

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Individuals and Indirect Tax Division

Question No: 268

Topic: Tax Exemptions

Reference: Written

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

1. How many tax exemptions are there for Jewish community organisations in Australia?
2. What is the amount transferred from these tax exempt funds to Israel in the last 10 years?
3. How many tax exemptions are there for Palestinian organisations in Australia?
4. What is the amount transferred from these tax exempt funds to Palestine in the last 10 years?
5. Is there a limit to the tax exempt amounts of money which can leave Australia to Israel or Palestine?
6. Given that Australia does not recognise Israel's sovereignty over the 1967 occupied territories:
 - a. Are the settlers and settlements in the 1967 occupied Palestinian territories beneficiaries of any of these funds?
 - b. Are there any conditions put on these funds so that they do not discriminate between Israelis on religious or racial ground, and that the settlers and settlements in the 1967 occupied Palestinian territories are not beneficiaries of these funds?
 - c. What guarantees are there that the settlers and settlements in the 1967 occupied Palestinian territories are not beneficiaries of these funds?

Answer:

1. Charities are registered by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit commission (ACNC) under 14 subtypes, including 'advancing religion', advancing health, advancing education, advancing social or community welfare, advancing culture, and advancing public debate. However registered charities are not required to specify which religion they are advancing.

For this reason we are unable to provide the number of registered charities that are Jewish organisations.

2. As the ACNC is unable to specifically identify registered charities that are Jewish community organisations, we are unable to provide this information.
3. Please refer to the response to question one.
4. Please refer to the response to question two.
5. Under the ACNC Act and governance standards there is no limit to the amount of funds that registered charities can send to other countries for charitable purposes.
6. a. We are unable to answer this question.
b. The ACNC Act requires registered charities to apply their funds to charitable purposes, and ensure that they meet the governance standards.

c. As above