 graduate numbers**</u>

1. **Senator KROGER:** Do you have the figure for those who have graduated through year 12? It was mentioned early. Do you know?

   Mr Tattersall: I do not have that in front of me.

   Senator KROGER: Do they keep those records?

   Mr Tattersall: As I understand it, those records are available. I am afraid I do not have them in front of me.

   Senator KROGER: It would be good to have them. (*Committee Hansard*, p. 22)

   The attached table, provided by the Afghanistan Ministry of Education, lists figures for Year 12 graduates from 2010 to 2012, both national and by province.

S/No	Province	1389/2010			1390/2011			1391/2012		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	12 Graduates for 1389, 1390 & 1391									
1	Kabul Province	2,187	435	2,622	2,654	753	3,407	3,340	1,072	4,412
2	Kapisa	2,429	521	2,950	3,125	1,022	4,147	3,203	1,406	4,609
3	Parwan	2,916	621	3,537	2,954	790	3,744	4,523	1,395	5,918
4	Wardak	3,180	44	3,224	2,286	83	2,369	2,648	124	2,772
5	Logar	1,660	198	1,858	1,155	245	1,400	2,201	206	2,407
6	Ghazni	4,580	1,778	6,358	6,278	2,172	8,450	6,149	3,327	9,476
7	Paktia	1,920	76	1,996	1,249	27	1,276	2,006	123	2,129
8	Nangarhar	8,187	1,183	9,370	8,328	1,672	10,000	1,608	9,230	10,838
9	Laghman	2,670	483	3,153	2,131	416	2,547	2,305	539	2,844
10	Kunar	1,878	62	1,940	2,000	205	2,205	2,405	284	2,689
11	Badakhshan	3,846	2,833	6,679	3,911	2,506	6,417	4,877	4,354	9,231
12	Takhar	2,668	1,449	4,117	3,624	1,970	5,594	3,577	2,515	6,092
13	Baghlan	4,394	1,337	5,731	7,219	2,792	10,011	2,610	6,048	8,658
14	Kunduz	1,842	899	2,741	3,924	1,688	5,612	4,200	2,284	6,484
15	Samangan	678	362	1,040	799	345	1,144	1,126	504	1,630
16	Balkh	5,208	3,914	9,122	6,607	4,006	10,613	7,027	4,763	11,790
17	Jawzjan	1,879	1,066	2,945	1,965	900	2,865	1,995	1,261	3,256
18	Faryab	1,313	319	1,632	1,463	684	2,147	2,027	1,305	3,332
19	Badghis	488	73	561	620	170	790	985	253	1,238
20	Hirat	1,491	594	2,085	5,885	5,099	10,984	6,755	5,194	11,949
21	Farah	670	219	889	1,067	572	1,639	974	588	1,562
22	Nimroz	232	132	364	316	130	446	389	221	610
23	Hilmand	1,377	137	1,514	977	236	1,213	1,157	227	1,384
24	Kandahar	1,618	181	1,799	1,540	283	1,823	1,588	335	1,923
25	Zabul	132	-	132	163	9	172	213	16	229
26	Uruzgan	410	12	422	289	12	301	430	16	446
27	Ghor	516	199	715	1,861	360	2,221	3,129	566	3,695
28	Bamyan	1,668	412	2,080	2,252	748	3,000	2,124	1,091	3,215
29	Paktika	465	21	486	572	-	572	981	-	981
30	Nuristan	178	28	206	310	56	366	333	97	430
31	Sar i Pul	300	55	355	800	250	1,050	1,084	489	1,573
32	Khost	2,075	26	2,101	2,350	169	2,519	3,129	213	3,342
33	Panjshir	763	116	879	805	169	974	844	287	1,131
34	Daikundi	556	104	660	1,475	378	1,853	2,887	1,890	4,777
35	Kabul City	18,984	12,275	31,259	21,690	14,640	36,330	24,507	17,076	41,583
	Total	**85,358**	**32,164**	**117,522**	**104,644**	**45,557**	**150,201**	**109,336**	**69,299**	**178,635**

Budget reprioritisation

2. **Senator RHIANNON:** Was any money taken out of the Afghanistan program in the recent $375 million diversion?

