

Monday 19 October 2020

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade,
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT, 2600

Dear Committee,

At the hearing on Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Bill 2020, we undertook to take the following questions on notice. To provide further information.

1. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: My last question, if I may. In terms of your body, for example, there's an organisation out there called the Australian science and technology innovation alliance. Do you know who they are?... Would you take that on notice. The reason I raise it is that the president of this organisation has some interesting connections into China

Science & Technology Australia's response: Science & Technology Australia has no knowledge of this organisation and have had no dealings with them. We were unable to find any reference to the "Australian science and technology innovation alliance". We do not have any record of or knowledge of engaging with the president of this organisation.

2. Senator RICE: Maybe if you take on notice examples of those ethics guidelines and how they account for human rights issues.

Science & Technology Australia's response: It is our understanding that all research on humans including surveys or the use of people's images must be approved by a Human Ethics Research Committee situated within their research institute. All Human Ethics Research Committee must abide by the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2018 (<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2007-updated-2018>).

To quote directly from the National Statement "The responsibilities set out in this National Statement are intended to be consistent with the international human rights instruments that Australia has ratified".

Yours sincerely,

Associate Professor Jeremy Brownlie
President
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Ms Misha Schubert
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