Mr Dawson: Yes. As part of that reprioritisation, funds were reallocated from a number of programs, including from the Afghanistan country program.

Senator RHIANNON: Could you take on notice to provide the details of which programs and how much money came out of those, please.

Mr Dawson: I would be happy to provide that now, if you would be interested.

Senator RHIANNON: If you could, take it on notice, because I do not have much time. (*Committee Hansard*, p. 24)

In total, $11.8 million in AusAID development assistance to Afghanistan has been reprioritised in financial year 2012-13. This was achieved through the deferral, rather than cancellation of programs.

The reprioritisation of AusAID funds was actioned through:

– savings from the late commencement of Phase III of the **Development Assistance Facility for Afghanistan**, ($2.8 million)

  ▪ the delay was due to an interim no-cost extension (July-September 2012) to the contract for Phase II.

– savings from funds notionally allocated for **governance** activities ($4 million), which were yet to be programmed

  ▪ these programs will go ahead in 2013-14 and will enable expansion of AusAID assistance in areas such as public financial management and civil service reform and capacity building.

– savings from the delay in the commencement of the new **Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme** ($5 million)

  ▪ the design process took longer than expected to allow for extensive consultations with Australian and international NGOs, their in-country partner organisations, and the Afghan Government

  ▪ a call for Expressions of Interest will take place in April/May 2013, and the Scheme will proceed as planned.

Schools in Uruzgan

3. **Senator RHIANNON:** Thank you, Mr Dawson. In other information that you have supplied to us about schools in Uruzgan, AusAID has said that it supported a sixfold increase in the number of operating schools in the province, up from 34 in 2006, which is clearly impressive. Does this include the schools the ADF has been involved in constructing, specifically Malalai Girls School, Naway Waleh School and the Talani Boys School?

Mr Tattersall: My understanding of that is that, yes, it would include facilities, provided they were assessed at the time of that result being put forward as functioning.

Senator RHIANNON: Well, considering the ADF have no information available about whether these projects are still operational, how did you draw that conclusion?

Mr Tattersall: My understanding is that that is drawn from Afghan government reporting, checked by the PRT, as to what facilities are open in Uruzgan.

Mr Dawson: So it is not an assessment of particular schools; it is an overall, province-wide assessment of enrolment and attendance rates.

Senator RHIANNON: Do I take from that that it is not a school-by-school assessment but an overall assessment that the Afghan government has given of the number of children going to school in that province or that area?

Mr Dawson: No. In order to reach that total amount it is necessary to do it school by school. I am trying to indicate that this is provincial government reporting and we are not aware of the specific schools being identified in that report. We are taking aggregate numbers.

Senator RHIANNON: You are not sure that the Afghan government has collected the data on a school-by-school basis? Is there an uncertainty?

Mr Dawson: We are reasonably sure that it has not been collected on a school-by-school basis because they have no basis for that information. Senator RHIANNON: Can you provide a list of Uruzgan schools that you referred to in the answer and indicate whether they are currently operational? Can you take that on notice.

Mr Dawson: We can provide an answer as to whether those schools are operational, yes. (*Committee Hansard*, p. 26)

The Afghanistan Ministry of Education is ultimately responsible for monitoring and reporting on educational facilities in Afghanistan.

A review of schools in Uruzgan, commissioned by AusAID and completed in December 2011, found that, at the end of 2011, there were 205 education facilities operational in Uruzgan, including 38 girls' and seven mixed schools.

We expect the Uruzgan Provincial Government to provide updated information on schools in the first half of 2013.

Strategic Partnership Agreement with Defence

4. **Senator RHIANNON:** In the strategic partnership agreement between Defence and AusAID, 9(d) states:

AusAID will look to Defence to provide assistance in its areas of strength including:

... d) intelligence information and services which support and improve decision making in the planning and delivery of aid and development programs, including risk and threat assessments.

Then you go onto 10, which says:

Specialist assistance will be shared between Defence and AusAID in order to facilitate seamless and effective collaboration in promoting security and development ...

It talks about intelligence and it gives the impression that you are sharing intelligence. Would you agree that that is a fair interpretation?

Mr Dawson: I would have to look at the words directly. As you read them, I think we were describing what the strengths of the Department of Defence were and the things which they brought to the partnership.

Senator RHIANNON: But it says that there is 'intelligence information and services' like it is a document about your relationships.

Mr Dawson: In my previous answer, what I was directed at was not to leave the impression that AusAID was providing intelligence information to the Department of Defence.

Senator RHIANNON: Fair enough. I am just trying to clarify it. If you could take it on notice, just to clarify what that relationship is around intelligence. (*Committee Hansard*, pp. 32–33).

The Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) between AusAID and Defence provides a high-level framework to support engagement between the two agencies. AusAID's Director-General has regular SPA meetings with the Secretary of Defence and the Chief of the Defence Force, to discuss matters of strategic importance affecting the two agencies.

The SPA does not require AusAID to provide 'intelligence' to Defence.

AusAID does receive and review appropriate intelligence information from Defence, where this can assist in the planning and delivery of aid programs. In particular, risk and threat assessments made by Defence are essential in countries such as Afghanistan to ensure the safety of AusAID staff.

Local NGOs and Afghan civil society

5. A number of witnesses referred to the importance of local NGOs. AusAID informed the committee about a new program—the Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme— that will fund up to five Australian and international NGOs to work with Afghan NGOs to deliver food security and livelihood programs in rural Afghanistan (answer to written question on notice no 5)

    a. Could you provide the committee with more information on this program—the NGOs involved and the amount of funding now dedicated to the program?

    The *Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme* (AACRS) is a new AusAID program designed to support Afghanistan's agricultural and rural development. It has a budget of up to $30 million, and will fund up to five Australian and international NGOs to work with Afghan organisations to improve the resilience and livelihoods of rural Afghan communities. AACRS NGOs will also build the capacity of local organisations as part of their overall programming activities.

    A call for Expressions of Interest in the AACRS is planned for April/May 2013. The Scheme will be open to Australian and international (including Afghan) NGOs, and is not limited to organisations that have AusAID accreditation. To be eligible to apply for AACRS design and project funding, NGOs must be registered to work in Afghanistan and have effectively implemented development activities in Afghanistan in the past five years, and for more than five years in total. Organisations that are not accredited with AusAID must undergo a due diligence assessment in line with AusAID's Due Diligence Framework.

    b. To what extent does Australia fund civil society organisations in Afghanistan such as the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission?

    Since 2006, AusAID has provided $4.5 million in core funding to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC). The AIHRC is a constitutionally established body mandated with the monitoring, promotion and protection of human rights in Afghanistan. It is not a civil society organisation, but a statutorily independent state institution.

    c. How does AusAID ensure that its partners delivering assistance in Afghanistan (NGOs and multilateral organisations) use and develop the capacities of local NGOs and civil society organisations? For example, are there contractual obligations in place?

    In the case of the AACRS, capacity development of local NGOs is a specific objective of the scheme. AusAID will ensure this objective is met by: contractual standards in agreements and contracts; performance monitoring; and quality assessments at commencement and during implementation.

    In other programs, the use and development of Afghan NGOs is an important product of AusAID programs. For example, the World Food Programme ($45.6 million in Australian assistance since 2007) uses local organisations in delivery of its assistance. Use of local NGO partners is also a key aspect of major Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund programs ($92 million, 2011-12) including the National Solidarity Program and the Strengthening Health Activities for the Rural Poor program.

Local NGOs and Afghan civil society

6. Mr Naeem suggested that in the current context some part of Australian aid be allocated for to strengthen local NGOs/and civil society organisations as started by Tawanmandi. (A consortium of donors launched this initiative, which aims to strengthen CSOs across Afghanistan and is funded by the UK, Sweden, Denmark and Norway).[1]

    a. Has Australia considered implementing a similar program or joining the consortium that supports Tawanmandi?

    Yes. AusAID has used lessons learnt from the *Tawanmandi Strengthening Civil Society in Afghanistan* program to inform the development of the *Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme* (AACRS). The AACRS support includes the capacity building of local Afghan organisations as a key component of building resilience in rural communities.

Australia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

7. In its submission, Amnesty International recommended that the Australian Government release 'the details of the implementation plan for the Afghan component of Australia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

    a. Could you inform the committee about whether an Afghan component of Australia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security is contemplated and, if so, progress on the development and implementation of the plan?

    Australia's National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security, released on 8 March 2011, is managed by the Office for Women (part of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs – FaHCSIA).

    Questions on the National Action Plan should be directed to the Office for Women.

Tarin Kowt Waste Water Facility

8. In an answer to a written question on notice AusAID stated that since 2011 it had contributed $2 million to an USAID program that supports activities in the Tarin Kowt municipality.[2]

    a. Could you provide details on specifically what that funding went toward—did some of it go toward helping to make the Tarin Kowt Waste Water Facility operational or to maintain it?

    AusAID's contribution to USAID's Regional Afghan Municipalities Program for Urban Populations (RAMP-UP) seeks to strengthen the capacity of municipal officials and improve the delivery of municipal services in Tarin Kowt. AusAID's contribution has supported the construction of a market, installation of traffic signs, purchasing of garbage skips in support of waste management services and improved parcel registration and business licensing processes.

    AusAID's contribution to RAMP-UP also included support for the Tarin Kowt Waste Water Facility. The Facility is fully operational and waste is collected by municipality staff from around the city and processed at the Facility.

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1   *Submission* 5, p. 2.

2   AusAID, answer to written question on notice no 15.

Questions on notice—AusAID

Australian Leadership Awards Program

9. Could AusAID provide the committee with a copy of the terms of reference for Protiviti's, investigation into the Australian Leadership Awards Program for Afghanistan?

    The investigation relates to possible breaches of the law. The release of the Protiviti terms of reference while the investigation is continuing could prejudice the outcome of the investigation (for example, by highlighting the methodology of the investigation). Accordingly, AusAID is of the view that disclosure at this stage is not in the public interest.

10. Could a copy of this report, when finalised, be made available to the committee?

    The contents of the report will need to be analysed when it is completed. AusAID is not currently able to determine whether there may be any public interest considerations that need to be taken into account in relation to the handling of the final report.

11. Are there any other inquiries being conducted into the alleged fraudulent activity in respect of this Leadership Awards for Afghanistan Program?

    No.

<u>Mining</u>

12. What degree of control does the Australian government have over the operation of Australian mining companies overseas? For example, do Australian companies have to abide by environment regulations or standards set in Australia?

Response provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

13. Is it feasible for Australia to enact legislation to ensure that Australian mining companies operating overseas are held to the same social and environmental standards as they are in Australia?

Response provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<u>Mining</u>

14. Afghanistan was a candidate country for full membership of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), and was seeking to become a fully-compliant country with EITI.[3] The committee understands that the deadline for the Afghan government to implement the EITI standards and undergo the EITI Validation in order to become an 'EITI Compliant' country was 9 August 2012.[4]

    a. Is this the case and if so did Afghanistan undergo the validation?

    Yes. Afghanistan became an EITI Candidate Country on 10 February 2010. EITI Rules allow two and a half years for Candidate Countries to be validated as Compliant Countries – for Afghanistan this meant 9 August 2012. Due to delays in hiring a Reconciler and a Validator willing to deploy to Afghanistan, an extension of the validation deadline to 9 February 2013 was submitted by the Afghan Government to the EITI and granted.[5] The final validation report was submitted on 9 February 2013.

    b. Is Afghanistan now a fully-compliant country? If not, what is the timeframe for it to become so?

    No. The EITI Board is reviewing the Validation Report and has yet to decide whether Afghanistan is fully-compliant.

    c. How many Australian Development Scholarships under the Mining for Development Initiative have been awarded and can you describe the course of study that they undertake, with whom and where? Have any been drawn from the Afghan Ministry of Mines?

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3   *Committee Hansard*, 3 December 2012, p. 9. See also http://eiti.org/countries (accessed 25 February 2013).

4   See Moore Stephens, *Afghanistan Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (AEITI), Afghanistan Second EITI Reconciliation Report, 1389,* October 2012, p.7*;* http://eiti.org/files/Afghanistan-2010-2011-EITI-Report.pdf (accessed 10 March 2013); Mr Dawson, *Committee Hansard*, 3 December 2012, p. 4.

5   See Hart Resources Ltd, *Final Validation Report of the Implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Afghanistan*, 4 February 2013, pages 17 and 18; http://aeiti.af/reports/babfc24436554bd28e6cbc29d06e8345-aeiti-validation-final-report.pdf (accessed 10 April 2013)

107 Australian Awards (the new name for Australian Development Scholarships) have been awarded to recipients from countries around the world under the Mining for Development Initiative. The courses of study and institutions are listed in the table attached. There have been five awards to officials from the Afghan Ministry of Mines.

d. Are there safeguards in place to ensure that the scholarship holders return to Afghanistan when they have completed their course?

Yes. AusAID puts a range of measures in place to ensure that aid-funded students return home to contribute to their country's development, including:

- requiring students under contract to return to their home country and not return to Australia for at least two years

- students that seek to stay in Australia have their Australia Award terminated and incur a debt to the Commonwealth for the accrued cost of their award

- reintegration workshops are held with current students to raise the profile of the contributions scholars can make on return.

Australia Awards Mining for Development Initiative
as at 4 April 2013

Institution Name	Main Course Name	Scholarship Count
Curtin University	Bachelor of Engineering (All Majors)	1
	Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical Engineering)	1
	Doctor of Philosophy (Exploration Geophysics) Research	1
	Graduate Certificate in Chemical Engineering	1
	Master of Chemical Engineering	1
	Master of Engineering Science (Metallurgy)	3
	Master of Engineering Science (Mining)	7
	Master of Petroleum Engineering	2
	Master of Science (Geology)	3
	Master of Science (Geophysics)	2
	Master of Science (Geospatial Science)	1
	Master of Science (Mineral and Energy Economics)	10
	Master of Science (Project Management)	1
Flinders University	Graduate Diploma in Geographical Information Systems	2
Macquarie University	Master of Environmental Management	1
Murdoch University	Master of Public Policy and Management	1
Queensland University of Technology	Bachelor of Corporate Systems Management	1
RMIT University	Master of Information Technology	1
Southbank Institute of Technology	Diploma of Building Design and Technology	1
Swinburne University of Technology	Advanced Diploma of Electrical - Technology (UEE61307)	1
	Master of Engineering (Civil)	1
TAFE NSW	Advanced Diploma of Engineering	1

The Australian National University	Doctor of Philosophy (Research School of Earth Sciences)	1
	Master of Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development	1
	Master of Business	1
	Master of Environmental Management and Development	1
	Master of Philosophy (Research School of Earth Sciences)	1
	Master of Public Administration	1
The University of Adelaide	Master of Carbon Management	1
	Master of Engineering (Mining Engineering)	1
	Master of Petroleum Business Management	1
	Master of Petroleum Engineering	1
	Master of Science (Petroleum Geoscience)	2
	Master of Sustainability (Advanced)	1
The University of Melbourne	Master of Energy and Resources Law	1
	Master of Energy Systems	1
	Master of Geographic Information Technology	1
	Master of Human Resource Management	1
The University of New South Wales (including ADFA)	Bachelor of Engineering - Petroleum Engineering	4
	Master of Engineering Science	1
	Master of Mining Engineering	6
	Master of Science and Technology in Spatial Information	2
	Master of Science and Technology in Spatial Information	1
The University of Newcastle	Master of Engineering Management	1
	Master of Engineering Science	1
The University of Queensland	Master Environmental Management	1
	Master Geographic Information Science	1
	Master Mineral Resources	3
	Master of Development Economics	1
	Master Property Studies	1
The University of Sydney	Master of Development Studies	1
	Master of Environmental Law	1
	Master of Environmental Science and Law	1
	Master of Science in Spatial Information Science	1
The University of Western Australia	Doctor of Philosophy (Science) (Geology and Physical Geography) (Preliminary)	1
	Graduate Diploma in Geoscience	1

	Master of Commercial and Resources Law	1
	Master of Oil and Gas Engineering	3
University College London (Adelaide campus)	Master of Science in Energy and Resources Management	2
University of Canberra	Bachelor of Management	1
	Master of International Business (Extended)	1
	Master of Public Administration	1
University of South Australia	Bachelor of Management	1
University of Technology Sydney	Master of Business in Human Resource Management	1
	Master of Engineering	1
	Master of Project Management	1
University of Wollongong	Master of Science	2
	Master of Science and Management	2
Total		**107**

Mining

15. According to the October 2012 Afghanistan Economic Update, uncertainty about a new mineral law is clouding progress in the mining sector. It stated:

> While investor interest in the sector is encouraging, gaps in the legal and regulatory framework of the sector do not provide sufficient confidence to investors to start operations or make firm commitments.

16. The update noted that a new law is in preparation but has also been heavily debated.[6]

   a. Could you provide the committee with an update on proposed and enacted legislation intended to enhance transparency and accountability in the mining sector in Afghanistan and for its sustainable use?

   As of April 2013, the new draft Minerals Law continues to be debated within the Afghan Government. The draft Law is not available for public review.

   b. In your view, are the laws sufficiently robust to guard against potential detrimental effects to the economy, including disparities in the distribution of wealth, to local communities and the environment due to mining?

   The draft Minerals Law is not available for public review.

   c. Could you provide concrete examples of how Australia intends to do so?

   AusAID is working to build the capacity of the Ministry of Mines in order to improve its ability to effectively and transparently manage Afghanistan's mineral sector. For example:

   - five officials from the Ministry of Mines are currently on scholarships in Australia

   - six officials from the Ministry of Mines are currently on a 12-week fellowship program in Australia

   - three officials from the Ministry of Mines have been accepted to undertake two-week Master-class courses in Australia in Resource Governance and Mineral Economics.

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6   The World Bank, *Afghanistan Economic Update,* October 2012, pp. 1 and 13.

ADF ODA projects

17. In response to questions on notice, the ADF stated that ODA projects are assessed for fitness for purpose and construction standards:

    a. Does AusAID play any role in assessing, evaluating or monitoring these projects for effectiveness or how they fit with the MDGs? If not why not?

    b. Does AusAID play any role in assessing, evaluating or monitoring whether ADF delivered ODA meets the requirements of the Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework, given the criticisms raised in submissions to the committee?

    c. Does AusAID play any role in advising the ADF about which projects are the most appropriate or are the most aligned with the MDGs?

    d. If so, at what point in project development does this advice come in and is there any obligation on ADF to seek AusAID's advice?

    e. If AusAID has facilitated any form of evaluation or advice on ADF delivered ODA, which projects have been evaluated or monitored? Please be specific about whether the evaluation and monitoring was desk-based or field based, who conducted this evaluation and monitoring and have these reports been made public?

AusAID does not assess, evaluate or monitor ADF projects for effectiveness or how they fit with the MDGs. AusAID's Deputy Director (Development) in the Provincial Reconstruction Team provides advice and recommendations on proposed projects of the ADF Managed Works Team prior to implementation. Final decisions on these projects, and responsibility for monitoring and evaluation, reside with the ADF.

All agencies delivering aid, including the ADF, are responsible for implementing uniform standards for the planning, delivery, monitoring and reporting of ODA. The suite of Uniform Standards, agreed by the Development Effectiveness Steering Committee, relates to matters such as alignment with the Government's Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework; and performance management, evaluation, results and reporting. All agencies report through AusAID to the Government on the ODA they deliver in line with the requirements of the Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework. This reporting is reflected in the Annual Review of Aid Effectiveness.

School enrolments post transition

18. Has AusAID mapped scenarios for enrolment numbers in girl's school post foreign troop withdrawal? What did this scenarios show?

    a. Does AusAID have plans in place to counter any decrease in enrolment numbers?

No, AusAID has not mapped scenarios for enrolment numbers in girls' schools after the withdrawal of foreign troops.

AusAID's education programs are directly aimed at increasing girls' access to school. Through Care Australia, AusAID supports the *Empowerment Through Education* program ($1.1 million 2012-13 financial year). This will provide community-based education for a total of 8,419 students, with a focus on education for girls. With Australia's support in 2012, this program assisted 2,601 students to attend community based primary education classes in remote parts of Parwan and Kapisa provinces, where schooling is unavailable or inaccessible. Eighty per cent of these students are girls. The program will continue to 2014.

Australia also supports the $35.7 million *Children of Uruzgan* program, which is implemented by Save the Children. Through this initiative, Australian aid has already supported 1,400 children, including 304 girls, to go to school in the most difficult to access areas in Uruzgan through community based education classes. This program will continue to 2015 and is expected to establish community based education programs for 3,500 students, increase the number of female teachers, improve teaching and school management, establish literacy groups for young women and mothers, and establish early childhood development groups.

AusAID support to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF, $262 million over 2003-2013) funds Afghan government national education programs, such as the *Education Quality Improvement Program* (EQUIP). With support from Australia and other donors, EQUIP has constructed over 1,500 schools, trained more than 150,000 teachers and provided over 5,000 scholarships for women to study at Teacher Training colleges. Australian support for the program will continue through transition.

Local NGOs and Afghan civil society

19. Why has AusAID not directly funded any Afghan NGOs to date? Was this a deliberate policy?

    a. Has AusAID directed any funding to Afghan NGOs in the last decade? If so, please provide details.

        AusAID has provided direct funding (AU$80,450 grant through AusAID's Human Rights Grant Scheme in 2010–11), to the Shuhada Organisation, an Afghan NGO, for a project aimed at empowering women in Uruzgan Province.

        Numerous Afghan NGOs deliver programs in partnership with Australian and International NGOs funded by AusAID. For example, AusAID funds Save the Children ($35.7m, 2011-15) to work with four local Afghan NGOs to deliver the 'Children of Uruzgan' program. This approach allows AusAID to take advantage of the knowledge and experience of local organisations, while using the proven systems and risk management capacity of more established organisations, including those with AusAID accreditation.

    b. What projections is AusAID using to address this? For example, is there a benchmark of the percentage or amount of aid that will flow to Afghan NGOs in coming years?

        There is no plan to benchmark the level of direct funding to Afghan NGOs.

School enrolments

20. With regard to school programs that AusAID has been associated with in Afghanistan, at the hearing on 22 March AusAID provided that assessments of school enrolments were based on Afghan government reporting, checked by the PRT:

    a. Has AusAID done its own assessment or commissioned any independent assessment of the number of enrolments in those schools?

    b. Has AusAID assessed whether those enrolment numbers given by the Afghan government are 'paper enrolments' or whether they are based on actual numbers of children sitting in classrooms and how frequently a child has to attend school in order to be counted as an enrolled child?

    c. Does AusAID have any concerns about relying solely on the Afghan governments reporting of school enrolments? If not, why not? Is so, what plans does AusAID have in place to ensure there is some independent analysis of school enrolment numbers in projects that AusAID is associated with?

The Government of Afghanistan's Ministry of Education has overall responsibility for reporting on education sector indicators in Afghanistan, including school enrolment.

Australia is assisting the ministry to accurately report on school enrolments. We do this through the Education Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP), funded through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). EQUIP has supported the Ministry of Education to develop an Education Management Information System (EMIS). The EMIS will help the Ministry of Education in policy, monitoring and evaluation, and will provide a central database of all schools in Afghanistan.

In Uruzgan Province, AusAID also conducted a survey of education enrolment as outlined in our response to Question 3. Information from the World Food Program (which conducts headcounts at schools as the basis for providing emergency or supplementary food rations) also provides an independent assessment of school enrolments. AusAID's program with Care Australia (see Question 18) also reports regularly on school enrolment and attendance at schools that receive Australian funding.

Building Government capacity

21. What is AusAID's response to the critique that even though the official objective of AusAID programs in Afghanistan is "building the Afghan Government's capacity to deliver services and provide economic opportunities to its people" that the bulk of Australian aid activities in Afghanistan support the actual delivery of services, not building government capacity:

    a. Does AusAID agree with this statement?

No. Australian aid has demonstrably built the capacity of the Afghan Government, both in Uruzgan province and nationally. For example, in Uruzgan province, AusAID's training and capacity-building assistance has doubled the number of positions within the provincial administration that are filled, leading to clear improvements in government capacity, with resulting positive impacts on service delivery.

    b. Has AusAID reassessed its objectives in Afghanistan?

No

Corruption and aid effectiveness

22. Considering the widespread problems with corruption in Afghanistan has AusAID assessed which channels are the most effective and least susceptible to corruption to deliver aid through? Please provide an assessment of the relative effectiveness and susceptibility to corruption delivered through Australian government departments, Afghan government, Australian NGOs, multilateral organizations, Afghan NGOs etc.

   a. How does this answer differ with regard to aid focusing on health and education services? Which channels does AusAID assess are the most effective and least susceptible to corruption for aid projects with health and education objectives?

   Please refer to the testimony of Mr Tattersall (p. 26) from the 22 March 2013 additional Inquiry hearing, as well as our responses to Questions on Notice numbers 3 and 4 from the 3 December 2012 Inquiry hearing.

   Different delivery partners demonstrate different strengths and relative effectiveness in different circumstances, for example: use of multilateral partners with proven fiduciary risk management systems to support Government programs in health and education; and use of international and local NGOs to deliver community-based health and education programs.

Defence and AusAID relationship

23. In the December Inquiry hearing, Mr Sargeant commented that "What we want from AusAID is that if they know what is happening they will tell us; and if we know what is happening we will tell them". Please describe how this works in practice.

   a. Is there a compulsion on AusAID staff to share information with ADF?

   No. AusAID staff collect information on governance and development progress that informs reporting to AusAID and other members of the Provincial Reconstruction Team.

   b. Are there any consequences if AusAID staff withhold information?

   See response to question 23 c.

   c. What briefing does AusAID give its staff about this arrangement?

   As part of their introduction to the Provincial Reconstruction Team, AusAID staff are advised that AusAID works within a cooperative whole-of-government relationship with ADF (and other agencies). There is an expectation that all AusAID staff will work cooperatively with other government agencies, including the ADF.

   d. Does this expectation for information sharing extend to organisations and staff of organisations that contract to AusAID? Does AusAID inform those organisations and staff of this information sharing arrangement?

   No.

   e. Has the ADF assessed whether this information-sharing places any additional risk on AusAID projects or local organisations and individuals AusAID works with?

   Please direct this question to the ADF.

Questions referred to AusAID from DFAT:

24. Who is on Development Effectiveness Steering Committee?

- Director General, AusAID (Chair)
- Deputy National Security Advisor, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Deputy Secretary, Department of the Treasury
- Deputy Secretary, Department of Finance and Deregulation
- Deputy Director General, AusAID.

    a. Is this body Afghanistan specific or does it run across the whole of the ODA program?

    See response to question 24 b.

    b. Does this body undertake any evaluation of the effectiveness of projects? If so, please detail the nature of this evaluation, which projects have been evaluated, what are the outcomes and whether the evaluation has been made public?

    The Development Effectiveness Steering Committee (DESC) does not undertake any evaluation of the effectiveness of individual projects. It maintains strategic oversight of performance assessment and reporting across the aid program and reviews progress on other measures aimed at improving the effectiveness of Australian aid. For example, the DESC oversaw the development of the 2011-12 Annual Review of Aid Effectiveness and endorsed it, prior to being provided to Government for consideration. Also, as noted in AusAID's response to an additional Question on Notice (No.6) from the December 2012 hearing, the DESC reviews progress in implementing uniform standards for Official Development Assistance across Government.

    In 2012 the Government established an Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC) to improve the evaluation of the aid program and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Australian aid. The IEC is part of a comprehensive range of internal and external oversight mechanisms designed to ensure the aid program's accountability and results.

    The IEC provides independent expert evaluation advice to the DESC. The IEC's focus is on aid effectiveness and it oversees the work of the Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) including the ODE's evaluation program. The IEC will also oversee ODE's preparation of an annual evaluation summary and quality assurance report.

    The IEC is chaired by Mr Jim Adams (former Vice President of the World Bank). The other IEC members are Patricia Rogers (Professor at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Melbourne), Wendy Jarvie (Visiting Professor at University of NSW, Canberra), and Mr Gary Dunn (AusAID Chief Operating Officer). Further information on the IEC can be found here http://www.ode.ausaid.gov.au/about/iec.html.

25. Has DFAT mapped scenarios for enrolment numbers in girl's school post foreign troop withdrawal? What did this scenarios show?

    c. Does DFAT have plans in place to counter any decrease in enrolment numbers?

    Please refer to the response to question 18 above.